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# the free press

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## Students gather to weigh options abroad



Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff

USM students, who attended the Study Abroad Fair last week, had many options for travel destinations.

**For full story, see page 14**

## Governor LePage suggests Lewiston and Auburn merge into one city

Scott Thistle  
Sun Journal

LEWISTON, Maine — Maine Gov. Paul LePage made a full-on sales pitch for consolidating Lewiston and Auburn into one city during a lunchtime meeting with the mayors of both cities Wednesday.

LePage met with Auburn Mayor Jonathan LaBonte and Lewiston Mayor Robert Macdonald during a visit to downtown Lewiston's iconic hot dog stand, Simones'.

"Man, I would be so pleased to see Lewiston and Auburn become one," LePage told LaBonte and Macdonald as he encouraged them to go to their respective city councils and offer support for an ongoing effort to design a new charter for a combined city.

LePage also agreed both city councils should have some representation in that process and suggested the current six-member charter commission should be expanded to at least 12 people.

"No is not an option," LePage told the mayors.

"I think these two cities would be the strongest city in Maine," LePage said. "They would be the next economic engine, they would



Photo courtesy of Bangor Daily News, Sun Journal

be the next Portland and you would see 150,000 people around this city in five years."

LePage also offered to come back to Lewiston and Auburn to meet with city councilors on both sides of the Androscoggin River to discuss the issue.

LePage later told reporters the process to merge Lewiston and Auburn should be one that is carefully vetted with public hearings and it should be based on facts and not political rhetoric.

While Macdonald said he fully supports creating a single govern-

ment for Lewiston-Auburn, LaBonte, who also works for LePage as his director of policy management, is more skeptical.

"I think we would really prosper — we would become a political powerhouse up there [in Augusta], maybe even replacing Portland, that's why I'm 100 percent for it," Macdonald said.

Macdonald said he believes older residents of Lewiston-Auburn were more resistant to the idea of a single city government, while

See LePage on page 3

## Workshop aims to dispel stereotypes around disabilities

Erica Jones  
Free Press Staff

Last Wednesday, the University of Southern Maine hosted an interactive workshop on disability education and disability ally work, "Moving Beyond Pity & Inspiration: Doing Disability Ally Work."

The workshop was facilitated by author and disability activist Eli Clare and focused on "exploring both what we need to unlearn and how to disability ally work."

The workshop was made also possible through collaborations between the USM Center for Sexualities and Gender Diversity, the Disability Services Center, USM's Dean of Students, and USM's Women and Gender Studies department, as well as the University of New England and the Maine College of Art.

"Disabled people are everywhere, and yet are mostly invisible to the nondisabled world," reads the first line of Clare's workshop hand-out. It is true that disabled people are prevalent in our population; according to 2010 Census data, about 56.7 million people in the United States — 19 percent of the population — had a disability, "with more than half of them reporting the disability was severe."

Yet people with disabilities are very often subjected to a world that does not accommodate them, alongside stereotypes that are often harmful and also limiting. These generally masked as positive assumptions, such as that all disabled people are inherently optimistic or inspiring and this is just some of what Eli Clare hopes to change through his workshops.

Sarah Holmes, USM's Assistant Dean of Students and Deputy Title IX Coordinator, attended the workshop and the dinner held afterwards with Clare and many other people passionate about changing the way

disabilities are perceived by able-bodied people, and about teaching able-bodied people how to be supportive allies.

"In its essence, it was a workshop on how to do ally work around disability issues," said Holmes. "Eli really focused a lot on what we need to unlearn, like what are our assumptions and stereotypes about people with disabilities, both positive and negative, and what are some of the implications of some of that language."

Workshop participants went over how actions or words that may not seem intrusive or offensive to an able-bodied person could very much seem that way to a disabled person. Clare emphasized that it is important to always ask before attempting to help a disabled person, because while assistance may sound or look like a good idea, if unwarranted, for the person on the receiving end this behavior can be demeaning and upsetting.

Stereotypes such as disabled people being objects of pity for their condition or sources of inspiration for "overcoming" their disability may seem positive, but as Clare explained, these and other "positive" assumptions can be just as limiting for people with disabilities, and still propagate ableism and ableist language. Participants listed some disability-related words they have heard used, and also created hypothetical scenarios in which ableist slang is used in conversation, and having participants in small groups brainstorm ways to "educate and challenge" in each scenario.

Clare has held his "Moving Beyond Pity & Inspiration" workshop at many other schools across the country with the aim of educating more people on disabilities and training inclusive able-bodied allies.

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Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief



# Professor's showcase vast knowledge in their field by publishing books

**Jimmy MacDonald**  
Contributor

When we are young, our parents and teachers seem like machines. It seems that the sole purpose of these magical beings is to tend to our various wants and needs. Of course, the reality is that these are people – fellow human beings with ambitions and faults.

Yes, our professors' goals are to educate us, their students, but much more work and dedication goes into that process than many students are aware of. Here at the University of Southern Maine, we have been lucky enough to have had several professors release books in recent months. Indeed, the writing process for these professors is considered by them to be an invaluable part of who they are as people and who they are as educators.

Professor Shelton Waldrep, a professor of English at USM, recently released a book entitled Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie. Professor Waldrep's book is not a "fan book" or "biography," but rather an "academic study of influences made on and by David Bowie."

With his book, Professor Waldrep gives his readers some sense of Bowie's persona by expounding on the various "masks" David Bowie wore throughout his celebrated career. Professor Waldrep spent two years working on this book, mostly doing so during the university's breaks. Included in this work were various trips to Toronto in order to see the David Bowie Is exhibition, which similarly discusses the various influences

David Bowie had on artists as well as who Bowie's own idols were. "The students deserve to have new research available to them," said Waldrep. "Luckily I've always had an opportunity to teach things that interest me."

Having an opportunity to teach things that interest them is a sentiment echoed by the other professors interviewed, including Professor Daniel Martinez, a professor of environmental science at USM, who released his own book, titled Valuing Energy for Global Needs: A Systems Approach, in December 2015.

The book discusses an unbiased method for evaluating the pros and cons of current energy solutions, or fossil fuels, as well as renewable energy methods that have been developed in recent years, such as solar or wind power. As he goes on to explain, this was a project that consumed his "every waking and sleeping moment over the last four years."

When asked how he managed his time while concurrently writing the book and teaching courses, Professor Martinez gave credit to his colleagues in the environmental science department, stating that they really helped him manage the various responsibilities he had, such as "teaching, advising, research, and service."

Professor Jane Kuenz, who is the head of the English department here at USM, is equally well aware of the work associated with being a professor. Professor Kuenz not only teaches classes and works on research, but is simultaneously active in the process of hiring new faculty. Additionally, as she went



Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

If you walk into Glickman Library, on the first floor, you will see a wall that showcases many of the books that have been published by professors of the university, displaying that their job stretches beyond the classroom, many of whom are constantly doing research and working on their next project.

on to explain, there are almost always requests to "review service work such as manuscripts for journals or press."

With her co-authors, Professor Kuenz released Strip Cultures in 2015, a book that investigates subjects that have always interested Professor Kuenz, such as surveillance in Las Vegas and how that applies generally to our culture at large. When describing her typical work day, Professor Kuenz remarked, "A professor's work time

includes both the routine and predictable and the occasional and unexpected."

In addition to her scholarly work, Professor Kuenz spends much of her time on the weekends – when she isn't grading papers – attending meetings that deal with system-level issues across the University of Maine campuses statewide.

Although a professor's schedule is hectic and time consuming, whether it is grading papers, doing research and using that

research to develop compelling, new scholarly material, one fact is abundantly clear: Our professors are dedicated to being on the cutting edge of their respective fields. They do this for the satisfaction of knowing that they are bringing the absolute best and latest information to the classroom, which their students will benefit from.

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A large advertisement for Army ROTC. It features a female student in a military uniform, wearing a helmet and a black t-shirt with "ARMY ROTC" in yellow letters. The background is a blurred outdoor setting. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark green box with white and yellow text. Above this box are the U.S. Army and Army ROTC logos. At the bottom, there is a white box with black text providing contact information.

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# Potential changes coming to USM after Board of Trustees meeting

*Trustees shows their support for International Early College, plans can now move forward*

Zachary Searles  
News Editor

The Board of Trustees for the University of Maine System held their first meeting of the year, and of the semester, last Sunday and Monday, Jan. 24 and 25, at the University of Maine in Orono. During the meeting, the board voted on matters that will potentially impact the future of USM.

The board gave unanimous support for the plan of a two-year International Early College at USM. With their support, the plan for the early college can now move forward.

The goal of the early college program is to attract international students who are interested in studying at United States colleges. As of now the plan is to get 50 students to enroll, and these students would be housed in Anderson Hall on the Gorham campus.

"We have fantastic opportunities to grow our university and our state's economy by strengthening our global ties," Glenn Cummings, President of USM, said in an article in the Bangor Daily News. "Our International Early College program leverages our excess capacity and ingenuity to draw diversity, talent and tuition dollars to Maine."

Students who enroll in the program will take 100 and 200 level classes at the university, and at the end of their two years, they would graduate with a high school diploma and two years of college credit that could then be used to transfer to another college somewhere else.

In his Monday Missive, a weekly email blast that goes out to all students, President Cummings

thanked all who were a part of making this happen, and mentioned that the next step was to get visa destination approvals from the Department of Homeland Security, a process that could take a few months.

In his email, the president also noted that Provost Jeannine Uzzi took a trip to Thailand, Vietnam and Korea to recruit students for the new school and for USM.

"USM's International Early College program is a creative approach to bringing new students, new perspective and new resources to Maine," Gregory Johnson, UMS Academic and Student Affairs Committee Chairman, said in a press release last Tuesday.

The first class of students could be looking to come to USM as soon as the Fall 2016 semester. Any student accepted would be looking at a bill of \$36,000, which includes tuition, room and board and other fees.

At the meeting, the Board of Trustees also liked the idea of adding the Muskie School of Public Service at USM to the graduate center that is in the works from Eliot Cutler. Although as of now a specific location has not yet been decided for the graduate center, it will likely be built somewhere in Portland, although as of now the location has not yet been decided.

In the past, Cutler has said there is support for having it on the USM campus, but noted that there is also support for it being somewhere in Portland. According to the Portland Press Herald, Cutler is more focused on finishing the plan, which he will be giving to Chancellor of the University of Maine System James Page in late



Zachary Searles / News Editor

*The Board of Trustees showed signs of interest last week at their meeting of potentially adding the Muskie School of Public Service to the proposed graduate center being spearheaded by Elliot Cutler.*

summer early fall, than on deciding where the center will actually be located.

President Cummings said that Muskie faculty are interested in being a part of the new center, but he also believes that right now the Muskie school is fragile after all the cuts last fall and is still getting back on its feet.

According to President Cummings, the Muskie research center brings in between \$20 and \$25 million every year.

"We think it strengthens the attractiveness of the (graduate center) program if Muskie is united,"

President Cummings said in a Portland Press Herald article. "They believe they will be better off as part of this graduate center as well."

Chancellor Page also gave his support for adding the Muskie school to the graduate center, claiming that it would be a meaningful addition to the center.

Even though there is no final decision as to where the graduate center will go, President Cummings would like to see it stay on campus.

He noted in his Monday Missive that he will be attending board

meetings for the Alford Foundation, which will provide most of the financial backing for the new graduate center, to answer any questions the foundation's members might have about the center.

"If appropriate, I will reflect the strong feelings of faculty and USM's student BOT representatives to keep the Center on campus and include all of our graduate programs," President Cummings said in his weekly email to all students.

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From LePage on page 3

younger generations were more receptive to the idea.

LaBonte voiced his reservations to LePage during a nearly 40-minute discussion among the three men as they sat huddled at a dining table in the tight quarters of the small restaurant.

"I appreciate the governor's interest," LaBonte said. "The governor is reform-minded, he believes that having as many municipalities as we do is inefficient."

LaBonte said he supported the notion that the two cities should have a full and fair vetting of the prospects of a merger, but stopped short of saying he too was on the one-city bandwagon.

"What is it going to take to ensure that the right numbers are put on the table and the public has a chance to see all the facts?" LaBonte asked.

LaBonte said he believes the two cities could find substantial savings for taxpayers with a merger, but that certain entities, some of which are funded by both Lewiston and Auburn but are outside the jurisdiction of either, also needed to be looked at closely.

LaBonte also said he believed both cities could save costs for public education, especially in administration costs, by looking at a combined school system as well.

Auburn has 50 percent more land and 50 percent fewer people than Lewiston, LaBonte said. He

said the two cities shared a similar property tax rate but Auburn had a greater property valuation and residents there paid lower sewer and water rates than their neighbors in Lewiston. LaBonte said he wanted to be sure all areas were looked at carefully if the cities were to merge.

"Personally, I've long had a concern that some of the joint ventures that Lewiston-Auburn have embarked upon are not a model of efficiency and some of the political elite here in town have kind of kept those sacred cows off the table in the merger," LaBonte said. "I think we want to put those sacred cows on the table."

LePage reiterated past assertions that Lewiston and Auburn don't each need their own fire chief, police chief and public works director. He also keyed on a point LaBonte made regarding the various quasi-municipal agencies that deal with drinking water and sewers in both cities.

"By consolidating here, I see a whole lot of things that could happen," LePage said.

He said for Maine to be prosperous it needs to find a way to become more efficient at all levels of government, including at the municipal level, and that Lewiston and Auburn were on the cusp of an opportunity that could demonstrate that.

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# USM Socialists analyze world refugee crisis through discussion

Owen Hill, Portland ISO organizer, breaks down the largest refugee crisis since World War II

Krysteana Scribner  
Editor-in-chief

According to the U.N. Refugee Agency, 50 million in the world today are refugees. This crisis, which stems from people seeking safety from nations succumbing to anarchy and fanaticism, was discussed at a USM Socialist talk, hosted by Owen Hill, an organizer for the Portland branch of the International Socialist Organization.

The talk, which explored how and what people can do to push back against racist hysteria, centered around the subject of refugees. As an opening conversation topic, Hill briefly related a story that made news across the nation: Two refugees, named Anna and William, fled from Honduras in 2009, and just

year. If we compared that to the U.S. and our population, it would be equivalent to over three hundred thousand people dying each year. That's just absurd."

Even worse is the fact that Anna and William were, in fact, refugees, so their deportation from the U.S. is illegal. According to U.N. reports, the current refugee crisis is the largest to occur since WWII. This means that the last time the world was in such crisis, the world's military powers were at each other's throats; and the crisis only ended with the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

"The worldwide refugee crisis is not accidental, but a direct result of the predictable functioning of the current economic and political system, which I would call capitalist," said Hill.

**“The worldwide refugee crisis is not accidental, but a direct result of the predictable functioning of the current economic and political system, which I would call capitalist.”**

Owen Hill, Organizer for Portland Branch of the ISO

three weeks ago, on Jan. 2, the two were taken from their home in the U.S. and deported back to Honduras. "They were deported back to the most dangerous place to live in the entire world. Per ten thousand people, 91 citizens are murdered each

Refugees are separated into two groups: Ones who are internally displaced, and others who are externally displaced. While internally displaced refugees are fleeing to a different area within their borders, externally displaced refugees are



Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

Owen Hill during the middle of his discussion on the refugee crisis where he told stories of refugees and criticized politicians, such as Donald Trump, for claiming they wouldn't accept refugees.

fleeing their country, or nation state, in search of a better, safer life. Syria is the number one country from which people are fleeing, the second is Afghanistan.

"What makes this situation entirely more troubling in the amount of people who won't accept Syrian refugees," Hill remarked. "Donald Trump stands by his opinion that Muslims won't be allowed in the U.S. and 39 governor's here in

America won't allow Syrian refugees to settle here - including LePage."

Thirty million people are internally displaced, while twenty million are externally displaced. Out of the 200 thousand people living as refugees in the U.S., only 1,000 are from Syria. Hill stated that unless the world is more accepting and understanding of bigger political and economical issues such as these, we

will not see an end to the problem.

"There are currently nineteen million empty homes in America - that's one home for every externally displaced refugee in the entire world," Hill explained. "The birth of capitalism was marked by violence and until we can understand this, we're not going to see the issues disappear."

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# Could cost of books lead to more theft in campus store?

Bradford Spurr  
Free Press Staff

Going to college is seen as an investment in oneself and in one's future. Knowledge is power, and with that comes an educated constituency that forms the foundation of a well-informed democratic society.

However, with a commitment to any major, comes the implied obligation of increasingly expensive textbook and other bookstore materials. NBC News reviewed the Bureau of Labor Statistics data that shows that since 1977, textbook prices have increased by 1,041 percent. This trend is three times greater than what natural free market inflation normally would allow.

The College Board published its own findings that, on average, a student attending a four-year university will pay \$1,250 a year for textbooks and materials alone.

This cost has been mitigated in recent years with the advent of online retailers like Amazon, renting services Chegg.com and Textbookrush and with clever Google Chrome extensions, such as Occupy the Bookstore, which is an extension that will automatically display six to seven alternative marketplaces for books based on a student's own bookstore website.

Regardless of how accessible responsible price comparison tools are, the bottom line is that textbooks have now become an inordinate expense because students fall into the special category

of captive consumers. This means that little marketplace competition exists because these textbooks are widely adopted by hundreds of universities and colleges, and one book is not the same as another.

Student consumers are then placed in the difficult position of being stuck between a rock and a hard place. Compounding this economic struggle is the uncertainty of whether or not this current trend will continue. All that is clear is that book prices will certainly not drop anytime soon.

With the implementation of a newly revamped security policy, the inescapable reality of increasing textbook prices has been on full display at the USM bookstore for the past several weeks. Official uniformed USM police guard the entrance of the store with an intimidating authority that seems excessive for a place that sells stuffed animals.

These police officers ask each and every student to leave their backpacks in a series of small, black cubbies before the student can go off to locate his/her \$200 McGraw Hill biology book.

Catherine Johnson, bookstore manager here at the USM Portland campus, has been involved with the university in some capacity for nearly 16 years. She was the one who decided to have a security presence in the store in order to, as she said, "cut down on theft." Johnson also stated that "most theft is done by non-students," citing an alleged textbook theft ring operating along the coast.

The bookstore does not neces-



Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

If you have gone into the bookstore since the start of the spring semester you may have noticed an armed, in uniform, security guard, who will politely tell you to remove your back pack, in hopes that it will cut down on the thefts from the bookstore.

sarily have a way to track these 'book lifting' crimes because, according to Johnson, "It is not an obvious thing, it is not something entered into the computer. Seeing people lift books, happens more often than I'd like."

And as far as what kind of profit margin is seen on these high-priced commodities, Johnson said, "Well we have to make

a profit to pay our staff, I'd rather not comment on the profit. But it is probably not as much as most people think."

The bookstore is not an independent company in the respect that it does not have any affiliation with big-box stores like Borders or Barnes & Noble. However, in her closing statement, Johnson remarked, "We are directly an ex-

tension of the school, because we work for the school and for the students."

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# Academic horizons expanding for interested students

USM trying to make it easier for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers to get an education

Thomas Fitzgerald  
Community Editor

On Jan. 28, a collection of students and prospective individuals who are interested in attending school at a college level gathered together on the seventh floor of the Glickman library to discuss their options with many different representatives. This event was organized with the association of the Martin Luther King Jr. day of service, and is aimed to assist the diverse changes that USM is seeking in order to further pursue this school as a metropolitan university.

There are some challenges that are more difficult to overcome when entering the United States from a foreign country and Reza Jalali, the coordinator of multicultural student affairs, outlined many of these challenges when asked.

“The greatest challenges seem to reflect the workshops we are offering: Language, cost of edu-

emphasize the programs that are being offered. “ Others include cultural adjustment and navigating the complex American educational system.”

It is still crucial that although USM is also finding solutions to these problems as well as recognizing them, and Jalali clearly stated with confidence that USM will do their part to assist cultural adjustment for all students who are adapting to a new lifestyle among the community.

“The best ways include changing USM’s culture to be more welcoming to newcomers is by offering courses on issues they seem to be familiar with,” continued Jalali. “For example, classes in Arabic, World religion, international politics, immigration, hiring staff and faculty members, who resemble them, creating scholarships to attract them and retain them, creating a one-stop-shop where immigrants can get their degrees from abroad looked at, evaluated

“ **The best ways include changing USM’s culture to be more welcoming to newcomers is by offering courses on issues they seem to be familiar with.** ”

Reza Jalali, Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs

cation and paying for it, and transfer of degrees from other countries.” Said Jalali, who was present throughout the workshop to answer student questions and

and easily transferred, and so on.”

One example of financial assistance that was present at the workshop was the finance authority of Maine. FAME, as it is abbreviated,



Thomas Fitzgerald / Community Editor

Students and prospective students gather on the seventh floor of Glickman Library to discuss ways in which it would be possible for them gain an education, including discussing topics such as financial aid and transferring credits that they may have gained in their native country.

ed, did a thorough job at explaining the important steps toward applying for financial aid, what kind of financial aid is available, and how to reduce college costs overall while spending time at USM..

From a national perspective, the amount of diversity in the college classroom is making great levels of progress. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, students that are Hispanic have risen by more than twenty percent since statistics were reported in 2010. This growth has mainly been accountable of stu-

dents who are attending public four year colleges or universities, such as USM.

The workshop also took time to examine the possibilities of education from a broader perspective: college for families who have young children, and are thinking in advance about how they can afford education once their child reaches the appropriate age. This program is called the NextGen College Investing Plan, and it outlines how parents can open an account with a small start-up fee, and collect financial assistance as

years pass with grants that match the money being saved within the account.

Whether you are an immigrant, a refugee, asylum seeker, or just an individual who is concerned about their ability to financially afford college and culturally adapt to the change in surroundings of a new area, this workshop was incredibly beneficial.

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Local & State

USM sports teams play for good causes

Over the weekend, USM’s basketball and track teams played their “Think Pink” game in order to raise money for cancer research. All athletes and fans were encouraged to wear pink to the game, and all proceeds went to the American Cancer Society.

“Our Think Pink events are the athletic department’s opportunity to give back in a small way. Cancer is a disease that has a far-reaching effect. Like any university, many of student-athletes have lost a loved one or watched a loved one battle cancer. These annual events mean a great deal to our student-athletes, and they take great pride in being able to show their solidarity through raising funds and awareness,” Meredith Bickford, associate director of athletics, said.

The USM women’s ice hockey teams also played games for the Wounded Warriors Foundation over the weekend, selling t-shirts and collecting donations to make care packages that would be sent to soldiers who are currently deployed overseas.

**Gov. Paul LePage says Maine should have death penalty for drug dealers**

Last Tuesday, Gov. Paul LePage came out saying that he was in support of reinstating the death penalty. This was said just one day after he made comments about bringing back the guillotine, but he clarified that it was only a joke.

LePage said that the death penalty should be used in cases of drug trafficking, home invaders who sexually assault the residents and people convicted of murder.

“I talk about people dying (from drug overdoses) every day, but no one wants to hear that,” LePage said during a town hall meeting at Husson University in Bangor.

“When I talk about the death penalty everyone wants to protect the drug traffickers. I want to protect the people of Maine.”

This statement comes just a few weeks after Gov. LePage said he wouldn’t be giving a State of the State address this year, opting to send a letter to the state’s lawmakers instead.

In the state of Maine, the death penalty has been abolished since 1887.

**A new report shows that Maine’s veterans agencies are underfunded**

Maine has an estimated 140,000 military veterans, and in a new report released last Friday, the report recommended to expand Maine’s Bureau of Veterans Services to better serve those who need it.

The bureau last updated its policies over 15 years ago. The report is a result of a committee that met five times during this past sum-

mer and fall, and its focus was to show how the bureau could be enhanced, not to critique the work that the bureau was doing.

“We have to increase coordination and communication,” said Rep. Jared Golden, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. “One of the biggest findings was that young veterans were feeling ignored.”

According to Sen. Ron Collins, one of the biggest problems is that young veterans have very little information on the types of services that are available to them.

**National**

**Seventh Republican debate takes place just days before caucus votes**

During the most recent Republican debate, which took place on Jan. 28 in Iowa, just days before republican caucus voters will cast their ballots for who they want to be the nominee in their party. The debate featured all the remaining candidates except for front runner, Donald Trump, who decided not to participate in the debate.

During the debate Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said that Hillary Clinton wanted to put Barack Obama on the Supreme Court, noting that when she was asked about it, she claimed that she would consider it.

Senator Ted Cruz claimed during the debate that millions of people had lost their jobs and, in turn, had been forced into doing part-time work because of the Affordable Care Act. An article put out the next day by USA Today, however, showed that the economy has added millions of jobs since the Affordable Care Act was instated, and that now fewer people were working part-time jobs.

**One Oregon protester killed, others arrested**

Protests at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon have been going on for weeks, but last week the group suffered two losses, as one of their members, LaVoy Finicum, was shot and killed and their leader, Ammon Bundy, was arrested.

Bundy and others were pulled over by police last Tuesday. Everyone obeyed orders to surrender except for Finicum and Bundy’s brother, Ryan Bundy. At this time it is unclear who shot first, but it ended with Finicum dead and Ryan Bundy wounded.

Bundy’s father, Cliven Bundy, said that Finicum died supporting his beliefs. “He was a wonderful man,” he said. “He was a student of the Constitution. He was interested in freedom, and I think he gave his life where he felt it was best.”

**State Department holding 22 Clinton emails**

Last Friday, the Department of State said that it would not release 22 emails that were sent by Hillary Clinton because they contain “top secret” information.

The emails total 37 pages in length and were never marked as classified at the time they were sent out, but are now being upgraded at the request of the United States Intelligence Community because they likely do contain sensitive information.

The news of the emails not being released comes just three

days before the Iowa caucus, and many believe that the news can only hurt Clinton and her chances of getting the necessary votes in Iowa to defeat opponents Bernie Sanders and Martin O’Malley.

**International**

**NSA documents show that US and UK have been spying on military drones in Israel**

A recent report put out by The Intercept shows that American and British spies have been secretly monitoring military drones in Israel. Until now, Israel had refused to even say that they use drones in warfare, keeping their drone program completely secret.

Classified documents exposed by Edward Snowden show actual images of Israeli drones in action. The NSA has refused to comment on the authenticity of the files, and the Israeli Embassy has yet to comment on the photos released.

The documents also show that American spies were able to tap into video feed of an Israeli fighter jet and to spy on an Iranian done.

**A town in Northern Italy welcomes its first baby in nearly 30 years**

Ostana, a small town in northern Italy, has welcomed the first baby born there in 28 years. The baby, Pablo, is the youngest resident of Ostana, and when he was brought home from the hospital, neighbors gathered to celebrate his birth. He is the town’s 85th resident.

“At first I couldn’t believe it was true,” Giacomo Lombardo, the town’s mayor, said. “The news almost shocked me. It’s a dream come true.”

Since about half of the town’s population is seasonal and don’t live there year round, Pablo, his parents and two sisters make up 10 percent of the town’s permanent residents. Ostana residents said they hoped that with the birth of Pablo, many more families will decide to have babies there.

**Chinese miners rescued after being stuck for 36 days**

On Dec. 25, a mine in Eastern China, where 29 people were known to be working, collapsed, trapping the miners 700 feet underground. After 36 days, four miners who survived the collapse were pulled to safety last Friday.

For those 36 days, the miners were relying on food and water that was lowered down to them while rescue workers figured out a plan to get them out.

At least one miner was killed, 11 were able to escape the collapse, leaving 17 miners trapped underground. After infrared cameras were lowered into the mine, they found four survivors, while the other 13 are considered missing.

**All info for this was taken from CNN, Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald and the BBC.**



# Police Beat

*Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log January 18 to January 24*

01/18/2016

**I Love You Mary Jane**  
Drug Complaint, Upper Class Hall. Report of the smell of Marijuana coming from Dorm room on second floor.

**Blood On The Ice**  
Medical Call, Ice Arena. Gorham Rescue called. Officer and Rescue responded, No transport.

01/19/2016

**Kicking Concrete is a No No**  
Vandalism, Report of damage in the Parking Garage.

**Kicking Poo-Box Also No No**  
Vandalism, Parking Lot P2. Report of criminal mischief/ damage to a vehicle. Report taken.

**Dissecting Frogs Ain’t For the Faint**  
Medical Emergency, Science building. Portland Medcu dispatched for female that passed out.

01/22/2016

**Hope You Lived**  
Medical emergency, Sullivan Gym. Rescue needed for a male with chest pains. Transport to Maine Medical Center. Report taken.

**“He May Have Touched My Bum”**  
Harassment complaint, Student reporting possible harassment, investigated by officer.

**Taking Hits From the Bong**  
Drug Complaint, Robie Andrews Hall. Report of the smell of marijuana coming from dorm room on 3rd floor. Checked by officer and report made.

**Cypress Hill on Campus**  
Drug complaint, GS1 parking lot. Officer investigating report of people using marijuana.

01/23/2016

**“What? Is this Not a Reasonable Place to Park?”**  
Motor Vehicle stop, Parking lot P8. Verbal warning issued for operating on sidewalk.

**Bogarting; “He Didn’t Puff-Puff-Pass”**  
Drug Complaint, Robie Andrews Hall. Report of smell of Marijuana coming from second floor dorm room. Report taken

01/24/2016

**Leave the Funnelling Whiskey to the Seniors**  
Liquor law violation, Upton Hastings Hall. Gorham rescue called. Student transported to hospital for possible alcohol poisoning. Report taken.

**Meth Lab in Anderson**  
Drug complaint, Upper Class Hall. Report of possible drug violation, second floor Dorm room. Under investigation.

Police Beats are edited for grammar and style.

Have any news tips?

Email:  
editor@usmfreepress.org



Sundance film festival / 8  
 Rocker film reviews / 9  
 Not so typical jazz album / 10

# Arts & Culture

## Two heads are better than one: USM collaborates



Nathan Baril / Multimedia Editor

Right: James Flahaven of USM Art Faculty and David Estey of UMVA, reluctantly collaborated on this piece for the Forging Affinities galleries Left: Details of another art piece.

Anora Morton  
 Free Press Staff

Many of us dread partner projects. The thought of unevenly split responsibilities, difficulty communicating and clashing ideas is enough to induce a slight panic out in most and an end result just short of a disaster. This is far from the case at the USM UMVA: Forging Affinities gallery at the Gorham campus Art Gallery. In a well attended reception this past Thursday evening, members of the Union of Maine Visual Artists (UMVA) and USM Art Faculty exhibited collaborative pieces, each a testament to the better outcome of working together on a group project.

A project founded by USMs director of exhibitions and pro-

grams Carolyn Eyler and USM alumnus and UMVA member Nora Troyn, collaboration meant something different to each project. James Flahaven (USM Art Faculty) and David Estey (UMVA Member) were both apprehensive

"I knew Estey's work, so I contacted him and I asked him about doing this collaboration, and he said 'You know, I really don't like to collaborate' and in that conversation I said 'You know what, I really don't like to collaborate either' and my internal dialogue said 'This is the perfect guy to collaborate with.'" Flahaven recounted.

Thier collaboration came into being with the swapping of unfinished work, each artist producing a finished piece from the others beginnings. On the far right, a

solo piece belonging to Estey, and the far left a solo piece of Flahaven's, and the four in the middle the product of their swap.

For Tracy Ginn (UMVA Member) and Richard Wilson (USM Art Faculty), collaboration came from existing work, and how they could create a collection that was complementary. "Humor, people, odd situations, both of us (are) sort of photographic right now" Ginn explained. Each artist chose six pieces of the others, creating a row of twelve pieces of situations that allow delightful interpretation.

David Schneider (USM Art Faculty) and Stephen Walsh (USM Art Alumnus 2010) exhibited a Surrealist Exquisite Corpse, a technique where two artists collaborate with only an agreed upon

subject (a head in this case), five common meeting points and no viewing of the other half of the piece until it was hung up in the gallery.

"As I was working, the mechanism of this corpse allows anything to happen, so I had this freedom to do whatever I wanted," Walsh commented.

Jan Piribeck (USM Art Faculty) and James Kelly (UMVA Member) worked with each other to create a cohesive companion collaboration out of existing work. This companionship is expressed with Kelly's urban scene call, juxtaposed next to Piribeck's scroll piece of the Blue Danube Waltz piano roll,

"The background was a of a strip map, in the Osher Map Library collection, of an actual sur-

vey of the Blue Danube river," Piribeck explained.

The USM UMVA: Forging Affinities gallery will be at the Gorham campus Art Gallery until March 6th (Closed between February 15th and 19th for winter break) between 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, and 12pm and 4pm Friday through Sunday. The gallery is open to the public, with a suggested two dollar donation, so stop in and witness the true power of well matched collaboration, and take some inspiration with you for your next group project.

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## Not pretty enough for Whole Foods: Wayside to the rescue

Food Programs uses multiple methods to eliminate food waste, hunger and loneliness in Portland

Dora Thompson  
 Arts & Culture Editor

Last Thursday night in Portland, restaurants were abuzz as usual. Oysters were slurped by candlelight, steaks washed down with red wine, and baked stuffed lobsters sat proudly on well-garnished plates. Down in the Deering Community Church basement, amongst a clutter of foldable tables, a feast was also being served.

"Spaghetti with meat sauce, soup, salad. For dessert: blueberry cake," The menu read, written up on a whiteboard. The night was chilly and guests filed in, stamping the snow off their boots.

"How's your granddaughter, Carolyn?" someone in a hairnet and apron yells from inside the kitchen. A group of older women huddled around the tea and coffee station discuss the warm winter we've been having.

The meal was put on by Wayside Food Programs, an organization that works to provide food for those in need in the Portland area. They take several creative

approaches to offer an alternative to the tradition soup kitchen model. Thursday's dinner was one of their thirteen weekly community meals, which are scattered throughout the city. Wayside, which operates in a large building off of Walton Street, used to own the Preble Street soup kitchen.

"The soup kitchen was no longer a safe space to bring your children," said Mary Zwolinski, Wayside's Executive Director. "This is a way to decentralize that model."

The community meals offer free meals to people all over the area, with no lines and more food. They also give children, senior citizens and women a friendlier space to congregate.

The community meal at the Deering Community Church was mostly elderly people, with an occasional grandkid running around the tables. Prayer requests were taken at the beginning of the meal, and several guests raised their hands with problems they'd like the group to pray for.

"It's the same crowd every week," observed Julie Harrison, the Community Meals manager. "So over time the guests make

friendships, support each other, have conversations about things that are bothering them."

Community is a big factor at the meals. People don't just show up because they are hungry. Some are looking for a sense of belonging. As of 2013, 41% of Wayside's Food Programs' guests were seniors. Many of the guests were those who lived alone.

One guest who chose to not disclose their name said, "for some of these people, this is the only human contact that they have all day. And that can make the difference between a life and no life at all." If some of the seniors don't come to a few meals in a row, the volunteers know to check on them.

After the kitchen volunteers serve the meal, the basement comes abuzz with talk.

"It's all really family oriented," mused another guest who chose not to disclose his name. "Last week we had Italian fish stew. I've never heard of that."

Portland makes claims to be a "Foodie" city, but can it really be when so many of its residents are starving? The irony seems to



Photo courtesy of waysidemaine.org

Volunteers at the Wayside Food Program cook up a community meal.

be rich when Huffington Post declares Portland to be one of "The 13 Greatest Food Towns in America," while many people in the city don't even have consistent access to meals.

Luckily, the Wayside Food Programs is expanding everyday. In 2013, Wayside had provided over 26,000 free community meals. Still, many stereotypes are perpetuated about people who go to these free meals. Zwolinski as-

ures that these beliefs are not true. She explained that some people who go and eat the free meals have a house and sometimes even a car.

"Some people just can't spare the extra money that week," she said. "A lot of them have kids. It's important to ask yourself if you really know what's going on in their lives. I think there's a lot of

See Wayside on page 8



From **wayside** on page 7

judging that goes on, and a lot of misconceptions.”

But being hungry in Portland is certainly not caused by a food shortage. Wayside uses the concept of food rescue to retrieve the large amounts of food that would otherwise be thrown out by large corporations. Hannaford, Shaws and Whole Foods are among some of the top donors. Any food that doesn’t look aesthetically pleasing enough, or comes in a box with a slight dent in it will be donated to the Wayside Food Programs.

Most packaged food is labeled with expiration dates that are far earlier than when the foods actually expire. The majority that stay edible long after their sell-by dates are shipped to the Wayside warehouse, where they will be inspected and sorted. From there, they distribute it to food pantries, or use it to make their community dinners. Quality of food is one of their top priorities.

What they don’t use, Wayside Food Programs composts or donates to local pig farmers. As a company, they produce zero waste. This fact would thrill Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, a figure head when it come to speaking out about about food waste. Pingree’s Food Recovery Act will encourage businesses to donate food to places like Wayside, as well as reforming sell-by dates.

“Forty percent of all food produced in the United States each year is wasted,” Pingree said. “The Food Recovery Act takes a comprehensive approach to reducing the amount of food that ends up in landfills and at the same time reducing the number of Americans who have a hard time putting food on the table.”

Wayside Food Programs offer many other services too. They provide mobile food banks, which deliver nonperishable food to Portland housing sites for people

that might not have transportation. The bags are numbered, to help with the frequent language barrier between the truck drivers and the recipients. The packages provide enough food for the individual families for a week at a time.

“For some of these people, this is the only human contact that they have all day. And that can make the difference between a life and no life at all.”

A Wayside community dinner guest who chose not to be named



In the summers, Wayside tends a community garden. The organization hosts meals especially for children, which for many of them is their last meal of the day. At their free dinners, Wayside sometimes also offers free blood pressure testing, nutrition classes and smoking prevention classes. Zwolinski said that each meal has a different community.

“At some meals, people sing karaoke,” she said.

Harrison mentioned that one of her favorite meals is at the Salvation Army for seniors citizens. The volunteers are mostly African immigrants, trying to practice their English and gain connections. She explained that it was so rewarding to watch the volunteers befriend the Maine elderly, despite the language barrier.

“These meals are kept up by extremely hard working volunteers,” said Harrison. Wayside has over 1,000 volunteers that cook meals, organize pantry items, tend community gardens and more. “They are like a team.”

This was definitely evident at

the Deering Community Church, where the volunteers and guests clearly had known each other for a while.

“I know which ones like their milk,” laughed Peggy Drake, whose husband is the pastor of the church upstairs. She volunteers at

this meal frequently. “It’s very rewarding,” she said.

Drake’s fondest memories are of a woman named Fran who still attends the meals. When she first met Fran she went to remove her place setting and Fran slapped her hand. Ever since then, Drake has known not to touch Fran’s plate until she was ready. Drake even jokingly put “caution” tape around her place setting.

As the Thursday night dinner at the church winds down, people sip coffee, say their goodbyes and their see-you-next-weeks. A coat rack is filled with hand-me-down winter coats that people can use. There is a table full of bread and rolls down the hall the invites folks to “take what they need.”

“It’s a good place to come to if you’re feeling sorry for yourself,” said an anonymous guest. “It reminds you that someone else has had a worse day than you.”

And that’s more than you can get from a stuffed lobster.

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@USMFreePress

# Sundance Film Festival



Photo courtesy of sundance.org

Top: A screenshot from Jim: the James Foley Story film, directed by Brian Oakes  
Bottom: A screenshot from Christine, directed by Antonio Campos.

Amanda Melanson  
Free Press Staff

The Sundance Film Festival has been off to a great start this past week. The program runs from Jan. 21 to Jan. 31, 2016. This is the 31st year for the festival, after it was renamed when the Sundance Institute took it over in 1985. It grew into a large event over a ten-day-period, featuring International films as well as American films. The number of films and theaters that held screenings in subsequent years has steadily grown as well.

Previous winners include hits such as last year’s *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, *Dope*, and *Slow West*. In 2014, *Whiplash* was the big winner of the ten-day-long festival; the year before, it was *Fruitvale Station* and before that *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, directed by Benh Zeitlin. Another famous film - directed by Danny Boyle - to make Sundance history is *Slumdog Millionaire*. This year, it looks like *The Birth of a Nation*, a film that centers around slave rebellion, could become the next in a long line of Sundance successes. With the festival still in full swing, it might still be too early to determine a clear winner to be added to the ranks.

Competition for Birth of a Nation includes: *As You Are*, *Christine*, *Equity*, *The Free World*, *Goat*, *The Intervention*, *Josh*, *Lovesong*, *Morris from America*, *Other People*, *Southside With You*, *Spa Night*, *Swiss Army Man*, *Tallulah*, and *White Girl*, for the Drama Premieres Category.

This year there are well over 100 films presenting at the festival that make up the lineup of Narrative, Documentary, and Drama titles. With so many diverse titles, some have drummed up both excitement, controversy, and divisive reactions on and off social media. *Swiss Army Man* - starring Daniel Radcliffe, best known for his *Harry Potter* fame - had an entire theater walk out of the screening for the fact that the movie took itself so lightly, with Radcliffe starring as a literal farting corpse.

The second controversial piece showing at Sundance this year

was *As You Are*, *Christine* a true events story about a reporter who committed suicide on television that has received a lot of criticism. Christine Chubbuck’s is a cautionary tale of why it is important to understand and treat mental illness before it claims another victim. Films like it call to attention why it is important not to overlook indie films.

While it is popular to sit in a theater and enjoy mainstream cinema with its loud action scenes and theatrical love stories, indie films tend to be under appreciated because of their lack of draw to mainstream viewers. It becomes difficult to become a large name actor, director, or other film position when the audience with access to the film is so small. In a culture built upon sensationalism in the news and in films that are often a dramatic retelling of past or recent events, indie films become important when they tell the real and honest truth of a story to the viewer.

Lesser known filmmakers don’t stand a chance if their vision isn’t as exposed to the masses as they would like it be. That is where social media comes in, when viewers spread the word at the click of a mouse or the tap of a touch screen. That is where creativity can flourish. Sundance has been the central hub for this creative mindset for many years and is often the first festival any filmmaker might think of when it comes to the best exposure. Thirty-one years is a long time to build a solid reputation.

For the curious film lover or filmmaker who unfortunately could not make it to the festival this year, the Sundance Institute’s website gives more in-depth background of each film featured in the 2016 showing, along with a full synopsis. You can also read about the history of Sundance. Whether you are a film buff or like to stay in the know about festivals going on throughout the year, Sundance is an event worth attending.

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# Rocker reviews: Must see or wait until DVD?

**John Rocker**  
Free Press Staff

## 13 Hours

*13 Hours* is a biopic of the events that occurred in Benghazi, Libya in September of 2012 and is directed by Michael Bay. For those that didn't know what happened in Benghazi, a United States diplomatic compound and covert, at the time, CIA annex were attacked. The story focuses on the CIA contractors (all formerly involved in the Armed Forces) as they do what it takes to survive the horrible scenario they were in.

Considering what Michael Bay did with Pearl Harbor, in which he created a fake love triangle story and scattered the events around the love story as the main plotline, there was some skepticism if *13 Hours* would have a more accurate portrayal. However, this film, unlike Pearl Harbor, does the job of portraying the events well and actually pays respect to those involved. This includes showing the true brutality of the situation. In the reality of the situation in Benghazi, there were people that died, there were people that were injured and there was bloodshed and loss on both sides. This film doesn't hold back on any of these aspects.

That being said, there are a lot of 'Michael Bay-isms' such as some extreme low angles, American flags, and of course, explosions. Some things were tamer than others, like the explosions were used to show the story and that's understandable.

There is also a lot of shaky camera work. It's not overdone, but it becomes more of a nuisance to the

audience watching after a while. The performances were good, especially John Krasinski and James Badge Dale. They had the most screen time out of all the actors, so they were able to develop their characters the most in the cast. That being said, the character development was rather lackluster.

The movie shows that the characters have something to fight for to motivate them, such as their families back home, but that's all that it is shown. Nothing is really elaborated on from there and it keeps the viewer distant from the character. This is only applying to what's happening in the movie, not the actual scenario. A loss of life is tragic on its own, but in the context of the movie, with the characters not being developed, it backfires.

The other thing that has to be mentioned is the pacing, which is a bit inconsistent. When the film is tense and the action sequences are happening, the film keeps itself at a nice pace and keeps the audience engaged. When the film tries to slow down and build character, that's when it suffers, because the development is lackluster, the scenes feel like they bog down the movie. Sure, one can argue that it's just breathing time for the viewers, but this movie is nearly two and a half hours.

Overall, *13 Hours* is a good film, but it does have some flaws. This is definitely one of Michael Bay's better films in recent years. The main point was to respect the story and those that were involved, and in that case it was a success. If you're into war movies or have any interest in this film, then you'll enjoy this film. Otherwise, it can wait. Recommendation: Wait Until DVD/Netflix.



Fox Searchlight Pictures

## Brooklyn

*Brooklyn* follows a young Irish woman named Eilis Lacey (Saoirse Ronan) as she makes the journey from Ireland to the United States in the 1950s. While adjusting to her new life in Brooklyn, Eilis meets a young Italian man named Tony (Emory Cohen), and they develop a close relationship. As this relationship blossoms, Eilis goes back to Ireland, and she realizes that she may have missed her old life in Ireland more than her new life in Brooklyn. This movie can simply be defined as a love story, but it certainly is an effective one. After all, this film did get nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture, and there are plenty of reasons why.

As mentioned, the story is well made and well written. Early on in the film, Eilis is stricken with homesickness, which is conveyed so well that you can feel the emotion that she's feeling. Perhaps homesickness just a feeling that most people can understand, but there are plenty of other emotions at play here that most people have experienced at some point in their lives, which allows the film to hit relatable emotional notes that makes the story so engaging. What further enhances the story is the fantastic performance of Saoirse Ronan, who makes Eilis's sincerity feel believable. Really, all the characters feel genuine. Even if certain actors are only in the film for a few short scenes, they commit to their roles and that's something that can be appreciated. The film also has some hu-

morous moments, which is helped by the writing. One thing that this film shows is how difficult adapting to a new lifestyle is. Living in Ireland and living in the United States in the 1950s were two different things, and the differences are shown well in this movie. One example is when Eilis and Tony plan on going to the beach and Eilis's boarding house roommates suggest that she get sunglasses because if she doesn't, it would look weird. That's just one of the many examples.

The pacing for this film is also good. The runtime is under two hours, and each scene felt like it mattered to the story and weren't plodding.

If there's anything negative to say about this film--and there really isn't much--it's the lackluster direction. With how the camera shakes sometime, it seems like the film was recorded on a handheld camera at points. This is more of a personal gripe than it is legitimate criticism, and it's a very minor thing. This really didn't ruin the experience of watching the film, but it is noticeable if you start to pay attention to it very carefully. Overall, *Brooklyn* is a charming film with great performances and a good story. If you're looking for a heartfelt film, then this is the film for you. Recommendation: Go see it this weekend.

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# USM

## Graduate Studies



## Graduate Studies Open House

**Monday, February 8**  
**4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**  
**2nd Floor, Abromson Center, Portland**  
**(Snow Date February 10)**

Meet renowned faculty from USM's master's, doctoral and certificate programs, including Business, Education, Leadership, Fine Arts, Policy, Planning and Management – as well as Public Health, Social Work, Counseling, Biology, Nursing and Occupational Therapy and many others. Refreshments will be served.

Register at: [usm.maine.edu/openhouse](http://usm.maine.edu/openhouse)

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# A&C Listings

## Monday, February 1

Friday Night Book Club  
Portland Museum of Art  
7 Congress Sq.  
Starts: 5:45 p.m.

## Tuesday, February 2

Travels of an Artist Exhibit  
Maine Jewish Museum  
267 Congress St.  
Starts: 10:00 a.m. Ends: 2:00 p.m.

Music: Lotus  
State Theater  
609 Congress St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Clara Junken (solo)  
Blue  
650A Congress St.  
Starts: 9:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 3

Karoke Contest with Resurgam Roller Derby  
STYXX  
3 Spring St.  
Starts: 7:00 p.m. Ends: 10:00 p.m.

Music: Black Tiger Sex Machine  
Port City Music Hall  
504 Congress St.  
Starts: 8:30 p.m.

## Thursday, February 4

Forging Affinities  
USM Gorham Art Gallery  
37 College Ave.  
Starts: 12:00 p.m. End: 6:00 p.m.

Talk: Bernard Langlais, “Untitled (Samoset Sculptures)”  
Portland Museum of Art  
7 Congress Sq.  
Starts: 12:00 p.m.

## Friday, February 5

Music: Mighty Mystic  
Port City Music Hall  
504 Congress St.  
Starts: 9:00 p.m.

## Saturday, February 6

Art: Tinerbox  
Maine College of Art  
522 Congress St.  
Starts: 11:00 a.m. Ends: 5:00 p.m.

Public Ghost Hunting with Chris Sanders  
The Woodford’s Club  
179 Woodfords St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

## Sunday, February 7

Banff Mountain Film Festival  
State Theater  
609 Congress St.  
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Want to submit an event?  
arts@usmfreepress.org

# HEAVY ROTATION |

## WHAT CAUGHT THE EYES AND EARS OF OUR STAFF THIS WEEK

Bradford Spurr  
Free Press Staff

Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis and H. Jon Benjamin: one of these men is unlike the others, mostly because this individual has never influenced generations of jazz musicians and hasn’t won the whole world over. The man in question in, Jon Benjamin, whose main claim to fame is that fans will come up to him during his everyday life and yell “DANGER ZONE” or something about “phrasing”. Jon Benjamin is a distinctively noticeable voice actor, known for lending his talents to the womanizing and perpetually drunk secret agent Archer on the FX show of the same name, as well as the 40-something fry cook and father of three on the show Bob’s Burgers.

So when someone says that Benjamin made a jazz album, and that none other than Sub Pop Records has agreed to release it, you tend to pay attention. This is the same Seattle-based record label that discovered Nirvana, The Shins, Modest Mouse, Fleet Foxes and others, the list goes on and on. Sub Pop is positioned firmly in the annals of indie rock history, so naturally you would assume that they knew what they were doing with this project that seemed more like a publicity stunt than artistic expression.

Jazz music as a whole seems very esoteric compared to Katy Perry and One Direction (RIP Zayn). At one time, jazz was the music of an entire cultural movement. Jazz was something that came from deep within the musician. Even if you know nothing about jazz music, you can still appreciate the talent and musical merit of the genre. This is



Sub Pop

not the case with Jon Benjamin’s Well, I should have...\* (learned how to play piano).

The album, which clocks in at exactly thirty minutes, opens with a skit called “Deal With the Devil” where Benjamin calls the devil’s hotline in order to sell his soul and become a great jazz pianist. Kristen Schaal answers the phone and transfers Benjamin to the soul-selling division. Schaal is another Bob’s Burgers veteran, also known for her role in the TV series Portlandia. Aziz Ansari as the voice of the antagonistic Devil who tells Benjamin that, “I don’t just buy any soul.”

The best song on the album, is “I Can’t Play Piano, Pt. 3” where Benjamin engages in this hilarious

call and response with a genuinely talented saxophone player. Over the single notes and key playing, you can hear Benjamin in the background yelling things like “you can play better than that!”

The whole album is reminiscent of what happens when a five year old plays their grandmother’s piano and thinks that they are as talented as Billy Joel. Except in this case, that child is just a forty-nine year old man from Worcester, Mass. Jon Benjamin, don’t quit your day job, you’re much funnier when you’re nowhere near an instrument.

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What caught your eyes and ears this week? Email arts@usmfreepress.org

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# Perspectives

## Our Opinion

### Gov. LePage is racist, uneducated and needs to leave office

Editorial Team  
USM Free Press Team

Gov. LePage needs to be leave office - no questions about it. How can a man so discriminating and ignorant have even been elected? In fact, why was he even re-elected in 2014?

His political positions are absurd; his decision for pro-life (and taking away a woman's right to control her body), the criminalization of marijuana, his adamant opposition on accepting Syrian refugees, his uneducated opinion on the use of solar and wind power, his now unimportant opinion on opposing LGBTQ marriage and so many other things.

LePage is receiving national attention - and not in a good way. When a governor like LePage says

everything that is on his mind, without filtering his thoughts first, those opinions reflect back on the community members of every city and small town in Maine. In fact, I would be surprised if you could find anyone who completely agrees with his statements who lives in the informed, open-minded state of Maine. His statements are not educated. His words are completely untrue. These issues that he stereotypes and stigmatizes so greatly deserve much more attention and understanding than simply saying,

"Guys with the name D-Money, Smoothie, Shifty; these types of guys, they come from Connecticut and New York, they come up here, they sell their heroin, they go back home. Incidentally, half the time they impregnate a young, white girl

before they leave, which is a real sad thing because then we have another issue we have to deal with down the road."

If we keep Paul LePage in office, our inaction symbolizes that we, as Mainers, are buying into his lies and discriminatory actions. The drug problems that have been repeatedly occurring in Portland, and elsewhere in Maine, deserve a much more educated statement than one that suggests that drug dealers go around impregnating white women.

It's an issue that needs more education, prevention and so much more than just an apathetic and ignorant attitude. There are many other statements LePage has made that make his constituents cringe, but his drug issue comments have rattled us heavily.

Even more disturbing is LePage's most recent statement on drug dealers, in which he stated, "Everybody in Maine, we have constitutional carry. Load up your guns and get rid of drug dealers."

Here stands a man who is supposed to represent our beautiful state of Maine, who is supposed to be leading us - but who is instead teaching us that violence and hate are the only ways to solve a problem. If LePage is not impeached, we will see incredible hatred and condescension grow for our state - even if we don't believe what he says to be true. We need a Maine leader who reflects the values of an intellectual, not a bigot.

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## Anarchist Luddite

### Enjoy the fruits of your labor while dumpster diving

Brian Gordon  
Free Press Staff

If you're poor like me you eat out of garbage cans. Just last night, heading home from the bar a hunger came over me. Resisting the spinning conveyor-belt meats of 7-11 and Cumbys I poked my head into a bin behind a bourgeois grocery. What did I find still wrapped in their brown protective paper, albeit dusted with coffee grinds? Sandwiches galore. I took my booty home stumbling through the icy streets to the relative warmth of my apartment, where I proceeded to 'Chef-Boy-I'm-Drunk' turn one of those sammies into panni-goodness. It hit the spot and I slept soundly sans-rumbling gut, images of free food dancing in my head.

I wasn't always this poor but I've always been cheap. The frugality comes naturally to Mainers and Yankees alike and with it, a distaste for waste. Now I have a taste for

other people's waste because it's unbelievable what gems you will find lying in little green bins all over town.

If you're repulsed by now, you shouldn't be. It's actually a lot cleaner than you think. Most of the places I 'dive' at line their compost bins with new plastic bags every time, so the food stays clean. Also it's not a requirement to actually jump inside any dumpsters, a simple peak will do or a bit of a rustling to see if there's garbage gold at the bottom. You can choose to stick your whole arm into the bin, but I usually like to keep my upper-arms gunk free.

The American consumer is so picky that grocery stores throw out billions of pounds of perfectly good food every year. Each time I dumpster dive I'm usually able to fill two big grocery bags no problem with fully ripe fruit, and vegetables. This is a boon to the broke student. It also ensures you eat your fruits and veg-

etables if your usual grocery shopping is done in the frozen "food" aisle.

The food might not be the prettiest but it's still fully edible and as long as you wash it, perfectly safe. Plus you're going to be peeling all those bananas and oranges, that have their own protective coating anyways. I've never gotten sick from anything I've eaten from a dumpster, but I would recommend you leave meat and fish alone. I do eat deli meat in sandwiches but usually like to heat it up a bit first.

Sometimes there's too much to take for yourself before it will spoil. Some of the vegetables freeze good, but what are you doing to do with 20 sandwiches? Stroll through Monument or Congress Square and hand them out to the homeless, they'll be really appreciative. Or convince your friend to take some. I generally tell people where they came from and it's a good moment to school

them on the wonders of waste.

Another rule of thumb is avoid restaurants. All their food gets thrown in together creating a sloppy mess. Stick with grocery stores. Chances are if it's sold out front it'll be thrown out back. Bakeries are also good. Ain't nothing wrong with day old bread that a little toasting can't take care of.

You'll also want to make sure you leave the area around the dumpsters clean so you don't ruin it for other people. That's a sure fire way to find a locked dumpster next time you go searching for supper.

It's easy to live off a wasteful capitalist system that values appearance over substance. Enjoy the fruits of your labor and remember, your mom was lying when she said "there's no such thing as a free lunch." You just have to know where to look for it.

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## Burn the Books

### Where has the Muse gone? Poets that seek to discover

Martin Conte  
USM Graduate

I remember the priest walking into a darkened church while my father sung in undertone "stay with me, remain here with me. Watch and pray. Watch and pray." Priest lies face down on the floor before the sanctuary, altar stripped of cloth and candle, flowers gone, gold gone. Everyone kneels. I stand on the kneeler in order to watch. A minute of silence sits like a half hour. My knees lock and unlock. Priest stands, priest steps into sanctuary, the celebration of the mass becomes strange again, even in all its familiar practices.

The firmly Catholic practice of ritual-symbol making, singing, repeated prayers, movement, the central breaking of bread-is reflected in why poetry remains so intoxicat-

ing to me today. Like hearing my father reading me a bedtime story, the rocking lilt of a poem lulls me away into a soft trance, some blissfully aware space above sleep. I often have to read a poem two or three times just to follow its scene, so caught up am I in the way the words move, a "shape in words," according to Jones. There is a certain recognition in the reader of poetry that something different will happen, something more abstract and altering than what is allowed from typical prose.

What I believe most poets are seeking in their work is one or both of two things: first, to discover (intellectually, textually, emotionally, romantically) what it is that makes us react in such a way to poetry, and second to incite that reaction in a baffled reader. I have never been satisfied by standard arguments for why a work is good or not. But I

have understood immediately the innate specialness of particular poems, poems built with language, but with an attraction that steps above its own structure, like a shooting star leaving a tail of light behind it.

To speak at all of poetry, one should always turn first to Homer. Quite like his contemporaries, Homer's Odyssey begins with the Invocation of the Muse. I sometimes wish all books of poetry would begin this way. It is a recognition that, regardless of the poet's spiritual perspective, he or she is partaking in a ritual spiritual by nature; an act of faith. Faith in language, faith in the movement of words, faith in the powers of rhythm and song. The Muse informs Homer not just of this story, from which we might learn and be entertained, but also the manner in which that story must be told. This is not a depiction of the world, and of reality, Homer

is offering us. The story is words, and the words find themselves in a different space in the brain, that muscle of the imagination, so close and involved with the brain's experience of divinity.

Of course, we do not worship the Greek gods any longer (at least, it is not a widespread belief). But the muse still exists. She's right there, in the opening line of the Odyssey. She's right there, any time her name is called. Why? Because, as Sarah Ruhl points out, "the words makes it so..."

*Martin Conte, a USM Graduate, writes in a weekly blog as, "an attempt to broaden conversation on, about and through literature."*

*To read the rest of this blog post, visit [www.burnthebooks.org](http://www.burnthebooks.org)*

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**Letter from the Editor**

**Let me tell you about last Monday**

**Krysteana Scribner**  
*Editor-in-chief*

Three weeks into the semester and I'm still, miraculously, feeling organized and focused. At this point, I would normally be so overwhelmed I could be found hiding in a pile of blankets eating stale doritos, but for now I'm doing alright.

This is our second issue for the spring semester. So far, we've covered a variety of content and worked in various media platforms to ensure our content is seen by as many eyes as possible. As student journalists, we're always learning new ways to better both our skills and our paper.

Last Monday, our team hosted a table over in Woodbury Campus Center and tried recruiting students - what happened that day opened my eyes to how some people on campus view our organization and has since changed my ways of thinking drastically.

We had one person come up to our table and hastily grab an issue, muttering under their breath profanities about how our writing is "trash." Every staff member at our table felt hurt by this unnecessary and malicious comment. As the editor, I was hurt by it. So of course, I approached that person as they tried to walk away.

"We're student journalists who are always learning and trying our best to become better," I said. I was frustrated, unsure as to why someone would come up to our table and intentionally put us all down in such a way. "What can I do better to stop you from saying such hurtful things about us?"

This person claimed that we do not cover enough LGBTQ, multicultural or religious topics on campus, and when we do, we get them all wrong. "When you do write about them, you hide them on page four or something, where no one will see them and they don't matter," the person said. "You also have such obvious errors in your paper. I used to like reading this a few years ago, but now it's just awful."

I breathed. I paused. I thought carefully about what I was going to say next. Every bone in my body told me to walk away, because no one likes confrontation at such a harsh and demoralizing level; to hear someone say such hateful statements without knowing or recognizing how hard we work made me furious, but I stood my ground and said exactly what I should have.

"You're right about our copy-

editing errors," I stated, my body continuing to shake for reasons I wasn't sure of. "We don't have many copy editors, and the people who do look at content are some of the most hardworking people I know, and they already juggle so many other responsibilities. We just need more copy editors."

In regards to highlighting minorities on campus, I thought back and tried to recollect the times we had covered such topics. Didn't we recently write about those topics and highlight these issues? I felt we had, but could think of no example.

"We don't hide it inside the newspaper," I stated. "It just simply felt more appropriate to placed in Arts & Culture, or Community - but I see where you're coming from. I see your point of view. I understand your frustration."

For the first time in my life, I felt empowered by the kindness of my own words. In no way was I rude, in no way did I make this person feel like their opinion wasn't valid. They had brought to my attention something that everyone is probably thinking - we need to be better and we need to have more subject matter on those who feel marginalized.

I will say this: We're working to recruit more students to copy edit. We are trying to get a variety of interesting and unique people to join our team. We're working harder than ever to be the campus newspaper that everyone respects and relies on for information - but we are most certainly not writing garbage.

We cover controversial changes on campus, student accomplishments and local art and theatre events. We write about USM events and highlight the importance of relevant topics happening throughout our campus and the world today. The Free Press staff, my staff, are so motivated to learn and grow that comments like these only make us stronger.

So please, send your commentary to us through [editor@usmfreepress.org](mailto:editor@usmfreepress.org). Good or bad. Criticism, whether intended to be constructive or not, will only push our staff further in our attempt provide journalism that is thorough and insightful.

In the end, all we can do is accept these statements and make change where needed - but it cannot happen without the voices of USM.

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@Krysteana2016

Know of any interesting vocabulary words?  
Email us at  
[editor@usmfreepress.org](mailto:editor@usmfreepress.org)



**Advising Advice**

**Students are encouraged to look into study abroad**

**Janisa Albright**  
*Academic Advisor*

In this week's Advising Advice column we delve into some common scenarios involving academic plans and study abroad.

Scenario One: Dora is a first year student who has not declared a major. She is interested in studying abroad but has heard you can only do that later on in college, so she hasn't brought it up with her Advisor. She thinks she'll just wait until she's declared a major and a little further in to start her research on it. What would the advisors say about this?:

Blaise: I want my advisees to tell me their whole plan, right from our first meeting. Even if it's tentative, or they think it's silly or a long way in the future, it's is still important for me to know so I can get a whole picture of who my advisee is and what their interests are. Study abroad also requires a fair amount of preparation, so bringing these ideas up sooner than later can help us plan together.

Laura : I agree -- discussing study abroad early is so important! It allows you to plan ahead both academically and financially.

For some students, knowing in advance that they will spend a semester abroad helps steer the course choices they make now. I often recommend that students wait to take Core classes, such as cultural interpretation and international, until they are abroad. That way you'll a) have greater flexibility in choosing your study abroad program and b) be able to take advantage of unique classes to satisfy this requirement, such as British Heroes: From King Arthur to Harry Potter.

Scenario Two: Daniel's friends have told him about their study-abroad experiences. The programs sound really interesting, but he is sure he couldn't afford the cost, so he hasn't talked with anyone about it. Besides, he thinks that kind of thing is just for fun, and not related to what he's doing here at USM.

Blaise: Lots of people feel like study abroad is not for them for financial or academic reasons, but I encourage students to check-in with their Academic or a Study Abroad advisor before ruling it out. This is an important skill: learning to gather information and ask questions so you can make informed decisions. Just working with assumptions could lead to

you missing a great opportunity. Many majors have the flexibility to accommodate a semester abroad, and the skills and experiences you gain while abroad can add real impact to your resume.

Laura: When thinking about study abroad, don't limit yourself to the traditional "junior year abroad." USM offers short-term travel courses, which are one- to three-week programs that run during winter, spring, and summer breaks. Groups go to one or more countries with USM faculty and peers to study a specific topic. Past destinations have included England, China, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and South Africa. There are many advantages of travel programs: they are relatively short, affordable (and often partially covered by financial aid), and help you earn credits toward your degree. For students with less flexible majors, travel programs are a great way to have a meaningful international experience without delaying graduation.

Want to know more? Go to: <https://usm.maine.edu/international/study-abroad>.

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# Sustainability and ME

## Environmental Issues:

### *Give storm water some credit*

**Heather Leonas**  
*Sustainability and ME*

The state of Maine is full of promise in the world of environmental sustainability. We take our wildlife seriously, we utilize renewable energies, and we protect our land. Here in Portland we compost, we reduce, reuse, and recycle. We bike to work, we pick up after our pets, and we don't use Styrofoam cups.

Our generation has learned the importance of not littering, returning our bottles and cans, separating our recycling from the trash. All of these things have become somewhat second nature; things we do without even really considering them. We are all mostly aware of how our vehicles contribute to the CO2 emissions in the atmosphere, we know that fluids leak from our cars into the streets, we know that plastic isn't biodegradable and shouldn't be left in the streets. But for some reason we all still let these things happen, and what we don't fully understand is how much work we are making for our city and our state to clean up after our careless mess.

The city of Portland fights to meet compliance with the Clean Water Act, and works diligently to clean up the decades of pollution of Maine's water committed by Mainers and other states.

Each year, Maine contributes approximately 1.8 billion gallons of runoff into the Portland Harbor. This runoff is not purely rain and melted snow. This runoff is combined with pollutants from the streets and as a result of overflow, raw sewage, all contaminating our

healthy Maine waterways.

Fortunately, in January of this year, Portland approved a stormwater service charge extended to ALL impervious surfaces, which covers treating water that runs off property into the stormwater system. This will be added to an adjusted sewer charge, which covers treating the water that is used in your home. This new charge will allow Portland to appropriately treat stormwater, and sewer water, reducing the likelihood of overflow, and allowing us to follow through with better practices. The new fee was implemented as a more equitable solution that the previous funding model which put all the costs for stormwater on the sewer bill of business and residences in Portland. This meant that a large water user, like a hospital, might pay a lot for their sewer charges (which were used for both sewer and stormwater infrastructure costs) although they were not contributing all that much stormwater. Conversely, a property that creates a lot of runoff and stormwater like a car dealership with large swaths of pavement used to pay little to no money into the infrastructure fund because they would have low water use and therefore a low sewer bill. The stormwater fee attempts to reconcile this issue and put the costs for the treatment and infrastructure related to stormwater on those who generate the stormwater.

In addition to these new service charges, Portland offers property owners up to 100% credit for making approved adjustments which diminish the amount of run-off

into the public system.

What can you do?

The best thing any resident can do for their city or, the planet for that matter, is to reduce waste of all types, including water. By reducing the amount of waste water you contribute to the stormwater system, you are allowing these systems to more efficiently treat the water that does pass through, and ultimately contributing to cleaner water in the environment.

Don't be gross. Dispose of your trash, ESPECIALLY cigarette butts, appropriately. Someone has to clean catch basins in the sewer systems, and not everything gets captured. Cigarette butts leach many harmful chemicals into soil and water.

If you're a homeowner, consider installing a rain garden on your property. This will divert run-off from your roof into the ground where it can be filtered naturally into groundwater.

Educate people. Share what you know about this problem, and work as a community.

USM is doing their part. Gorham campus is considered a municipal unit and must comply with regulations and best practices for managing stormwater by Maine's Department of Environmental Protection. The plan includes educating the USM community and creating natural and efficient ways for storm water to be maintained on campus. To learn more, check out our website which we are adding to all the time!

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@USMFreePress

**Word of the Week**

*Epiphany*

[ih-pif-uh-nee]

A sudden, intuitive perception or insight into the reality or meaning of something.

*Ex: While washing the dishes, I had an epiphany on how to clean them better.*

**Like what you see? Hate what you see?**  
**Email [editor@usmfreepress.org](mailto:editor@usmfreepress.org)**



29. Its 2010 season begins September 9th
31. Take \_\_\_\_ sign
32. "I made you a cookie but I \_\_\_\_ it..."
- (LOLcat line)
33. Bjorn Borg, for one
38. In a state of wonder
40. Romanian composer Georges
41. Autumn mo.
44. Research-funding org.
45. Thousandth of a tril.
46. Thin \_\_\_\_
49. Strong fishing nets
50. Garment line
53. Rap or grunge
54. Burt Bacharach tune " \_\_\_\_ Alone"
55. LaBeouf of "Disturbia"
56. Onionlike vegetable
58. Miseries
59. Michael's sister La \_\_\_\_
60. Awestruck
61. "Flashdance" director Adrian
63. Celestial sphere
64. Midding grade
65. Place for a canal

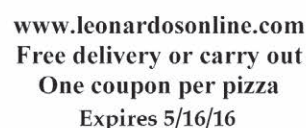
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Pleasure, beauty and the desire for a smooth flow in relationships are highlighted. You can't avoid all conflict.

**CONTACT: EDITOR@USMFPRESS.ORG**





# USM COMMUNITY PAGE

## Students gather to weigh options abroad

Raquel Miller  
Contributor

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, tables of study abroad representatives lined the Brooks Center dining hall for a study abroad fair. As you walked farther into the dining hall, pamphlet filled tables with welcoming faces of representatives appeared.

Leading the line of tables was USM's Office of International Programs where Assistant Director, Kaoru Phillips and coordinator Laura Blanton welcomed students. The Office of International Programs is located in Payson Smith on the Portland campus, but students on the Gorham campus can visit Blanton during her occasional Tuesday availability or make an appointment with the office for more information.

Phillips, originally from Japan, was an exchange student herself when she was in college and cited her experience as a way to broaden horizons, builds resumes, enrich cultural experiences.

If she could advise a student who is thinking about studying abroad, she would say to "take advantage of this opportunity the university provides." There are unlimited resources in the international program's office and USM currently has exchange programs with universities in five countries including South Korea, England, Netherlands, Japan and Canada.

Students who participate in these programs will pay USM's in-state-tuition even if they are an out-of-state student. This allows students to utilize not only financial aid, but the scholarships they have received as well. Financial aid is always a resource for students who are eligible.

In the Presidential Dining Hall on Tuesday night was Dilara Isik, a Senior from Radboud Universiteit in the Netherlands. She is abroad in an exchange program with USM, and lead a talk that aimed to encourage students to participate in the exchange program. Part of Isik's requirement for her major in American studies was to come to the United States and found that doing so was very accessible possibility.



Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff

Many different outside organizations as well as USM representatives had displays available for students who have interest in taking their education abroad.

Isik pointed out that there are some distinct cultural differences compared to the Netherlands. The way people speak is more "direct" and although people are incredibly polite, those who visit the Netherlands, or any foreign country, should be prepared for the differences in speech, behavior and mannerisms.

It is common for students to experience culture shock while abroad, but USM and providers of study abroad programs have a team of people who help with pre-departure and many have residential staff on location for emergencies and concerns.

A representative for CAPA the global education network, specializes in study abroad programs in large, was present at the event, and described that urban environments like Sydney, London, Shanghai and Buenos Aires, ensures that studying abroad helps students "understand who they are as a person in a global world."

Many representatives of study abroad at each table on Tuesday night had studied

abroad themselves when they were in college. This firsthand knowledge and experience better provided students with useful information.

A representative for American Institute for Foreign Study found her experience abroad to be none like any experience before.

"Personally, my experience was one of the most enriching experiences of my life," she said. "Experiencing a new culture opens up a new world allowing you to possess a new perspective. It is very holistic."

Businesses are often looking for students with international experience and studying abroad is a perfect resume builder. Professionally and academically, studying abroad can enhance and open up possibilities while also enriching every aspect of your life.

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## Students of USM: Matthew Raymond, junior history major



Meaghan Gonsior / Free Press Staff

Meaghan Gonsior  
Free Press Staff

Matthew Raymond is driven by a passion for prison reform and for him, it's personal. During a class taught by USM Professor Leroy Rowe, Raymond, a third year history major and political science minor, came to a pivotal cross-road.

"A course on mass incarceration has opened doors within my heart that I thought would remain locked forever," said Raymond. "My new found ability to empathize with inmates of Maine has even extended to my own father, whom I've been estranged from for ten years."

Professor Rowe encouraged Raymond to reach out to his father who is currently incarcerated at the Bolduc Correctional Facility where he earns less than a dollar per hour doing manual labor.

Raymond says initiating communication with his father has been "an emotional rollercoaster," but he's gained a better understanding of the man. Raymond plans to complete a law degree and go on to become a

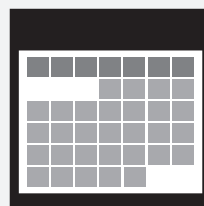
Criminal Defense Attorney. His goals include working with impoverished individuals as a court-appointed defense, abolishing the use of solitary confinement as punishment, and raising the prisoners' minimum wage to one dollar per hour.

"Students at USM are often not as confident about their abilities, but with a little perseverance, we can change the way society works," said Raymond.

Solitary confinement punishment stands out as a critical issue for Raymond. Prisoners may be sentenced to months or years in solitary, even without a clear reason.

The U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture condemned solitary confinement as inhumane, and degrading treatment. The APA has also found that solitary confinement exacerbates mental illness, which leads to an increase in violent behavior and self harm. These are the many reasons why Mainers must call for the abolition of solitary confinement.

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## Campus Events

### Monday, February 1

Safe Zone Project Training  
University of Southern Maine  
509 Luther Bonney Hall, Portland Campus  
Starts: 11:30 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 2

Indoor Walk/Jog  
University of Southern Maine  
Sullivan Recreation Complex  
Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Considering Culture in Advertising  
University of Southern Maine  
7th Floor, Glickman Library, Portland  
Starts: 8:00 a.m. / Ends: 4:30 p.m.

DIY Kraft Night  
University of Southern Maine  
Lower Brooks Center, Gorham Campus  
Starts: 9:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, February 3

OML Gallery: Five Centuries of Maps  
University of Southern Maine  
Osher Map Library  
Starts: 10:00 a.m. / Ends: 4:00 p.m.

Master's Opinion for Non-Nurses Program  
University of Southern Maine  
Room 326, Luther Bonney, Portland  
Starts: 2:30 p.m. / Ends: 4:00 p.m.

Volleyball Tournament  
University of Southern Maine  
Hill Gym, Costello Sports Complex- Gorham  
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

### Thursday, February 4

Karaoke Night  
University of Southern Maine  
Lower Brooks Student Center  
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 11:00 p.m.

Matt Haimovitz Master Class  
University of Southern Maine  
Corthell Concert Hall  
Starts 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 2:00 p.m.

### Friday, February 5

Nonverbal Communication 101  
University of Southern Maine  
Room 312, Glickman Library, Portland  
Starts: 11:00 a.m. / Ends: 12:00 p.m.

Strengths Based Workshop Series  
University of Southern Maine  
Glickman Library  
Starts: 11:00 a.m. / Ends: 1:30 p.m.

### Saturday, February 6

Men's Ice Hockey (NE college vs. USM)  
University of Southern Maine  
USM Ice Arena  
Starts: 4:00 p.m. / Ends: 7:00 p.m.

Want to list your event?  
editor@usmfreepress.org



Tuesday	Saturday	Friday	Saturday
Women's Basketball vs. Colby 5:30 p.m.	Men' Basketball vs. Colby 7:00 p.m.	Men's Hockey vs. Saint Anselm 7:00 p.m.	Women's Hockey vs. Nichols 1:00 p.m.

## USM united in response to Gordon discrimination

By: Nick Beauchesne  
Sports Editor

Last year was the first in decades that the University of Southern Maine did not face Gordon College in some form of athletic competition. This year and for years to come will be the same, so long as Gordon maintains its discriminatory stance concerning members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) community.

A private, evangelical institution in the town of Wenham, Massachusetts, Gordon College’s code of conduct prohibits acts that do not conform to “practices governed by Scripture.” Outlined on the Gordon College website, [gordon.edu](http://gordon.edu), is a set of behavioral standards that both students and faculty are expected to abide by. The first section identifies certain acts, “including, but not limited to blasphemy, profanity, dishonesty...sexual relations outside of marriage, and homosexual practice,” that, it says, “will not be tolerated in the lives of Gordon community members, either on or off campus.”

In the summer of 2014, Gordon College president Michael Lindsay was one of fourteen that signed a letter, addressed to the White House, seeking exemption on religious grounds concerning an Executive Order that banned federal employees (universities included) from discriminating against current and prospective employees based on their sexual orientation. In other words, the college sought permission to discriminate against LGBTQ individuals without federal funds being taken away in response.

As a result of this letter, former USM president David Flanagan, with consultation from various other members of the school community both inside athletics and beyond, decided that Gordon College’s stance on this issue was diametrically opposed to that of the USM community, an institution that prides itself on both inclusion and equality. In coming to that conclusion, it was decided that USM would immediately suspend



Photo courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons

USM will no longer compete in any athletic events with Gordon College (pictured), a private, evangelical institution in Wenham, Massachusetts.

competition against Gordon College for the academic year 2014-2015 and would readdress the issue during the 2015-2016 year.

“We had discussed the matter in depth when the announcement by Gordon College first took place in the summer of 2014. It was, administratively, not without its challenges,” said Univeristy of Southern Maine athletic director Al Beane. “We had regular season contests scheduled against Gordon for that fall, and cancelling competition on such short notice has its own issues. In the end, though, we knew that we were making the right decision.”

Since then, Gordon College’s position has remained the same. President Lindsay has since spoken out about initiatives at his college to prevent harassment of LGBTQ students and faculty, yet the institution maintains its stance prohibiting “homosexual practice” and still seeks the exemption.

While Gordon’s leadership has gone unchanged since the summer of 2014, there was some degree of uncertainty concerning USM’s position, with Flanagan being replaced by President Glenn Cum-

tings this year. That uncertainty, though, did not last long.

“In speaking with some of our students, particularly those within the LGBTQ community, there is the feeling that, without taking the stance that we have, we would be implicitly accepting the position of Gordon College,” President Cummings said.

That sentiment influenced the decision made by Cummings to seek input from the USM athletic department, under the leadership of Beane. The athletic department organized a collection of administrators, coaches, and student athletes to form a “task force,” whose job it was to convene on the matter and report back to the president.

“The task force was composed of twelve individuals that came together and shared their thoughts and concerns on the matter,” said Beane.

The group consensus, according to Beane, was overwhelming in its support for those members of the USM community that identify as LGBTQ. The task force, having compiled its collective decision, then reported back to President Cummings with its findings.

In a letter addressed to Gordon College President Lindsay, and later shared to the USM student-body and faculty, Cummings articulated the findings of the task force, as well as the official position of USM:

“Their (the task force’s) strong recommendation is that we continue the decision of last year to suspend our participation with Gordon College in regular season sporting events,” Cummings said in the letter.

This decision, now made, will not be one that is readdressed on a year to year basis, though it has been for the past two years since Lindsay first signed the letter to President Obama requesting the religious exemption. When asked about whether USM’s decision is one that will continue beyond this school year, Cummings was unequivocal:

“Our position will remain intact and hold for so long as Gordon College maintains its position in terms of discrimination against any minority groups on its campus.”

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### Nouchanthavong buzzer-beater secures third straight win

The USM men’s basketball team defeated Plymouth State Wednesday night 75-73, in a contest that saw senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Westbrook) score 31 points, including a pull-up jumper as the clock expired. With the win, the Huskies improve to 5 and 3 in conference play. USM will host Colby College on Tuesday night.



### Gibeault sets PR for second time in seven days

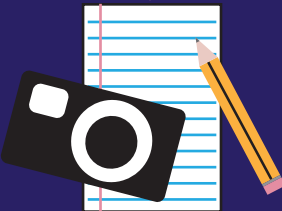
Junior Molly Gibeault (Brooklyn, Connecticut/Woodstock Academy) vaulted 11 feet-9 3/4 inches (3.60 meters) Friday night to set a new personal best for the second time in the past week. Her vault was good for ninth place out of 36 competitors at the Boston University John Thomas Terrier Classic.



### USM “Think Pink” event held Saturday, Jan. 30

USM hosted its annual event this past Saturday, collecting donations and raising awareness for cancer research. The men and women indoor track and field teams, as well as both basketball teams, wore pink during their home competitions. All proceeds from the events went to the American Cancer Society.

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### Scoreboard

#### January 26

Men's Ice Hockey	
USM	1
Bowdoin	4

#### January 27

Men's Basketball	
USM	75
Plymouth State	73

Women's Basketball	
USM	66
Plymouth State	42

#### January 29

Men's Ice Hockey	
USM	2
Mass-Boston	5

Women's Ice Hockey	
USM	0
UNE	1

### Upcoming

#### February 5

**Women's Indoor Track and Field:** State of Maine Championship  
@ Bates College  
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

**Women's Ice Hockey**  
@ Plymouth State  
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

#### February 6

**Men's Indoor Track and Field:** State of Maine Championship  
@ Bates College.  
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

**Women' Basketball**  
@Keene State  
Starts: 1:00 p.m.

**Men's Basketball**  
@ Keene State  
Starts: 3:00 p.m

For more listings of upcoming Husky sporting events, please refer to the official USM athletic's website.



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