2-8-2016

The Free Press Vol. 47, Issue No. 14, 02-08-2016

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University of Southern Maine

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Rent prices at all time high while USM explores new options

Bradford Spurr
Free Press Staff

Back in 2008, the world stopped and watched as the most powerful and democratically free economy was brought to its knees after several years of mismanaged financial practices from some of the nation’s largest banking and securities institutions, which led to the current state of potential faculty layoffs at USM.

President Glenn Cummings, who sent out an email to university students, faculty and staff on Monday, agrees with the arbitrator’s decision that the retrenchment process was financially necessary. “I know this arbitration decision will have a mixed response within our campus community, but I am hoping, regardless of where you sit on the decision, that you will agree it is time for us as a university to move forward,” Cummings said.

Arbitrator Mark Irwins, who ruled on Saturday that the layoffs followed the contract, ordered the university to pay lost wages and benefits to one professor whose layoffs did not follow legal procedures. This individual was not identified. USM officials also claimed that the cuts were an effort to close a $16 million budget gap. Currently, the university has a budget of $128 million.

The 26 layoffs were a small cog in the machine of ways to cut costs, which ended in the elimination of 51 faculty positions and five academic programs. AFUM decided to challenge the decision to make such changes, which led to the arbitration. Irwins examined both USM and the entire system’s finances and reached a decision on the basis that the administration was aware of the financial situation and was unable to change it without the cuts.

In the UMaine System, an estimated 500 positions have been eliminated over the past decade, including elimination of a number of faculty positions to better align expenses with the size of the student body, was an unwelcome but necessary action to balance the budget of the university for the current year.

Reducing the costs at USM, including elimination of a number of faculty positions to better align expenses with the size of the student body, was an unwelcome but necessary action to balance the budget of the university for the current year.
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

START GROWING.
START REACHING HIGHER.
START SHAPING YOUR FUTURE.
START PUSHING YOUR LIMITS.
START MOTIVATING OTHERS.
START LEADING.
START STRONG.

For local information visit usm.maine.edu/armyrotc, call 207-780-5726, or go to goarmy.com/rotc/dn38.
As long as the Board of Trustees are such activists for their cause they just vote in whatever they want and ignore shared governance completely.

Anonymous professor at USM

None of us thought we were going to get an outright win. I think some of us that are realists were at least hoping for a mixed bag.

Susan Feiner, Economics professor at USM
What is Enlightenment? Kant’s essay 230 years later

Bryer C. Sousa
Contributor

As the presidential hopefuls refocus their efforts upon New Hampshire following the virtual tie between Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, as well as Ted Cruz’s win over Donald Trump in Iowa, one may be wondering how the caucusing process works in the presidential primaries in Maine.

Robert W. Glover, an assistant professor of political activity at the University of Maine at Orono, said that “the caucuses basically determine the number of delegates a candidate will be awarded at the state and national conventions (with a little bit of leeway—there are always a few delegates that are not bound by the results of the state caucus).”

In fact, Maine is one of thirteen states and three U.S. territories that makes use of caucusing in order to declare its states party members’ preferences for the Democratic presidential and the Republican presidential nominees.

This process of caucusing that takes place in Maine and elsewhere is much more involved than participating in a primary, where members of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party cast secret ballots for their favorite candidates. The caucusing process is different in each party.

For registered Democratic voters in the State of Maine, the Maine Democratic Party works with the local Democratic municipal and county committees to design the caucuses that will take place on Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Nevertheless, once signed into the municipal caucus, the precinct caucuses convenor will explain the rules, process and address required Democratic Party business. Afterwards, the voters in attendance at the caucus split into groups based upon who they prefer of the candidates running. Finally, the results of the people’s presidential candidates preferences will yield an allocation of a number of delegates to be divided in proportion to the support garnered for each nominee.

The Maine Republican Party will hold its respective nominating caucuses on Saturday, March 5, 2016, across the State of Maine. Unlike the Maine Democratic Party, the Republicans conduct their caucus by way of voting via paper ballots, where any registered voter in the party can participate. Following the caucus results, the number of delegates each candidate receives will be determined by the percent of the votes they receive. However, if any Republican candidate receives greater than 50% of the ballots cast, they will be awarded all of Maine’s delegates.

For those among us who are not affiliated with a party, or in other words are unregistered or unenrolled, and would like to participate in a particular party’s caucus, there is still time to register to vote as a Democrat or Republican at a local municipal clerk’s office prior to caucus day.

Professor Glover also identified that “there are obviously positives and negatives with this method. A caucus demands greater participation and is more of a commitment of time and energy and forces citizens to advocate on behalf of their candidate.” Glover concluded by mentioning that the “primaries are simpler, but a less demanding and engaged political activity.”

Bernie Sanders during a rally in New Hampshire, after tying Hillary Clinton at caucus voting in Iowa. Ted Cruz beat out Donald Trump for the Republican nomination. All candidates are now focusing their attentions to the New Hampshire primaries.

Maine is one of 13 states that has a caucus, here’s how it works

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The Maine Republican Party
Students gather to discuss culture’s role in advising

Raquel Miller
Free Press Staff

On Feb. 2, USM’s professional academic advisors gathered on the 7th floor of Glickman Library for an all day workshop in multicultural training and advising. The advising office frequently participates in workshops that help people become more aware of student needs not only academically, but personally.

Last week, for instance, staff participated in an interactive workshop led by Eli Clare, who identifies as “white, disabled, genderqueer,” teaching and facilitating workshops all over the country to raise awareness and educate departments or classrooms on how to “create more disability access in their work places and communities.”

The “Considering Culture in Advising” workshop was led by academic advisor, Blaise Maccarrone, an intercultural trainer. Running from early morning into the afternoon, Maccarrone ran the workshop interactively by using activities, discussion, small groups and reflection to encourage a place of dialogue and education on how to handle more complex issues and barriers in advising.

Members of the workshop spent a large portion of the day participating in role-playing activities that applied to what they had learned throughout the day into real-life situations. Maccarrone explained that she, and many professors, share a belief in the power of reflection when it comes to learning. Participating in the activities and experiences are important, but following those activities with reflection on the content is crucial for a better understanding. Students, and in this case, the advising team, had the ability to reflect on the new concepts they had learned throughout the day, allowing them time to be worked through and understood.

While all USM students benefit in workshops such as these, this one in particular, aimed to provide clarity and assistance in dealing with cultural barriers that advisors face when meeting with students whose culture and background different than their own. Some students might want to share that aspect of themselves with their advisor, while another might not—and that is okay. USM’s advisors strive to be aware of those differences.

Collaborating with the coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs, Reza Jalali, during the workshop provided advisors with a valuable resource where they could ask questions about how to address students of varying cultural backgrounds.

As described on their USM webpage, Multicultural Student Affairs is “dedicated to increasing the awareness and appreciation of the many diverse cultures and ethnicities at USM through programming, dialogue, and cultural events.”

Members of the workshop participated in activities that dealt with varying “cultural dimensions,” which is the way we talk about culture. Maccarrone is trained to teach others how to look at and recognize aspects of culture, that not only hover above the surface, but that go deeper.

Using the analogy of “The Cultural Iceberg,” one might be aware of some pieces of “surface culture” such as food, literature, language, music, or dress. But, they might not be aware of the intricacies that lie beneath the surface like a particular culture’s conception of roles relating to age, gender, class; or their attitudes towards work, elders, or death; and even their mannerisms and communication styles such as displaying emotion or conversational patterns.

There are several intricate aspects of culture to be acknowledged and respected when it comes to advising students who could be a first generation college student or a student whose first language is not English. Cultural training workshops provide advisors with the appropriate language to identify and name these things.

Maccarrone realizes the language and cultural barriers that present themselves in the advising office and hopes that the workshop provides a source of insight for advisors when meeting with and understanding the needs of their students.

Often, advisors meet with students who carry different expectations with them academically, based on the intricacies of their own culture. These are expectations that can be recognized through an understanding of cultural dimensions and intercultural training such as Macarrone’s. Advisors can use these tools to integrate an understanding of a student’s experience into their advising, supporting them while also making them aware of USM’s expectations as students.

The Academic Advising Office has been presented with an opportunity: a number of advisors on the Portland Campus began in April of 2015. Adding fresh faces to the mixture of experienced colleagues creates an ideal environment that brings staff together and gives them the ability to exchange fresh ideas and learn from varying experiences. They have the opportunity to establish new relationships, expand their connections with departments such as Jalali’s, and continue educating one another in order to support the needs of USM’s students.
**Local & State**

Presidential race may be causing Mainer to overlook ballot initiatives

The country will be electing a new president in 2016, but Maine voters will have a lot more to think about than just who they want to be their next president. Some believe that’s possible because it’s a presidential election year, and many Maine voters believe this will be an underdog year.

In November, voters will be deciding on six potential ballot measures, including raising the minimum wage for the state, legalizing marijuana and mandating background checks on private gun sales.

As of now, only the establishment ranked-choice voting has netted any support among voters. The other measures are still going through the validation process to make sure that all signatures are valid. In order for any of the signatures to be used, they need to total more than 600 public and private schools, as well as libraries, across the state. This is the big city to visit his grandmother.

Julie Angass, founder of the website WikiLeaks, has been on the run from governments across the globe for the last few years after he stole documents and started releasing government secrets through the website.

Last Friday, a U.N. panel ruled in favor of Assange, saying that the Swedish and U.K. governments have been detaining him arbitrarily since 2010. While the U.N. ruled in his favor, Assange doesn’t appear ready to test his luck just yet. He remains at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

Unfortunately, the state is becoming international. Because of Florida’s warm climate, which can house mosquitoes year-round, and the amount of international travelers that come to Florida, the state is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the virus. Door-to-door inspections have increased, and a list of cities where Zika 12 cases have been reported, but officials say that these individuals contracted the virus while travelling abroad.

“We have 20 million people and over 100 million tourists, we need the CDC to immediately provide these kits to Florida so we can protect our families and of course all of our visitors,” Florida Gov. Rick Scott said at a Tampa news conference.

Gov. Scott has also asked the CDC for 1,000 kits to test for viral antibodies in pregnant women. The state currently has 500 tests on hand.

President Obama wants to impose fee to insure cleaner transportation of oil

President Obama wants oil companies to pay a $10 fee per barrel of oil transported, which will help fund investments for clean transportation that will help fight climate change. The bill will be presented to Congress on Tuesday and is expected to face opposition from the Republicans.

Despite the opposition, Obama hopes that this bill will at least start a conversation about the need for energy producers to start helping fund clean transportation. The American Petroleum Institute states that the fee would raise the cost of gas by 25 cents.

**Democrats denounce just days before New Hampshire primaries**

After Martin O’Malley dropped out of the presidential race, the Democratic debate, which took place a few days before the New Hampshire primaries, featured a head-to-head, with Vermont sena-

According to Mills, under the current law, the punishment for possession is nothing more than a slap on the wrist.”

“I know that facing a lengthy sentence is sometimes the only motivating factor for someone to confront their addiction and get the treatment they need,” Mills said.

Rep. Mick Devin was opposed to Mills’ plan, stating that the state should be more focused on locking up drug dealers rather than on locking up people who have become addicted. Devin proposed that a first offense for possession should come with a misdeemeanor, but that a second offense could be charged as a felony.

**National**

Florida prepares for potential Zika virus outbreak

The Zika virus, a disease transmitted through mosquitoes and that has been wreaking havoc in South America, has Florida officials preparing for the worst.

Central Maine Power has donated the award-winning book Nana to Maine schools and libraries for 16 consecutive years.

Central Maine Power has donated the award-winning book Nana to 600 public and private schools, as well as libraries, across the state. This is the 16th straight year Central Maine Power has been donating this book to schools and libraries.

In November of 2014, Norwegian police officers were ordered to be armed at all times, whereas before that police officers were to keep their guns locked up in their cars.

This experiment lasts about 14 months, and last Wednesday, officers in Norway were ordered to go back to locking up their firearms.

The experiment started when a threat assessment made in October 2014 found that Norway was to be a likely recipient of a terrorist attack within the next 12 months. In 2015, another threat assessment was made, claiming that there was no longer any threat.

After the 2015 assessment, Norway got ready to lock their guns up once again, but after the terrorist attacks in Paris, they decided to temporarily extend the arming of police.

During the year of being fully armed while on the job, there was reportedly no increase in the number of incidents involving police firearms. Many officials credit this to the high levels of training Norwegian police officers are given to refrain from using their weapons unless absolutely necessary.


**International**

WikiLeaks founder feels vindicated after U.N. panel ruled he was arbitrarily detained

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The Portland Museum of Art gets a makeover

Meaghan Gonsior
Free Press Staff

The Portland Museum of Art is rethinking how museum is done. The first step in the extensive makeover, Your Museum, is imagined, kicked off with a three week renovation closure from January 4 through the 21 in 2016. The museum reopened on the 22nd with freshly redone galleries, a new study area, and interactive experiences that change the way audiences view the art.

“What audiences are thinking about and what they want their experience to be in a museum is the million dollar question in the museum world,” said Portland Museum of Art Director Mark Bessire. “Accessibility for the opening up the museum so that the institution.”

The Portland Museum of Art is one of Maine’s small towns, hosted a Fourth of July Parade, and the weather was no different. However, starting in 1983, local artist and social activist Natasha Mayer decided that Independence Day should also be a day to open up the discussion about the serious issues facing our community.

So, when onlookers watch the Fourth of July Parade in Whitefield, marching in between American flags, classic cars and girls animals throwing candy there are floats tackling issues from global warming to rich men in diapers, Bessire.

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Project Free Ke$ha makes progress

Amanda Melanson
Free Press Staff

In recent news, twenty-eight-year-old pop singer Kesha won an important legal battle with her former producer Dr. Luke. Kesha, over the course of working with Dr. Luke during her contract, suffered abuse in the form of sexual assault, battery, harassment, gender violence, emotional abuse and violation of California business practices over their decade-long working relationship. Kesha has revealed that Dr. Luke after completing her time with him refused to make more music with her and that his abuse caused her to develop bulimia nervosa, which she was treated for some time prior to the suit. Kesha asked that the court break their legal contract so that she wouldn’t have to continue working with his abuser. When Kesha refused to make more music with Dr. Luke after completing her time in rehab, she was faced with the obstacle of not being able to make music for any other record producers because of the contract. Sony, her label, did nothing to fix the situation, and for three years her career has been at a standstill. It was not until 2014, when Kesha publicly went forward with her accusations against Dr. Luke, that things started to move forward. Those accusations resulted into a hearing with both parties who appeared before a judge to determine if her accusations were nothing more than defamatory. At that hearing, it was concluded that Dr. Luke’s case was unfounded and it paved the way for Kesha to meet with Dr. Luke to discuss leaving her contract before another judge again on February 19th. The date was re-scheduled from its original posted date due to inclement weather.

For those unaware of Kesha or her music: In 2009, she debuted her first album, Animal, with her extended Sire label. The album was a crossover success and featured the hit single “Tik Tok” and “We R Who We R”. Cases such as Kesha’s are becoming more and more common in the news because of the controversy surrounding one or both parties in the lawsuits. These cases also bring into the limelight issues such as “rape culture” and related topics. Often times, women and men alike are blamed by their attackers and the supporters of those attackers, by insensitive law enforcement, and by legal counsel on the defendant’s side. The fact that, as a country, we are becoming more readily able to stand up against brutalities and hostilities against women speaks volumes as their voices are now being heard and supported. More high profile cases have been opening up, though there is always speculation and accusations that the accusations are just “for the money,” and not for the justice that every victim of violence and abuse deserves. Kesha is actively keeping her fans up to date with the knowledge of important dates through her social media accounts. Kesha continues to touch base with them on a personal level as the proceedings unfold, often posting pictures to Instagram and messages on Facebook. On college campuses, “rape culture” is often times seen as prevalent, but at USM, faculty and other senior staff work with students to create a safe space. While it is common to see such cases as Kesha’s in the news, USM has many programs to promote diversity, equality, and prevention of such crimes. If there is one thing to take away from Kesha’s situation is that it is to keep quiet or to not speak out about such difficult issues leads to more harm than good. Proceeding with telling one’s story sets precedent that we all can follow to eliminate situations such as this from happening in business, school, and everyday life. It also sets precedent for eliminating gender violence, be it against men, women, or anyone in the transgender community. Violence among various social groups seems so large that it clouds sight of the people who are willing to stand up and use their voices to be heard in opposition. The case of someone as high-profile as Kesha sets the standard for what we, as humans, should strive to achieve, should we find ourselves in such harrowing situations in our own lives.

Photo courtesy of http://tinyurl.com/j6zzycb

Meaghan Grosier
Free Press Staff

USM’s very own Stonecoast Review is building momentum in the literary arts world. Check out full of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and visual art, the journal’s editorial team is gearing up to publish its fifth issue in the Summer of 2016. Founded in 2013 by students and alumni of USM’s Stonecoast Creative Writing MFA program, the journal is gaining readership and popularity with more submissions to the latest issue than any previously.

The journal’s Editor-in-Chief Stacie McCall-Whitaker says, “We believe our journal should reflect the values and beliefs of the Stonecoast MFA program. Our commitment is to publishing work with diverse themes and distinct narrative voices.”

Although young in the world of literature, Stonecoast is seeking to create a distinct and meaningful space for literary artists. “The Stonecoast Review differs from other literary journals in several ways. Our MFA program is one of only a few graduate programs in the nation to offer popular fiction as a serious focus. Our team reads, reviews, and publishes popular fiction with the same seriousness we give poetry, fiction, and visual art. Writers and artists in the USM community should know that the entry process is efficient and streamlined through an online submission form at www.stonecoastreview.org. Contributors are notified both electronically and via postcard. All entries go through an blind reading so as to avoid possible biases, and there is no submission fee. Literary fans can follow the journal on Twitter (@StonecoastRev) and Facebook (StonecoastReview Literary Journal). Go ahead artists-- grab that notepad or canvas and start crafting! Your piece could be the next Stonecoast Review.

The Stonecoast Review is edited by our creative writing MFA program.

Stonecoast will publish its fifth issue this summer

Stacie McCall-Whitaker
Editor-in-Chief of Stonecoast Review

The following poem by author and professor Jeanne Marie Beaumont was published in the most recent issue of Stonecoast and is being used here with permission.

READING DICKSON by Jeanne Marie Beaumont

A Safe enticed - what could it hold?
My fingers played the sequenced Lock.
A slowed slowly - to and fro
And listened close for pickers’ luck.

My ear pressed nearer - had it heard
A Tumbler shifting - in a Word?
By increments - the Safe was prob'd
Until - Cracked - it split its Gold -

“The most rewarding aspect of my job as Editor-in-Chief is extending acceptances to contributors,” McCall-Whitaker says. “It’s an incredible experience to make final selections and begin with a talented group of writers. The weeks leading up to release are full of excitement and excitement as the issue takes shape.”

The journal is published biannually, and submissions are accepted in the categories of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, popular (genre) fiction, and visual art. Writers and artists in the USM community should know that the entry process is efficient and streamlined through an online submission form at www.stonecoastreview.org. Contributors are notified both electronically and via postcard. All entries go through a blind reading so as to avoid possible biases, and there is no submission fee. Literary fans can follow the journal on Twitter (@Stonecoast-Rev) and Facebook (StonecoastReview Literary Journal). Go ahead artists-- grab that notepad or canvas and start crafting! Your piece could be the next Stonecoast Review.

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“We value carefully executed craft elements and good storytelling.”

Instead of attempting to cater to the tastes of the Stonecoast selection board, writers should create and send in their best work from a place of authenticity.

“We don’t believe in constructing a box in which submissions should fit; we craft each journal around the style, whatever the story, for the summer issue we want to read,” says McCall-Whitaker.

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“We don’t believe in constructing a box in which submissions should fit; we craft each journal around the style, whatever the story, for the summer issue we want to read,” says McCall-Whitaker. “Whatever the style, whatever the story, for the Summer 2016 issue we want to read fresh, well-crafted work that reso
February 8, 2016

Arts & Culture

Rocker Reviews: Who will win at the Oscars?

John Rocker
Free Press Staff

February is a month full of fun events. There’s the Super Bowl, and then there’s something I always look forward to, The Academy Awards (AKA The Oscars). Sure, the show is just an over-glittered contest, but I’m always intrigued to see who or what will win. This year is very exciting for me because this is the first year I’ve seen all the Best Picture nominees before the show has happened. So I figured I would make a list of the Best Picture nominees and rank them. Please keep in mind this list of the Best Picture nominees and rankings are mine. I’ve seen all the Best Picture films and would enjoy it. The Martian is Castaway in space, but the solid performances and the clever, yet hilarious dialogue kept me interested through out the entire film. It was a lot of fun.

1. Spotlight: This film encompasses a lot of aspects of what makes a great film in my opinion. The acting was great, the writing was clever, the story was engaging, the pacing was on point. I could go on and on why I think this film is phenomenal and is a must see whenever it comes out on DVD.

2. The Revenant: This film tells a powerful tale, and the performances were fantastic. I’m surprised that Jacob Tremblay wasn’t nominated at all: his was one of the best child performances I’ve seen in a long time. There is a lot of good in this film, but for me, there is one moment that took me out of it. I won’t go into detail. I want you to experience the film for yourself. It certainly is an incredible one.

3. The Martian: As people have probably noticed in my review, I really enjoyed this film. It tells a very charming love story that doesn’t feel entirely forced. It was well paced and had some great humor. It’s just a solid movie. There’s no other way of explaining it (unless you want to check out my review of it, then by all means, please do).

4. Brooklyn: As people have probably noticed in my review, I really enjoyed this film. It tells a very charming love story that doesn’t feel entirely forced. It was well paced and had some great humor. It’s just a solid movie. There’s no other way of explaining it (unless you want to check out my review of it, then by all means, please do).

5. Room: This film tells a powerful tale, and the performances were fantastic. I’m surprised that Jacob Tremblay wasn’t nominated at all: his was one of the best child performances I’ve seen in a long time. There is a lot of good in this film, but for me, there is one moment that took me out of it. I won’t go into detail. I want you to experience the film for yourself. It certainly is an incredible one.

6. The Big Short: This is not your typical film. There are a lot of unconventional things that happen in this film, such as fourth wall breaks, and the storylines that happen never really mesh together. While I thought the performances were good and what was revealed was certainly shocking, there is a lot of information to take in. The film tries to simplify things as best as it can, but in the end, my head was still spinning from trying to comprehend what I had just watched.

7. Mad Max: Fury Road: What I believe to be one of the most over-rated movies of the year. Is it good? Yes, I believe so. The amount of work that had to go into those effects and action sequences was incredible, and this film deserves all the technical nominations it’s getting. When it comes to my film preference, I want a good story with depth. Mad Max: Fury Road’s was very simple, and a good story with depth. Mad Max: Fury Road was a well-made film that confused me ultimately want Sylvester Stallone to win for his performance in Creed.

This one is more of a toss up. I can’t say with certainty who will win, but would I love to see Stallone win for Creed, one of my favorite films of last year? Absolutely. Also, this is one of Stallone’s best performances in a long time. Creed was one of the films, in my opinion, that got snubbed in multiple categories. The slightest acknowledgment would go a long way.

I believe that Best Supporting Actor will go to Mark Rylance for his performance in Bridge of Spies, but I ultimately want Sylvester Stallone to win for his performance in Creed.

For Best picture, I both want and need really mesh together. While I thought the performances were good and what was revealed was certainly shocking, there is a lot of information to take in. The film tries to simplify things as best as it can, but in the end, my head was still spinning from trying to comprehend what I had just watched.

Finally, I’ll be predicting the major categories’ winners, discussing who I think will win and who I think should win. Again, as with the previous list, it’s my personal opinion. If you want somebody else to win, more power to you.

For best picture, I both want and believe that Spotlight will win the title. I say Spotlight has the best chance, but if The Revenant were to win, I wouldn’t be surprised. Is there personal bias for my choice? Possibly, but leading up to the Oscars, this film has been winning multiple awards.

I think for Best Actor category will go to Leonardo DiCaprio, for his performance in The Revenant. I honestly can’t see anybody else winning this. What DiCaprio had to do for his role, which didn’t include much dialogue, and his ability to convey emotion so well is the main reason I want him to get the award.

For the Best Actress category, I both want and believe Brie Larson will win for her performance in Room.

Brie Larson is a lock for sure. The story of Room is a powerful one, and Larson’s performance only enhanced the story. There’s not much else to say.

I believe Best Supporting Actor will go to Mark Rylance for his performance in Bridge of Spies, but I ultimately want Sylvester Stallone to win for his performance in Creed.

Registration begins March 1 through first class meetings

4-WEEK SESSIONS
SESSION 1: May 16 – June 10
SESSION 2: July 5 – July 29

7-WEEK SESSIONS
SESSION 1: May 16 – July 1
SESSION 2: July 5 – August 19

14-WEEK SESSION
May 16 – August 19

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

Monday, February 8
Banff Mountain Film Festival
State Theater
609 Congress St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9
WMPG: Fat Tuesday
Woodbury Campus Center
Bedford St.
Starts: 12:00 p.m. Ends: 3:00 p.m.
Discussion: Seeking Refuge
Portland Public Library
5 Monument Way
Starts: 5:30 p.m. Ends: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10
Think and Drink: Sex and the Citizen
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 11
Film: What's Love Got to Do With It
Portland Public Library
5 Monument Way
Starts: 6:30 p.m. Ends 8:30 p.m.
Music: VAUGHN
Empire
575 Congress St.
Starts: 9:30 p.m.

Friday, February 12
Share the Love, Know Your Status
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 4:00 p.m. Ends 6:00 p.m.
Music: Caspian
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Starts: 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 13
Film: Tumbledown
Portland Museum of Art
7 Congress Sq.
Starts: 2:00 p.m.
Music: John Hughes Radio
State Theater
609 Congress St.
Starts: 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 14
Cupid's Night Circus
Thompson's Point
4 Thompson Pt.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.
Love Stories
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Starts: 7:00 p.m.

It has been three years since Rihanna has released an album. Fans have been forced to listen to teasing singles in order to satisfy their RiRi fix. Anti, her eighth studio album, was released in the midst of the most talked about social media/pop culture moment in recent months. Rihanna’s released her album in the middle of all this controversy, it was difficult to for her album’s release to be in the spotlight.

The announcement went nearly unnoticed because of some Twitter turmoil that took place during the same period, which is a shame this album is definitely good. It opens with “Consideration” featuring SZA, an artist who has been creating waves in the music community recently for the off-the-wall hip hop that is gaining national radio airplay.

“Consideration” is a slowly drawn out battle cry that sets the tone for the rest of the record. It is mellow and percolates in the listener’s head. This song leaves a lingering feeling that this record is not a magnum opus but rather a reminder of her claim to the crown, of hip hop.

Along with funny one liners about covering things in glitter, the chorus delivers the main message of the song, “I got to do things my own way darling, will you ever let me, will you ever respect me? No. Do things my own way darling, you should just let me, why ain’t ever let me grow?” Rihanna has seemed to age well and has shown that through this new album.

Rihanna’s music has transformed into something that other artists should aspire to in an industry dominated by male artists that are more obsessed with ego than art. There is an appearance from Drake on the track “Work.” The hook is just Rihanna mumbling “work” over and over again until it devolves into something that reminds you of words but sounds more like they recorded a Hooked On Phonics session in a preschool.

“We just need a face to face, you could pick the time and the place, you spent some time away, now you need to forward and give me all the [Work X6],” are the lyrics delivered from the reigned-in rap behemoth that is the champagne papi, a term Drake gave himself on Instagram, and in a tone that seems more appropriate for a commencement address than for the inevitable club hit that is “Work.”

The message is clearly developed come the back half of the album and in one of the least imposing tracks, “Higher,” Rihanna croons into a sweeping high point about love, in a distant form.

“And I know I could be more creative and come up with poetic lines but I’m turnt up off sizz’ (and I love you), is the only thing that’s in my mind.” We could all use a little love in our lives and the Barbados queen is happy to oblige.

Bradford Spurr
Free Press Staff

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arts@usmfreepress.org

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

The Drone papers: NSA’s secret mass surveillance programs

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

This is not to say that we ought not to employ the use of drones when a clear and imminent attack, or one of attack, reveals itself such that we have no time to present our case for the use of force before the United Nations Security Council; yet, the current strategy certainly does not follow such doctrine and therefore from a suspected terrorist's technical logical device to approve a drone strike upon the geolocation of that device, without confirming that it was even him, really as he presented an imminent and immediate threat. It seems just as reasonable that the suspected terrorist could have planted the phone on an unsuspecting tribal member who is opposed to the terrorist’s presence in that particular area.

We must also give serious consideration to the role drone warfare plays in breeding more terrorists, by way of radicalizing uneducated and unbelievably impoverished youth in Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, and elsewhere as they regularly are given due process since their execution is “discussed in the executive branch.”

Upon further reflection regarding the documents included in “The Drone Papers,” one quickly comes to understand and observe that there exists a plethora of additional ethical inquiries that should be discussed in the public domain. For example, what are the implications of our over reliance on signals intelligence? Is it coherent, both morally and strategically, that we would rely so heavily upon very limited data from a suspected terrorist’s technical logical device to approve a drone strike upon the geolocation of that device, without confirming that it was even him, really as he presented an imminent and immediate threat. It seems just as reasonable that the suspected terrorist could have planted the phone on an unsuspecting tribal member who is opposed to the terrorist’s presence in that particular area.

We must also give serious consideration to the role drone warfare plays in breeding more terrorists, by way of radicalizing uneducated and unbelievably impoverished youth in Somalia, Afghanistan, Yemen, and elsewhere as they regularly are given due process since their execution is “discussed in the executive branch.”

Another reminder, the word’s president is free toassi- n淡定nate people his administration

Focus on what makes you happy rather than what makes you money.

Why are you going to school? If you’re like me, you don’t want to work crappy jobs for a while and are stoked to learn. Most of the classes I take don’t have “prac- ticles” or even history. That’s why I make believe “real world.” But that’s alright with me, I enjoy philos- ophy and talking about novels. However, I still need to pay my rent, I’m not ever career or even job hunting when I hang up my cap and gown. I’m going to live in the woods, in a yurt with my lady friend.

I suspect a lot of you are going to school in the hopes of getting a career. Is that what you really want, to be miserable like your parents? Like my man B.I.G. said, “Mo money, mo problems.”

Living close to the bone and a perceived lifestyle is what doesn’t translate into money. You’re paid in free time which for me equals happiness. As corny as that sounds, I think it’s even more dangerous to live your life like an office drone, sleepwalking through life, with your freedom relegated to 48 hours on the weekend, where you piss back your wages on plastic crap you don’t even need yet it won’t happen to you, but the path you’re going – high school, college, job – will all be dead inside by age 30.

Here’s a radical idea: take class- es you want. Not in the hopes of someday “monetizing” them but just because you like them. Some people come to college in the hopes of finding their true passion so they can spend a lifetime toil- ing at a job. Not everyone is go- ing to realize themselves through work. We can’t all be acupunctur- ist or even being artists, does receiving money for something validate it? There’s scores of artists and musicians that never “made it” but却 fell away at their art because it has value to them. You should focus on what makes you happy rather than what makes you money.

We all have to eat but we don’t need to work. I don’t have the time, if you read my last column there’s ways around paying for food. We’re programmed to think mon- ey and in turn a lot of work, will make us happy. I find I’m happiest walking in the woods with no one and live a life without responsibili- ties. That’s true freedom.

America lets the few choose make it to the top of the heap and we hold up these examples so we may all claw ourselves there some day. There’s seven billion of us in the world – quit kidding yourself that you’re middle class and going to make it to be rich if you just work hard. You’re working class poor. Accept your lot and stop playing their stupid game. The sooner you turn your back on the American Dream, the sooner you can live exactly the life you want.

I’ve traveled to 25 countries and I feel I’ve had a crack on being that hiked rides in Roma and Laos, slept in stairwells in India, beach- es in Hawaii and lived in a squat in Paris, earning nothing and met tons of interest- ing people along the way. Being poor but without the noose of work around your neck will be the happiest times in your life. I live far below the poverty line and am still able to make this happen.

My buddy Louis dropped out of USM his senior year because he didn’t know why he was major- ing in Business. He traveled cross country living in his van and is now skiing mountains in Boulder, CO and couldn’t be happier. He took a job doing construction to replenish his wallet but he’ll quit by the time it warms up and he hits the road again.

Screw work before it screws you up. Choose free time over work and get out and live damn it!

My apologies for all the quotes in this piece. Next week I’ll ad- dress language and how it’s mis- used.

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Environmental Issues: An encroaching disaster, Population and consumption sustainability

Nicholas Kenney
Sustainability and ME

Allow me to paint a picture. A picture of riots, famine, and disease, where the once well-off struggle for even the most basic of resources. Two problems that go hand in hand have created this scene: unchecked human population and consumption. The combination of these two forces poses daunting challenges to achieve global sustainability.

Let’s start with population. In North America and Europe, birth rates have been declining or stagnant for years, but in many parts of Asia, Africa, and South America, birth rates are unprecedented and the percentage of the population under 18 is significant. Currently, the global population is upward of seven billion, and by 2050, it’s expected to be somewhere between nine and ten billion. This explosion in population would put considerable strain on our already scarce natural resources.

In regards to consumption of resources, by and large, the inverse is true. Countries with low birth rates tend to have higher rates of resource consumption. In the United States, for example, although we represent less than five percent of the global population, we consume over 25 percent of the world’s resources. We build ever-bigger houses and own more cars than there are drivers. In contrast, over one billion people in developing countries lack access to clean, safe fresh water. Over three billion people live on less than $2.50 per day.

These problems are simple in concept - there’s overpopulation and overconsumption of resources. And yet, concrete solutions are often mired in controversy. Different economists have different approaches on how to rectify this situation on a resource level. Neoclassical economists believe that we will be able to innovate our way out of this resource constraint, while environmental economists disagree, and put more emphasis on conserving existing natural capital and resources. Examples of human overpopulation can already be seen in emerging economies such as India and Brazil.

Does anyone benefit from this seemingly dire situation? Actually, yes: the business and financial sectors stand to benefit substantially. Companies are increasingly looking toward emerging markets to consume their excess capacity and provide a continual source of growth. With investors always looking for growth in order to make returns, and the increasingly intertwined nature that financial markets have with the general economy, the importance that the finance sector puts on emerging countries and population growth cannot be ignored. Potential solutions to combat human overpopulation exist, but also not without controversy. One option includes more extensive sexual education combined with increased contraception to developing nations where population growth is the strongest. Another avenue is implementing policy measures, such as China’s One Child Policy.

In developed nations, the issue should be more focused on maximizing efficiency and reducing consumption rates. The concept of the ecological footprint, which estimates human impact on Earth’s ecosystems is a good tool to draw awareness to overconsumption and teach about conservation. The idea is that there are only so many natural resources on the planet. It’s up to each of us to make choices that extend them as much as possible. Although we have created this mess, we also have the potential to fix it. Let’s get to work. Calculate your ecological footprint by visiting: http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/calculators/.

Nicholas Kenney is a finance major at USM. He enjoys eating all the food and writing poetry.

---

Financial Aid season is here!

Janisa Albright
Academic Advisor

January kicks off not only the start of a new year and a new semester, but also marks the start of the college financial aid season. Each year students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to determine financial aid eligibility for the following school year.

Here are a few simple tips:

Create your FSA ID

If you have not yet created a new Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID to log in to the FAFSA and other Department of Education websites, you will need to do so before filing the FAFSA. If you are required to use parent information on the FAFSA, the parent who is signing the FAFSA will also need to make an FSA ID.

File your FAFSA!

Remember to file your FAFSA at FAFSA.gov by USM priority deadline of February 15, 2016. Submitting by this date will provide the best financial aid package possible for the upcoming 2016-2017 academic year at USM. The FAFSA became available on January 1, 2016.

The first time you complete a FAFSA for the next academic year, it is helpful to have a copy of your most recent tax return handy to assist you in filling out the financial section. If your 2015 taxes have not been filed yet – that’s okay! Put in your best guess now and later you can update the FAFSA when 2015 taxes have been processed by the IRS. Once the IRS has finished processing your 2015 taxes, make a correction to your FAFSA and use the electronic IRS Data Retrieval process to upload your tax information into the FAFSA. Then re-sign and re-submit the FAFSA so the updated information is sent to USM.

For more information about the financial aid application process, check out the information on our Student Financial Services website at usm.maine.edu/fs. Under “Resources” we have made some videos from the federal government available that may help with creating the FSA ID and filling out your FAFSA. Please always feel free to contact Student Financial Services at 207-780-5250 if you have questions.

Apply for Scholarships: Scholarships are a form of financial aid that provide students free money to use toward educational expenses. Scholarship applications often require a simple application in addition to an essay, letters of recommendation, or a copy of a student’s Student Aid Report (SAR). Prior to applying to a scholarship, it is important to read through the eligibility requirements to ensure you meet their qualifications. Watch deadlines to ensure you submit your application on time.

A great place to start your scholarship search is right here at USM. USM launched a new scholarship site on their website (http://usm.maine.edu/scholarships) highlighting $5 million dollars in scholarships for first year, continuing, transfer and adult students.

The general eligibility for each scholarship is provided as well as the deadline. External sources like the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) also provide information regarding organizations that offer scholarships.

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Weathering the storm

Last Friday, another snowstorm hit Maine!

Krysteana Scribner  Editor-in-chief

The action or instance of tasting in a small number of small portions.

Ex: Degustation is the best way to enjoy a flavorful meal.
### Sudoku

```
5 7 1 3
4 1 2
3 1 5 6
7 4 2 1
2 3 4 5
6 8 1 3
8 5 4 2
1 6 2 5
9 2 6 7
```

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 × 9–square grid subdivided into nine 3 × 3 boxes. Some of the squares contain numbers. The object is to fill in the remaining squares so that every row, every column, and every 3 × 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.

---

### Weekly Horoscope

**Aries**

March 21-April 19

Prepare to launch into action. Initiative blended with follow-through bring you much success.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Old ways dissolve and no longer work. Structures are changing. You must and can adapt.

**Gemini**

May 21-June 20

You are asked to donate to a political or charitable cause. Check out the company doing the asking; they may keep the lion’s share of the money.

**Cancer**

June 21-July 22

You may brainstorm a new, more effective approach at work, or introduce new, better technology. Watch for possibilities.

**Leo**

July 23-August 22

An small, unexpected gift brightens your day. Generosity on your part gratifies a loved one.

**Virgo**

August 23-September 22

You and a household member feel torn between playing it safe and taking a chance. Create security amid some changes.

---

### Cryptogram

```
MI GFQ VJAMVJ DF
XHF S HSLO, UTFCJX
IMXUD SLV GFQ
KMRD KSOJ S ANJSL
RJDSCG.
```

And here is your hint:

```
U = S
```

Every letter in a cryptogram stands for another letter. Use the hint to crack the code.

---

### Crossword

**Across**

1. Basic ball game  
6. Adopted  
14. Biochemist, Severo  
15. Door apertures  
17. “___ the breaks”  
18. Daughters’ husbands  
19. They can go on for days  
21. Dine’s partner  
22. Collaboratively  
23. Like many offices  
25. The Go-___ (rock band)  
26. Texts, for short  
28. Days ___ long ago  
29. Ending for depend or absorb  
30. Leather type  
32. Albany’s place (abbr.)  
33. References with scales  
34. Hagen of “Key Largo”  
35. Royalty at some notes  
36. MTV countdown program  
41. “Instant Karma” singer  
43. Stylish Christian  
45. Laugh half  
46. Range of the Rockies  
47. Egg dishes  
49. ___ the buzzer  
50. Characters in soaps, often  
52. Delicious nut that’s dangerous for dogs  
55. That’s why they call ___ blues  
56. Stirring things up  
57. Kermit’s color  
58. Without teeth  
59. Geeks

**Down**

17. Prim and proper  
18. Bond’s forte  
19. Soon, to a poet  
20. Last syllable of a word  
21. “I Was a ___” (Wheeler)  
22. Indigestion relief  
23. Show place  
24. Throw up  
25. Abates  
26. Down, write as music  
27. Quilt officially  
28. French measure  
29. “___ Toy or a Treasure?” (Kay Starr Line of 1954)  
30. Long Island resort area  
31. Missing companionship  
32. Little news

---

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Students prepare for upcoming job fair

As USM is preparing for the career fair that is coming up on Thursday, Feb. 11, students are also doing their part at getting ready for over 100 companies that will have tables at the event. Events such as this fair do not come along very often at USM and it is a great way for students and alumni to network with potential employers and discuss what could be a new future. But how does a student prepare for something as professional as a career fair?

Workshops have been available to all students on a weekly basis and the coordinator of career services, Stacy Stewart, has been doing an admirable job to assure that any student who is in need of advice or assistance before this event is taken care of.

Most of the work that is required for success at this event takes place before anything begins, as it is primarily the job of the student to have a plan of what they want to gain from this opportunity.

One of the first things to consider before the event is your appearance. Despite the fact that the classroom environment at USM does not require us to dress professionally, it will be something that representatives notice in a potential employee. Stewart mentioned in the workshop that it isn’t necessary to go out and buy a new suit, but instead students should just be aware of what they have in their closet and find something to wear that looks causal but also professional.

Another aspect of the career fair that all students should have confidence in their resume before an interview. A one page document that provides information about your education, work experience and/or any other qualification that would stand out to an employer. This document allows for an employer to get quick answers about why you may be qualified to work for them, but it is not the only thing that is coming into the conversation before it begins.

“When we look at what employers are really looking for in candidates, it is more the soft skills than the hard skills. When you have your degree, you learn an amazing thing. Within that, you learn to communicate effectively, you learn leadership skills and those are the type of things that employers are looking for.” Said Stewart.

“Being able to hold a conversation with somebody is going to make a huge impact with you and they are speaking with. It makes you look very prepared when you know a little about the company even though conversation can be a very intimidating thing.” She said.

An exercise that Stewart recommended before participating is to look over the list of employers that is available through the USM website and create a list of ten companies that interest you. Once that list is created, a small amount of research should be done about each so you are prepared and with a sense of confidence toward your conversation before it begins.

“However, limiting yourself to ten different tables is also not a wise choice. Although it is important to have some background information for companies that generate your initial interest, it is not recommended that a visit to the fair should be limited to predispositions. With more than 200 representatives being present for over 100 organizations, it is important to network beyond what is expected beforehand and make new opportunities with companies that you once did not realize had potential in your future.

It should not be considered intimidating when considering how much preparation is required for the upcoming fair because representatives at USM are working hard to answer any questions that students have and is offering help on resumes during all regular hours on campus. Times for drop in hours are listed on the USM calendar of events that is available online.

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Students of USM:

John Jackson, Student Senate Chair

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Meaghan Gonsior
Free Press Staff

John Jackson is currently serving as USM’s Student Senate Chair in his third year as a student at USM. Before joining the USM community, Jackson served eight years in the military including combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Throughout my time here at USM I have found that my military values have helped influence me in my day to day activities,” said Johnson.

He has found himself drawn toward “people with integrity, a sense of responsibility and generally good-natured people that want what is best for the school and not what is best for themselves.”

The road back to school has it’s bumps for Jackson. Diagnosed with PTSD and a 90 percent disability rating from the VA, Jackson found his grades slipping but wasn’t ready to throw in the towel.

“The veteran’s resource center told me that I should go talk to the disability service center and see if there was anything that they could do. I have never had so many people so interested in me and helping me accomplish my goals as I have while here at USM,” said Jackson. “We have an amazing VA rep in Lorrie Spaulding, many supportive veteran groups on this campus and many people who understand what it is like for veterans to go from active duty in any branch to college. There will be tough times but you have to hang in there and be strong.”

Jackson has translated the four warrior ethos from his Army experience into advice for students at USM. Always place the mission first: Get your education, never accept defeat, never quit, never leave a fallen comrade and help your fellow veterans.

John has always wanted to run for political office and figured USM was a great place to start. Since joining the USM Student Senate, he has pushed for dorms on the Portland campus and has also fought hard against budget cuts.

“I was heavily invested in the budget and the cuts that were being made last year. I wanted to make sure that everything that could be done to keep those professors was being done,” Johnson said. He hopes to one day run for political office in the State of Maine and is well on his way to reaching that goal.

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Know any interesting students? Email editor@usmfreepress.org

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Want to list your event? editor@usmfreepress.org

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USM splits doubleheader against Colby College

The University of Southern Maine played host to Colby College Tuesday night for a non-conference basketball doubleheader at Fifield Court.

Huskies down Mules

Tuesday night both women’s and men’s basketball tipped off against the Colby College Mules. The women improved their record to 12-8 after their 57-46 victory, in a game that went back and forth until the Huskies pulled away in the final quarter. The Huskies got off to a hot start, leading the Mules 16-5 after the game that went back and forth until the Huskies dropped their second quarter of play. Colby rallied in the second, scoring 19 points and only allowing Southern Maine eight in the frame. USM went 8 for 13 in free throws in the fourth quarter and 16 for 17 throughout the entire game.

The two leading point scorers from Southern Maine both aided the Huskies down Mules. Colby Sophomore Haley Driscoll scored 12 points for the Huskies, seven of which she tallied in the fourth quarter. Colby Sophomore Haley Driscoll lead the Mules’ scoring, picking up 12 points for the evening. Despite their pressure in the second and third quarters, the Mules fell to the Huskies dropping their second straight, bringing their record to 12-8. The two teams were neck and neck in the pivotal fourth quarter. Senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Traip Academy) lead the Huskies with 17 points. Martin was one of five Huskies who had a double-digit point night. Senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Westbrook) tallied 14, with senior Megan Pelletier (Winslow/Messalonskee) lead both teams in scoring with 16 points for the evening. Pelletier put up eight of those baskets in the fourth quarter. Fellow senior Ella Ramonas (Portland/Deering) scored 12 points for the Huskies, seven of which she tallied in the fourth quarter.

Men’s team falls 71-70

The men’s teams took the court at 7:30 to finish up the double-header at Costello Sports Complex. Both teams started the evening with a 12-8 record, but Colby’s late bucket in the final seconds snapped Southern Maine’s four game win streak, dropping the Huskies to 12-9. Southern Maine jumped out early, taking a 37-32 lead at the half. The two teams were neck and neck for the majority of the game. The largest lead of the game was only eleven points, which the Huskies had towards the end of the first half. Throughout the game the lead changed hands 18 times, until finally, with 51 seconds remaining in regulation, Colby sophomore Pat Dickert drained a jump shot that gave the Mules the lead for good. Junior Atencio Martin (Kittery/Trapp Academy) lead the Huskies with 17 points. Martin was one of five Huskies who had a double-digit point night. Senior Jose Nouchanthavong (Westbrook) tallied 14, with senior Cole Libby (Buxton, Maine/Bonny Eagle) added 13. Juniors Zach Leal (York) and Omar Haji Hersi (Augusta) had ten apiece.
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