Case of mumps confirmed at USM

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

On March 2, a student at the University of Southern Maine who visited the University Health Center was diagnosed with mumps. This outbreak is one among many happening across college campuses right now and the first outbreak at USM since 2013.

The university has identified more than 150 other students who were likely in proximity to this student while he was contagious, either in class with him or living with him. Those people were notified. Four of those students were not vaccinated, but so far no students have shown signs of having the illness.

According to the Bangor Daily News, health officials are investigating whether or not the case in Maine may be related to a case in New Hampshire. The virus is spread by person-to-person but people can guard themselves against the disease. A few vaccinations, hand washing and not sharing utensils or water bottles.

Staff members are currently contacting individuals who may be more directly affected, but we think it is important for the entire university community to be informed of the symptoms of mumps and what to do if you have any questions or concerns,” said Director of Health Services Lisa Belanger in an email to USM students, faculty and staff on Wednesday evening.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), mumps is no longer very common in the U.S. Over the course of the past few days, however, other colleges such as Harvard, Butler University, New Hampshire College, University of Louisville and Indiana University have come forward with emerging cases of Mumps being spread across campuses.

Each school (with the exception of USM) have had at least two or more cases arise. As of March 2, Harvard has confirmed four additional cases of mumps on campus, bringing their student outbreak to six.

Outbreaks can still occur in highly vaccinated U.S. communities, especially those that are populous and people come into contact with others daily. Many cases of mumps have been seen in high density across schools, colleges and camps. However, a high vaccination rate among students can ensure that the outbreak affects a small number of people.

After coming into contact with the virus, it can take 12-25 days before the symptoms appear. A person with the virus is contagious for three days before and five days after symptoms begin, according to the CDC.

Mumps affects the parotid glands, which are the salivary glands below and in front of the ears. It is spread through infected saliva, and a person can experience few to no symptoms. When symptoms do occur, they can happen suddenly and include swollen, painful salivary glands, headache, fever, fatigue and loss of appetite.

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“We recommend that you minimize your contact with others for five days if you are experiencing mumps-like symptoms,” Belanger said. “This may require that you do not attend class, work, sports activities or other gatherings.”

If you have questions or concerns about the mumps, please feel free to contact the Health & Counseling Services at (207) 780-5411. Alternatively, you may contact the Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at 1-800-821-5821.

Bernie Sanders visits Portland four days before caucuses

Erica Jones
Free Press Staff

Last Wednesday in Portland, Democratic presidential candidate and Vermont senator Bernie Sanders hosted a rally at the State Theater. The event was announced Tuesday morning as people from across the Democratic state caucuses on Sunday, March 6th.

During his speech, Sanders also urged people to go out and caucus this Sunday. The larger the voter turnout, he said, the better his numbers fared in primaries and caucuses. If we have a large turnout here in Maine, we will win the state,” he asserted, earning another round of applause.

The Sanders’ campaign’s momentum is steady, with polls showing the gap closing between him and Clinton, and Mainers at the rally were certainly optimistic about his chances.

“Bernie did a wonderful job of expressing that this election isn’t over until it’s over and you could tell he’s really enthusiastic about the upcoming primaries,” said Ryan R. Gallop, a USM student and Bernie supporter who

See Sanders on page
Troubles arise when pet turtles are released

Part two in a four part series detailing invasive species

The pet trade is responsible for earning this species a nomination by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as one of the 100 “World’s Worst” invasive species. The red-eared slider turtle (Trachemys scripta elegans) has inundated ponds and wetlands around the globe. Is Maine next on their list?

If you ever bought an aquatic turtle from a pet store as a kid, or knew someone who did, you probably will recognize the red eared slider turtle. They get this common name from the red stripe that begins behind their eyes and runs along the sides of the head, and from their habit of sliding off whatever they are basking on when disturbed. The shell and the marginal scutes (scales at the edge of the shell) of this species are smooth. Their heads are blunt and shaped like the bow of a boat. Red eared sliders can grow to have a plastron (the bottom half of the shell) length of about a foot, with males being smaller than females. The carapace (top half of the shell), head, limbs and tail are green in hatchlings and darken to a dusky or ebony brown as the turtle matures. The plastron is bright yellow with a spot on each scute that matches the carapace. Originally the red eared slider turtle was found only in the southern United States and, through the pet trade, the species has spread across the United States and the globe, establishing populations in the Rocky Mountains.

The IUCN reported that these turtles have been transplanted across the United States and the globe, establishing populations throughout the U.S. and on every continent except Antarctica. According to the IUCN, this species prefers shallow, sluggish waters with soft beds, plenty of sunlight and large areas of vegetation, though as generalists with a fairly broad omnivorous diet, they can survive in a wide range of aquatic habitats. Their spread is owed widely to the pet trade. Derek Yorks, a wildlife biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s Reptile Amphibian Invertebrate Group, explained that red-eared sliders have “been very popular pets for many decades. People buy them and basically the turtles often outgrow the aquarium and kind of get left in a house or out and hard to care for. A lot of times people just end up releasing them, thinking that they’re doing a good thing for the turtle, and, you know, thinking that there’s nothing wrong with it.” Yorks emphasized that “they’re kind of an emerging problem in Maine, but they’ve been around for a while and been popular as pets in the US going back to at least the 1960s, if not earlier. In the last decade or so, some other states in New England have certainly started to see more and more sliders; particularly in ponds and lakes closer to urban areas. It’s this kind of cumulative effect of people releasing these unwanted pets and then they’re suddenly gaining you know, two or three, or half a dozen of them in a pond, and they start to reproduce and the numbers grow from there. We don’t know of any ponds in Maine right now where there are big reproducing populations of sliders but in other states, down in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, it’s becoming more and more common. We’re hoping to avoid that kind of a problem here.”

According to Yorks, the impacts of red-eared sliders on Maine ecosystems has so far been “probably quite negligible, since, like I said, we don’t know of any sites where there are large populations of sliders. But in places where they do occur, they are in competition with other turtle species. They’re competing for food resources, basking sites, which are limited, you know, good rocks and logs to sit on in the sun, and there has been work in other parts of the country and in Europe where sliders are well established and reproducing, demonstrating some of those effects. But right now in Maine, it’s still at kind of the initial phase of them becoming established and we are hoping to avoid a full on invasion by them. Pretty much the only way you’ll know of their presence [in Maine] is by seeing them.” Yorks recommends those looking for red eared sliders in the wild to watch basking spaces favored by painted turtles (Chrysemys picta picta). Painted turtles are the number one kind of turtle you are likely to see basking in ponds or lakes where you are also likely to get red eared sliders. If you are familiar with painted turtles, and you start seeing some turtles basking right out there on the same logs and rocks with the painted turtles that are just much bigger, those could be sliders. If you have binoculars, you can really easily see that red mark on the side of their head, compared to the painted turtles with the yellow mark. You’re just gonna have to see them, really, either in the water, or sometimes you’d see a female when she is out to lay her eggs.”

Yorks emphasizes that “the biggest thing that people can do [to control red eared slider populations] is not releasing them into the wild. That goes for anywhere, except for in their native range, of course. That’s controlling their spread.” Yorks adds that “if you’re already there in some places where they are invading, usually when there’s direct concern about the impacts on an ecosystem and other species, particularly other turtle species, typically an animal control specialist or wildlife biologist, they do sometimes remove slider hatchlings or eggs.”
March 7, 2016

Zika virus now confirmed in Maine and New Hampshire

CDC has confirmed 107 cases in the U.S. all of which are travel related

Zachary Searles
News Editor

At the end of February, Maine saw its first case of the Zika virus months after the first outbreak in South America. The person who was affected is older than 65 and had travelled to a Zika-affected country, according to the Maine Center for Disease Control.

According to Dr. Siiri Bennett, Maine’s state epidemiologist, this one case is not cause for widespread alarm.

“It’s important for the public to understand that the Aedes aegypti mosquito that transmits the Zika virus is not found in Maine and that your neighbor who has come home from a trip to South America cannot transmit the virus to you,” Bennett said in an interview with Bangor Daily News.

Then, last Tuesday, New Hampshire reported its first case of the Zika virus, a female who had sexual contact with a man that had travelled to a Zika-affected country. According to New Hampshire’s state epidemiologist Dr. Ben Chan, the women delay any travelling to Zika-affected areas.

How can you protect yourself against the Zika virus? Well, currently there is no vaccine or cure for the disease, and the countries that are being affected by it the most have yet to develop any kind of comprehensive plan to combat the virus.

According to the CDC, as of February 24, there have been 107 confirmed cases, all of which were due to travelling to Zika-affected countries where the Aedes aegypti mosquito is commonly found. Florida has the most confirmed cases, 28, which is largely due to the warm climate and the fact that it attracts many tourists.

The virus is transmitted primarily through mosquito bites, with the common symptoms being fever, rash, joint pain. People rarely die from the disease and are rarely sick enough to go to the hospital, so a lot of the time cases of the virus can go undocumented.

The Zika virus was first discovered in 1947 and was named after the Zika forest in Uganda. In 1952, the first human cases were documented. Fast forward 63 years and Brazil sees its first confirmed case. Then on February 1, the World Health Organization declared the virus to be a public health emergency of international concern.

Currently scientists are studying possible connections between pregnant women who contract the virus and microcephaly, a birth defect that causes babies to be born with unusually small heads. As of now, the CDC recommends that pregnant women who contract the virus delay any travelling to Zika-affected areas.

How can you protect yourself against the Zika virus? Well, currently there is no vaccine or cure for the disease, and the countries that are being affected by it the most have yet to develop any kind of comprehensive plan to combat the virus.

Modern Pest Services, a family owned pest control company that’s headquartered in Brunswick and operates throughout New England, would like to remind people that the mosquito responsible for transmitting the disease does not reside in New England.

“New Englander’s are understandably concerned with the threat that Zika virus brings, and while the primary carrier the Aedes aegypti mosquito is not currently known to be in New England, there are over 40 different types of mosquitoes in the northeast that carry other harmful diseases like eastern equine encephalitis,” Mike Peaslee, technical manager and associate certified entomologist at Modern Pest Services, said in a press release.

Peaslee also pointed to the fact that the Aedes aegypti mosquito thrives in warmer climates, and while New England typically has the cold on their side, due to unusually warm conditions it has now been made easier for warmer climate mosquitoes to spread.

“Taking precautions now to control our environment to create unfavorable conditions for mosquito breeding will help prevent the spread of all mosquito-transmitted diseases, like the Zika virus,” Peaslee said. Peaslee and Modern Pest Services advocate getting rid of every form of standing water as mosquitoes season approaches to cut down on the breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

“These forms of standing water include: buckets, tires and even things as small as bottles and cans. Kiddy pools are another good example of standing water. Peaslee says that you should keep them drained and even flip them over when not in use to prevent them from collecting rain water.”

Modern Pest Services also stated that you should treat every area outside of your home as if it was a mosquito breeding ground, and “cover up exposed skin and wear bug spray to avoid getting bitten – or sick.”

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@USMFreePress

Photo courtesy of Flickr Creative Commons

Dr. Siiri Bennett, Maine’s state epidemiologist

The Aedes aegypti mosquito, responsible for spreading the disease, is prevalent in warmer climates, such as those in South America and the southern part of the United States.

It’s important for the public to understand that the aedes mosquito that transmits the Zika virus is not found in Maine...

Dr. Siiri Bennett, Maine’s state epidemiologist

Zika is a disease that is primarily spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus is spread by the same mosquito that spreads dengue and yellow fever.

TRAVEL ASSOCIATED CASES:

Possible link between the virus and microcephaly

*Neurological birth defect in which the baby's head is abnormally small.

No vaccine or cure exists to prevent Zika virus disease.

SYMPTOMS:

- Fever
- Conjointivitis
- Rash
- Joint pain

Only 1 in 4 people with Zika virus develop symptoms.

About 20% will still have symptoms.

Hannah Lyon / Design Director

The Dangers of the Zika Virus

Zika is a disease that is primarily spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus is spread by the same mosquito that spreads dengue and yellow fever.

First confirmed case: Hancock County resident

Unlikely for the mosquito to come to Maine because it needs a tropical climate.

Travel associated cases:

For more info go to: Commencement website: usm.maine.edu/commencement
OR contact Helen Gorgas Goulding, Advising 119 Bailey Hall, Gorham
helen.gorgas@maine.edu or 780-4629

YOU COULD BE THE 2016 USM STUDENT COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER!

Are you original, a talented writer, a student leader, or have a unique or inspiring USM experience? Then USM wants YOU to be our Student Commencement Speaker.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 BY 4:00 P.M.

*Speaker must be a graduating student, eligible to participate in commencement and have no more than 9 credit hours to complete at the end of the 2016 spring semester*

For more info go to: Commencement website: usm.maine.edu/commencement
OR contact Helen Gorgas Goulding, Advising 119 Bailey Hall, Gorham
helen.gorgas@maine.edu or 780-4629

YOU could be awarded a beautiful gift donated by the USM Alumni Association!

Could this speech be connected to a course assignment? Talk to your faculty about this possibility!
Many animal shelters outside of Maine that accept reptiles no longer accept red eared sliders.

The red eared slider turtle originally found its home in Texas and other midwestern states but has recently been invading other areas of the country including Florida and up the East coast such as Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut.

"Unfortunately, I don’t think we’re at the end of having to worry about red eared sliders in Maine."

Derek Yorks, Wildlife Biologist

The red eared slider turtle is a restricted species in Maine. They need pretty big aquariums, and if you don’t keep that aquarium really, really, clean, it doesn’t smell good.

"Unfortunately, I don’t think we’re at the end of having to worry about red eared sliders in Maine."

"Basically, through my office we have inquiries. It ranges, sometimes it’s several in a month, sometimes many months go by, but consistently many inquiries every year with people looking what to do with red eared sliders and I don’t have enough people to send them to. Like I said, most of the folks that want to take them on already have done so. So if anyone is interested in taking one and they are willing to apply for a permit and agree that they are gonna keep this turtle and not release it, then it’s definitely a possibility."

You can fill out an application for a General Wildlife Possession Permit at http://www.maine.gov/ifw/licenses_permits/pdfs/wildlife_posession.pdf. "We’re always looking for folks who are responsible and willing to take on sliders. I always explain to anyone who is thinking about it there’s a reason or two why people don’t always wanna keep these things."

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“This event helps show the connectedness of climate, social unrest, the economy, and sustainability - it is all tied together. The greatest asset we have to promote stability in the face of change is the energy, strength, and ideas of students and other young people.”

On March 3, 2016, the volunteer-led organization and the state of Maine amalgamate of the group National Peace Action, Peacetime Action Maine (a local collective with more than twenty-five “years of grassroots mobilizing to end war and occupation and to abolish nuclear weapons,” according to their website peaceactionme.org) presented a live-streaming video conference featuring Bill McKibben, titled “Creating a Climate of Peace.” The conference took place in Talbot Hall on the University of Southern Maine campus at 7:00 PM. Free and open to the public, “Creating a Climate of Peace” was co-sponsored by the University of Southern Maine Department of Environmental Science and Policy.

The conference members included Meaghan LaSala, of Divest USM and the Southern Maine Workers Center; Iris SanGiovanni, of Maine Students for Climate Justice and Protect South Portland; Sherri Mitchell, Executive Director of the Land Peace Action Foundation and indigenous rights lawyer; and Prof. Emeritus Stanley Scott of the University of Southern Maine, who authored Frontiers of Consciousness and is the president of Peace Action Maine.

After a brief moment of technical difficulty, McKibben discussed the Paris climate talks, that is, the recent United Nations conference setting up this conference. McKibben went on to discuss the way climate change has caused the worst drought in Syria in recorded history that has contributed to the violence and chaos in the region, how it is incumbent upon us to end the fossil fuel age now and how we all need to participate in civil disobedience to ensure that oil remains in the ground, because the Koch brothers, among other billionaires, will not stop until every drop of oil is extracted from the ground.

McKibben’s video address was also followed by a question and answer session, as well as a panel discussion, which was led off by Bruce Gagnon of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. The question a student asked McKibben was put forth as follows: “You said that there was some progress made through the COP21 agreements, however, as you know, those agreements aren’t binding, legally, yet how can we enforce these agreements so they actually happen?” McKibben responded by saying that “they are not going to be legally binding, you need movements to make them real.”

Looking back at the climate change conference, McKibben was asked if they were able to convince people to work against the fossil fuel age. McKibben responded by stating that “I think at this point we’re convinced by how do you [Bill] convince people to work against their own self-interest to protect the universal human rights – food, shelter, equality, etc. – for future generations, when we still do not defend that for our own generation?”

McKibben responded by stating that “I think at this point we’re not acting mostly on behalf of the future, but on behalf of ourselves and our generations. And it needs to be tied in with the broader fight for justice on all fronts. That’s why I like the way Bernie messages it.”
President and state

Last week, in the days leading up to the Maine caucuses, presidential hopefuls made stops in the state. corridor Sanders last Wednesday at the State Theater in downtown Portland.

Sanders spoke in front of a crowd of around 1,000 people, where he stated: “If we have a large turnout in Maine, we will win the state and if we win Maine, they will move another step forward towards a political revolution in this country.”

One day later, Donald Trump held a rally in Portland, speaking in front of a crowd at the Portland Harborview hotel. Trump rallied with Maine Gov. Paul LePage, who endorsed Trump late last month. The billionaire responded to the Maine chief executive by saying that he was nothing but a “phony” and a “fraud,” to which Trump responded that Romney would kneel before his knees in order to get Trump’s endorsement back in 2012.

Trump also showed up in Maine, speaking at the University of Maine in Orono, with hopes to win the state of Maine over the weekend and put a dent in Trump’s lead.

MMA student goes missing, last seen in Orono

David Breunig, 21, was last seen in Orono on February 26. Investigators are saying that Breunig left his library and was on his way to a bar to meet up with friends. According to police, the quickest route would have been to go over a train trestle that crosses the Stillwater River, leading officials to believe that he ended up in the river.

What started as an active search for Breunig turned into a recovery, with efforts focused on finding his body. Breunig was located in Portland last Friday for Breunig by his coworkers so people could get together, grieve and share memories.

Maine’s 2015 lobster catch jumps in value from previous year

In 2014, the estimated gross income for lobstering in the state of Maine was $260 million, with an increase of $455 million, according to the Maine Department of Marine Resources. This was the sixth year in a row that the value of Maine’s lobster industry had increased, and for the first time since 2007, the average per pound price was over $4, which might not have made consumers happy but is good for the industry.

Maine’s lobster fishery is the largest in the country, and by far the largest commercial fishery of any kind in the state of Maine, making up more than 80 percent of all fishing revenue.

“In Maine’s lobster fishery continues to be a major engine for our coastal economy,” Patrick Kelliher, commissioner for Maine Department of Marine Resources, said. This past year saw a continuation of steady and historic lobster landings throughout the season. The increase in value reflects growing demand for Maine lobster.

National

US added 242,000 jobs in February

According to data released last Friday by the federal government, the U.S. added 242,000 jobs last month, which many see as a sign that the nation’s economic durability.

President Barack Obama is often faulted for the Great Recession. The reason his term, the last country has seen steady decline in the unemployment rate, which has held steady at 4.9 percent, the lowest it has been since the economic downfall in 2008.

Economists are also watching to see if wages start to rise. In recent months, employers have begun to compete for workers, with raising the pay being a result. If raising employee pay becomes mainstream, then it will lift the U.S. out of a prolonged period of wage stagnation.

New revised SAT deemed “not so bad” by early test takers

The SAT test that every high schooler across the state is required to take debuted last Saturday, and according to those that decided to take it early, the test was not tricky and more straightforward.

The new exam focuses less on vocabulary and more on analysis from students. Many students have also no longer penalized for guessing, whereas before they were penalized a quarter point for guessing wrong, and the essay has been made optional.

The new version of the SAT contains questions dropping from 171 to 154, and the perfect score for the SAT was reset back to 1,600.

“There aren’t as many questions where it’s trying to trick you … It was much more straightforward,” Brooklin Kenney, a junior at Wilson High School in Washington D.C. said after completing the exam.

Trump reverses position on torture in less than 24 hours

During last Thursday night’s GOP debate on Fox News, presidential hopeful and billionaire businessman Donald Trump made some bold statements regarding what he would do in terms of countterterrorism efforts. Trump stated during the debate that he would go after the families of terrorists and supported waterboarding.

“We should go for waterboarding and we should go tougher than waterboarding.” Trump said during the debate, implying to the voters that he would be willing to use torture if the situation arose.

Then the very next day, Trump came out saying that he understands how the U.S. is with treaties and laws and he would not order the military to violate those laws.

“I will not order a military officer to disobey the law. It is clear that as president I will be bound by laws just like all Americans and I will meet those responsibilities,” Trump stated.

International

North Korea makes nuclear threats

Kim Jong Un, leader of North Korea, has ordered his military to be prepared to launch nuclear strikes at any time. These threats are all a part of a propaganda attempt to show South Korea and the United States that North Korea is strong at home and abroad.

These threats are also coming after the United Nations placed harsh sanctions on North Korea after the country conducted nuclear tests and long-range rocket launches. North Korea responded by saying that the sanctions were the “most heinous international criminal act.”

The way for defending the sovereignty of our nation and its right to existence under the present extreme situation is to boost up nuclear force both in quality and quantity, the North Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea has a history of threatening nuclear acts, but it is rather unclear how advanced the country’s nuclear program is. Many dispute the claims that they could launch nuclear warheads at any moment and question that the state of its arsenal.

Drug lord El Chapo wants to come to the U.S.

Joaquin Guzman, also known as El Chapo, wants to be extradited to the United States and sooner rather than later, despite the fact that he is being held in a Mexican prison where he has escaped twice before. His defense team has asked to speed up the process that will end with him in the hands of U.S. authorities.

As of now, it is unclear where El Chapo will be held once he gets to the states. He is wanted for various charges in several cities, such as New York and Chicago, but it is predicted that he will cross the border any time within the next two to three months.

The push to get El Chapo to the United States is a drastic turn around the statements made in January when Guzman was recaptured.

“Guzman Loera should not be extradited to the United States or any other country,” attorney Juan Pablo Badillo said back in January. “Mexico has just laws that are detailed in the General Constitution of the Republic.”

Guzman’s wishes to come to the U.S. is potentially linked to how he is being treated in the Mexican prison, which has taken extra precautions to make sure that Guzman does not get out again. Guzman’s attorney claims that he is being subjected to physical and emotional torture, citing that Guzman is being woken up every two hours, and he claims that sometimes they don’t let him sleep at all.

All info used in Briefs was gathered from the Bangor Daily News, Portland Press Herald, CNN and the BBC.

Police Beat

 Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log February 14 to February 26

02/14/2016

Nothing Says I Love You Like Breaking Windows

Vandalism, Upton Hastings Hall. Complaint of noisy group in the courtyard. Officer noticed a shattered glass pane. Report taken. One suspect was detained. Under investigation.

Domestic Disturbance in Robie


Drunk on Champagne Playing Bumper Cars

Hit and Run G2B parking lot. Motor vehicle was struck overnight. Report taken.

Big Night of Boozing and Cruising

Erratic operation, Campus drive. Black Jetta was operating erratically, Gorham PD notified USM Police car turned onto Campus drive. Officer investigating.

02/18/2016

Karate Chop Goes Awry

Vandalism, Brooks Student center. An employee reports damage to the exterior door handle to the bookstore in Brooks. Report taken.

Nuclear Meltdown, No Big Deal

911 call, security alarm for Gorham heat plant. Facilities called.

02/19/2015

Book Butt Dials Cops

911 call, Glicken Library. Emergency Phone activation, Unfounded

Moron Troubled by Parked Car, Stares at It For Hours

Suspicious incident, Parking Garage. Caller reports a vehicle on the second floor has been running for a couple of hours, Unfounded.

Poo Box Totalled By Stranger


It Was Glued To Your Hand The Entire Time

Theft, Bailey Hall. Cell phone reported stolen. Phone was located. Unfounded.

02/23/2016

Free the Dank

Drug violation, parking lot. Student summoned for possession of marijuana.

Nobody Wants Your Dirty Gym Shorts

Theft, Bailey Hall. Student reports the theft of a backpack from the Library. Report taken.

02/26/2016

The Riveting Life of Campus Po-Po

Motor vehicle stop, Officer checking for OUI. Summoned issued for insurance violation.

Police beats are edited for Grammar and Style and taken from university police logs.
Sex, crime and drugs are set to music in Maine’s premier showing of “Reefer Madness” the musical

The explosion of a musical Reefer Madness will light up Russell Hall’s stage this spring from March 11th through the 20th. As USM’s main stage spring production, the play is a satirical piece, mocking the 1936 movie of the same name, a black and white cautionary tale about the growing threat of marijuana for teens. It depicted cannabis smokers as murderers and criminals. In the 1970s it was remastered into a musical version is raunchy, ridiculous and will probably leave you with a bit of a contact-high.

Reefer Madness is directed by guest director Cary Libkin, who recently left Penn State after 25 years as their head of musical theater. Libkin and his wife wanted to try something new, and chose to move to Maine. Libkin said the best part of working with USM is, “Everyone’s willing to work together to create something. It’s a great opportunity to work with these kids.”

The original Reefer Madness was an over-the-top warning that was sponsored by a church group and shown in theaters across the South as a scare tactic for concern parents. The newer rendition is raunchy, ridiculous and will undoubtedly uncomfortably scare teens or the darker drug dealers, whether they are conveying the menace of marijuana for teens or the darker drug dealers, they vibrate with energy. The entire show is like a two hour long musical trip.

Vanessa Beyland, the choreographer of the show, said that the most difficult part was trying to embody all of the different characters that the ensemble portrays throughout the play, going from Jesus’ angels to fresh-eating zombies. Beyland also said that she needed to make that the song.

“Reefer Madness tackles the culture surrounding marijuana hot on the press, and having sex on stage. Libkin doesn’t want his actors to hold back, and encourages his actors to embrace their dirty opium den, he has his

The song came across in the music, the audience has to stay with you the whole time”

This is the first time that Reefer Madness has been performed in Maine.

“It’s always fun rehearsing our singers and musicians on a score that the theater going community has never seen or heard before” said the show’s musical director, Ed Reichert.

But Reefer Madness is more than just sexuality, sin and sarcasm. Libkin reminds that especially the end of the play really shows the ugliness of today’s political climate. With the topic of legalizing marijuana hot on the press, this is an especially relevant show. Reefer Madness tackles the culture of pseudoscience and scare tactics to get the public to stay away from certain places, people and things.

“It’s actually a really serious show,” explained Sarnacchiaro. “Reefer Madness is about how we shut down everything that scares us.”

For tickets, call the box office at (207)-780-5151 or visit usm.maine.edu/theater. The audience will undoubtedly uncomfortably laugh and shift in their seat, all the while enraptured with every smoky second. So leave the kids at home and come light up with USM’s Reefer Madness.
Feminism and socialism: USM talks about how you can have both
Tackling Gloria Steinem’s remarks about women supporting Bernie Sanders because that’s where the boys are

Amanda Melanson
Free Press Staff

Wednesday evening, from 7pm to 9pm on March 2, a group discussion was held by USOnM’s Socialist Club to speak on various issues surrounding the Primary elections, due to take place the first weekend of March - the Republican Primary scheduled for Saturday and the Democratic Primary scheduled for Sunday. Both sides have brought up some very deep seated issues, the group focusing primarily on the feminist issue, and discussions about Democratic Candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. In the Socialist Club’s meeting, there was also reading of different passages and mentions of book recommendations at the event.

Arriving at the meeting was reminiscent a classroom lecture, when attendees sat facing the front of the room, with their desks, some turned here and there as the discussion at large unfolded throughout the night. At the head was Pete Franzen, the student organization leader of the Socialist Club. Some attendees in later than others but each was met with a steady flow of discussion and thought provoking topics.

“It’s important to have diverse student organizations like this on campus,” Student Senate Representative Matt Raymond said, when asked about his opinion of the group’s meeting. With the diverse issues covered from economic to ethical equalities, that seems to be apparent now more than ever as this group and others like it seek to educate the campus and the group’s members about real issues going on off and on campus.

Each person took a turn speaking their views - termed “stacks” by Franzen - and some were throwing around terms such as “bourgeois feminist” - a person of wealth and upper social class that deems themselves a feminist but is implied to not be that strong of a feminist - when speaking on Hillary Clinton and Gloria Steinem, who apologized for statements she had made some time ago that Hillary deserved the feminist vote more than Bernie Sanders due to the fact that she is a woman and that women were not truly feminists if they did not vote for her. While that particular topic was used as the tagline to generate an audience, Hillary Clinton was not the sole reason to stay in the discussion that evening and not everyone could agree upon whether they felt Hillary had genuine feminist views at the heart of her campaign.

The group delved heavily into discussion about historical feminists and those who stood for equality and there were debates upon different topics therein. When asked about their feelings on the discussion most expressed similar sentiments of excitement, stating that they found the discussions “Really interesting and engaging,” and several newcomers learned more by their attendance than through their own personal experiences.

The meeting itself took place in Payson Smith room 41, after a slight room mix-up caused them to move spaces. Luckily, from there, things ran smoothly as discussions ran from 7 pm to nearly past 9 and continued out the door as group members departed to further the discussion while venturing out top Portland’s Great Lost Bear at the invitation of one of the members in attendance.

When speaking to Franzen, he reiterated how important it is for feminist groups to “not be divisive” when it came to tackling important issues such as the upcoming Primaries and even more local issues here at home in Maine. The round table discussion centered primarily around history rather than present feminist issues and the contributions each speaker made seemed to build upon those previously spoken in the group.

The group invites anyone looking to attend further meetings to seek them out Wednesday evenings when they meet each week.

Matthew Craig / Community Editor
Amanda Melanson / Free Press Staff

LEFT: Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders in The State Theater last Wednesday morning speaking to a full house. RIGHT: Attendees listen to a talk put on by USM’s Socialism Club.

What goes on at local open mic night?
“There’s no other place in Maine with this many weekly events”
Matthew Craig
Contributor

Last Sunday Empire held their weekly open mic event known as The Couch. From six to eight, musicians are encouraged to play and later on they hold a comedy segment. The Couch provides aspiring artists with a great opportunity to get on stage and test their material in front of an audience primarily consisting of their musical peers. Since Empire may be considered a semi-pro venue, the sound system is quite good. Everything is set up professionally, with little effort required from a performer to get what they would consider a stellar sound by open mic standards. I’ve been around to a few open mics in the Portland area and, in my experience, the clarity is unmatched. As with any open mic, there is a broad range of talent, skill and style in the performances.

I particularly enjoyed of his was titled Outer Space, in which he fuses up themes from popular science fiction. He has recorded several albums of his work and also sells merchandise including t-shirts and mugs.

Next, I had a chance to talk to a duo, Ryan and Amanda. They’ve been playing together for only a couple of months and play covers and classic songs. They performed Neutral Milk Hotel’s In The Aeroplane Over The Sea, a go-to piece for nascent singer-songwriters. I was impressed by their harmonies and solid playing and their cover of Wild Mountain Thyme, which showcased Amanda’s vocal talent and multi-instrumentalism. Ryan held down the harmony with his guitar. In addition to vocals, Amanda plays the clarinet and saxophone. Ryan plays guitar, bass, drums and sings. They are both students of USM, and study Computer Science.

Open mics in Portland are kind of a big deal. There’s no other place in Maine with the variety and number of open mic events that Portland boasts. For musicians who don’t choose to make a career of musical performance, open mic opportunities can be integral, as they provide a structured environment in which to play and refine their techniques. As stated above, Empire is a particularly nice place to perform, but what

The Couch lacks currently is music. Performers there simply aren’t enough people attending to fill up all of the slots available. I encourage all the non-occupation-al musicians in the Portland community to give it a shot.

Matthew Craig / Contributor

Different Portlanders step up to the mic to show their musical skills at Empire’s well decorated open mic night.
Make summer time credit time.

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- Condensed classes to fit with any schedule
- All are welcome to attend; earn credits while in Maine this summer!

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Bringing back rap: Kendrick Lamar has done it again

Kendrick Lamar has done it again. He is not the rapper we want, but rather the rapper we deserve. With his short eight track orchestration of untitled songs from the To Pimp A Butterfly cutting room floor this peak behind the curtain of the creative process can show us all that an album is so much more than the 10 tracks that get mastered and produced in the end.

There have been numerous sightings of these untitled songs across many the late night and awards show. The really bizarre thing is that for every live performance, Kendrick Lamar insists on premiering or featuring an untitled track along with these seminal rap classics like “Alright” and “How Much Does A Dollar Cost.”

The best track is probably the third, which was premiered one of the last Colbert Report shows and it serves as a eccentric representation of this rapper who has become less of a performer and more of a cultural icon with each passing day. With a synthy, almost steel drum like beat “untitled 03.05.28.2013.” sees Kendrick Lamar work through several mindsets of different races, showing that we all have pieces of what make us who we are. “A peace of mind. That’s what the Asian said, I need a divine intervention, was his religion and I was surprised. Him believing in Buddha, me believing in God. Asked me what I am doing, he said “taking my time,” and later Kendrick Lamar explores what happens within the confines of the white race, primarily through his own voice and interpretation. “A piece of mines, that’s what the white man wanted when I rhyme. Telling me that he selling me just for $10.99. If I go platinum from rapping, I do the company fine.”

On the sixth track, “untitled 06.10.30.2014” has a surprising feature from Cee Lo Green, who has dissolved from the public eye, but the distinctive voice of the R&B/ Hip-hop crooner added something indescribable to the first verse. “Mama told me that I was different the moment I was invented. En-sprayed baby, no I’m not ashamed. I recommend every inch of your lunatic ways. Praise the lord, you teach the kids how to be themselves and plenty more.”

The eighth song was debuted on the Jimmy Fallon shortly after the new year. “untitled 01 09.06.2014” breaks down the millennial sadness that is collectively experienced by millions of “Gen Xers.” “Two tears in the bucket I cry with you but I could never lie with you. I could never afford not to afford, I could never put my plans to the side with you. I could never see a red light like a deer with a headlight, I freeze when I re-up.”

You should save “untitled 01 2014-2016” to be the final song you listen to. The three part depth charge of emotional exploration resonates at some level with everyone. Somewhere where around the second part Kendrick raps that “I feel like Pacino in Godfather, I’m charged. Our father who art in Heaven, Kendrick

Rockin’ at large. Came in the game with a plan of beatin’ the odds. What an accomplishment, broken promises, kept my focus anonymous till I death with the consequence.” Most people are still talking about the incredible Grammy performance that sparked some controversy over some censored lines. While good kid, m.A.A.d city hit the world on fire, To Pimp A Butterfly set it to a low simmer.untitled unmastered is more like the friend who hands you an advil and a glass of water in the morning and then talks to you about the meaning of life. Kendrick Lamar is doing more to combat societal norms than any other celebrity (maybe except Bono and his rose-colored glasses). If Kanye West is a representation of our ego, then Kendrick Lamar is the living embodiment of the soul. Now while his last album is rough and messy around the edges it does not distract from the message. We are all beautiful, no matter our circumstances.

John Rocker
Free Press Staff

Well, I think I did all right when it came to my predictions. Five out of six isn’t bad. I know the article didn’t mention Best Director, but I did pick Alejandro G. Iñárritu when I was making my predictions list. I think Best Director is certainly an important category. All are important in their own right. The Academy is giving recognition to people they think deserve it, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that the Academy is the sole barometer. The Academy all comes down to people’s opinions and that’s no different from making any review. Today I’m going to give a recap of what went down at The Oscars.

So, what did I think of the show? Honestly, I never really care for the show aspect of the awards. I just want to get straight to the point. The run time for the show was three and half hours long and, as the night dragged on, I just wanted the awards to be given. I think to save time, there could have been fewer performances from musicians and they could have gotten rid of segments where they are showing clips of the Best Picture nominees. I guess it’s easier to show people this in parts rather than all at once, but at the same time, you could just watch the trailers to get a feel for the movie. If only the awards were just as long as the nominations for the awards (No, seriously, the nomination announcement only lasts ten minutes).

What did I think of Chris Rock as a host? I think for the most part, he was a good host. He had a lot of weight on his shoulders. After the nominations, there was backlash because all the actors that were nominated were white and #OscarSoWhite from last year’s Oscars popped up again. Rock addressed this issue several times throughout the night, using humor in most cases, but I believe it was his opening monologue that really drives home the point. It’s simple. To Quote Rock, “...It’s not about boycotting anything. It’s just, we want opportunity. We want black actors to get the same opportunities as white actors.” Kevin Hart also brought up a good point when he was presenting: “...I want to applaud all the actors and actresses of color that didn’t get nominated tonight. The reason why I say that is because I want them to understand that tonight should not determine the hard work and effort that you put into your craft.” I think these two statements really cover everything.

As far as the actual awards are concerned, Mad Max: Fury Road won the most awards that night, taking a total of six for technical categories. Leonardo DiCaprio finally won his first Oscar for his performance in The Revenant, which caused a lot of buzz on the Internet. There weren’t any winners that surprised me. I think the most surprising thing was the nominations didn’t mean it changes my opinion on the film, and this applies to any movie. If your choices didn’t win, don’t be upset. If you like the movie, then what’s the matter? The Oscars are an over-glorified contest anyways, but it’s certainly interesting to see who wins.,
Don’t let them weigh on our
children anymore, but we all share that
incomparable feeling of being a Western-
person in a world that only allows a
powerful few to get away with it. I firmly
believe that we are a better people than
calm, when I’m normally

dealing with dark skin of depravity.

The stupid, meddlesome interventions of
country class led me to believe I don’t re-

ally need to curse out every Mass-
tachusetts hole that almost runs me over.

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Your mama probably told you to turn off the lights before you left each room but she probably didn’t tell you to unplug the toaster, your cell phone charger, your computer, the TV and the microwave. Turns out leaving all those gadgets plugged in adds up to money and energy wasted, which in turn is bad for your wallet and the environment.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans wasted around three billion dollars a year on phantom power loss. That’s a lot of money, not to mention coal, oil and other fossil fuels that went into producing that power that is now polluting the environment in the form of tons of carbon.

The average household has 40 devices on standby, meaning plugged in and drawing power but not on, hence phantom, or vampire power loss.

An easy solution for dorm life or your bedroom is buying a power strip and plugging all your gadgets into it. Flip the switch off at night and back on in the morning when you’re actually using it. There’s no need to leave your cell phone charger plugged in all the time. Just plug it in when you actually need it and make sure to unplug it when you’re done.

If you’re strapped for cash the Swap Shop in the basement of Anderson Hall in Gorham has free power strips and the Surplus Store in Portland in the basement of Sullivan Gym has cheap ones as well.

Another wasteful feature is people leaving their laptop plugged in constantly. Not only is it bad for your computer and it’s battery but it’s costing you money, up to 10% of your monthly electric bill.

I try to charge my laptop when I’m not using it and it’s closed. It charges much faster that way and then when I use it I have a full battery and don’t have to tote the charger to school with me. Not always charging the battery will make your laptop last longer. It’s supposed to run on the battery, so let it.

I also have a nifty feature on my laptop called “eco settings”. It’s basically tracks how much energy you’re using and encourages you to turn down the brightness on your monitor so the battery will last longer. You can set your own goals or try to reach the consumption a little every day. Microwaves are giant energy sucks and it’s crazy because you mostly just use it to tell the time. Unplug that radioactive hunk of plastic when you’re not giving yourself cancer with microwaved popcorn and enjoy the energy savings.

I don’t know if any of you still have one of those big old clunky desktop computers but they’re a giant draw of electricity. After a roommate who owned one moved out of my apartment we saved $20 a month on the electric bill.

According to the US Department of Energy (yeah it’s a thing, look it up) you can save $100 a year if you put your laptop to sleep and power off your video games when you’re done. Taking the time to think about things and the waste they generate is part of an eco-conscious lifestyle and you don’t need to hug trees to do it. There’s no reason you need to leave your Wi-Fi turned on all night so why not unplug it?

Embrace a little thrill and enjoy the savings. You’ll have more money to spend on beer, fried chicken and condoms. What else would a poor college student need?

Brian Gordon is a senior Liberal Studies human being. He enjoys fragility in all its forms.
Weekly Horoscope

**Aries**
March 21–April 19
You may be feeling a bit frustrated today if you are thinking only of what you don’t yet have. Face reality, while working to improve it.

**Taurus**
April 20–May 20
Breaking your usual pattern brings sudden insight. What was cloudy becomes very clear.

**Gemini**
May 21–June 20
A small sacrifice now leads to a large gain later. You build your assets bit by bit.

**Cancer**
June 21–July 22
You can take a small step to make your relationship closer to your dreams. Do something practical to make your relationship better.

**Leo**
July 23–August 22
Family and relationship commitments may be on your mind a lot at work today. Relax; you can still carry out your duties just fine.

**Virgo**
August 23–September 22
Focus and concentration come more easily to you and your family today. A good time to work on completing unfinished projects.

**Libra**
October 23–November 21
Don’t overdo impulsive speech, but do enjoy exciting topics, stimulating conversations and new or challenging ideas.

**Scorpio**
November 22–December 21
You feel a bit overextended today as you survey the many activities which seem to be calling for your attention. Make priorities.

**Sagittarius**
December 22–January 19
Today you may feel torn between the “real world” and religious or spiritual perspectives. Keep a balance between principles and practicalities.

**Capricorn**
January 20–February 18
Financial matters arise with a friend. Don’t let money complicate your relationship.

**Aquarius**
February 19–March 20
Even though you are capable of much versatility, it is not your job to do everything. Remember to prioritize tasks.

The solution to last issue’s crossword

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Cryptogram

XD JDE VESSDVZ AQZ MWUYZ DL HUWF IUWT OV PEVA UBDAQZW GDIEEOBA SFDA?

And here is your hint:

E = U

- Award-winning pizza
- Free delivery
- 10% off with college id
- Order online

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www.leonardosonline.com
Free delivery or carry out
One coupon per pizza
Expires 5/16/16
We live in an era of hashtag activism. The internet has the power to connect individuals from around the world and allows people to connect in a way that doesn’t require their physical presence but their spirit and passion, and in doing so, creates something larger and more magical than expected. When a group of people collectively and actively band together to create change or make their voices heard, the impact can be enormous. It allows ideas to grow and conversation to be made until finally, something that began as a hashtag can grow into a global movement.

In 2015, USM’s political science program announced the addition of the social media activism minor, which combines classes from three different programs: communication and media studies, philosophy and political science—this minor was designed to enhance student understanding of social media and activism in its multiple forms.

The new minor has a 15 credit minimum requirement. The minor does require students to take Critical Thinking about Social Issues and Communication and Social Media. After completion of these classes, students have the freedom to choose from 10 different elective classes from all three departments and are encouraged to select courses from each department when completing their minor.

In an era where Twitter and Facebook are thriving, or a picture can be circulated and shared with a few clicks of a button, there is a lot to be said for social media activism.

In March 2015, Alicia Garza, a founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, visited USM as the Women’s History Month keynote speaker, where she presented “Building a World Where Black Lives Matter.” Garza, while recalling the story where #BlackLivesMatter became more than just a hashtag: “I tried to make sense of what was happening, and in doing so, you know… I went on Facebook. It’s what we do now, right? We don’t watch the news. We go on Twitter and Facebook, always. What she saw on her own social media was that while some responses were comforting, a large amount were negative, and she was not okay with that. In her own response, she wrote “a love letter to black folks” over Facebook, where she stated the famous words, “black lives matter.” But what she didn’t realize was how her words–black lives matter—would resonate with others.

The #BlackLivesMatter movement is the modern day exemplification of activism and one of the ways in which communities of people can ignite movements, awareness, justice, and change. With the creation of the social media activism minor at USM, students have the opportunity to further their own ideas and develop them in an academic setting that incorporates areas of thinking from three different departments.

Students who realize the power that social media has in society are students who can visualize the possibility to begin conversations and open up a dialogue about modern day issues, such as the upcoming presidential elections. With this minor, students are given the tools to create change and raise awareness in modern day society. Activism is no longer limited to a single geographical location, but can begin in a small town with only one person, and expand nationally, or even globally, by connecting passionate individuals.

Students of USM: Samuel Anderson, student athlete

Samuel Anderson, student athlete

USM student Samuel Anderson moved to Maine from Bristol, Connecticut in order to pursue soccer and because it’s so “peaceful.” He had visited the state previously, and wanted to see more of it. Anderson has always been an athlete. He has played soccer since he was a child and has, through high school years in Connecticut, earned Varsity letters all four years. This last fall was his first season playing for the Huskies men’s soccer team. He played in 17 games, and was in the starting lineup for 11. As a midfielder, he scored the game-winning goal against Westfield State earlier in the season. Anderson also enjoys playing left or right wing, and seeks to challenge himself both on and off the field. His dream has always been to play professional soccer, and he hopes to make that dream a reality after graduating from USM.

As a linguistics major, Anderson thrives off of the opportunity to make connections with other people, wanting to be able to “connect with the world around me even if they don’t understand me at first.” One requirement for majoring in linguistics is to study a foreign language. Anderson chose American Sign Language, and explained, “I thought it was different. I don’t know a lot of people who know sign language.”

After his soccer season ended, Anderson decided to give Indoor Track a shot for the first time. So far this season, he’s done well running sprint events—the 400 and 200 meter races—and he helped the Huskies win the 4x400 meter relay in the State of Maine Championships, running the third leg. He has also been made Member of the Little East Conference Relay of the Week multiple times this winter. Anderson acknowledged that playing on a sports team isn’t always sunshine and rainbows. Sometimes there’s friction between teammates, and egos get in the way. Ideally though, he sees a team as a useful mechanism for success when “they push each other, and have safe competition.”

Your greatest competitor is the person who works with you the most.” He also notes that “you have to let your ego go,” and “work hard for yourself and for each other.” Plus, it helps when a team has good chemistry.

Know any interesting students? Email editor@usmfreepress.org

Know any campus events? Email: editor@usmfreepress.org

Campus Events

Monday, March 7
Dinosaurs at Dusk! University of Southern Maine Southworth Planetarium, Portland Campus Starts: 1:00 p.m. / Ends: 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 8
Baked Good and Buoy’s University of Southern Maine Robie Basement, Design Room Starts: 10:00 a.m. / Ends: 2:00 p.m.

USM Flow Jam University of Southern Maine Multipurpose Room, Sullivan Recreation Complex Starts: 4:00 p.m. / Ends: 5:00 p.m.

Sexperts Panel University of Southern Maine Lower Brooks on the Gorham Campus Starts: 6:30 p.m. / Ends: 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9
OML Gallery: Five Centuries of Rare Maps and Globes University of Southern Maine Osher Map Library Starts: 10:00 a.m. / Ends: 4:00 p.m.

Wellness Breakfast University of Southern Maine Woodbury Campus Center, Portland Starts: 10:00 a.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Walking Wednesday University of Southern Maine Bailey Bus Stop Starts: 2:00 p.m. / Ends: 3:30 p.m.

Speed “Roommating” University of Southern Maine Lower Brooks Starts: 9:00 a.m. / Ends: 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 10
Capoeira Club Weekly Class University of Southern Maine Lower Brooks Student Center Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 8:30 p.m.

Friday, March 11
March Food for Thought Luncheon University of Southern Maine Room 170, A104 Campus Starts: 12:00 p.m. / Ends: 1:00 p.m.

Maine Red Claws Game Portland Expo Center Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 12
Reefer Madness University of Southern Maine Russell Hall, Gorham Campus Starts: 7:30 p.m.
Southern Maine baseball poised for promising campaign

Nick Beauchesne
Sports editor

The University of Southern Main baseball team began prac-
tice a few weeks back. Despite the relatively warm winter weather everyone has been enjoying this year, the team has, as of yet, been unable to get outside and get to work on the field. As a result, the sound of popping gloves and bats-on-balls can be heard echoing
throughout USM’s fieldhouse. Along with these familiar sounds are other sounds equally familiar for a program of such sustained success: the talk this preseason is that this team looks poised to make another run at the Division III World Series.

This year’s squad is made up of a unique combination of youth and experience that promises to be fun to watch. Seven seniors, led by last year’s National Player of the Year Sam Dexter (senior, Oakfield, ME/Messalonske) returns this year after having been named National Player of the Year. He is part of a Huskies’ senior class that is laden with both experience and talent.

Senior Sam Dexter (Oakland, ME/Messalonske) returns this year after having been named National Player of the Year. He is part of a Huskies’ senior class that is laden with both experience and talent.

The experience of playing and winning at the highest level of postseason baseball, is an attribute that should serve the team well during the moments of ad-
versity that arise over the course of every baseball season.

Pitchers Shyler Scates (Jefferson, ME/Erskine Academy), Dan Kimon (Londonderry, NH) and Ryan Browner (Georgetown,) will provide senior leadership for the pitching staff. These veteran pitchers, combined with a strong core of underclassmen arms, are an example of the depth that USM has up and down their roster.

Along with the senior class, several promising freshman will be called upon to contribute this year. 28 of the 37 spots on the roster this year are filled by fresh-
men and sophomores. This youth throughout the roster provides both challenge and promise. Having so many younger players gives the program an opportunity to build for the future while also competing at the highest level in the present. The Huskies have been named the preseason favor-
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Oakfield, ME/Messalonske) are eager to improve upon last year’s 32 and 15 record and recapture some of the magic that led the Huskies to the national champion-
ship game two years ago. “Several of this year’s veteran players contributed to our World Series run two years ago,” said head coach Ed Flaherty, who has compiled 911 wins in his 30 year coaching career.

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Redshirt freshman Dalton Rice (Waterford, ME/Oxford Hills) for the season, USM must find a way to replace the production of last year’s National Pitcher of the Year Andrew Richards, who gradu-
ated last spring.

The Absence of Leavitt and the graduation of Richards leave va-
cancies at the top two spots of the Huskies’ rotation coming into the season. Despite these shakeups, coach Flaherty remains confident that players will step up in their stead:

“Every year at the beginning of the season we ask ourselves whether or not the team is capable of making it (to the World Se-
ries)” Flaherty Said. “Last year I would have said no, but this year you can’t say no to the profi-
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The team will get a good gauge of where they are when they leave for Florida next week to play nine games over the course of a ten-day trip. This annual journey south is an opportunity for the team to experience playing out-
side, against quality competition, before they enter the grind of LEC competition.

When they return, the regular season will be waiting for them. With it comes an opportunity to do something special this year.

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March 7, 2016

Baseball Preview

The Huskies are eager to get outside and on to the diamond, but make due in the fieldhouse until the time comes. USM’s first conference home game is an April 2nd doubleheader against Rhode Island College.
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