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Photo illustration: Bradford Spurr / Multimedia Editor

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

This week, we've chosen to focus our stories around the efforts of and issues with the Student Government Association (SGA). We hope that, by discussing the pros and cons of the SGA, we can offer transparency to you as the readers and hope for change within the entire system.

Our positive story reflects the recent initiative to create an Islamic studies minor at USM. This initiative, sparked by senior sociology and international relations major Brendan Butler, was first proposed in a meeting with Glenn Cummings and the Muslim Student Association a few months back.

Student Body President Humza Khan explained that the minor will be between 6-12 credits, and will include Arabic language courses, classes on Islamic religious history and political courses pertaining to Islam in the U.S. and abroad. Apparently, the thought of adding an Islamic studies minor had been on the minds of many administrative members for a while, so the possibility of this achievement would serve as another educational outlet for students interested in learning more about the cultural diversity that is Islamic studies in Maine.

The most important thing to come out of this minor could be the potential for interfaith dialogue, where open discussion can occur not just within the university, but throughout the community as well. This could be another great way

to promote the "diverse university" that the USM administration so desperately wants for the university to be seen as.

Dialogue, then, can be seen as a negative aspect of the second story you see featured on the cover. While the student government has been working hard to ensure this Islamic studies minor materializes, there has also been much controversy around student senate activities amongst the student body. First, the racial epithet found in their offices last year sparked outrage from USM community members, and which to the resignation of some senators.

Now that the student senate is attempting to provide transparency, there are still issues within their system that have yet to be resolved. Recently, Khan asked Student Body Vice President Madison Raymond to step down from their position. But why? What has occurred between their initial desire to work together to the difficulties they face as co-workers today? While Raymond believes this is an act of discrimination for being a part of the LGBTQ community, as well as a decision made by the university administration after Raymond chose to speak up about a controversial issue pertaining to LePage on Facebook, Khan and other senate members concluded that Raymond just hasn't been fulfilling their duties properly.

At Friday meeting, which lasted over three hours, there was a lot of tension amongst members. Some students

Student Government Transparency?

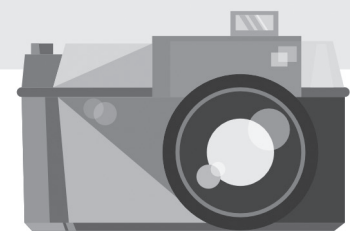
Meeting last Friday shows tension amongst Senate members, but sheds light on initiative

called for the use of gender pronouns at every single meeting, noting that every individual in the room was "disrespectful" for not saying what pronouns they prefer. At what point have we crossed a line of infringement versus freedom of speech? Other issues arose as well, such as the topic of gender-neutral bathrooms, that senate members disagreed upon, and more discussion on racial discrimination. While there is no simple way to discuss this subject matter, one senator said it best when she noted, "I am here for an open, honest discussion. Let us stop acting like we're in middle school."

While her words hold true, the student senate has a long way to go before the student body can trust them. That is, the students that know or care. If you walk around campus and ask students their thoughts on the issue, like we did last week, you'll find that almost no one knows, or cares, about the student senate. So how do we change that for the better? How can we open proper dialogue without fear of discrimination? How can we get more students interested in the student government that is meant to represent their needs on campus? Continue through the paper for more information on the topics discussed above, and always feel free to send your story ideas to editor@usmfreepress.org.

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Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

At the Senate meeting last Friday, various individuals spoke out on behalf of Student Body Presidents most recent decision to demote the Student Body Vice President, Madison Raymond. While the decision must go through Senate vote, the final decision will not be made until the meeting that is to take place this coming Friday on the Portland Campus.

Student Body Vice President has been asked to step down

Madison Raymond claims discrimination, Humza Khan claims broken trust

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-Chief

Last Friday, members of the Student Government Association met on the Gorham campus to discuss the recent decision by Student Body President Humza Khan to demote a member of their organization. Madison Raymond, the student body vice president, was contacted by Khan last Thursday via text message, and told Raymond that the position is one in which Raymond “should no longer continue to operate.”

This decision has been met with backlash from Raymond, who attended the meeting to defend themselves. The meeting, which was called to order at 2 p.m., had five senators not in attendance. The meeting started with statements from Raymond, who summarized the series of events that took place prior to the meeting and discussed in-depth their why they believed the demotion was declared.

“In a meeting a few weeks back, President Cummings told us about LePage withholding funds from the UMaine system because of the Orono basketball team supporting LGBTQ rights in their game against North Carolina,” alleged Raymond, going on to explain that it was this meeting where Humza and Raymond, as well as Student Activities Coordinator Alex Carrier, were told to keep quiet about it.

“Humza felt he couldn’t trust me after I spoke up about it on social media. I shared this information with full acknowledge of

the repercussions, and I have no regrets. I would do it again if I had to,” said Raymond to the senators in attendance.

Raymond went on to argue that they are a good student advocate who has worked hard for marginalized voices, and accused the

“We are proud you are representing a community that is lacking on the senate. However, you are not fit to fill the position.”

- Josephine Elder
Student Affairs Committee Chair

SGA of asking for his resignation because Raymond is affiliated with the LGBTQ community.

Chief of Staff Jeffrey Ahlquist stated that Raymond has a tendency to bully students on Facebook, and noted that Raymond often has the perspective that all Republicans are fascists. In rebuttal, Raymond said this behavior was a “meme” and a “joke.”

Senator Samantha Torr spoke in opposition to the desire to denounce Raymond, declaring that she sees their dismissal as signaling to the LGBTQ community that they

are not welcome on the senate and that their voices shouldn’t be heard. She believes that the senate has a long way to go before they are a fully diverse student organization.

Amidst the chaos of accusation and anger from various senators across the board, Student Affairs Committee Chair Josephine Elder attempted to clarify her stance on the issue, noting that Madison was being let go not because of their recent decision to come out as transgender, but rather because they had not fulfilled the duties that come with being student body vice president.

“From day one, you have not fulfilled your duties. No new student binders. You have not updated the website either. Humza had to take over for you. We’ve had problems with you, and we’re not against you,” she stated. “We are very proud you are representing a community that is lacking on the senate. However, you are not fit to fill the position. Humza said you are welcome to rejoin senate.”

From the audience, Idman Abdul stood up and pointed at Elder, saying it is laughable of someone who keeps the company of a minority to critique the responses of other community members.

“It is our duty to support the If you are not checking in with Maddy and asking how it affects them and how to support them, how dare you go to them with a binder when you’re not asking about their life,” Idman stated.

In addition, Iris SanGiovanni spoke up from the audience, noting that Raymond has

spoken out about trans issues and that the senate needed to recognize that. SanGiovanni believes that it is everyone’s responsibilities to say their respective pronouns, but Ginn noted that this ideology is being imposed on those who do not wish to state their pronouns.

As a rebuttal, Raymond acknowledged that their updates on the website had not been prompt, but defended the compilation of binders. Elder noted that while this is true, they were not completed until only a few days before the meeting.

When asked to present a Report on Officers and Committees, Raymond was unable to produce any information that would be helpful for the senate. They stated, “The past week, I don’t know... basically, I’m gonna suggest, I don’t know, I yield.” For the rest of the meeting, Raymond was on their phone, and they left before the motion to adjourn.

In the final hour of the meeting, Khan proposed a vote of no confidence against Raymond which will be voted on at the upcoming senate meeting this Friday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. in 200 Payson Smith. While the senate had the option to enter in executive session (closed meeting) to discuss the issues at hand, Senate Chair Liam Ginn chose to avoid this, as the senate is still attempting to maintain transparency and believes a secret meeting would only make matters worse.

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Learning to 'Adult': Portland schools and USM launch programs

Classes that aim to teach basic life skills take place in the local community

Julie Pike
Free Press Staff

Throughout Portland, sessions are being offered to community members, students, faculty and staff on learning how to become a more successful adult. Together these events are working to engage and educate the broader community.

The University of Southern Maine will be implementing a program called, "Informing U@USM," which is set to begin in February. These classes, which are focused on bringing the USM community closer together, will teach a broad range of to employees from financial wellness, cultural resources on campus, physical wellness and much more.

The Portland Adulting School is beginning to make big waves in the community. Their programs offer adults in the local community basic skills and lessons that may have not been taught in school. They offer several events hosted at various places around Portland, as well as an online school that is set to begin in February.

The Informing U@USM sessions were developed with the collaboration of the USM Human Resources team and the classified and professional staff senates.

"We had the hope of helping people feel

"The topics we choose stem mostly from our life experience, my experience as a therapist... and our experiences as mothers."

-Rachel Weinstein
Portland Adulting School

more connected to the community," stated Ashley Collins, the Director of Prior Learning Assessment. "It gives the faculty and staff at USM the opportunity to network and be well."

The next several months of sessions are planned ahead with different themes each month. The sessions will continue dependent on feedback from faculty and staff. The first events will kick off in February with Financial Wellness month. A full list of the scheduled sessions can be found on the campus human resources services page on the USM website.

"Informing U@USM is really about connecting the USM faculty and staff with one

another and with the resources that are available to them," stated Natalie Jones, Vice President of Human Resources. "A big part of it is about building up the USM community, with a focus on faculty and staff."

The sessions will take place on a mix of all three campuses at USM. They are available at no cost for faculty and staff.

"This is where faculty and staff can come together and realize that we've all got a lot in common and we all have the same investment," stated Heather Dilios, the Accommodation Coordinator in the Disability Services Center.

"People are coming up with their own topics, they have their own specialties, things they want to get out to the community," said Meghan Schratz from Human Resources and the coordinator of Informing U@USM. "Faculty and staff at USM are wanting to share their resources with others."

These sessions are a big step forward for the faculty and staff at USM, who experienced tough layoffs in the last couple years. The goal of the workshops is to rebuild the strong community the employees at USM once had.

"The transitions that USM went through over the past five years sort of naturally dismantled the community," stated Dilios. "One of our goals was to re-establish that community and start rebuilding those divisions that naturally occurred between staff and faculty."

Along with the faculty and staff, students have an opportunity as well to learn basic life skills at the Portland Adulting School events and online school.

The school was started by Rachel Weinstein and Katie Brunelle, their mission as stated on their website is to ring support to those who are looking to gain the skills they need to be a successful adult.

Weinstein stated that the idea for the Portland Adulting School began in February of 2016. Ever since their events have began picking up and gaining lots of popularity. The subject of what the events they offer fall into four categories, financial basics, health and wellness, relationships and community and make-it and fix-it skills.

"The topics we choose stem mostly from our life experience, my experience as a therapist, Katie's experience as a teacher, both of our experience as mothers of young kids," stated Weinstein.

From Jan. 17-19, the Portland Adulting School held their first session of winter events. These classes aim to educate adults about personal branding, learning their financial type, as well as tactical skills such as how to sew a button or change a tire.

At each sessions they feature professionals

See **ADULT** on page 8



Julie Pike / Free Press Staff

At the Portland Adulting School, individuals gather around to learn basic "adulting" skills that they may not have learned growing up, such as how to fold a fitted sheet.

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COME SEE WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE

NGOs worldwide respond after Trump reinstates Mexico City Policy

Johnna Ossie
News Editor

Just days into office, newly installed President Donald Trump reinstated a policy that bans international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) receiving U.S. funding from providing abortion services, as well as from providing education or counseling to those seeking their services. The Mexico City Policy, often referred to as the global gag rule, hasn't been in place since former President Barack Obama took office in 2009. The policy was reinstated almost immediately by President Trump.

Democratic and Republican presidents have been going back and forth over this policy for some time. The Mexico City Policy was first created by Ronald Reagan in 1984, was repealed under the Clinton administration, reinstated by the Bush administration and later repealed by the Obama administration. Outside of party lines, health care workers worry women's lives are on the line. Unsafe abortions are one of the

top five leading causes of maternal death worldwide. According to the World Health Organization, 47,000 women die from complications of unsafe abortions each year. The Mexico City Policy would largely affect at-risk women living in some of the most impoverished parts of the world. Health care providers worldwide say a lack of funding for medical NGOs will affect thousands of international providers and their ability to give adequate care to women in many countries across the globe.

Doctors Without Borders (DWB)/ Médecins Sans Frontières issued a statement on Wednesday, saying, "Where safe abortion care is not available, women and girls will put their lives at risk. When left with no safe options, they will resort to abortions carried out by untrained people or in environments lacking minimal medical standards."

NGOs are unable to use foreign aid to pay for abortions, which has been the case since 1973 with the passing of the Helms amendment. The Mexico City Policy forbids

NGOs from using not just international aid but also their own private funding to perform or provide information about abortions if they want

in some of the most impoverished parts of the world.

Thousands of anti-abortions supporters gathered in D.C. on Friday

"Where safe abortion care is not available, women and girls will put their lives at risk... they will resort to abortions carried out by untrained people..."

- Doctors Without Borders

to continue to receive U.S. aid. The loss of U.S. aid could threaten the entire organization.

Trump has stated he believes abortion should be banned in the United States. Trump drew criticism after comments made in an interview with Chris Matthews during his campaign, in which he stated that abortion should be banned, and that women should be punished for having abortions.

The Mexico City Policy would largely affect at-risk women living

for an annual event called March for Life, which has taken place every year since the legalization of abortion in 1973. Mike Pence became the first sitting vice president to speak at the event in the decades it has been running. Trump tweeted that the anti-choice marchers have his full support, a stark contrast to his tweet regarding the Women's March on Washington, which garnered the support of millions across the globe, to which he wrote "Watched protests yesterday but was under the impres-

sion that we just had an election! Why didn't these people vote? Celebs hurt cause badly."

Emma Donnelly, USM sophomore and president of the student group Huskies for Reproductive Health, believes that the global gag rule will not prevent women from getting abortions.

"The global gag rule will cause more abortions than it will prevent," she said. "These abortions will be deadly, but if a woman does not want to be pregnant, she will do whatever it takes. I do not think they understand what it means to be forced to carry out a pregnancy for nine months and then give birth. The United States is supposed to be a world leader and protect other nations, yet we seem to be doing the exact opposite."

pregnancy for nine months and then give birth. The United States is supposed to be a world leader and protect other nations, yet we seem to be doing the exact opposite."

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Sexual assault prevention training fails to reach all students

River Plouffe Vogel
Free Press Staff

The University of Southern Maine hopes to provide fair, safe and equal education to all students. Protecting as well educating the student body is one way to do that. USM offers students to take an online sexual assault prevention training course, which is required of all university employees and students.

The online trainings are created by a group called Student Success, which works with the university in creating training modules that best fit the student body. Student Success has access to MaineStreet, where they post who has completed the trainings. Currently, however, there is no penalty if a student does not complete the trainings.

The 2016 Annual Safety Report from the university lists that there were five "forcible sexual offenses" in the residence halls in Gorham in 2015. Sarah Holmes, assistant dean of students and Deputy Title IX coordinator, said the numbers may be higher, as sexual assault often goes unreported.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in five college women will be sexually assaulted on campus, as well as one in sixteen for men. Ninety percent of sexual assaults are reported by the victims. One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted before the age of

eighteen.

Sexual assault's prevalence and impact on so many college communities has caused controversy at many universities, especially within the last year after a list of those charged with Title IX violations was released by the Department of Education. Many high profile schools, including Harvard College, Harvard Law School and Sarah Lawrence College, made the list.

USM has stated that "all USM community members are required to complete the [sexual assault prevention training] course." Holmes explained that all incoming first year students, most student athletes, any students involved in fraternity or sorority life and many other student groups receive the sexual assault prevention training in person.

Holmes went on to explain how the university is continuing to expand its outreach and to open avenues for dialogue, with the hopes that more students will become active in educating members of the USM community when it comes to speaking out about sexual violence. These trainings are also offered throughout the year by Sarah and other staff members.

The video takes an hour to complete and gives the viewer first-hand accounts of sexual assault, solutions to difficult situations and also includes information and knowledge surrounding the topics of sexual assault. Some of the material can elicit past



Photo courtesy of Sexual Assault Training Video

This screenshot is taken from the introduction scene to the Sexual Assault Prevention Training video on the USM website. While it is labeled as mandatory, many students still aren't taking the time to complete this. So how is the administration handling this?

memories of experiences in the viewer, and the video warns the viewer beforehand if there might be something triggering or too difficult to watch.

Jeffrey Ahlquist, treasurer of the student senate, member of a USM fraternity and an RA on the Gorham campus, explained why he believes it's important for students to take this training.

"Especially on campus, these issues can be very real to many people and only by educating ourselves can we help to face and solve them. The videos do a great job of giving the student's real life examples and providing real life solutions."

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In Brief...



Local & State

Portland Police Investigate Hate Crime Reported By High School Students

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD-Portland police are investigating an alleged hate crime after four black ninth-graders at Casco Bay High School reported that an older white teenager made racist remarks to them and brandished a knife Friday.

The incident happened on Allen Avenue in front of the high school around 1:45 p.m. as the four students waited for a city bus, Assistant Chief Vernon Malloch said. The ninth-graders said that three other teenagers were walking toward them when one of them, a white male, made a “derogatory and racist statement” to them. After a verbal confrontation between the students, the teen who reportedly made the racist remarks assaulted

two of the ninth-graders and brandished a knife, Malloch said. Nobody was hurt and the teen ran from the scene, down Abbott Street.

Police were trying Friday night to identify and locate the teen with the knife. Malloch said witnesses described him as being about 17 with thin, patchy facial hair and wearing a hat with the name of the band Insane Clown Posse on it. The hat was black with red trim. He also had a large camouflage backpack, Malloch said.

Malloch asked that anyone who witnessed the incident or has information about the teen to call 874-8575. Malloch did not want to say what the teen said to the four ninth-graders, for fear it might hamper the investigation.

Bonny Eagle cheerleading coach accused of having sexual relationship with student

PORTLAND PRESS HERALD- Police charged a 21-year-old Bonny Eagle High School cheerleading coach with gross sexual assault and unlawful sexual touching Friday, alleging that he had a sexual relationship with a student.

Nicholas Perry of Standish was arrested Friday morning

in Standish, according to the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office. He was released on \$5,000 cash bail Friday evening, said an officer at the Cumberland County Jail.

Perry was charged under the section of a Maine statute that prohibits any school employee from having a sexual relationship with anyone over whom the employee has instructional, supervisory or disciplinary authority. The circumstances of the relationship were not described, but the sheriff’s office said the alleged sexual conduct did not occur at a school function or on school grounds.

National

Trump bars refugees and citizens of seven muslim countries

NEW YORK TIMES— President Trump on Friday closed the nation’s borders to refugees from around the world, ordering that families fleeing the slaughter in Syria be indefinitely blocked from entering the United States, and temporarily suspending immigration from several predominantly Muslim countries.

In an executive order that he said was part of an extreme vetting plan to keep

out “radical Islamic terrorists,” Mr. Trump also established a religious test for refugees from Muslim nations: He ordered that Christians and others from minority religions be granted priority over Muslims.

International

Columbia: Spain agrees to extradite Farc ‘abortions nurse’

BBC NEWS - Thousands of protesters have taken part in a Women’s March in London as part of an international campaign on the first full day of Donald Trump’s presidency.

They marched from the US embassy to Trafalgar Square for a rally, held in solidarity with a Washington DC march. TV presenter Sandi Toksvig and Labour MP Yvette Cooper addressed crowds, while London mayor Sadiq Khan attended.

Organisers say it highlighted women’s rights, which they perceive to be under threat from the new US administration. London organisers announced on stage that between 80,000 and 100,000 women and men had taken part in the rally.

From ADULT on page 5

and teachers that share their own knowledge with the community. Weinstein explained that the overarching goal of the Adulthood School is to provide local teachers a platform to share their expertise.

‘Adulthood’ is a relatively new term used to describe the struggle of being an adult. Weinstein and Brunelle wish to change any negative connotation with the word, by teaching adults in their community ways to become more successful in life.

“There’s this assumption that you should know this stuff and that you should be successful easily and you should have this sense of what your career path is,”

“Schools have been under a lot of pressure... and have cut a lot of important classes like shop, home economics, and basic financial courses.”

-Rachel Weinstein
Adulthood School

Weinstein stated. “Those of us who are living more in the real world know that’s not always easy.”

Many students growing up were not provided with the right tools and knowledge to be successful as an adult and living on their own. Weinstein and Brunelle are teaching adults and young adults how to do just that, in a less than traditional classroom setting.

“Schools have been under a lot of pressure to ‘teach to the test’ and have had to cut important classes like shop, home economics or basic financial courses,” stated Weinstein.

Many events take place at restaurants or bars around Portland, where they offer food and drinks to those at-

tending. Weinstein stated that these sessions would be perfect for college students to help themselves make the transition into adulthood easier.

“We hope to empower people to be successful adults,” Weinstein stated. “We hope people will feel more connected with other students and teachers from The Adulthood School, realize they’re not the only ones who find finances, debt, relationships or organization difficult, and that they can start using the new skills they learn to help them become more secure, confident, and focused.”

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Police Beat

*Selections from the
USM Department of
Public Safety police log
Nov. 11 to Nov. 14*

11/11/2016

I slipped and fell and hit my head

Medical emergency, Ice arena. Rescue needed for Hockey player. Westbrook transported to MMC.

Too bad it wasn’t legal then

Drug complaint, Upton Hastings Hall. RD confiscated drug paraphernalia.

11/12/2016

Bumper cars in the parking lot

Motor vehicle crash, G16 parking lot. Report taken

Apparently students can’t drive

Motor vehicle crash, G20 parking lot. Report taken

Sick of the vague reports

Vandalism, Upton Hastings Hall.

11/13/2016

Oh, you’re drunk? Carry on.

Wellbeing check, Anderson Hall. Intoxicated student checked by rescue.

11/14/2016

Unsafe space

Suspicious incident, Woodbury Campus Center. Report of a student in the Campus center displaying a Taser. Officer investigating. Unable to locate.

Someone forgot how to walk

Medical Emergency, Science building. Report of a person falling on campus. Rescue dispatched. No transport.

11/15/2016

Sucks to Suck

Theft report, Gorham parking lot G20. Report of a vehicle broken into overnight.

Police Beats are edited for grammar and style

Arts & Culture

Carbon neutral campus by 2040 / 10
 Stories of resilience and renewal / 10
 Rocker and Hall reviews / 12

I'LL FOLLOW YOU INTO THE DARK

*USM participates in national
initiative for human rights*



Krysteana Scribner
 Editor-In-Chief

With the recent election of President Trump and the chaos that has accumulated from the rise in nationalist ideologies, people may be questioning just how citizens of the United States, and people from across the world, are going to cope with the possibility of a divide in people and political ideologies. While some people are turning this discontent into a rally effort for rights, others are turning to the power of performance arts to get their message across.

On Thursday, Jan. 19, community members gathered outside of Russell Hall on the Gorham campus at 5:15 p.m. This congregation of individuals was part of a large-scale initiative called The Ghostlight Project, which aims to gather communities to “create a ‘light’ for the dark times ahead.”

At 5:30 p.m., in each time zone across the country, members of a theater community took part in the “lighting” ceremony. From regional theaters, to high schools, from colleges to Broadway, people gathered for this project on the eve of the Presidential Inauguration as a pledge to stand and support compassion and inclusion for all individuals in the world, regardless of their age, race, class, religion or sexual orientation.

According to The Ghostlight Project’s mission statement, the idea to provide light in times of darkness stems from a theater tradition, where leaving a “ghost light” on in the unoccupied theater provides visibility in what would otherwise be a darkened atmosphere. This metaphorical stance, then, serves to address the overarching goal that aims to create a “brave space.”

At each meeting across the U.S., participants were encouraged to share their diverse opinions and listen actively to those who both shared and questioned the fundamental values of human rights.

After the lighting ceremony, students, faculty and community members gathered inside of Russell Theatre to hear a few short theatrical speeches. The event, which concluded at 6 p.m., may still have a long way to go before their goals are reached.

While The Ghostlight Project on the USM campus has not taken direct steps to continue with this initiative, theater departments and affiliates from across the globe are being encouraged to step forward and take a stance on all social issues that pertain to human rights and freedoms. For more information on the project and its desired initiatives of the future, visit theghostlightproject.org.

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Brittany Burke / Contributor

Left: Professor and Chair of the USM's Theatre Department Andrew Harris adopts a ghostly pose. Right: Students of USM's Theatre Department pose with their reasons for supporting The Ghostlight Project.

USM takes initiative to eliminate carbon footprint

Deliah Schreiber
Free Press Staff

Organizations of all types are taking the initiative to reduce or completely remove their carbon footprint as evidence of global warming crops up. Back in 2007, USM's Department of Sustainability, which is responsible for minimizing environmental impact, made it a goal for USM to become

atmosphere via greener alternatives and proactive activities, such as building windmills, installing solar panels and planting trees. Assistant Director of Sustainability Aaron Witham provided some insight into how this initiative is progressing.

Despite describing it as being an ambitious goal, Witham is confident that becoming carbon neutral by 2040 is well within the reach of the university. Witham has not

nature.org, since committing to the initiative in 2007, the university's overall carbon emission rate has gone down 8.51 percent.

As time goes on, the university's carbon emission rate will continue to decrease as more action is taken. Different initiatives to continue progressing toward this goal include adding insulation in buildings to reduce energy expenditure for heating, as well as investing in more efficient mechanical equipment and lighting systems.

Waste diversion is a particularly strong point for USM. The university's Surplus Store, located in the basement of Sullivan Gym, takes commonly thrown out university property, such as office furniture, school supplies, shelves and chairs, and offers them for free to faculty and staff here at USM. What would normally be thrown in a landfill can be reused, which can in turn reduce carbon emissions.

The university's mission to become carbon neutral by the year 2040 will potentially help contribute to promoting a healthy environment. In spite of President-elect Donald Trump's denial of climate change, the recent decision by Mayor Ethan Strimling for Portland to begin using 100-percent clean and renewable energy by the year 2040 will help USM achieve its goal.

DID YOU KNOW:

If you use a low-flow showerhead, you can save **15 gallons** of water during a 10-minute shower.

Nearly 22% of indoor home water use comes from doing laundry.

Facts are from
National Geographic

"We've met with over 12 different campus groups and departments and over 50 people have given their direct input into this. Overall there are 150 different initiatives that we're currently planning to carry out to support [our] goals."

- Aaron Witham
Assistant Director of Sustainability

a carbon-neutral campus by 2040.

This decision stems from when the non-profit organization Second Nature challenged the department to help with their mission statement, which is "to build a positive global future through leadership networks in higher education." Yet, what does it mean to be carbon neutral? Furthermore, in what ways will this decision impact the broader USM community?

Becoming carbon neutral is the process of reducing carbon emissions or offsetting the amount of carbon released into the

only developed a soon-to-be released official plan, but that devising the plan has been a long, detailed, community-involved process.

"We've met with over 12 different campus groups and departments and over 50 people have given their direct input into this," he explained. "Overall there are 150 different initiatives that we're currently planning to carry out to support [our] goals."

In fact, USM is indeed well on its way to achieving this goal. According to second-

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Students share their stories of healing and renewal

Deliah Schreiber
Free Press Staff

Well after 7 p.m., people of all ages, races and genders are still arriving. Every table in the room is taken and, by the time the first speaker takes the stage, the crowd has filled nearly every available square inch. On January 26, the Women and Gender Studies department at the University of Southern Maine aimed to share the power of healing in an event entitled "Resistance, Resilience and Renewal: Storytelling," which was led by Wendy Chapkis, a professor of sociology and women and gender studies at USM. Speakers told different stories of resistance, resilience and renewal to raise the USM community's spirits, which recent anti-minority animus had lowered.

Chapkis, who has been a part of USM's Women and Gender Studies Program for over 20 years, has personally witnessed the growth of the community, but firmly believes recent political events are what sparked a large turnout at the event. "We've been building this

community for 20 years," she said, "but to get maybe 150 or 200 people crammed in a room on a Thursday night. Clearly there is community that needs to come together."

Samaa Abdurraqib uses this platform to speak of her struggle to cope with the cancer diagnosis she was given during the summer of 2014. At first the diagnosis unsettled Abdurraqib but she found support and love through her friends and partner.

During her speech, she said, "I'm here to be with my people, to love my people and have that reflected back on me." Immediately, the room erupted in a loud clap and warm cheers, and indeed that love was reflected back onto her.

Abdurraqib not only used storytelling as a method of personal healing, but as a way of bringing together a community. "The process of generating empathy for the storyteller or recognizing some similarity between your life and what the storyteller is telling," she said. "I think that creates community. We're experiencing it all together."

Another speaker and political activist at the program, Sylvia Stormwalker, spoke a little about her emotional journey of "walking out into a grey unknown" that was her gender. Stormwalker described that, in 2011, upon the realization that she was not a boy, she gave away her possessions, quit her job and hiked down Route 1 to find herself.

A political science major at USM, Nyawal Lia, was also given the opportunity to speak at this event. She emotionally outlined some of the events which unfolded in her life regarding being an immigrant. A few years after moving to Portland from Sudan in the third grade, a legal issue pertaining to her father arose. Lia claims that the lack of support given to a foreign defendant, such as not being provided a translator, contributed to her father falsely pleading guilty because he was not made aware of what this actually meant. As a result, Lia's father spent years in jail and escaped deportation only due to the fact that Sudan was at war. She emphasized how, in a time when the deportation of immigrants is in the spotlight,

we need to remember that despite our backgrounds, "We're all human."

Nancy Foss, an attendee and alumni of USM's Women and Gender Studies Program, who graduated thirty years ago, has been to many events over the years and is often involved in programming. A testament to the growth of the community, at the time of her matriculation USM's Women and Gender Studies Program was simply known as "Women's Studies." However, over the last 30 years, it has grown to be a much more active and respected department. As Foss put it, "I am always interested in other people's activism."

Chapkis indicated that though this was the first time the Women and Gender Studies Program had put on this event, it was merely the first of many gatherings in which stories of resistance, resilience and renewal would be shared. Despite the political divide occurring across the country, the community will continue to unite.

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Photo courtesy of Acorn Productions

The group of participants in the 24 Hour Portland Theater Project poses for a photo.

24 Hour Portland Theater Project creations astound audience

Matthew Craig
Arts & Culture Editor

Over the years, there have been quite a few festivals and such that are based around the idea of creating something that would normally take months or years in the space of 24 hours. There have been television series in which each season covers an entire day. In the 24 Hour Theater Project, plays were written, directed, and performed all in 24 hours. Each play was 10 minutes long and featured, as a prop, a melon baller, a bank vault as the setting, as well as the line, “I’ve always been partial to a good sausage.”

On Saturday, January 21, Acorn Productions premiered their latest endeavor, the 24 Hour Theater Project. The night before, at 7 p.m., the participants met at Mechanics Hall on Congress Street. They all acquainted themselves with one another, some bringing hors’ d’oeuvres, and all brought a spirit of eagerness and inspiration. Each participant chose from a couple different roles in the project, such as director, actor or writer. In the end, there was a total of six groups of participants, each with its own writer, director and actors. By 7 a.m. the next morning, all of the writers are required to have completely written their plays, at which point the directors, cast and crew begin their work.

Courtney Pomerleau, a director and student at USM, found the project quite enjoyable, with a “mood... [that was] incredibly positive and uplifting.” She found that the cooperation in her group was outstanding, and felt that her stage manager, Andrew Hesselbart, “did an awesome job communicating with [them].” The experience, for Po-

merleau, was very pleasant, and she “would absolutely recommend it to anyone who wants to feel proud of a full day’s creative work.”

This can be a rewarding experience for playwrights as well. Jody Mccolman, one such playwright, who has also participated in two other 24 hour projects with Acorn Productions “had a blast every time.” He has also acted in them once, and found that very enjoyable as well. For playwrights, though, this provides “a relatively rare treat.” It isn’t every day that the average playwright sees their own work on stage, and the “tight deadline,” in conjunction with the uncommon opportunity of having an original work performed, is “great practice.” It is also worth noting that the particular project had a very good turnout, with the theater almost filled, and as such this is a great opportunity for the aspiring playwright to be noticed.

Mccolman was not the only person who acted and found the experience “satisfying and rewarding.” Brittany Burke, a junior theatre major, acted in the project this time around. She was on the same team with Mccolman. She was impressed by Mccolman’s product, and had a lot of fun acting it out.

Watching the plays there were times when, if it had not been made clear that these productions were done in 24 hours, it would be difficult to tell. Each group came together remarkably well. The plays were funny and sometimes sad, definitely inspired and varied in their subjects, despite the common elements required for each. The next will surely not disappoint.

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Art and math: a deadly combo

Fulkerson’s latest geometric gallery

Matthew Craig
Arts & Culture Editor

What are people’s minds capable of that computers aren’t? Every day, every time a person learns something they alter their own ‘circuitry.’ The creation of art, though often thought about at length and with great care, is spontaneous, or ex nihilo, which means ‘out of nothing’ in Latin.

Often, an artistic breakthrough can be made by taking something traditional and turning it on its head. Clint Fulkerson, with his exhibit Fluid Geometry, has taken inspiration from computer science and created a body of work that is philosophical and paradoxical in nature. It’s also beautiful.

Fulkerson earned a BFA in metalsmithing from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2003. Since 2007, he’s regularly had his work exhibited in various galleries. His latest exhibit, curated by USM’s Carolyn Eyler, features a new mural. The entire collection is on display at USM’s AREA Gallery in the Woodbury Campus Center.

Much of his work is heavily influenced by “science, math, and information technology,” but interestingly, Fulkerson draws on the underappreciated beauty of these subjects that are often considered dry or boring. He also relies on his own philosophies and allows his art to manifest itself “through the intuitive manipulation of art materials.”

One unique thing about this work is that the result is not predetermined. Fulkerson does not set out to produce the piece that he ends up with, rather he “devise[s] a set of rules” and creates something in accordance with those rules. Much like the algorithms that computers rely on to make decisions, he creates a piece that is logical and also relies on his feelings and influences in the moment.

Fluid Geometry will be on display in the AREA Gallery until March 31. This exhibit is new to the university, and those with philosophical leanings will find it interesting.

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HEAVY ROTATION |

WHAT CAUGHT THE EYES AND EARS OF OUR STAFF THIS WEEK

Shyamalan's latest doesn't split critical opinion

John Rocker, *Staff*
Aaron Halls, *Staff*

Plot:

After attending a party, Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy) and her two classmates Claire (Haley Lu Richardson) and Marcia (Jessica Sula) are captured by a mysterious man named Kevin (James McAvoy), who has dissociative identity disorder, which gives him 23 different personalities. Trapped in an undisclosed location, Casey, Claire and Marcia must figure out how to escape from their abductor and his various personalities.

What Did We Like?

A: The key elements that made this film work for me were the performances and direction. James McAvoy gives an incredible performance as Kevin and his multiple personalities. Using specific facial expressions, body language and speaking patterns, McAvoy brings to life his character's various personalities, making them all seem unique, whether it be one that's more innocent or



Universal Pictures

one that is intimidating. Also fantastic is Anya Taylor-Joy as Casey. Here she shines, conveying her character's intelligence and resourcefulness, but also showing vulnerable aspects of her character, such as fear due the situation she and the other girls find themselves in. Betty Buckley is another stand-out as Dr. Karen Fletcher, who is Kevin's psychologist. Her character is a nice presence in the film as a woman who is passionate about her choice of work and genuine about wanting to help Kevin navigate his various personalities. M. Night Shyamalan, through

his direction, gives the film a lot of tension, which had me on the edge of my seat.

J: Aaron covered a lot of what I liked about the film, but there are many other things to like about this film. One thing I found interesting was the way it was shot. A majority of the shots of people had them centered in the frame, and this is something that's not common in most shot compositions. These shots were close to each character, allowing me to understand the emotion that each one was feeling. I also liked how things were revealed. If a character acts a certain way and you're wondering why they're like that, the film will answer it. It just requires patience.

What Did We Dislike?

A: There are one or two scenes that I think might have went on just a bit too long, but I don't think it ruined the overall quality of the film.

J: The only thing I dislike about the film actually has nothing to do with what happens in the film, but the marketing that surrounds it. Normally, I'm not looking for

every new trailer that comes out, but the marketing was so aggressive for this film that they showed off a lot of clips for it. I found myself knowing where the story was going because I'd already seen it. There was only one thing that genuinely surprised me, and that's because it hadn't been shown in commercials or trailers.

Who Do We Think This Is For?

A: If you are a fan of psychological thrillers, fascinating performances or maybe a fan of M. Night Shyamalan (but have counted him out due to his recent filmography), I think you'll get a lot of enjoyment from Split. A note I'll add is that this movie relies on audience members not knowing what's coming next in the plot, so if you can try to avoid seeing trailers, to echosimilar to John's point, I think it will enhance your overall experience.

J: If you're looking for an entertaining thriller, you'll find it with this film.

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Chocobo Choo-Choo: Final Fantasy XV Review

Dionne Smith
Free Press Staff

Final Fantasy XV is another installment in Square Enix's Final Fantasy franchise. It holds up to the norm of monsters, magic and interesting plot lines. But is the game worth \$60?

Story:

Final Fantasy XV takes place in Lucis, which is ruled by King Regis Lucis Caelum. The story starts

with King Regis sending off his son, Noctis, accompanied by three of his friends, Gladiolus (Gladio), Ignis and Prompto, to travel to the city Altissia to marry a woman named Lunafreya, who is an Oracle and can talk to gods. Their marriage is not only for the sake of love, but for the sake of a treaty between Lucis and the empire of Niflheim, an opposing force that has been battling Lucis, and which has the Oracle under its control. So with three

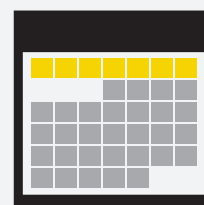
friends, one beautiful car named the Regalia, some new leather outfits and no money, the three set out on their quest. The first half of the game deals with story-building and focuses on walking around and exploring while the second half is more straightforward and action packed, focused around the plot's climax.

Gameplay:

This is an open-world game, which means you can

travel anywhere. The player has full control over Noctis, who can teleport due to his ability to throw his sword and teleport to it. As a big part of the open world, traveling can be done in one of three ways. Ignis can drive the team around, Noctis can take the wheel after a certain point in the game, or fast travel can be used.

Read the rest online:
usmfreepress.org



A&C Listings

Tuesday, January 31

Field of Vision Shorts (film)
Space Gallery
538 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 Starts: 7:30

Wednesday, February 1

Blind Pilot
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 Starts: 8:00

Thursday, February 2

The Ballroom Thieves
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 Starts: 8:00

Alash Ensemble
One Longfellow Square
Starts: 8:00

Friday, February 3

Whiskey Myers
Port City Music Hall
504 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 Starts: 8:00

Saturday, February 4

The Wood Brothers
State Theatre
609 Congress St.
Doors: 7:00 Starts: 8:00

Sunday, February 5

Peter Mulvey
One Longfellow Square
Starts: 3:00

Want to submit an event?
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Perspectives

Editor Perspective

Suspension of Syrian refugees in U.S.

The executive order implemented by Trump attacks the innocent without solving the issue

Editorial Board
Free Press Staff

There's no need to reiterate the fact of Donald Trump's presidency, everyone is painfully aware. Since assuming office, he's ordered media blackouts, attacked Planned Parenthood, ordered Mexico to pay for a wall along the Mexico - United States border and banned Muslim immigration while allowing Christian immigration from the same regions.

The Donald Trump pill has been incredibly difficult to swallow for some, even prompting a renewed petition for the secession of California from the union. Despite his campaign to 'Make America Great Again', the 45th President of the United States has done a remarkably good job of dividing Americans.

President Trump's recent executive order, which he signed on Friday, will suspend admissions for Syrian refugees seeking asylum in America. In addition, it will limit the flow of other refugees - as Trump claimed, it would be an "extreme vetting" of immigrants. Last Saturday, Reuters reported that five Iraqi passengers and one Yemeni were barred from boarding an EgyptAir flight from Cairo to New York. These passengers were stopped and redirected to flights headed to their home countries, despite the fact that these individuals hold valid visas.

Trump's executive order will halt the entry of citizens from seven different Muslim-majority countries, will stop people from particular countries from entering the U.S. for 90 days, and aims to suspend Refugee Admissions for 120 days. Upon its reinstatement, it will be decided by Trump's cabinet which countries can be properly vetted. The issue at hand, then, is the growth of nationalism and individualistic ideologies.

"We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country and love deeply our people," Trump stated in an interview with CNN, but the implications of this executive order reach far beyond such a broad and unexplained statement. To put this in perspective, consider

the 10,000 refugees Obama has vowed to admit during his presidency, which accumulates to only one-fifth of the 1 percent that are fleeing to America. Hillary Clinton had vowed to take in more refugees, but Trump has completely different perspective on refugees, particularly those coming from Syria.

This fear of terrorism has led the people of the Western world to stereotype minorities. To look back in history, we remember the denial of Anne Frank into the United States, as she was fleeing Nazi Germany during WWII. How can anyone support a man whose ideologies include the suppression of human rights, freedom of the press and the idea that America should be the "shining example" of a nation-state?

Why do governmental officials get to decide what women do with their bodies, or where people seek safety and security? Today's Syrian refugee, as noted in various op-eds across the journalism world over the past few days, is WWII's Anne Frank. If this isn't enough to prove that Donald Trump has fascist ideologies, then there's no saving your opinion now.

Syrian refugees are not the enemy. Children running from bombings and slaughter are not the enemy. Immigrants seeking a safe home for their families and themselves are not the enemy. Trump's order puts real, innocent human lives at risk, under the guise of "national security."

Fear of people who look like "enemies" is nothing new in the United States. Just months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1942, President Roosevelt ordered that all persons of Japanese ancestry be relocated to internment camps. This order tore families apart and resulted in over 120,000 Japanese-Americans, many of whom had citizenship or were born in the U.S., being taken from their homes. The Trump administration has shown itself to be an entity determined to persecute those who do not fit the specifications of an antiquated American mold. The question is: who will stand in its way?

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Sustainability and ME

Exciting pilot project to launch in several USM dorms this Spring

Miranda Nemitz
Contributor

Some of us hate it. Some of us love it. But regardless of our personal experience with it, cleaning is something that most of us are familiar with by the time we get to a college campus.

We use cleaning products to disinfect our surroundings by killing bacteria that over time can make us sick. While the health of our surroundings and living spaces is important to overall human health, many common cleaning products such as Windex, Pine Sol and Clorox wipes are unnecessarily harsh and contain toxic ingredients which can irritate lungs, burn eyes, make skin itchy, and cause headaches.

Chemical ingredients that are harmful to humans are understandably harmful for the environment as well when they are flushed or rinsed into our public sewer systems or end up in our garbage.

The USM Office of Sustainability carries out a program called "Mindful Moveout" (<https://usm.maine.edu/sustainability/residence-hall-move-out>) every spring when residential students move out of the dorms. Last year in particular, they noticed a lot of half-used cleaning supplies in the trash.

When I became a USM Eco-rep last fall and started working with the Office of Sustainability, I began thinking about how I could make a difference on USM's campuses in regards to student health. The result of this partnership is an exciting pilot project that will launch this spring.

So what was the idea? You guessed it: eco-friendly cleaning products! Instead of buying pre-made ones, we will make our own using simple, non-toxic ingredients like baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, vinegar, water and essential oils. Doing this will not only be more cost effective, but will also guarantee that all the ingredients are safe.

Working with the support of USM

Residential Life and Facilities, we will make, store, monitor, and restock a few dorms on the Gorham campus with an all-purpose cleaner. Students will have access to this cleaner at their convenience, which they will be able to "check out" from common spaces to clean their individual living spaces.

Each bottle will be labeled with ingredients, how-to instructions and suggested uses. If all goes well this semester, there is potential to expand this project to all of the dorms next semester. If this is the case, we will be sure to advertise this project to incoming freshman so they'll know they don't need to bring their own cleaning supplies to the dorms.

This is a wonderful way for USM students to save money on cleaning products, to keep their living spaces clean without having to worry about harmful toxins, and to help work towards a safer environment by keeping cleaning products out of the waste stream.

Although this project is intended for residential USM students, the USM Eco-reps are also looking to do at least one green-clean DIY event this spring open to all students, where students will be able to learn recipes to make their own cleaners to use in their homes and apartments throughout southern Maine.

Because this is a brand new idea and project, we will observe how it goes. We recognize that there will likely be changes that happen before we get it just right! I am open to ideas or opinions from anyone who like to help to make this project a success.

We are looking for help coming up with a brand name and design for our bottles. If you are interested in this aspect, or for more information, please email me, at miranda.nemitz@maine.edu, or the project's staff advisor, Emily Eschner, at emily.eschner@maine.edu. Thank you all for your support!

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Letter from the Editor

How the death of a childhood friend was relived through a polaroid

Amber taught me what it means to appreciate life

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

Yesterday, I stumbled upon a Polaroid photo while cleaning my closet. The image is now faded, discolored by time and folded gently in the corner. I believe it was taken in the summer of 2008, but my childhood memories are beginning to blur as I continue to grow older.

I am seated next to Amber at Saco Bay Variety, and together we smile for the photographer. I cannot remember if Amber asked a stranger to take it, or if Sonny (the manager) took it for us.

We lived within walking distance to each other, and each morning we sat together on the bus and did the same on the ride home. Amber was always so funny, and our bus adventures almost always ended with the bus driver scolding us for being too hyperactive.

After school, we often walked in the cemetery - Amber loved to adventure and always found beauty in the mundane. She once told me if you look close enough to the trees, you could always see a familiar face sculpted in the intricacies of the bark. It is because of Amber that I learned to appreciate the little things.

One summer, Amber and I attempted to fix up my childhood clubhouse, merely 5 feet tall, and dreamed of decorating it with a shag rug and stocking it with lots of food. We painted the interior with shades Amber had chosen; dark purples, stunning reds, bright golds.

We would do our homework in the clubhouse during the school year, and go swimming in the pool very often during our Summer vacations. Some afternoons, Amber and I would visit Josephine, my other great childhood friend, and together we would jump on the trampoline, often for hours, performing crazy jumps and spins while we talked of life and love and growing up.

One afternoon, Amber and I were scanning through various magazines, hoping to cut out our favorite images to decorate our miniature play palace. Briefly, Amber gasped, and flashed me a photo from her fashion magazine: It was an image of a beautiful woman in what appeared to be a chain-link dress.

As my father came out to check on us, young sweet Amber yelled to him, "Mr. Scribner! Mr. Scribner! Do you like her

dress? Isn't she beautiful?" and my father walked over, his hands caked in dry-compound, his eyes tired from a long day at work.

When he looked at the image, he smiled, looked straight into Amber's eyes and said, "Yes, she is." I smiled at my father, and looked over at Amber as she taped it to the clubhouse wall - I remember this moment with great fondness. Amber wasn't afraid to express herself and my father always encouraged that aspect of her personality.

With Amber gone, it feels like I have lost a piece of my childhood, because the person I shared these memories with is no longer here to remember them with me. Amber and I last talked in the Summer of 2014. More matured, Sonny greeted us with his typical smile, and remarked on how much we had grown. We talked still of our hopes and dreams, but never made time to meet again. I suppose that is what time does; it robs us of familiarity, but gifts us with lifelong memories.

When I look at this photo, discolored by age, I see the smiling faces of two young children, trying to understand the world and all its possibilities. I see the curiosity in our eyes, wondering how aging would change us and how time would morph our friendship. While I can't quite remember who took the photo, I do remember Amber taking back her Polaroid camera, gently pulling the film out and waving it in the air to process. She handed it to me, and we looked together, amazed at how such a machine could capture such a small moment in time.

She said maybe one day, many years down the road, I would find this photo hidden in a forgotten corner, and remember the beauty that was in the moment.

When I look at the tree's during Cemetery walks, I can still see those faces staring back at me. When I look at rain puddles, I remember the two of us closing our eyes, splashing in them, pretending we had transported to a parallel universe where the puddle served as a portal. When I see leaf piles, I think of Amber hiding beneath them and jumping out in a glorious burst of fall colors.

Amber, thank you for the gift of my childhood memories. I will carry them with me, like this photograph of us, for always.

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Advising Advice

I can't get into the major I want! What should I do?

Janis Albright, Janet Etzel
and Netty Provost
Academic Advisors

Here's a scenario: You have chosen what you think is perfect major but then you discover that you can't get into that major right now, or you're rethinking whether it's the best fit for you. Does this sound like you?

Don't panic! This is a great opportunity to step back, take a deep breath, and look at your long-term goals. First, what motivated you to choose this major? Is it really your choice, or are there expectations being placed on you by family or friends? If so, again your Advisors can help you prepare meaningful conversations with these people so you can better explain the rationale for your own choice.

Second, have you considered all your options and thoroughly researched different majors? One of the most helpful things you can do is to talk with multiple people about what major to choose. Remember that your Professional and Faculty Advisors are here to help.

Advisors can share ideas, resources, and offer support to help you find the right major. They can offer tools to help match your interests and skills to majors that you may not have considered, along with resources to help you learn more about yourself.

For example, if you are interested in the Nursing major, but not yet able to enter the major, advisors can show you tools to explore other health related careers and majors.

You can also visit the Office of Engagement and Career Development (available on all 3 campuses), or the Drucker Center at the Lewiston Auburn campus. Staff

there can help you identify your skills and strengths and connect you with experts in the field so that you can figure out the best pathway to a meaningful career. These offices also provide volunteer, job shadowing and internship opportunities which help you discover or confirm what you want to do in the future.

Another reason why you may not be able to reach your goal is due to the GPA requirements of your desired major. Are you studying smartly and using support services like tutoring and study groups? The Learning Commons in the Portland and Gorham campus libraries and the Writing Center at our Lewiston campus provides tutoring, space for study groups, and resources to help to improve academic skills such as time management and test taking.

Sometimes life outside of college can also create challenges for academic success so University Health and Counseling Centers are also available to help and support you.

If you're not sure how to move forward, schedule a meeting with your Advisors or a faculty member in your desired major. They can help you identify roadblocks you may facing and work with you to strategize actions steps to maximize your chances of getting into your desired major in a reasonable timeline.

Make sure to also consider your desired graduation date and financial resources. Advisors and other campus resources are here to help so use these resources to insure you're thinking strategically and developing a solid plan for future success.

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Let's Talk About It

The first seven days of Trump: the darkest week of the year

Johnna Ossie
News Editor

Many people in my family voted for Donald Trump, and since the election, I haven't known what to say to them. My aunts and uncles, my cousins, even my dad. I haven't been able to look at them the same way. I peer at them like I'm looking at someone through a clouded window, trying to make out who's on the other side, but I can't quite see.

My mom says, "They still love you, even though your views are different," and I wish I believed that it's true. I wonder how it could be, when the person they helped elect into office, and those he's now selecting for his cabinet, actively seek to take my rights away, the rights of my loved ones, the rights of my peers. His supporters yell racial slurs at and attack People of Color; they spray paint "faggot" on the doors of the LGBTQ community; they chase my friends out of bathrooms yelling slurs; they grab women on the street.

They speak out against against queer people, against People of Color, against all women, against refugees, against immigrants, against Jewish people. It's not just a difference of opinion anymore (or maybe it never was just that). It's a difference in moral values. It's a lack of respect for human life, for our lives, for our rights. Everything is in jeopardy.

But Trump's win isn't just on them. It's on us too. For not organizing, for not calling enough, not having enough hard conversations, not getting to the polls. It's on all of us, and now it's on all of us to do everything (everything!) in our power to keep our communities safe, to hold ourselves accountable, to show up, again and again and again.

Like many people I know, after the election, I was distraught. I was drinking all the time, I barely slept, and I felt absolutely hopeless. Not numb, more like a slow, bubbling panic. Now I don't have time to be distraught. I don't have time to engage in "friendly debate" with acquaintances. There are real lives on the line. These are our real lives. Everyday it seems like we wake up to some new nightmare. *The Handmaid's Tale* has never been so close to coming true.

A woman talked with me in the student center on Thursday as I was asking people to fill out postcards for Senator Collins, asking her to take an open stance against Trump's ban on immigrants from Muslim-majority countries (among many other things). She said she was an immigrant to this country, but she was waiting for her children before she got citizenship. She hasn't seen them in eleven years. Now she wonders if she will ever see them again. Her children. Her babies. Some students were afraid to sign their names. Some worried for their families, their friends, their own lives.

I felt like weeping for her, for her family, for our country. How far we have strayed from being on the right side of history. How we leave the most vulnerable ones behind. How we can't seem to learn from our mistakes, again and again and again. *1984* has become a best seller again. It's happening. It's here.

But I don't have time to weep. I have work to do. I have calls to make. I have rallies to attend, I have petitions to create, I have organizations to support, I have friends to comfort, I have miles and miles and miles to go before I sleep.

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Letter to the Editor



Mickey Bedell / BDN Staff

Senator Susan Collins actions make me feel uncomfortable in my hometown

Terry Dubois
Contributor

When I was four or five years old, my friend hit me in the stomach with a large rock. That's how I felt when I heard Senator Susan Collins had "introduced" Jeff Sessions with a glowing reference. I was stomach punched, and I still haven't recovered from the visceral impact. I'm embarrassed. I'm ashamed. I'm sad. I'm angry.

I am a proud Mainer. I always thought about what luck I had to be born here. I figured I would be safe here, even when the world goes to ruin. We could stay put, hunker down, and hibernate. We do it every winter already. This is my home, and as a voter, I must take responsibility for the people who are elected by my fellow Mainers.

What really pisses me off about this disgraceful cheerleading for Sessions is that it wasn't Senator Collins' political capital to spend. She didn't have to volunteer to help this particular man for this particular job for this particular state. She stuck her neck out to purposefully help Jeff Sessions get the confirmation! And she represents me!

With the backdrop of (He's Not My)

Governor Lepage rivaling anything Archie Bunker ever said, but not as funny, Senator Collins actions make me feel really uncomfortable in my own hometown, and uncomfortable in my own skin. Millions of people across the nation will be negatively impacted by the confirmation of this man, I worry. Why are the leaders of this beautiful state supporting ugly racism from years gone by? This is not the Maine of Joshua Chamberlain and Margaret Chase Smith.

No, Senator Collins does not get a pass on this. If she can stick her neck out, then I as a voter can stick my neck out, too. I disagree with what the senator did to the very core of my being.

I get it. She thinks he's a nice guy. I understand that emotion. But Sessions is a monstrous choice for U.S. Attorney General. We all know it. The only reasonable response for Senator Collins is to withdraw her support.

We know what this cost her, but what political capital did Senator Collins earn from all this?

And from where?
And for what?

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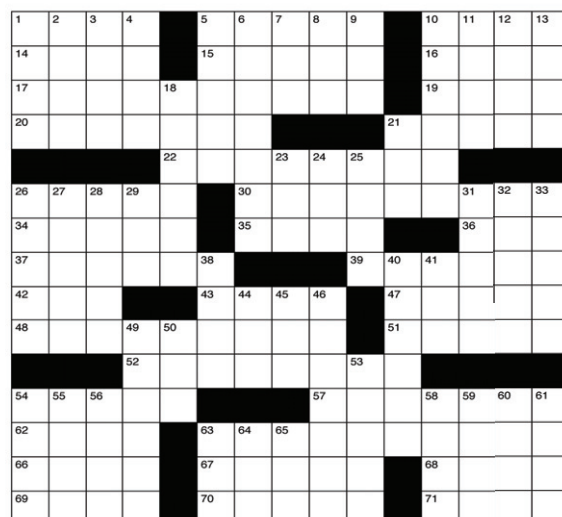
We want to know your feedback

Send your opinions & comments to:
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Crossword

Across

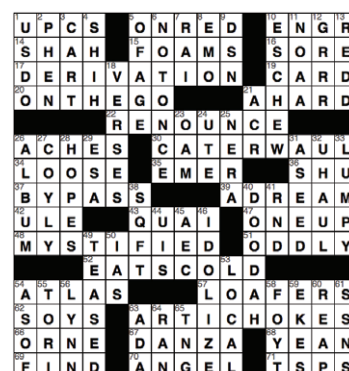
1. Unique case
 5. "___ of Ice and Fire" (George R.R. Martin series)
 10. Line on a graph
 14. Nick Charles's wife
 15. Five in a series
 16. "The Road Taken" novelist Jaffe
 17. Lacking liveliness
 19. Door to the outside
 20. Capital of Cameroon
 21. Large bill
 22. Wobbled
 26. Susan of "All My Children"
 30. Part of some hats
 34. "___ Really Going Out With Him?"
 35. ___ cow (flips out)
 36. Burro
 37. Fast part of a river ride
 39. Pint-sized
 42. ___ Khan (Ismaili Imam)
 43. Actress Dawber and others
 47. Fatty acid
 48. Robot's lack
 51. Hawaiian ___
 52. Most disorderly
 54. Something to talk about
 57. Berate profanely
 62. QED part
 63. Maintain one's position
 66. X-___ (tool brand)
 67. Displays
 68. Scottish slope
 69. At that point
 70. Like ___ out of water
 71. Tailor-made



Down

1. "I ___ Have Eyes for You"
 2. U.S. weather grp.
 3. Mathematician Rubik
 4. Brand of jarred sauce
 5. Homestead
 6. "Saved By The Bell" nerd
 7. "Deep Space Nine" shapeshifter
 8. Not old, in Berlin
 9. Guy's gals, in text-speak
 10. Writer Hanrah
 11. Hugs and kisses, in symbols
 12. "What's ___ for me?"
 13. Hit the spot
 18. Loose, as shoestrings
 21. Yearly tech show
 23. Bangkok-based carrier's code
 24. ___ for elephant
 25. Genetic materials
 26. Turkish "dollars"
 27. English topic
 28. Network showing Capitol Hill proceedings
 29. Frat letter
 31. College student's fare, often
 32. Gelled garnish
 33. ___ out (win a mind game)
 38. Shoot out
 40. Musical list
 41. Nome knife
 44. Clause connector
 45. AT&T competitor
 46. Fluctuates
 49. A Neptune moon
 50. Gp. headquartered in Lausanne, Switz.
 53. Skirt movement
 54. Udder part
 55. Theater sect.
 56. Goose liver product
 58. Andrews, Langley, et al. (abbr.)
 59. Laugh, to Toulouse-Lautrec
 60. Get ___ deal
 61. Many Feds
 63. Mandela's nat.
 64. Ham's frequency range (abbr.)
 65. Pronoun for Miss Piggy

The solution to last issue's crossword



Sudoku

Level of difficulty: Hard

The object of a sudoku 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.



Word Search

Theme: Food

Search for the list of words in the grid of letters. Grab a pen and circle each word as you find them.



appetite
 beverages
 bread
 dairy
 delicious
 dessert
 eat
 eggs
 feast
 fish
 food
 fruit
 gourmet
 grain
 meat
 nutrition
 pasta
 vegetables

Cryptogram

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

WB H PHLWKWHT'Z SAWKEZ VXAX HVBGN,
 W WPHLWTX YX KMGNO PHEX SYX VYMNX
 HGOWXTKX OWZHDDXHA.

And here is your hint: Y = H



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USM Community Page

Islamic studies minor in the works at USM

The opportunity to look at Islamic culture from an academic viewpoint could help foster understanding

Kelly Scrima
Free Press Staff

USM is currently in the planning stages of adding a minor in Islamic studies.

The idea of an Islamic studies minor has been on the minds of faculty and students for some time. However, it's taken a while for things to actually get started. According to Brendan Butler, a fourth-year sociology and international relations major, the moment that set things in motion was a meeting with Glenn Cummings and the Muslim Student Association.

"I laughingly brought up that I had taken almost every class the university had on Islam and could probably capture a cluster (which doesn't exist)," Butler remarked, "but most students in the room said that they had thought of the very same thing."

Butler said that there are high schools, such as Deering High School, which offer classes on Islam and on Arabic. Establishing an Islamic studies minor at USM means that students from Deering High School would have the opportunity to further their studies in Islamic culture. It can also create a dialogue between people of all faiths and cultures about Islamic culture, which would promote the sort of diverse thinking USM has, over the years, put an emphasis on, an initiative that has continued to grow in many respects today.

For instance, Abraham Peck, adjunct professor of history, directed a program called Academic Council for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies from 2003–2008 at USM. There are also several outlets in the Woodbury Campus Cen-



Bradford Spurr / Multimedia Editor

Student Body President Humza Khan has been helping with the Initiative to bring an Islamic Studies Minor to the University of Southern Maine. Khan has explained that the minor will be between 6-12 credits and will help focus political discussion.

"Islam has been part of the American narrative for centuries. It did not come to Maine with the arrival of recent Muslim immigrants..."

- Reza Jalali
Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs

ter on the Portland campus that advocate for on- and off-campus diversity.

Peck stressed the importance of the academic study of religion and how such study can promote religious tolerance.

"The study of religion at a public university is just that [a study]," he said. "It is in no way intended to propagate religious belief or raise one religion above another."

Peck went on to say, "The Islamic studies minor will be of great benefit to both Muslim and non-Muslim students. It will introduce a rigorous academic examination of Islam in

all of its 1400-plus-year history to build for both groups a much clearer understanding of themselves and the image of the 'Other' based on factual interpretations and not the stuff of anecdotal or stereotypical representations."

The structure of the minor, according to Peck, could include courses on world religions, on interreligious dialogue and on Islam in America.

About the minor, Humza Khan, USM student body president, said, "It will be a minor between 6-12 credits. Classes will range from Arabic classes (which are currently available) to classes that discuss Islam and politics. We are hoping to also have classes that focus on discussion around current events, so having classes that focus on the current events in Middle Eastern or African countries will be a great idea."

The minor in Islamic studies will potentially allow for interfaith dialogue and provide an opportunity for open discussions within not only the USM community, but in local communities.

"We have seen a lot of interest from local church groups, companies, and organization have would like to have training opportunities for their employees or members," Khan said. "So this initiative obviously first and foremost serves

the students of USM, but also serves the greater Portland community."

Reza Jalali, USM's Coordinator of Multicultural Student Affairs, argued the minor will help students attain a "better understanding and appreciation of Islam, the youngest Abrahamic religion."

"Islam has been part of the American narrative for centuries. It did not come to Maine with the arrival of recent Muslim immigrants," Jalali said. "The minor will showcase USM's commitment to academic excellence and providing our students with the intellectual inquiries, critical thinking that they, upon their graduation, will need to be a global citizen. My personal hope is to see a center of academic excellence of Judeo-Christian-Islamic studies."

While the minor is still in the planning stages, both professors and students alike are invested in ensuring the minor will be a success. The timeline for when students will be able to declare the minor is unknown, but there are classes available that focus on Islamic studies which students can look into until then.

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People of USM

Dana McDaniel, Head of USM's Linguistics Department

Get a closer look at the background of an intriguing linguist

Jordan Castaldo
USM Free Press Staff

Dana McDaniel is known to most as the head of the USM Linguistics Department. However, having the pleasure of getting to know her a bit further, and to focus more on her linguistics background and not just her job, it becomes apparent just how interesting McDaniel is.

McDaniel was born in New York City, N.Y. She received her undergraduate degree at SUNY Binghamton, where she double majored in linguistics and French. At the CUNY Graduate School, she pursued her Ph.D. in linguistics.

From a young age, McDaniel has been intrigued by the concept of language and how it evolves in the human mind. McDaniel's mother was from Germany and knew the German language fluently. This, combined with McDaniel's interest in languages and linguistics, led her, at the age of twelve, to start speaking German at home with her mother.

McDaniel is currently conducting a linguistics study, where participants learn a mini made-up language in an hour. The study explores language variation and why languages tend to use certain structures over others. For example, there are a number of ways that questions are formed in different languages. Some languages shift the order of the subject and verb, whereas others start or end a sentence with a question word, but none form a question by saying the corresponding declarative sentence backward. McDaniel created two different versions of a made-up language for the study to see if participants are more



Jordan Castaldo / Free Press Staff

Dana McDaniel sits in her office on Exeter Street on the USM Portland campus. At this location, she conducts her linguistic study using a language she developed.

"Linguistics is the scientific approach to language. It's a cognitive science."

- Dana McDaniel
Head of USM's Linguistics Department

likely to use certain structures over others depending on which version they were given. McDaniel has made sure that the language is clearly different from English, so that participants do not simply impose English structure onto the new language.

Of course, as the head of the department, McDaniel wants to educate the public about general linguistics, since most people know little about it. McDaniel finds that one common misconception is the belief that linguists know many languages when, in fact, they usually don't. Instead, they know about a lot about different languages. Personally, McDaniel knows about how questions are structured in a large variety of languages, though she is not able to

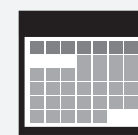
speak those languages. Linguists are interested in studying the linguistic system of the human mind, not necessarily in being polyglots.

She pointed out that the goal of high school grammar classes usually has to do with learning to write effectively. This makes it very different from linguistics. A general piece of knowledge on the topic of linguistics that McDaniel felt was important for readers to have was the definition of linguistics.

"Linguistics is the scientific approach to language. It's a cognitive science," McDaniel said.

If you are interested in participating in McDaniel's linguistics study, you can e-mail McDaniel at dana.mcdaniel@maine.edu. Since the study takes an hour, she is compensating people with \$15 gift certificates. She is hoping to have some preliminary results by March.

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Community Events

Monday, January 30

Film Showing: Do Not Resist
USM Portland Campus
Luther Bonney Auditorium
Starts: 6:00 p.m. / Ends 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31

Our Parks, Our Future: David Evans Shaw
USM Portland Campus
Hannaford Hall Abromson Center
Starts: 5:00 p.m. / Ends: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1

Student Support Network Training
USM Portland Campus
The Recovery Oriented Campus Center
Starts: 2:00 p.m. / Ends: 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 2

Eat Your Art Out
USM Portland campus
The Recovery Oriented Campus Center
Starts: 5:00 p.m. / Ends: 6:00 p.m.

Friday, February 3

Speak Up! Speak Out! Advocacy Training
USM Portland Campus
The Recovery Oriented Campus Center
Starts: 5:30 p.m. / Ends: 7:30 p.m.

Hubble Vision 2
USM Portland Campus
Southworth Planetarium
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 4

Chinese New Year Celebration
Westbrook Performing Arts Center
417 Stroudwater St., Westbrook
Starts: 10:00 a.m. / Ends: 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 5

Bookbinding and the Pursuit of Human Touch
USM Portland Campus
Glickman Library 7th floor
Starts: 8:00 a.m. / Ends: 5:00 p.m.

Like what you see? Hate what you see?
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Want us to include your event?
maryellen@usmfreepress.org

Sports

Wednesday

Women's Basketball

@ Colby College
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Basketball

@ Colby College
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Ice Hockey

vs. Bowdoin
7:00 p.m.

Friday

Women's Indoor Track

Maine State
Championship
6:00 p.m.

Friday

Women's Ice Hockey

@ Plymouth State
6:00 p.m.

Huskies basketball finds success on Gorham Night

Men and women's basketball honor town of Gorham with wins

Erin Brown
Sports Editor

The University of Southern Maine's men's and women's basketball teams honored the town of Gorham last Wednesday night with their annual Gorham Night. Members from Gorham's third and fourth grade youth basketball teams filled the stands and played during halftime. A free

With the LEC win over PSU, women's basketball snapped a 10 game losing streak.

raffle for gift cards to businesses around the Gorham was offered and teams such as baseball stood in attendance and gave out free t-shirts and baked goods.

Amongst the light-hearted celebrating, the town the houses our university, the Little East Conference matchups against Plymouth State University Panthers

brought that much more energy to Fifield Court.

Women's basketball (3-15) snapped a 10 game losing streak when they beat the Panthers (5-12) by a score of 61-60. The two teams were neck and neck throughout the entire contest, it took until the last ten seconds of play to decide a winner.

The first half of the game the Huskies held a slight lead over the Panthers with the score of 27-24. Ten of the Huskies' points in the first half came from freshman Chantel Eells (Turner, ME/ Leavitt). Eells went three for three with field goals in the first half and four for six at the free-throw line.

In the second half, the Huskies utilized their reserves and showed their strength on the court. Junior Kayla Stacey (Auburn, NH/ Pinkerton Academy) drained two threes for six points in the second half. Sophomore Kimberly Howrigan (Fairfield, VT/ Bellows Free Academy) tallied eight points in the second half, including the lay-up in the last ten seconds that eventually won the game for the Huskies.

Eells scored a team high of 13 points against Plymouth State Wednesday night. Eells also picked up four rebounds and one



Carly Coombs / Free Press Staff

(Right to left) Junior Christian McCue (Hampden, ME) and senior Zach Leal (York, ME) were point leaders in the Huskies' 63-58 victory.

assist. Emily Nicholson (Quispamsis, New Brunswick/ Kennebecasis Valley) followed with 11 points, three rebounds and three assists. Miranda Nicely (Farmington, ME/ Mt. Blue) was the third Husky to score double digits. Nicely tallied two rebounds, two assists and four steals.

A Panthers' player in particular achieved a collegiate milestone Wednesday night as well. In her 21-point night, senior DeAsia 'Ace' Lawrence (Middletown, CT) scored her 1,000 college point. Senior Kayla Wyland (Melrose, MA) scored the second highest for the Panthers with 20 points.

Men's basketball (7-11) also took down the Plymouth State Panthers (8-9) 63-58. It was another close game on Fifield Court for the Huskies. The Panthers pulled out with the lead early on, but the Huskies found their momentum and pulled back within range to take the first half.

The Huskies edged the Panthers 25-24 after the first half, with standout performances by senior Zach Leal (York, ME/ York), who scored 14 points for the Huskies. In the second half, junior Christian McCue (Hampden, ME/ Hampden Academy) helped the Huskies outscore the Pan-

thers 38-34 with the ten points he put up within the last ten minutes of play. Leal scored another 12 points in the second half and both sealed the deal for the Huskies 63-58 win over Plymouth State University.

Leal was the top scorer for USM, with 26 points. This is Leal's third highest for the 2016-2017 season. In addition, Leal also tallied five rebounds, three assists, one steal and two blocks. McCue followed Leal with 13 points, two rebounds and one assist. James Stark III (Miami, FL/ Miami Killian Senior) followed with 11 points, nine rebounds, one assist and one steal. Reserve Greg Knight (Hampden, ME/ Hampden Academy) also had a night with eight points, seven defensive rebounds, one assist and one block.

After both wins, the men's and women's basketball teams currently have a 2-6 record within the Little East Conference. Both teams return to Fifield Court Feb. 4 to take on Keene State College for a special celebration of 50 years of women's athletics at the University of Southern Maine.

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Carly Coombs / Free Press Staff

Freshman Chantel Eells (Turner, ME) scored a team high of 13 points for the Huskies in a nailbiting 61-60 win over Plymouth State.

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