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**"My Aunt lives  
in Aleppo, some  
of my father's  
family sided  
with Assad, but  
I am against  
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**Cover Photo:** Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Excessive snowfall and ice

*After a crazy week of school cancellations, let's get back to the important things*



Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

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

Last week, while snowfall accumulated in Portland, inch by inch, I found myself looking out at my vehicle half hidden beneath sheets of white. I'd like to think that these snowstorms give me time to think - I often stay home on days like these, reading, hoping that maybe a break from the stresses of school will rewire my brain and give me some peace of mind. Yet, I often feel the opposite. In moments of silence, alone with my thoughts, I've been replaying the events of this school year so far over and over in my head. Trump is our President, refugees feel

unsafe and unwelcome, a conservative speaker who thinks "if women get abortions, men should be able to force themselves on women," will be speaking on campus, people are dying in Aleppo and I'm privileged enough to know none of that pain.

I write this in hopes that perhaps others will see my point: While snow is falling, accumulating and making life a little harder here in Maine, social politics across the world is causing havoc for many. It's been happening slowly: first, with the uprising of divides in social policies and political ideologies, where the alt-right and alt-left cannot find common ground of understand-

ing. It's been falling on us like the snow, little by little, this tension amongst the American people, this tension that has risen across the globalized world of communication and media consumption.

While this comparison might be a bit off, I can say only this: When the snow keeps falling, or the tensions keep rising, it's important we find our footing and trudge through the storm. We must fight for survival, to hear our voices heard. In this issue, we cover some of the ways in which USM community members are beginning to do this. Regardless of the freezing temperatures, hundreds gathered for a Planned Parenthood Rally

last week in support of women's health. We talked to Deena Raef, who still has family in Aleppo and so desperately wishes the world wasn't so cruel. We talk about Larry Lockman, who will be speaking on campus, and we write our opinion regarding what freedom of speech truly means in comparison to hate speech.

So open up our paper, and read the words of your community members. We will not give up or stand down until we know for sure we've survived the storm.

We want to know your thoughts on the political divide: [editor@usmfreepress.org](mailto:editor@usmfreepress.org)



# For some students, the war in Syria hits close to home

## *Dalia Muayad and Deena Raef have family who live in Aleppo and Damascus*

**Sarah Tewksbury**  
Free Press Staff

Mahmud Faksh, a USM professor of political science, has called the Syrian Civil War the “greatest tragedy of the century.” It has had a global impact, triggering a massive refugee crisis, and has affected all corners of the world. In Portland, two USM students, cousins Dalia Muayad and Deena Raef, have close ties to Syria.

Both born in the U.S., Muayad and Raef are aspiring dentists, and though their futures look bright today, they have both experienced their fair share of darkness due to the war. Because of their bonds to Syria, Muayad and Raef understand how the war took hold and has developed since 2011.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in response to the 2011 Arab Spring protests calling for his removal from office, repressed Syrian citizens violently, ultimately leading to the conflict known as the Syrian Civil War. The war has been a proxy war for world powers and has resulted in at least 470,000 deaths, according to the Syrian Centre for Policy Research.

The Syrian Civil War has displaced millions of people, something Muayad and Raef both understand on a personal level. Their family

“A lot of the people don’t have anywhere else to go to and they don’t have family outside of Syria, so they feel like they cannot leave...”

- Dalia Muayad  
USM Student

members and friends have had to leave the country in order to find safety and stability. Some Syrians want to leave but have nowhere to go.

“A lot of the people don’t have anywhere else to go to and they don’t have family outside of Syria, so they feel like they cannot leave and instead have to stay in Syria where they stay at risk for dangerous situations,” Muayad said.

Spending all vacations and breaks from school in Syria visiting their family; the girls feel a deep, emotional connection to the country. With an aunt currently in Aleppo and their grandparents in Damascus, Muayad and Raef are aware of the conditions of major cities in Syria and the ways that fighting forces have

altered life in them.

“My aunt who lives in Aleppo and is not in the eastern part of the city, so she is fine,” Raef said, “but even though she is in the safe part of the city, the electricity and water, it keeps cutting out.”

Atrocities committed by the Assad regime have also created deep divides among the Syrian people. Groups of close friends and families have been severed by political ideology based on which fighting groups they support. Raef spoke about the divisions within her own family and how they have affected familial relationships.

“It’s really sad for me because when the war started, I have a lot of family members who sided with the regime. So there’s this big split within my family. Half of my dad’s side is with Assad,” Raef said. “I’m against the regime and I got into some arguments with them. The media outlets they follow are completely different from mine so we do not see eye to eye.”

Since the inauguration of President Trump, U.S. media outlets have largely focused on the executive branch’s actions. International news has pushed the Syrian conflict to the sidelines, causing viewers who do not have a direct tie to the situation to remain in the dark. The war continues to carry on and refugees continue to be displaced.

It has been almost six years since the start of the Syrian Civil War and a devastating amount of damage has been done. Those connected to the situation are looking to move forward, to find ways that they can help to support the people who need it most: the refugees who have been forced to leave their homes and those who have held their ground within Syria’s borders.

“It’s so easy to find groups to get involved with or just give what you can from your own money and time,” Muayad said. “White Helmets is a really great group that has helped Syrians. We can try to do our best to fundraise and help out refugees, giving them the best lives we can, temporarily, until they can go home. I don’t think we can do anything when it comes to political things.”

Muayad and Raef encourage USM students to ask questions, read historical content as well as current news media. While it has been difficult for Muayad and Raef to stay hopeful, they made it clear that there will have to be a worldwide commitment to the rebuilding of Syria within the coming years.

“Sadly, I don’t know if it’s going to end soon,” Muayad said. “Even if it ends soon it’s going to take an even longer time to bring everybody back to Syria and make it better than it was before.”

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Krysteana Scribner / Editor-in-chief

*Deena Raef, a student at USM, has family living in Aleppo and Damascus. While her aunt lives in the eastern part of Aleppo, which is safer, the water and electricity often cut out.*

“It’s really sad for me because when the war started, I have a lot of family members who sided with the regime. So there’s this big split within my family... I’m against the regime... The media outlets they follow are completely different to mine so we do not see eye to eye.”

- Deena Raef  
USM Student



# President Cummings to allow Larry Lockman to speak at USM



Johnna Ossie and Julie Pike / News Editor and Free Press Staff

At the senate meeting last week, President Glenn Cummings spoke to the senators about speaker Larry Lockman, and various senators asked questions and addressed their concerns.

**Julie Pike**  
Free Press Staff

President Glenn Cummings was a guest speaker at the student senate meeting on Friday, Feb. 10. He spoke to the senators about the upcoming event at USM, a talk by Maine Rep. Lawrence Lockman titled Alien Invasion: Fixing the Immigrant Crisis.

Students at USM have pushed for the event to be cancelled in a Facebook post by the group Students of #USMfuture. Cummings decided not to cancel the event and stated that he doesn't want the administration dictating what students can and can't hear.

Cummings explained that Lockman has every right to speak at USM, as the First Amendment allows him to do so. He was invited to speak on campus by the student organization Young Americans for Freedom.

"Larry Lockman is a mosquito," Cummings stated. "He's just there to irritate us and see if we will act like he acts."

In his conversation with the student senate, Cummings thanked the senators for handling the issue well.

"I want to recognize that you guys are classy people," Cummings stated. "You guys understand why freedom of speech makes a difference and you stood by your decision to not shut this down."

Cummings focused on the rights outlined in the First Amendment during his discus-

sion with the student senate.

"Welcome to the greatest country on earth, you have the right to act exactly like Rep. Lockman," Cummings said. "Along with that you also have the choice not to."

Student Senator Aaron Pierce brought up concerns about having extra security at the event. On Feb. 1, a violent protest broke out at the University of California, Berkeley, where Milo Yannopoulos was scheduled to speak. Yannopoulos is a right-wing commentator who writes for Breitbart News. The protests caused \$100,000 worth of damages.

Cummings stated that the university will be increasing the amount of police officers at the event as well as having other police on call. Cummings spoke to Portland Chief of Police Michael Sauschuck about having police close to the campus during the event.

Cummings made it clear at the meeting that if Lockman suggests violence or harassment in his talk, the event will be immediately shut down and he will be taken away. Cummings stated that it goes the other way too, however, and if people come into Lockman's lecture and conduct themselves in such a way as to silence Lockman, they will face the same consequences.

"He is testing you, the students, that's what this is about," Cummings stated. "He knows he's got an ignorant agenda. Nobody thinks he's got any great wisdom to

See **SGA** on page 7

## USM 2017 JOB FAIR

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Campus

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# Hundreds of people attend Planned Parenthood rally

## *Despite freezing temperatures, the community comes together*

**Johnna Ossie**  
News Editor

Hundreds gathered on the steps of city hall in downtown Portland in support of Planned Parenthood Saturday, despite snowfall and freezing temperatures. The rally, titled “We Are Planned Parenthood,” had a variety of speakers from Portland and elsewhere in Maine who access health care at Planned Parenthood, volunteer at Planned Parenthood, as well as local politicians including Democratic State Representative Chellie Pingree. Pingree has also been an advocate for stopping the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and has made appearances at other local rallies surrounding health care since the inauguration on Jan. 20.

Planned Parenthood has long been criticized by some religious groups and conserva-

One speakers discussed that reproductive justice includes being able to raise children in a safe environment and without fear of harm. She discussed support for trans parents, immigrant families and the families still without clean drinking water in Flint, Michigan.

Amidst concerns of the possible repeal of the affordable care act, which provides tens of thousands of mainers access to lifesaving health care, many are concerned that also on the chopping block is Planned Parenthood, an organization which also provides life saving care. In their 2014-2015 annual report, Planned Parenthood estimates that between their affiliates, 635,342 pap tests and breast exams were performed along with 4,218,149 tests and services for sexually transmitted infections.

Planned Parenthood offers a wide range of

“I’m here at the rally today because I feel like blocking health care for any human, not just women, is one of the highest forms of injustice.”

- Megan Dauphinais  
Title Title

tive politicians for being a health care center that provides abortions. Under the current administration, many are concerned that Planned Parenthood and reproductive justice will be under heavy fire. Most Fridays, a small group of anti-abortion protestors can be seen outside the clinic on Congress Street in Portland. On Saturday, however, the steps of city hall as well as the area of Congress Street in front of city hall was flooded with a sea of pink Planned Parenthood supporters. There chants of “What do we want? Reproductive justice! When do we want it? Now!” Could be heard echoing throughout the Old Port area on the snowy afternoon.

“Women don’t need Mike Pence in the doctor’s office with them. We can make our own decisions and most importantly, we have the legal right to do so,” said Pingree to a cheering crowd.

Vice President Mike Pence has been a long time anti-abortion advocate and opponent of Planned Parenthood. As Governor of Indiana Pence cut Planned Parenthood funding so drastically that five non-abortion clinics that provided STD testing were forced to close. The closings helped cause an HIV outbreak that was so drastic it required federal intervention.

Speakers at the event discussed a wide variety of topics surrounding reproductive justice.

health care services, including birth control, STD testing, general health care, LGBT services, women, men’s health and trans’ health services, and the “morning after pill,” among other things. Many in Portland have been utilizing since they were young and still support Planned Parenthood today.

“I’ve been volunteering [for Planned Parenthood] for five months and using Planned Parenthood services since I was fourteen,” said Megan Dauphinais, a twenty-six-year-old Portland resident. “I’m here at the rally today because I feel like blocking health care for any human, not just women, is one of the highest forms of injustice.”

Jennifer Andreason came out in the snow for her first volunteer shift with Planned Parenthood to collect signatures of support and to sign up other volunteers. “I’m here today because I think it’s important that everyone has access to affordable health care and it’s unconscionable that people want to take that away. Since the inauguration and since the election, I’ve felt really empowered to get involved. Previously I’ve only volunteered with animals, but close to my heart are reproductive rights...and bunnies,” said Andreason, adding, “I’m from Maine so the snow doesn’t bother me.”

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Johnna Ossie / News Editor

Hundreds gathered on the steps of city hall in downtown Portland in support of Planned Parenthood Saturday, despite snowfall and freezing temperatures. The rally, titled “We Are Planned Parenthood,” had a variety of speakers from Portland and elsewhere in Maine who access health care at Planned Parenthood, volunteer at Planned Parenthood, as well as local politicians including Democratic State Representative Chellie Pingree.



See **SGA** on page 5

add to the world. He just wants to provoke you. He wants to provoke people to make himself look better.”

Members of the student senate had their own thoughts to add about the upcoming event and what the role of the student senate is during these situations.

“This is not what we agree with and this is not what we support, but by going to this event and possibly provoking violence, we’re not getting anything done,” stated Senator Shaman Kirkland. “If we were to have students not come to the event or to protest it, he would look like the person that he is, a person that doesn’t have power and a person that’s just trying to disrupt the university.”

Kirkland proposed the idea that Cummings should suggest that students not attend the event in a Monday Missives email. Cummings responded that his job is to remain unbiased, but if there was an alternative event presented by a student organization, he stated that he would

**“Larry Lockman is a mosquito...  
He’s just there to irritate us and  
see if we will act like he acts.”**

- Glenn Cummings  
President of the University of Southern Maine

be happy to mention it.

“I’d love to wake up on Friday morning to the headline ‘Larry Came, No One Showed,’” Cummings said.

While Cummings’ expressed his stance on the matter, he ultimately left it up to the student senate to decide how they will move forward. He reiterated the fact that everyone has their right to freedom of speech.

“We don’t have the right to preach violence or the right to shut him down,” Cummings said. “He does get the chance to say his words and we cannot shut him down. However, you have the right to not participate.”

The overall agreement of the student senate was to not take a side. Student Senator Pierce stated that the student senate should remain supportive of every student.

“We are supposed to appear impartial no matter what and allow everybody the right to speak,” stated Senator Dylan Reynolds, who was inducted at the meeting as the Assistant to the Student Body Vice President.

Lockman’s talk will take place on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Wishcamper Center. President Cummings and the student senate hope the event will be peaceful.

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## Pdg Muhamiriza voted in as new student body vice president

### *After controversy around the removal of Madison Raymond, senate moves forward*

Julie Pike  
Free Press Staff

Freshman student and political science major Pdg Muhamiriza will be taking on the role of student body vice president and will work alongside Student Body President Humza Khan. Muhamiriza stated that he was involved with the student senate only two weeks before he came into his new position.

“As soon as the former vice president stepped down and they took a vote, I talked to a few friends among the senate and they thought I fit the criteria,” Muhamiriza said. “The process was relatively quick and easy.”

Muhamiriza is in his second semester at USM. He came to Maine from his home country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He stated that after his time at USM, he hopes to go to law school in the future and pursue a career in law.

Muhamiriza got involved with student government because it fell into his area of interest and has come into his new role ready with projects he wants to get started. He expressed interest in starting a debate club on campus, and a diversity club as well, which he is working with the chief of staff on the student senate to create.

The student senate has been faced difficult problems over the past year, but Muhamiriza believes only the negatives were being focused on, and the good work the senate was doing was being cast aside.

“People usually don’t notice the good, they only notice the bad,” he stated. “When negative things happened in the senate, people assumed they weren’t doing a good job. But when the senators are doing a good job, people don’t talk about it.”

As far as how the student senate can im-

prove, Muhamiriza has his own ideas to bring to the table.

“I’m hoping to build an atmosphere of trust among students, so that we can try to be prepared in advance of whatever might happen in the future,” Muhamiriza stated. “In the last month and in the last year there was a lot going on and people didn’t expect that sort of chaos to happen. We should try to avoid that in advance and try to work with every group, despite any differing opinions.”

Muhamiriza knew that taking on the position of student body vice president came with important responsibilities.

“You need to be able to listen to people’s thoughts and try to be as transparent as possible,” Muhamiriza said. “You need to be loyal to the president and not take the job only for the pay but as someone who is willing to bring something to the table.”

Muhamiriza expressed a desire to be committed to his job, and he believes that is one of the biggest qualities needed to be a part of student government.

“It’s all about commitment, if I can do my job right and try to be as innovative and creative as possible, I think that will be my contribution to the senate,” he stated.

Muhamiriza stated that as far as he knew the student senate acted in a constitutional manner when they dismissed the last student body vice president, Madison Raymond.

“They did whatever they did in a constitutional way and that’s all there was. If it was done right and constitutionally that’s all that matters,” Muhamiriza said.

For now, Muhamiriza is focusing on the future and on putting time and effort into his role as student body vice president.

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Julie Pike / Free Press Staff

Pdg Muhamiriza, a freshman political science major, will be taking on the role of student body vice president for the Student Government. He is excited for the opportunity and ready to take on the responsibilities that come with the job description.



## In Brief...



### Local

#### L.L. Bean's CEO Offers to Help Workers Affected by Trump's Travel Ban

HUFFINGTON POST- Weeks after trying to distance the company from a board member's support for Donald Trump, L.L. Bean CEO Stephen Smith is offering to help employees affected by the president's travel ban.

According to an internal memo obtained by Politico, sent to employees last week, Smith addressed both the executive order on travel and the recent Trump-related controversy surrounding the company. He asked affected employees to reach out to him personally, according to the Politico report, adding that the company supports "diversity to create a stronger organization and a better world."

"While we have gone to great pains over the past few weeks to distance ourselves from an unfortunate and unwanted political situation, there have been some more recent developments that have prompted me to share some thoughts and direction.

### National

#### Reports of Raids Have Immigrants Bracing for Enforcement Surge

NEW YORK TIMES- In Austin, Tex., undocumented women working in a laundromat cowered in the back of the room, petrified after seeing a video and a photograph of apprehensions outside a local grocery store and burger joint.

A day laborer and mechanic in Staten Island told his 17-year-old son where the list of emergency contacts were, including the name of the guardian who would take responsibility for him and his two younger siblings.

In Savannah, Ga., undocumented restaurant workers were asking for rides rather than walking home, afraid they might be stopped and questioned.

As reports of immigration raids and roundups have rocketed across Twitter, Facebook and texts around the country, undocumented immigrants, their lawyers and advocacy groups are bracing for the increased enforcement that President Trump has called for.

Susannah Volpe, a managing attorney at Ayuda, an immigrant legal services group in Washington, said she had noticed what seemed to be roundups of people, like those without criminal records, that the government had not previously paid much attention to.

"These are agents going into apartment buildings or agents going to worksites," said Ms. Volpe, who had a client arrested, along with five others, at a construction site in Washington last week. "This is new."

#### Trump and Staff Rethink Tactics After Stumbles

NEW YORK TIMES- President Trump loves to set the day's narrative at dawn, but the deeper story of his White House is best told at night.

Aides confer in the dark because they cannot figure out how to operate the light switches in the cabinet room. Visitors conclude their meetings and then wander around, testing doorknobs until finding one that leads to an exit. In a darkened, mostly empty West Wing, Mr. Trump's provocative chief strategist, Stephen K. Bannon,

finishes another 16-hour day planning new lines of attack.

Usually around 6:30 p.m., or sometimes later, Mr. Trump retires upstairs to the residence to recharge, vent and intermittently use Twitter. With his wife, Melania, and young son, Barron, staying in New York, he is almost always by himself, sometimes in the protective presence of his imposing longtime aide and former security chief, Keith Schiller. When Mr. Trump is not watching television in his bathrobe or on his phone reaching out to old campaign hands and advisers, he will sometimes set off to explore the unfamiliar surroundings of his new home.

During his first two dizzying weeks in office, Mr. Trump, an outsider president working with a surprisingly small crew of no more than a half-dozen empowered aides with virtually no familiarity with the workings of the White House or federal government, sent shock waves at home and overseas with a succession of executive orders designed to fulfill campaign promises and taunt foreign leaders.

#### Jeff Sessions Sworn in as U.S. Attorney General

DEMOCRACY NOW- Jeff Sessions has been sworn in as U.S. attorney general. Vice President Mike Pence administered the oath of office to the longtime Alabama senator during a ceremony Thursday in the Oval Office. Afterward, Sessions addressed reporters, promising to get tough on immigration, and claiming that terrorism and crime are surging nationwide.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions: "We have a crime problem. I wish the blip— I wish the rise that we are seeing in crime in America today were some sort of aberration or a blip. My best judgment, having been involved in criminal law en-

forcement for many years, is that this is a dangerous, permanent trend that places the health and safety of the American people at risk."

In fact, FBI statistics show the homicide rate has fallen consistently—and dramatically—since the early 1990s. And property crimes are at a low not seen since the 1960s. Sessions' comments came after President Trump falsely claimed the U.S. murder rate is at its highest level in more than four decades. It's actually at one of its lowest points in the last 50 years.

### International

#### New Zealand Whales: Hundreds Stranded at Farewell Spit

BBC WORLD NEWS- The mass stranding of whales on a remote beach in New Zealand has taken a turn for the worse as 240 more arrived. Earlier on Saturday, volunteers had refloated some 100 of the more than 400 pilot whales which beached on Thursday. But a human chain, with volunteers wading neck-deep into the water, failed to prevent a fresh pod making landfall.

The whale stranding, at Farewell Spit at the top of South Island, is one of the worst ever in New Zealand. Dozens of volunteers turned out to help. More than 300 of the 400 original arrivals died while medics and members of the public tried to keep survivors alive by cooling them with water. It is hoped that those of the new arrivals that survive can be moved back out to sea during the next high tide in daylight on Sunday.

It is not clear why the whales continue to arrive on the 5km-long (three mile-long) beach next to Golden Bay.



## Police Beat

*Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log Nov. 22 to Nov. 29*

11/22/2016

#### Hide the beers!

Liquor Law violation, Upton Hastings Hall. Report of underage drinking. Unfounded.

11/25/2016

#### Jesus take the wheel?

Motor Vehicle Stop, G7 parking lot. Verbal warning for operating motor vehicle wrong way on a one way.

#### Friends helping friends

Assist other Agency, Gorham P.D. Officer assisting with a motor vehicle stop.

11/27/2016

#### Having fun isn't hard when you've got a library card

Unwanted person, Glickman Library. Report of two unwanted intoxicated people at the Library causing a disturbance.

11/28/2016

#### Anarchy in the campus lot

Damage to University property, Portland campus. Report of damage to a USM vehicle. Report taken.

#### She doesn't even go here!

Unwanted person, Sullivan Gym. Subject was asked to leave the building. Left without incident.

11/29/2016

#### Leg day gone wrong

Medical call, Costello Sports Complex. Rescue checked and treated a subject. No transport.

#### Is your refrigerator running?

Phone harassment, Upton Hastings Hall. RD called to report that two students were involved in harassment. RD called back and will handle it administratively.

*Police Beats are edited for grammar and style*



# Arts & Culture

Surplus store reuses and recycles / p 11  
The Space Between Us Review / p 12



## Portland Museum of Art celebrates reopening after month long closure

*After another round of fixes and improvements, new exhibits and art now display for the public*

**Dionne Smith**  
Free Press Staff

The Museum of Art in Portland is a popular setting where people of all ages may go and quietly enjoy different works of art. As of Friday, Feb. 3, the Museum celebrated a long awaited renovation. The Museum held a light show on the side of the building, then opened its doors to the public to show off the new renovations.

Every bit of the museum has something that has been added and moved around. For starters, they have moved things around in order to utilize space. People have much more room to walk around and see the artwork. The mobility allows for more flow from display to display. Also, of course, benches in display rooms so you can sit and take in what you're looking at. Also, there are small descriptions on the walls in certain rooms about what's inside the room.

The McLellan House gallery recieved some new items inside. Paintings and silverware, among other things, have been added to the house. There is also a timeline of the history of the McLellan house on the wall inside of one of the rooms, allowing for people to learn about the more history behind the 200 year old building. Upstairs lies two open studies, one for larger groups and another for a smaller group or individuals. People can go and sit on a couch and tap into their creative side, read a book, or pick up one of the idea cards on the center table that gives people a goal while they look around the museum. The smaller study also holds a repainting of the Mona Lisa that can fool people into thinking it's the original.

The temporary exhibition gallery has been filled with photography, old and new, which is called The Wagstaff Collection of Photographs. Inside offers a large amount of varying photographs from varying time periods.

It also goes over the history of photography and the history of the camera and it's gradual improvements which lead to more people becoming photographers.

The different floors of the Payson building all have a different theme. You're able to switch between different forms of art and there is so much art on for each floor. Different world famous painters like Picasso and Renoir are displayed, then suddenly you find yourself looking at abstract art that makes you question how it even got in the museum. The new artworks and new decorations offers a new experience to people who have been to the museum before, and it offers ing a wonderful display for people who have never been to the museum.

Not only did new paintings come in, but updated security systems as well. While also focusing on the protection of the artwork and the building, the museum is also want's to

protect the people within and without outside the museum. Faiz Mohammed, the director of protection services at the museum,, talks about how it's in the museum's best interest to offer an enjoyable, and safe environment inside and outside, working with up to date security systems to ensure the safety of the art and the people.

The renovations make the museum feel like new. It's a wonderful experience to walk around freely and view all the new paintings and other artwork scattered throughout the museum, and the museum is welcoming for everyone and anyone to learn more about art and learn the some history behind the art as well. It's a relaxing place center that can leave you in awe.

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Matthew Craig / Arts & Culture Editor

*The Portland Museum of Art, which reopened its doors on Feb. 3, has a variety of new art on display for the public to view. In addition, the museum did some rennovations to the interior of the building. The different floors of the Payson building all have a different theme. You're able to switch between different forms of art and there is so much art on for each floor.*



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Photo courtesy of University of Southern Maine Surplus Store Facebook Page

In the USM Surplus store, located in the basement of the Sullivan gym, has various items up for grabs at discounted rates. Buying and giving to this store is a great way to recycle.

## Surplus store in Sullivan Gym offers recycled items to the public

**Deliah Schreiber**  
Free Press Staff

The University of Southern Maine's Department of Sustainability not only helps to reduce USM's waste, but it also has developed a way for students, faculty and even the public to take advantage of university property that would otherwise be thrown away. The Surplus Store, formerly located in an off-campus rental space, has since been moved to the basement of Sullivan Gym on the Portland campus. There, you will find many items offered for free or at a discounted price, which funnels money back into the university that would have been used on waste removal.

Essentially, any university purchased items which are no longer used are sent to the Surplus Store. This could be anything from filing cabinets or computer chairs, which purchased new can be expensive. Then, those items can be purchased at discounted prices, and are even free to students and faculty, thus reducing the waste produced by

USM.

Emily Eshner, Surplus Coordinator, is responsible for running the Surplus Store, and finds it can be a great resource, because there are a wide variety of products available. Not only does this store directly benefit the university, but it also brings together the community by connecting resources.

"I get people from all walks of life in the store - folks with small businesses, municipalities and nonprofits, teachers, DIYers, immigrants and refugees, students, techies, etc," she explained. "It's also promoting the sharing economy."

Eshner also finds that many times a perfectly good item, such as a paper cutter, may no longer be needed in one department at the university but can be reallocated to another department. Again not only is this an efficient method of waste diversion, but it prevents the purchase of a new item, as it is immediately reused. According to Eshner, the Surplus Store "promotes reuse on the hierarchy of 'reduce, reuse, recycle,' which is better than recycling, because

we're extending the lifecycle of things that already exist rather than using resources and energy to create new [things]."

The Surplus Store not only houses big items, but it is also stocked with school supplies for students such as three-ring binders, folders, envelopes, as well as bowls, mugs and water bottles. Financially, the Surplus Store can take a load off of college students' backs, because items students need are offered for free.

In addition to items being offered for free to students, items are also sold at discounted prices to the "broader community," which the university directly profits from.

"USM saves money through cost avoidance, by not paying to dispose of things, by reinvesting money made in [the] Surplus Store back into academic purchases," Eshner explained.

The Surplus Store is open on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

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# HEAVY ROTATION |

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

### New film raises more questions than answers

**John Rocker and Aaron Halls**  
Free Press Staff

*The Space Between Us* is a sci-fi teen romance directed by Peter Chelsom. The film follows a 16-year-old teenage boy named Gardner (Asa Butterfield) who is born and raised on the planet Mars. Having never traveled to Earth, Gardner jumps at the opportunity when it arises as it gives him the chance to meet his online friend and crush Tulsa (Britt Robertson), a teenage girl whom he connects with. Once there, Gardner is able to have many new experiences and make discoveries with the help of Tulsa, but he must also deal with the fact that his body responds negatively to Earth's atmosphere, in addition to a team of scientists pursuing him.

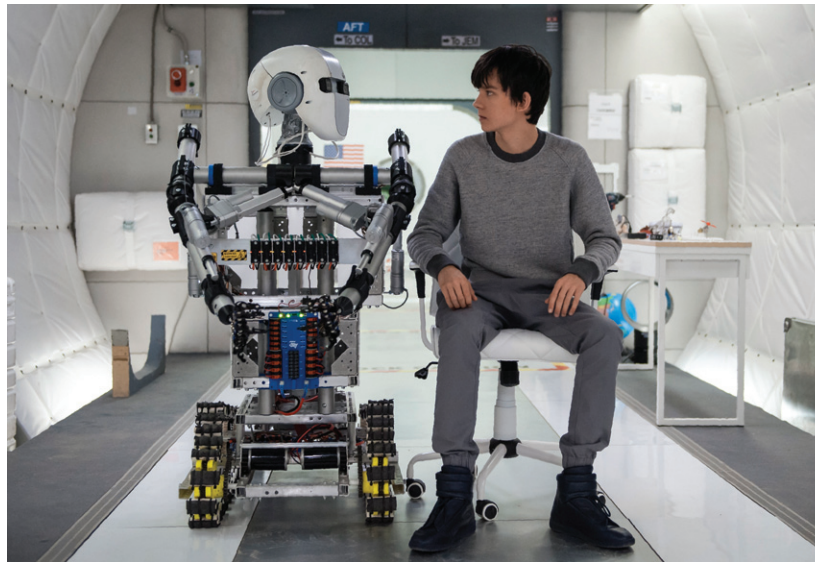


Photo courtesy of Movie Trailer Screenshot

#### What Did We Like?

**A:** One of the only elements of the film that worked for me was seeing the designs of NASA's space colony on Mars, as well as semi-futuristic spaceships, which I thought looked cool. I think the designs did a good job appearing like technology and tools NASA currently uses today, but realistically depicts that technology as advanced a few years forward. Also, though the script and direction does not do them any favors throughout the film, I would say there were some moments where I could see that each of the main cast members were trying to bring emotion to a scene despite everything working against them.

**J:** The only thing I can give a positive for this film is the musical score composed by Andrew Lockington. It's melodramatic, which makes sense with the story that's trying to be told, but it's also contradictory to the point where it had me laughing at the way the film was trying to take itself seriously. Nothing says drama like string music, am I right?

#### What Did We Dislike?

**A:** The main aspect of *The Space Between Us* that does not work for me is the screenplay by Allan Loeb. Every single scene contains super clunky dialogue as well as either forced romantic or comedic elements. Almost no line of dialogue from the characters, including

their responses to the situations they find themselves in, feels natural. This leads to everything coming across as unintentionally funny. Every scene I found something new to laugh at. The script also unfortunately doesn't give the actors and actresses a lot to work with or the ability to play off of each other well. On the directional side there was also really odd uses of pop music in certain scenes which felt awkward and added to the film being unintentionally hilarious.



Richard Barton Lewis

**J:** I could write a ten page paper on the things that don't work in this film. From the 'near-future' technology that raises

more questions than answers, to the questionable choices of the characters, to the performances that feel like overacting, this film has many problems. I believe there was a genuine story that the film was trying to tell, it just needed a lot of refining. The film didn't know what it wanted to be. Is it science fiction? Is it young adult romance? Is it a road-trip comedy? Is it a drama? The film clumps these things together, and the tone is off. Everything happening in the film is so ridiculous, I couldn't help but laugh. If the audience's reaction is the opposite of what was intended, you know something is wrong with the film.

#### Who Do We Think This Is For?

**A:** I don't think you should pay money to see this film, but if you want to see a movie that will make you laugh for all the wrong reasons, I'd definitely check it out.

**J:** Because of the inconsistent tones, I'm not sure who this film is exactly for. It may be one of the worst films of 2017 already, but it's also the best unintentional comedy too. It's definitely not worth seeing in theaters, but if you want to see how bad the film is, then maybe check it out when it comes to Netflix. You'll be in for a treat.

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## A&C Listings

#### Monday, February 13

STRFKR  
Port City Music Hall  
504 Congress St.  
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Starts: 8:00 p.m.

All Governments Lie (Film)  
Space Gallery  
538 Congress St.  
Doors: 6:30 p.m. / Starts: 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, February 15

Pepper and Less than Jake  
State Theatre  
609 Congress St.  
Doors: 6:00 p.m. / Starts: 7:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, February 16

BoomBox  
Port City Music Hall  
504 Congress St.  
Doors: 8:00 p.m. / Starts: 9:00 p.m.

#### Friday, February 17

Lake Street Dive  
State Theatre  
609 Congress St.  
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Starts: 8:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, February 18

Bruce in the USA  
State Theatre  
609 Congress St.  
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Wrabel w/ Jesse Ruben  
One Longfellow Square  
Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Starts: 8:00 p.m.

Want to submit an event?  
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# Perspectives

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How to create your USM community / 15  
Let's Talk About It: Approaching women / 15



Author / Title

Trump desires to push his executive order to continue pipeline building in Standing Rock.



## Sustainability and ME

### Dakota Access Pipeline

#### What is it and what comes next?

**Benjamin Alcorn**  
Contributor

In December of 2016, protesters in North Dakota celebrated as the Army Corps of Engineers issued a statement halting construction of the highly contested Dakota Access Pipeline. The decision was reached following months of protests led by the Dakota Sioux of the Standing Rock reservation.

Soon after the statement from the Army Corps, and just days into his presidency, Donald Trump released an executive order to expedite the construction of the Dakota access pipeline, stating that the project is “in national interest,” and promising to utilize domestic steel.

#### What is it?

The \$3.7 billion project, initiated by the company Energy Transfer Partners, was planned to replace the less economical system of ship-

ping crude oil from the Bakken oil fields to a port in Illinois, before being shipped to refineries. The 12,000 mile long pipeline was projected to be finished by January, 2017.

#### Opposition

The decision to halt construction was reached after months of protests with the support of over 200 Native American tribes and thousands of protesters from all over the country including 4,000 veterans and green party presidential candidate, Jill Stein. At its peak, an estimated 10,000 protesters occupied the camps.

The water protectors argued that the pipeline would contaminate the watershed system if a leak were to occur, and were concerned that construction involved the digging up of sacred burial sites. Further, the Dakota Sioux claim that the pipeline runs through land illegally

taken from the tribe in an 1868 treaty.

Environmental groups point out the dangers of pipelines, and in an analysis of public records, the Center for Biological Diversity concluded that “Since 1986 pipeline accidents have spilled an average of 76,000 barrels per year or more than 3 million gallons.”

#### What Next?

In response to Trump’s executive order, the Standing Rock Sioux tribe maintained that they would continue to fight the pipeline. However, the project will not be able to continue until an environmental impact statement (EIS) is conducted, which could take months to complete. In the meantime both protesters and law enforcement prepare for the ensuing battle.

editor@usmfreepress.org  
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## Cummings responds to Conservative event on campus

*Lockman is to visit USM*

Some of you may be aware that an event is planned for next week featuring State Representative Larry Lockman speaking on immigration. A student group, the Young Americans for Freedom, is sponsoring the event.

This event has created significant angst and anger among many in our community, as Representative Lockman has said many provocative, and in the opinion of many, outrageous statements over the years concerning women, gays and lesbians, and immigrants.

As a university, however, it is imperative that we respect freedom of expression and opposing viewpoints. So, though the event may fly in the face of what you or I may believe, we will not and cannot stop the event from taking place.

I know Representative Lockman’s appearance may attract protesters, which is as much a part of freedom of expression as holding the event in the first place.

I would expect such protests, however, to be in the form of challenging content at appropriate times, rather than trying to disrupt or shut the event down.

We have tried to keep student leaders apprised on this event and will continue discussions with them in the following days.

I thank the many of you who have taken the time to express your valid concerns.

## Our Opinion

### Let him spew his hatred

*When Larry Lockman visits our campus, arm yourself with facts*

**Editorial Board**  
Free Press Staff

A controversial speaker who is coming to USM, Larry Lockman, has caused some debate around the limits of free speech in the United States. Some wonder if it’s appropriate to allow hate speech in public forums, citing risks to public safety that radical rhetoric could potentially generate.

Lockman, a loud-mouth and bigot, has long been spouting anti-LGBTQ comments, defending rapists and refusing to pay taxes. It is difficult to say how such a person holds public office, but his election in 2012 may be attributed to the apparent recent resurgence of fascism in the United States.

Though many people may not want to hear what Lockman has to say, it is still not appropriate to silence him and people like him through means of authority. To do so would undermine the rights that we all enjoy as American citizens. Regardless of a person’s moral standing, views, or associations, it is important to afford all Americans the right to express themselves. If someone has the power to suppress their political opponent and exercises it, then they may find themselves later silenced as their opposition gains ground. If a game is to be fair, the players must not change the rules.

Larry Lockman once said, “If a woman has the right to

abortion, why shouldn’t a man be free to use his superior strength to force himself on a woman?” To even consider the validity of this question, one must necessarily be an extremist. Under no circumstances is it alright for a man to force himself on a woman.

Lockman also said, “Clearly the practice of sodomy is learned behavior, and those addicted to this form of biologically-insane sex are at high risk for all manner of serious medical problems.” Maine, and Portland in particular, prides itself on gender diversity and this sentiment does not ring true to most Mainers.

Those who attend the speech should be prepared to listen to what he has to say. Since he has made these offensive comments, Lockman has expressed regrets. Obviously, as a public official, he can’t express these absurd views openly. Still, they will likely be presented, veiled beneath his rhetoric.

Lockman cannot be silenced, in the interest of protecting the American right to free speech. Rather, the best course of action is for attendees to exercise their own freedom of speech. People need to ask questions, respond to Lockman’s views and make themselves heard. This is not only an opportunity for the fascist politician to speak, but also a chance for the people to respond and rebuke.

editor@usmfreepress.org  
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**How do you feel about Larry Lockman?**  
editor@usmfreepress.org



## BDN Opinion

# Why we need to calm down about terrorism



File Photo / Bangor Daily News

Marie McMonagle (center) and her daughter Heather (right) stand amid other protestors outside the Bangor International Airport on Jan. 29 in opposition to Trump's travel ban.

## Editorial Board Bangor Daily News

Donald Trump is taking a page out of the Republican playbook to use the threat of terrorism to scare — and, therefore, try to control — Americans. This may have worked during the campaign, but now that he is actually president and can act on his inflamed rhetoric, Trump is learning that there are, thankfully, checks and balances in our system of government.

An executive order issued Jan. 27 that temporarily prevented citizens of seven Muslim countries from coming to the United States has been the focus of intense scrutiny. Almost immediately, federal judges stayed the order, which also banned all refugees and Syrians from entering the U.S., because it is likely unconstitutional. Federal officials, however, defied the court orders by continuing to revoke visas and barring people from flying to the United States.

Late last week, a federal judge in Washington issued a nationwide stay to the order, allowing hundreds of travelers from the seven countries to finish their trips to the U.S. Trump attacked the judge almost immediately. “The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!” he tweeted Saturday morning.

First of all, there is no such thing as a “so-called judge.” Judge James Robart has all the requisite legal requirements and was appointed to the federal bench by President George W. Bush in 2003. He was confirmed by the Senate with a 99-0 vote. He is regarded as a conservative judge.

Second, courts have long served as a needed check on executive power. We do not live in a police state. When government officials overreach their authority, it is up to courts to rein them in. Likewise, courts must ensure that government officials — including the president and his staff — follow the law and the U.S. Constitution, just as our Founding Fathers intended.

Trump took his hysteria a step further Sunday, when he told Americans to blame Robart if there were any terrorist attacks in the U.S. “Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril,” the president tweeted on Sunday. “If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!”

It sounds really scary, but reality doesn't back of Trump's fears.

The Cato Institute, which was founded by the Koch brothers who fund dozens of conservative and Republican causes, did

an extensive analysis of the risk of terrorist attacks. It concluded that the chance of an American being killed in an attack by a refugee is 1 in 3.6 billion per year. The probability of being killed by an “illegal immigrant” is 1 in 10.9 billion per year.

You are more likely to be killed by a toddler with a gun, a lawnmower or falling out of bed than by an Islamic terrorist.

“The hazards posed by foreign-born terrorists are not large enough to warrant extreme actions like a moratorium on all immigration or tourism,” the report concluded.

With not enough real terrorist attacks to bolster their agenda, the Trump team made up an attack and used it as justification of the travel ban. White House counselor Kellyanne Conway has repeatedly cited the Bowling Green Massacre as a reason to be wary. However, there was no massacre in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

**“You are more likely to be killed by a toddler with a gun, a lawnmower or falling out of bed than by an Islamic Terrorist.”**

- Cato Institute Report

Two Iraqi men living in Bowling Green pled guilty to federal charges of trying to send weapons and money to al-Qaida in Iraq to kill U.S. soldiers. The men admitted to using improvised explosive devices to kill American soldiers in Iraq, before the men came to the U.S. Their plot was disrupted by the FBI, and they did not kill anyone in the United States.

Trying again to inflame terrorism hysteria, the Trump team, including the president himself, blamed the media for not covering terrorist attacks without any evidence to back this claim. The White House then provided a long list of attacks to show that the media had not covered them. Nearly every attack on the list had been reported by the media, with many getting extensive coverage. The fact checking website PolitiFact rated the president's claim a “pants on fire” lie.

It is no lie that Trump has said nothing publicly about last week's terrorist attack on a mosque in Quebec, where a young white gunman opened fire, killing six men.

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Advising Advice

# How to create your USM community

*Whether you're a brand new first-year student or a graduating senior, try to get involved*

**Anna Schwartz**  
Academic Advisor

It is never too late to connect and build community at USM! Whether you are a brand new first-year student, a senior getting ready to go on the job hunt, or a graduate student- there are many ways to bond with other Huskies and make the best of your time at USM!

One of the best ways to create your community at college is by getting involved outside of the classroom. Studies show that students who become involved often experience greater academic success and have higher rates of completing their degree programs. Additionally, involvement opportunities can have some very positive personal benefits: they are an excellent way to meet new friends, provide stress relief, and they can help you have fun!

To provide some ideas about how to get involved I spoke with Samantha Elliott (AKA "SElliott"), Coordinator of Student Activities in Gorham, and Alex Carrier, Coordinator of Student Activities in Portland.

Elliott encourages students to take advantage of resources and opportunities on-campus and, if you live on campus, in your residence halls. For example, attend a program offered by Gorham Campus Activities Board (GCAB), hang out in one of the Campus Centers, or join an intramural sport or a student group.

Carrier feels that it is important for students to break down misconceptions about what it means to "get involved" at USM. Working on campus through Work-Study or department-funded positions, doing research with a faculty member, or taking a

Service-Learning course are great opportunities. Any one of these opportunities can help you build relationships, community, AND help you develop "transferable skills" that employers are looking for!

Ready to Get Involved?

Campus Life keeps a comprehensive list of all of the active student groups on all three USM campuses. On their website, you can peruse the list of active organizations, find out how to start a new group, or use the Pathways Student Interest Involvement Survey to find student groups that may be a great fit for you. To find out about USM events, athletic department games, the bus schedule, and campus resource info you may download USM Guide, a free mobile app for iOS and Android.

If you are not sure about what options may be a good fit for you, are nervous about meeting new people, or just need some advice on how to get started- Involvement Coaching can help you! This service offers you 1-on-1 conversation with a coach about your background and interests, and then work together develop a plan of action to get involved!

To review opportunities, sign-up for Involvement Coaching, find out how to download the USM Guide app, and more. Just visit: [usm.maine.edu/activities](http://usm.maine.edu/activities)

If you are still unsure about how to maximize opportunities or resources talk with your Professional or Faculty Academic Advisor, or Alex Carrier ([alexandrea.carrier@maine.edu](mailto:alexandrea.carrier@maine.edu)), or Samantha Elliott ([samantha.elliott@maine.edu](mailto:samantha.elliott@maine.edu)). If you live on-campus, your Resident Assistant or Resident Director can also help.

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Let's Talk About It

# Approaching women in public

**Johnna Ossie**  
News Editor

A recent Facebook interaction I saw has me wondering what it is that makes some people feel entitled to approach women in public. Does me being in public mean that I am welcoming people to approach me? If I'm listening to music at the bus stop or reading a book at a bar, does that mean that I am welcoming someone to strike up a conversation with me?

I think most women have had the experience of being doing something in a public space (reading, writing, studying, listening to music, walking, standing, breathing) and had an unwelcome interaction with a man. I'm not saying that all men are creeps, I'm not saying that I hate men (goddess help me that I even have to interject that), I'm saying that in our society, men feel entitled to women's time and space, and that's nothing new.

Here's an example. I was at a bar a while ago with my friend and she left to use the bathroom. A few minutes after she was gone, a man who appeared ten to fifteen years older than me approached me while I was scrolling through my phone in the corner.

"Why are you here all alone?" He asked.

"I'm not," I responded, "My friend is in the bathroom." He stood there and stared at me while I continued to look through my phone.

"Can I buy you a drink?" He asked.

"No thanks, I already have one," I said, showing him the full drink in my hand. Now he was getting upset with me. How dare I not want to interact with him, let alone not accept his very thoughtful and kind offer of a drink? My friend came back and he proceeded to ask to buy us both drinks, and when we declined again, he pulled out his wallet.

"Have you ever seen one of these?" He asked, haughtily. We looked at him inquisitively. Had we ever seen a wallet? We exchanged glances and then responded that yes, we had seen a wallet. He went on to tell us how much money he made per year, how we would be lucky to have him buy us a drink, how we would never make as much money as him (Maybe true- looking at you, wage gap). Then his phone rang. Low and behold he said, "It's my wife." His wife! He proceeded to become more and more agitated that we wouldn't talk to him until he had to be escorted from the bar.

I'm sure many, many women have stories like this. Perhaps there are some who would say, "Maybe if you just accepted the drink he would have left you alone." To which I would say: false, if I had accepted the drink he would have expected much more from me than to engage with him in conversation. But that's not the point. The point is that I, or anyone, should be able to say "No, thank you" and have that be the end of the conversation. The word "No" should mean something other than "try to convince me" or "get upset with me and yell at me in public."

Since the word "no" doesn't always seem to work, I've looked up some other words to use instead. You could try: Nay, never, under no circumstance, by no means, nope, nah, nuh-uh, no way jose or ixnay. Or you could try some other languages: No, non, nein, net, nau, nei, or ni.

Does being in a public space mean that people are entitled to approach you and strike up a conversation? Some would say yes, I would say no, no way, nein, nah.

[editor@usmfreepress.org](mailto:editor@usmfreepress.org)  
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## Passages from the Qur'an explained

**Nairus Abdullahi**  
Contributor

In these mini series I will discuss the five pillars of Islam. Today, I will introduce zakat; its meaning and why it's important. "True piety is this: to believe in God, and the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the

Prophets, to give of one's substance, however cherished, to kinsmen, and orphans, the needy, the traveler, beggars, and to ransom the slave, to perform the prayer, to pay the zakat." (Qur'an 2:177)

Zakat is 2.5 percent of one's annual wealth which is a requirement for all Muslims to pay if they are able. Allah commands that we share a portion of our wealth to the poor, needy and suffering. There are several reasons why Allah commands the Muslim to perform this obligation. First, paying zakat reduces and/or eliminates greediness, hoarding and love of possessions from poisoning our hearts.

Read the rest online at  
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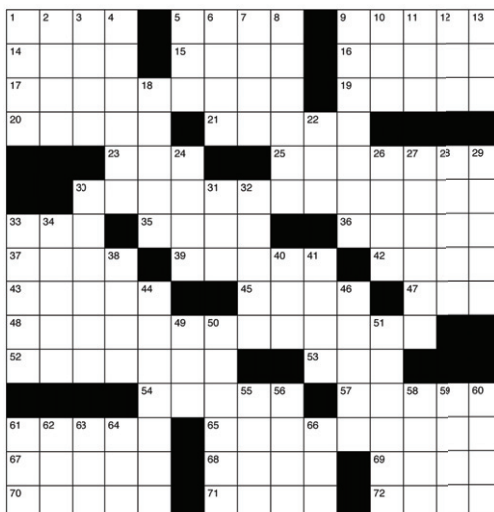
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## Crossword

## Across

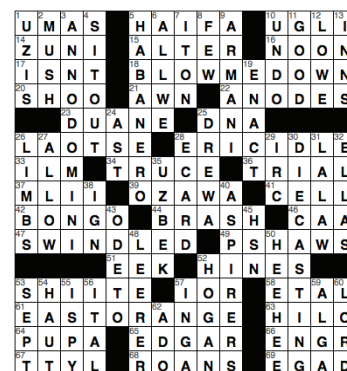
1. Acclaim
5. Rte. with tolls
9. "\_\_\_ the Line": Johnny Cash hit
14. x or y
15. Goldie of Hollywood
16. 'It's true!'
17. Common city pest
19. Motor scooter
20. Of a region
21. Funeral notes
23. Boundary (abbr.)
25. Perplexing puzzles
30. Private boss
33. Rock guitarist's accessory
35. Chimney sweep's sweepings
36. Ex-President Mubarak
37. Neighbor of Thailand
39. Castles
42. Silverstein of children's literature
43. Be part of, as a play
45. Stock mkt. debuts
47. Telephone no. add-on
48. Oxford honoree
52. Seasonal wind
53. Greek N's
54. Heavy footwear
57. Person of high status
61. Spicy stew with okra
65. Creeds
67. Have a home-cooked meal
68. In good shape
69. "The Soup \_\_\_" (classic episode of "Seinfeld")
70. Tickle-me dolls
71. Saxophonist Zoot
72. 1970s glam rock band



## Down

1. Japanese script
2. Wife, in legal terms
3. Like some straits
4. \_\_\_ Patton (comedian)
5. Your of yore
6. Oater pal
7. River in a 1957 film title
8. Main dish
9. Protest (against)
10. Unhappiness
11. Unser and Capone
12. Insolence
13. Mauna \_\_\_
18. Assumed identity
22. "November Rain" band, casually
24. "Dial \_\_\_ Murder" (Grace Kelly film)
26. Storms and Trackers
27. Wolf
28. Building wing
29. Circus performer's support
30. Exactly
31. \_\_\_ Fighters
32. Emotionless
33. Security feature
34. Far from wimpy
38. Vicious and others
40. Eur. driver's datum
41. Just minutes from now
44. Certain hawks, for short
46. Hurler
49. The sun, to Seneca
50. Makes pig noises
51. "It's hard to be \_\_\_ in the city" (Springsteen line)
55. Halliwell of the Spice Girls
56. Actor Pickens
58. Big pig
59. Eleven in France
60. Vitamin found in meat
61. "That's amazing!"
62. Corp. that once owned Hertz and Hilton
63. She played Mary Richards on TV (initials)
64. Obit segment
66. Online communications, for short

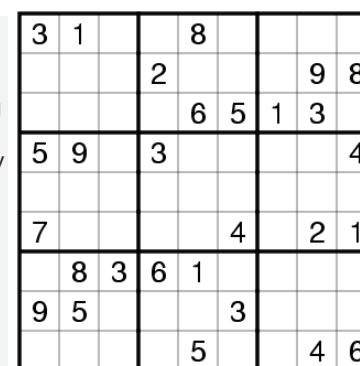
## The solution to last issue's crossword



## Sudoku

Level of difficulty: Medium

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: Valentine's Day

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



admirer  
bouquet  
chocolate  
crush  
cupid  
date  
decorate  
doves  
flirt  
flowers  
friend  
gift  
heart  
holiday  
love  
partner  
valentine

## Cryptogram

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

T DPUG GYL HTRDKQN EQPF EU AQ NU  
HMTRQL. TE'N AQRXJNQ FTKK GXEQMN  
MJP NEQQH.

And here is your hint: X = A



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# USM Community Page

## Kittens at yoga provide therapeutic laughter

*Animals and calming exercise work together to reduce stress levels*

**Julie Pike**  
Staff Writer

Imagine bending into downward dog as a tiny kitten scampers underneath you, or extending into sun salutation while another kitten brushes up against your feet.

This describes the experience of those who attended the Kitten Yoga event to benefit the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARLGP) on Saturday, Feb. 4. The event took place at Creating Space Yoga on 1717 Congress St.

All of the proceeds from the event went directly to the ARLGP. Each of the nine kittens that were brought to the event were also available for adoption.

The kittens had recently arrived from West Virginia and ranged in ages from six months to one year old. Their curiosity turned into mischief as they explored the yoga studio, climbed all over the place, used yoga mats as scratching posts and played with their toys.

Carol Coulson, the owner of Creating Space Yoga, said that having dogs and cats

around adds to the therapeutic effect that yoga already provides. Coulson also said she hopes her studio can put on similar events in the future.

"It's a great cause and we're happy to help the community in any way that we can," Coulson said.

The executive director of the ARLGP, Patsy Murphy, stated that this was the shelter's second year partnering with Creating Space Yoga.

"The first year we held a donation at the studio and last month we heard from several people that they would love to see a kitten yoga event," Murphy said.

One of those people who spoke in support of the ARLGP holding a kitten yoga event was a Westbrook resident, Veronica Newport, who is a regular at Creating Space Yoga. She had attended a similar event and thought it would be a great idea to have one at the yoga studio.

"Having cats here brings a sense of comic relief, providing lots of giggles and laughs," Newport said. "Having the kittens here helps people who were wary or ner-



Julie Pike / Staff Writer

One of the kittens from the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland (ARLGP) walks under those participating in a unique mash-up of yoga class and kittens.



Julie Pike / Staff Writer

A kitten takes advantage of the temporarily abandoned yoga mat while students at Creating Space Yoga continue their lesson.

vous about yoga by helping them come out of their shell."

With 40 people in attendance, the studio had a full house. Murphy stated that, due to the event's popularity, they had to begin turning people away..

"This [was] a large crowd for us and it's something we'd like to continue as we can see the value and benefit of pets to people," Murphy said.

A resident of Portland, Ariana, who attended the event agreed that the class benefited from having the kittens around.

"Having the kittens around is really calming," Ariana said. "They add a sense of lightness to yoga because of their playfulness."

Monique Gaudette, also a resident of Portland, stated that she thought the cats were a bit distracting, but in a good way.

"The kittens provided an interesting mix to the yoga class, which is generally more quiet and calm," Gaudette said. "It was fun to have the cats running around the studio."

Murphy stated that the success of the event has showed the ARLGP that these sorts of events are good for raising the public's awareness about the shelter.

Those who missed out on the chance to attend kitten yoga can look forward to the ARLGP holding similar events in the future.

"We do plan to do this again," Murphy stated. "We'd also love to do a puppy yoga event. We think puppies and kittens have a natural affinity for the practice of yoga. We've seen lots of smiles here today, folks have had reduced stress levels with the playful kittens here."

Not only was the event enjoyable for those who attended, it also benefited an important non-profit organization in the community. Aside from the large donation the ARLGP received, the event also helped those kittens find a good home.

editor@usmfreepress.org  
@USMFreePress



## Trustees encourage USM to begin campus changes

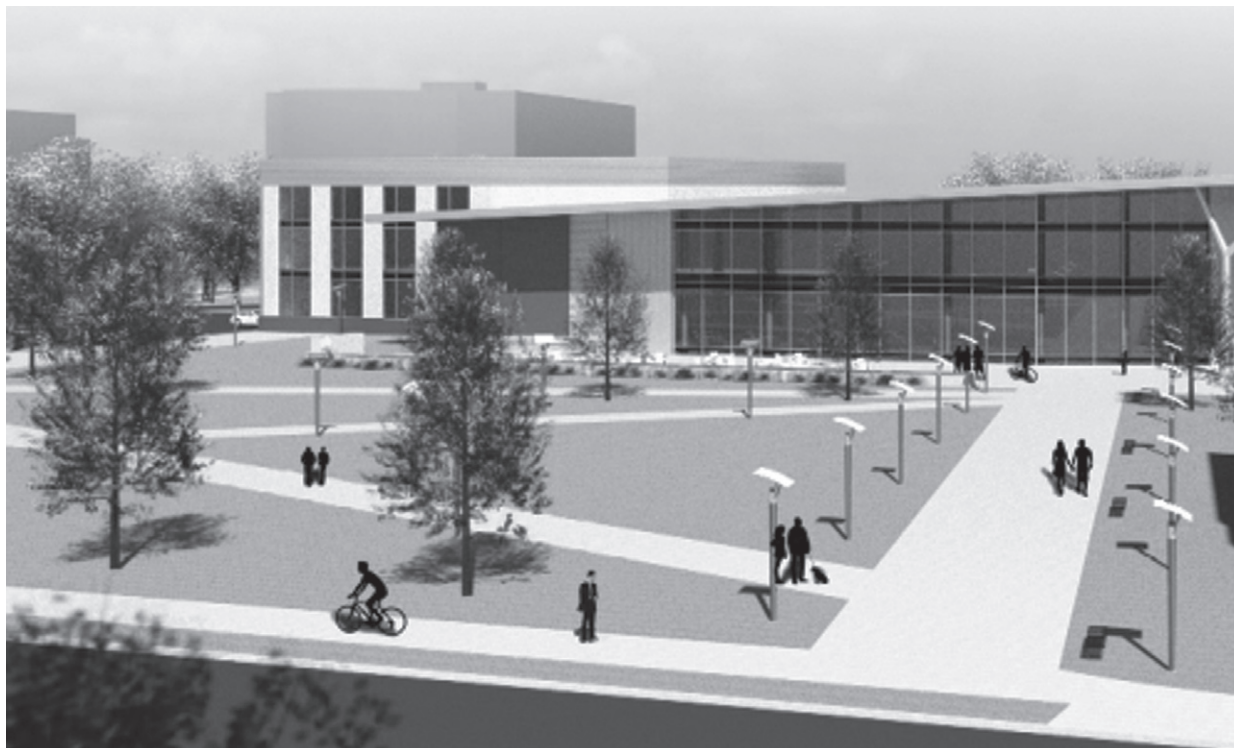


Photo courtesy of University of Southern Maine Website

This rendering shows what campus would look like if Bedford was closed down and Woodbury had a campus lawn.

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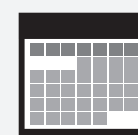
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## Community Events

### Monday, February 13

Job Resume Review Walk-In  
USM Portland Campus  
Luther Bonney Hall Room 140  
Starts: 9:00 a.m. / Ends: 12:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, February 14

The Challenges Facing New Immigrants  
Lewiston-Auburn College room 170  
51 Westminster St., Lewiston  
Starts: 4:00 p.m. / Ends: 5:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, February 15

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

Screening: Fantastic Beasts  
and Where to Find Them  
USM Gorham Campus  
Lower Brooks Student Center  
Starts: 9:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:55 p.m.

### Thursday, February 16

Peer Photography  
USM Portland Campus  
The Recovery Oriented Campus Center  
Starts: 2:00 p.m. / Ends: 3:00 p.m.

### Friday, February 17

Road of Happy Destiny Open 12-Step  
USM Portland Campus  
The Recovery Oriented Campus Center  
Starts: 3:30 p.m. / Ends: 4:30 p.m.

### Saturday, February 18

Laser Vinyl  
USM Portland Campus  
Southworth Planetarium  
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

### Sunday, February 19

Laser Orion and Laser Mania!  
USM Portland Campus  
Southworth Planetarium  
Starts: 3:00 p.m. / Ends: 4:00 p.m.

Want us to include your event?  
maryellen@usmfreepress.org



# Sports

Tuesday

Women's Ice Hockey  
@ Colby  
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Women's Basketball  
@ Plymouth State  
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Basketball  
@ Plymouth State  
7:30 p.m.

Friday

Women's Ice Hockey  
vs. St. Michael's  
4:00 p.m.

Saturday

Women's Basketball  
vs. UMass Dartmouth  
1:00 p.m.



## Our opinion: It's more than the scoreboard

### *What the Patriots win was like for me as a Browns fan*

Erin Brown  
Sports Editor

First and foremost, I want to give you a brief introduction of this column. I love sports and I always have. Sometimes people don't understand why and sports fans get a bad rap. We are seen as not being as "worldly" or "cultured" or "intellectual" as some people. People see us as simple-minded jocks who are just drinking beers and screaming at a TV. While yes, we are drinking beers and screaming at the TV, that's not the only reason people love sports.

Sports are about loyalty, passion, and the unity of being a part of a team. Sports bring people together whether you're playing on the team or a fan of the team. And right now especially, it is important to have something that brings people together instead of driving people apart constantly.

This week I want to of course talk about the most recent professional championship game, the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl itself has turned into an unofficial American holiday. Though I've been raised as a Cleveland Browns fan and have never seen my team play in a Super Bowl, I still have never missed a Super Bowl game. Regardless of the teams, no one misses this game.

This years game was especially memorable and historic. Not only did Tom Brady and Bill Belichick win their fifth Super Bowl ring together, but they did it in dramatic fashion. They came back from the biggest deficit in Super Bowl history to force the first overtime in Super Bowl history to win. It was absolutely unbelievable and I'm not by any means a Patriots fan. I appreciate that their team is elite and I recognize the fact that the Cleveland Browns gave them Belichick (thanks Art Modell).

This Super Bowl, though extremely unbelievable, was funny for me. I watched the first half of the game with my parents and had planned to go over



Erin Brown / Sports Editor

*Patriots win one for the thumb in a dramatic and historic Super Bowl 51.*

to my friends' house to watch the second half with them. Once the first half came to an end and the score was 21-3,

**"This superbowl, though extremely unbelievable, was funny for me... I was terrified to walk into a house full of Patriots fans."**

I was absolutely terrified to walk into a house full of all Patriots fans. Reluctantly, I grabbed the food I promised and went over there. I walked in on an

incredibly somber Super Bowl party. No one was talking. Our one friend, a Broncos fan, and our other friend, a Giants fan, were the first to break the silence upon my arrival. The three of us bantered back and forth about how our teams had done this year and they all made fun of the Browns which warmed up everyone in the room.

The second half began and my one friend told us that he wasn't feeling "good ju-ju" at the house, so he made the two of us walk down the street to our other friend's house. Once we got there, the turnaround began for the Patriots and I guess his insight on what was good ju-ju and bad ju-ju was completely right. We had been standing in a certain way and for every Patriots drive he made us stand in the exact

same positions. His mood had changed dramatically it was hilarious to watch as an outsider. Another friend, still at the previous house, called him and he told him to stay there because it was working. I loved it. It was amazing.

But I couldn't help but laugh. They had only ever really seen this team dominate. I had suffered through games like this my entire life. I saw the Cavaliers lose in the 2015 finals, the Indians in Game 7 of the World Series this past year, and I see the Browns miss the playoffs year after year. These boys could barely stand watching the first half of a game where their team was losing. I don't blame them; I also am not a good loser.

Of course, in the end

the Patriots took the win for their fifth ring and my friends sprayed bottles of cheap champagne and chanted Tom Brady's name. And their mood was changed by a complete 180. Though they had sank to their lowest low, they never stopped watching the game. They never said "man, do I hate the Patriots." And that's what I love about sports. The scoreboard doesn't show the quirky things fans everywhere did throughout the game that they justified as good and bad "ju-ju." And didn't feel the hugs that were exchanged as the Patriots swarmed the field for the Lombardi trophy. It was amazing, even for a Browns fan.

erin@usmfreepress.org  
@eriinbrooownnn

### Scoreboard

#### February 3

**Women's Ice Hockey**  
USM 2  
Plymouth St. 1

**Men's Ice Hockey**  
USM 4  
St. Anselm 3

#### February 4

**Men's Basketball**  
USM 90  
Keene State 71

**Women's Basketball**  
USM 43  
Keene State 62

#### February 8

**Men's Basketball**  
USM 57  
U-Mass Boston 60

**Women's Basketball**  
USM 46  
U-Mass Boston 42

#### February 10

**Men's Ice Hockey**  
USM 1  
Castleton 3

**Look for more scores online:**  
[usmfreepress.org](http://usmfreepress.org)



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