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GUNS ON CAMPUS?

USM community members discuss their views on proposed bill

Johnna Ossie | p 4



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

We returned from our annual trip to the College Media Convention in New York City last week, and I personally enjoyed another great year of exploring my career choice and the beautiful concrete jungle that is Times Square. I am privileged to have attended this conference so many times, and each trip has been filled with bright, young minds ready to learn and grow together.

I cannot express enough just how much my time at the Free Press has meant to be thus far. I find pleasure in watching students walk into the office for the first time, unsure and unaware of what role the Free Press may play in their lives. I was there once, a young commuter student looking for a place to call home on a campus that felt like anything but.

Furthermore, I am always surprised by the friendships that blossom, by the sound of the laughter and jokes and deep conversations that is shared between students at the Free Press who are so vastly different, unique and complex. There is a deep nostalgia that will always rest in the depths of my soul, in the treasure chest of college memories, that I will always hold close to my heart. It's an ache for nostalgia I know will never cease to exist.

The reality of my limited time as EIC is starting to set in: Three years of InDesign frustrations, pizza on Saturdays, making new friends and watching them move on in life. It's been a beautiful experience, which is sure to be met with a bittersweet ending, but it's not over yet. With two more months left in this position, I am determined to work harder than ever to ensure the staff for next semester are prepared and equipped for what's to come.

I am extremely proud to say that the Free Press took home three apple awards from CMA, which had submissions from Universities across the U.S. and Canada. We received first place in Best Design, first place for Best Print Advertisement, as well as third place in best newspaper in the category of four-year colleges with an estimated enrollment of 5,000-10,000 students.

We haven't taken home three awards in over 13 years, and the credit is due

We're back from NYC!

The Free Press brought home three awards at the College Media Conference



Dionne Smith / Free Press Staff

The streets of NYC last week, after the Free Press attended the College Media Convention and won three awards for the first time in thirteen years.

to everyone - not just me, as EIC, but to all the writers, the editors, the designers, the photographers, the copy editors... It takes a team to accomplish a goal, and a family to understand the struggles that go into it. To my Free Press staff, you are both of these things to me.

It takes a family to accomplish a goal and a family to understand the struggles that go into it. To my Free Press staff, you are both of these things to me.

I encourage others to join in on this adventure of a lifetime. Just email us at editor@usmfreepress.org and you'll never have to buy pizza for yourself again. You'll always have an office to work in and friends you can rely on, and you'll become more familiar with what is going on in your community. Even more, you'll have a platform for

creative expression and your resume will appreciate it, too.

So open up and look at the stories we've chosen to report on this week: From the potential for open carry laws to be introduced to campus, to the Senate's most recent dramas; from a review of the Juried art exhibit on the Gorham campus to the benefits of having a mentor program for ESOL students, the stories are endless.

While the people who work at the Free Press have differing personalities, our common shared goal is to put out a product we can be proud of, something we can take pride in knowing we completed not alone, but together, regardless of our differences - something that is so hard to do in today's world of social and political divides.

We may be small, but we are mighty; we are paving the way for future students who will walk in the front door of our offices on Bedford Street, nervous and uncertain like we ourselves once were, knowing that beyond them lies memories too great to appreciate until their time at the Free Press comes to a close. Don't let college pass you by without finding your niche and safe haven. I know I've found mine.

Guns on campus: what it could mean for students

USM community members discuss their views on proposed bill

Johnna Ossie
News Editor

Republican Maine State Representative Richard Cebra of Naples plans to propose a bill that, if passed, would allow students to legally carry firearms on campus. The bill, "LR 635 An Act To Enhance Safety on College and University Campuses by Allowing Firearms To Be Carried on the Campuses of Public Colleges and Universities," is still in title form has not yet been printed and introduced.

Rep. Cebra has cosponsored a bill by Senator Eric Brakey of Androscoggin, LD 44 that would lower the age to carry a concealed handgun from 21 to 18. He has also cosponsored LD 574, the summary of which reads, "This bill eliminates the provision of law that requires a person lawfully in possession of a concealed handgun without a permit during the course of a detainment or routine traffic stop to inform the law enforcement officer that the person is in possession of the handgun."

According to Cebra, "Gun-free zones, also known as Disarmed Victim Zones, have been shown time and time again to be magnets for bad people to do bad things to good people."

Professor Dušan Bjelić, from the Criminology, Economics and Sociology Departments, said that he has never heard "Gun Free Zones" be referred to as "Disarmed Victim Zones."

"Disarmed Victim Zones' kind of belongs, to me, to this new Trump linguistic counter information, like fake news or alternative facts," Bjelić said. "[Cebra] doesn't provide any evidence, although he says 'gun free zones also known as 'Disarmed Victim Zones.' I'm a criminologist and I learned that term for the first time. He is inventing facts rather than substantiating evidence that there is a history of gun violence on any of the Maine campuses, and there is not."

As of now, USM's Weapons Policy reads, "Dangerous weapons, including but not limited to, firearms... are not permitted on property owned by or under the control of the [USM] and off-campus activities sponsored by the [USM]."

Bjelić also discussed how he believes the rhetoric of "good guys and bad guys" fails to address the complexities of campus and national political culture, and discussed some of the history surrounding the carrying of firearms, which he says has roots in slavery-era America.

"Historically this goes back to the time of slavery," he said. "In South Carolina, white people were ordered to carry guns when they could go to public places [and] where they



Orkhan Nadirli / Design Director

A proposed bill by Rep. Cebra of Naples would allow students to carry guns on campus.

[could] encounter slaves. So the function of the gun, to carry a gun in public places, was to protect yourself from the slave."

Bjelić wondered who gets to define who is a "good person" and who is a "bad person," in the context of racism and Islamophobia in the current political and campus climate.

"In some sense, if somebody should worry about their security it should be Muslim students and immigrants," he said. "By that logic, according to this proposal, they should be the ones who should be armed first. But I don't think that intent is here. I hear it, reading between the lines, [the bill] is for the white people to defend themselves."

A major concern among those opposed to allowing guns on campus is that it would increase campus violence. While universities are generally known to be places with low levels of violence, Everytown for Gun Safety, an organization that works to end gun violence, reports that factors such as drug and alcohol use combined with students carrying firearms could increase the risk of violence on campus.

A report from Everytown cites a Columbia University study which found that half of U.S. college students binge drink or use illegal or prescription drugs, and that almost a quarter of college students "suffer from substance abuse and dependence." The report also found that students who carried guns on campus "were more likely than students who did not do so to report drinking heavily and, more frequently, driving while under the influence of alcohol and vandalizing property."

Bjelić also addressed concerns that a cli-

mate of alcohol and drug use on college campuses mixed with guns could be deadly.

"If you add drugs and drinking on the campus with loaded guns," Bjelić said, "what is there that would prevent, let's say, drunk students playing Russian roulette?"

Rep. Cebra believes that allowing students to carry guns on campus would increase campus safety.

"This bill would help restore that ability to lawful citizens currently being denied their most personal and sacred right in specific places," he said. "Good people must have the ability to keep and protect themselves from harm regardless of location."

Alex Shaffer, co-chair of the USM College Republicans and second-year history major, said he would need to know more about the bill to form a definite opinion, but that he would be in support.

"I support this legislation, for if it is implemented properly it will allow students to exercise their second amendment right, and at the same time cut down on the crime rate at the university," Shaffer said. "Personally I believe allowing firearms on a university campus has both positives and negatives, and that little is known about the bill to know if it is what is best for the university and state as a whole."

In an online survey of forty-eight USM students, twelve reported that they would support a bill that allowed guns on campus, thirty-four said that they would not support the bill and two said they did not know if they would support it.

Ben Bussiere, senior political science ma-

jor and president of USM Young Americans for Freedom, said he believes that students should be allowed to carry firearms on campus, concealed or open. Bussiere believes that students carrying guns would make campus safer, in particular for women.

"I think it would be a significant deterrent for criminals and students who have the intent of sexually assaulting women, which we know, on campuses throughout America, that the sexual assault of women on campuses is a problem," Bussiere said. "I think that concealed carry permits for women or anyone on campus would be significant."

Bjelić explained that he does not believe guns are the way to address sexual assault on campus.

"We know in robbery and burglary, whoever tries to defend themselves with guns end up being more injured than those who cooperate..." he said. "I would suggest instead of carrying guns, first of all, insist on the policy at the university...awareness of sexual abuse on campus, which is underreported. We have to have university administration very much aware of this and doing everything possible to identify and punish sexual aggressors."

Bjelić went on to suggest that campuses provide, among other things, training for students to defend themselves physically against sexual aggressors without the use of firearms.

Emma Donnelly, second-year social work and women and gender studies double major and resident assistant in Gorham, expressed concern about students carrying guns on campus, and said that she would feel concerned knowing students in dorms were carrying weapons.

"I fear that if people started to carry, they'd be more likely to use a gun...Also as a resident assistant, I would be nervous about on-campus residents having weapons in their rooms," Donnelly said. Bussiere suggested resident assistants should be trained to teach other students gun safety.

Student senator, SGA Chief of Staff and first-year political science major Shaman Kirkland explained that he feels the proposal that students should carry guns on campus is a threat to democracy. Kirkland explained that he does not feel people outside of USM should be making decisions about what happens on USM's campus with regards to guns.

"This has almost nothing to do with the Second Amendment. It's a matter of those being exclusively affected by a law having the ability to set it," Kirkland said. "[The bill] would mean anyone could walk around on campus with a firearm and we could do nothing about it. I am ashamed and outraged by this bill and will do everything in my power to stop it."

Controversy in SGA continues, senator resigns during meeting

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-chief

Last week, the weekly Student Government meeting experienced an interruption in protocol when Rowan Torr, an ex-senator, attempted to address concerns regarding alleged ableism within the student senate. According to Student Body President Humza Khan, the incident was the result of various controversies the student senate has experienced over the course of the school year, including the racial epithet graffiti found in the SGA office a few months ago.

He stated that, during each meeting, an average of five individuals show up to “take up space” and monitor the actions of senate members. While he was unable to identify all individuals involved in last week’s call to action against the student senate, he did note that Iris SanGiovanni, Elizabeth Donato and Marena Blanchard were three of the individuals who showed up to support Rowan.

“[They] started disturbing the peace, and were accusing me and other senators of being biased, anti-black, anti-trans rights and in support of white supremacy, despite the fact that the senate is more diverse now more than ever,” he said.

Dean of Students David McKenzie responded to an interview request with an email statement last Thursday, which briefly explained the details of the meeting. When Torr was not given permission to break protocol and interrupt regular business, wrote McKenzie, they resigned from the senate. He reiterated that Torr was told several times to stop interrupting the meeting, but refused and continued to make a speech for another 20-30 minutes, at which point McKenzie had campus public safety officers escort Torr out of the room.”

“How will we make progress as an organization, a student body, and a university if we are hostile and do not want to engage and work with others?”

- Muna Adan
Student senate vice chair

According to McKenzie, Portland local Marena Blanchard recorded the meeting, which he said “included the profanity laced tirade by [Torr]” He noted that while he did not see it for himself, he is aware that the video is now on social media. In the video, Blanchard can be heard telling Torr, as they are asked to leave the meeting multiple times, “You don’t have to stop. You don’t have to listen.”

Ginn stated that he was “very disappointed with Rowan and Marena for their actions.”

Torr initially sat down in the room with other senators and brought up concerns, which were met with conflict from other senate members.

“I can see there are a lot of questions you want to ask and a lot of anger, I can sense it. I can see some of the comments,” said Student Senator Fadumo Awale in the initial confrontation. “We will not tolerate this kind of behavior, you are a senator, there are rules and regulations to follow... we are all adults here.”

Awale continued by offering Torr resources to file a legiti-

mate report on the incident, while Shaman Kirkland, senator and Chief of Staff, asked Torr, “If this is so important to you, why can’t we wait until the appropriate time to talk about it?”

Khan explained that incidents of conflict were not uncommon within the Senate, but until the meeting on March 10, no one had ever interrupted the Senate meeting in a way that broke protocol.

“I can understand that conflict and political disagreement may exist, which is fair grounds rounds to be angry about,” he continued. “But Rowan and their friends started targeting students on Facebook, both in public and private messages... calling them trash, losers... it was clearly harassment.”

Jason Saucier, the Student Government Advisor, proposed a five minute recess during the meeting, and upon the student senators return, Torr interrupted again, this time with a megaphone.

Torr was reminded again that they were violating student senate protocol, but they continued, “You are all so transphobic and I have anxiety attacks every time I come to the senate.”

In the two-part video series posted by Torr on Facebook, they call out the Senate for, “attacking two femmes and calling them stupid and keyboard warriors.” Torr also accused Liam Ginn, the Senate Chair, of being “discriminatory against people with disabilities,” but could provide no evidence when asked. Torr initially sat down in the room with other Senators and brought up concerns, which were met with hesitation from other Senate members.

On Facebook, Torr also posted their confidential disciplinary hearing order, sent from Andrew McLean. However, Torr deleted the post a few days later, although the Free Press has physical records of its existence. The document states that Torr was scheduled for a hearing on the charges of “Causing a disturbance and a failure to comply with university officials.”

According to Pdg Mowins Muhamiriza, student body vice president, the actions of Torr were inappropriate, because to him, escalations of conflict like these turn to chaotic situations. Whatever their motives were, notes Muhamiriza, he believes they could have made a more reasonable point by being ready to debate.

“Whenever you are tempted to make a sudden move or comment, regardless of how you feel, it is always best to try to understand the other side’s approach, and this time, it is safe to say that they pushed hard the senate’s buttons,” he said.

According to Khan, the most pressing issue at hand is some individuals’ unwillingness to listen to perspectives that differ from their own. He believes that, by interrupting and yelling, they demonstrate to others that “they lack a degree of knowledge and understanding about SGA, and [that] they are unwilling to cooperate if [things don’t] completely go their way.”

“I think to a certain degree there is a small group of students and they don’t know how to handle themselves. They have their own way of communicating and protesting their concerns, but there are some basic rules we follow in the US. and the world,” he said. “These kinds of behaviors are based in immaturity, and not having the willingness to listen to the other side, labeling someone and not understanding what the issues are.”

Khan believes that, because of how extreme these particular student activists can be, it is difficult to attempt to confront these issues, as many fear they will be labeled, as they



Photo courtesy of Torr’s Facebook

Former Student Senator Rowan Torr addressed the senate with allegations of ableism. The meeting ended with Torr being escorted out of the room because of continual interruption.

believe they were at the meeting on March 10. For Khan, the potential to work out these issues depends on the willingness of the other students to listen and engage in intellectual discussion.

“I don’t want to give them time when they are so beyond rational and calling me Satan,” stated Khan, when asked how he will follow up with Torr and their friends. “If I’m gonna sit down and have a mature conversation, I need to know they will do the same and meet [me] halfway.”

SanGiovanni, Donato and Blanchard did not provide commentary. Torr, who was also reached by the Free Press, had one statement to make: “Watch the video.”

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In Brief...



Local

About 5,000 remained without power after snowstorm Stella

BANGOR DAILY NEWS — Repair crews from Emera Maine and Central Maine Power worked all day Wednesday [of last week] to restore power to the nearly 37,000 customers after snowstorm Stella dumped heavy snow that took down power lines across the state.

Central Maine Power restored power to most of the 29,415 customers who

lost power in Tuesday's nor'easter. Only 4,447 remained without power as of 6 a.m. Thursday, with 4,438 in York County and another 49 in Oxford County, according to their website.

Emera Maine fixed downed lines for nearly all of the of the 7,473 who lost power, leaving only 370 customers in the dark on the Cranberry Isles, Islesford and Bowerbank, according to their website.

Kids who commit crimes in Maine still pay long after they turn 18

BANGOR DAILY NEWS — In 2015, Maine law enforcement arrested minors 3,547 times.

While many of these arrests never led to a courtroom appearance, they all generated an arrest tracking number, marking the creation of a juvenile criminal record. In Maine, these paper trails can continue to affect people for the rest

of their lives — even when they believe the documents are blocked from public view.

Unlike many other states and contrary to popular belief, Maine does not automatically seal the juvenile criminal records of young people when they turn 18. Leaving these documents open by default means that youthful lapses in judgment can follow a young Mainer into their adult lives and fetter efforts to find work, get an education or secure housing, according to a new report from the University of Southern Maine's Muskie School of Public Service.

National

Trump Budget Seeks Big Cuts to Environment, Arts, Foreign Aid

WALL STREET JOURNAL - President Donald Trump will call for sharp cuts to spending on foreign

aid, the arts, environmental protection and public broadcasting to pay for a bigger military and a more secure border in a fiscal 2018 budget blueprint set for release Thursday.

The budget proposal is certain to run into stiff opposition in Congress, where lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have already signaled they are unlikely to enact Mr. Trump's deep cuts when they pass spending bills that actually fund the government.

The budget proposes hefty cuts for the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institutes of Health and the State Department. It also seeks to eliminate funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts and other independent agencies long in the crosshairs of some conservative Republicans.

International

St. Patrick's Day Events Highlight an Irish Divide Over Trump

NEW YORK TIMES — The prime minister of Ireland, Enda Kenny, will visit the White House on Thursday for a St. Patrick's Day tradition: the shamrock ceremony, during which he gives the American president a bowl filled with the three-leaf symbol of Ireland.

The next day, there will be an anti-Trump immigrant solidarity event in New York organized by Aodhan O'Riordain, an Irish senator who made headlines last year when he called the newly elected Donald Trump a "fascist" during a speech in Parliament.

The event, called an "Irish Stand," will denounce the new administration, its immigration policies and its many Irish-American members, including Vice President Mike Pence and Mr. Trump's chief strategist, Stephen K. Bannon.



Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log Dec. 19 to Dec. 30.

12/19/2015

Student, lost and found

Well being check, Philippi Hall. Officer checking on well being of a student. Student found. All set.

12/21/2015

That won't fit in your purse

Attempted theft, Brooks Student Center. Officer reports the attempted theft of the ATM machine in Brooks. Report taken. Under investigation.

12/22/2015

What's all that racket out there?

Assist Other Agency, Gorham PD. Officer dispatched to assist Gorham PD with a Disturbance in Gorham. Assistance given.

12/22/2015

Pizza thief strikes student center

Suspicious Incident, Woodbury Campus Center. Employee reporting a suspicious activity. Officer investigated.

12/25/2015

It's just my pet skunk!

Drug complaint, Upton Hasting Hall. The smell of marijuana was reported coming from second floor of dorm. Officer investigating.

12/26/2015

Saco police are worried about you

Wellbeing Check, 55 Campus Drive. Saco police department asked us to locate a subject reference to a wellbeing check.

12/30/2015

Science students gone rogue

Security Alarm, Science building Portland. Misuse of alarm by employee. False alarm.

Have any insider news tips?
editor@usmfreepress.org

FP



Arts & Culture

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What a relief it is

Annual juried art show tests artists

Cara DeRose
Chief Copy Editor

On the evening of March 16, guided by small candles, placed in paper bags, that illuminated the winding edges of their path, students and faculty members alike walked to the USM Art Gallery in Gorham, where the USM Student Juried Exhibition opening reception was held. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., attendees could view the forty pieces of student work, running the creative gamut from traditional pen and ink drawings to intricate ceramic sculptures, that are on display in the gallery until April 2.

These pieces were selected by three jurors

“Even if [students] ... don’t win an award, they should be willing to keep trying. Jurors are subjective, and students need to realize that their work is probably just as good as the other work...”

—Kim Grant
USM Art Department Chair

from ninety-five student submissions. Carolyn Eyler, director of exhibitions and programs at USM, described what the jurors for the exhibition had in common with one another. She remarked that the three jurors were local art professionals “who are practicing,” and that they have some experience with museum curation. This year, the jurors were Jocelyn Lee, a photographer; George Longfish, an artist and curator; and Clint Fulkerson, a visual artist whose exhibit “Fluid Geometry” is currently on display in Woodbury.

About what students majoring in studio art can gain from submitting to and having their work potentially showcased in a juried exhibition, Eyler emphasized how the process can be a primer for students on how the professional art world functions.

“Participating in a juried exhibition can help students become exposed to going through the process. They also get experience with receiving and learning from outside feedback that isn’t just from professors at the university,”

she said. “For those included in the exhibition, it also teaches them how to prepare their work to be displayed. [They need] to figure out what adjustments need to be made and how to put their work up in the [gallery] environment.”

Kim Grant, associate professor of art history and chair of the Art Department, added that the submission process, and the possibility that one’s piece may not be selected or may not win an award, can help young artists develop a thicker skin.

“[Students] get their work out there publicly, which can be anxiety-inducing,” she said. “And even if they aren’t selected, or they don’t win an award, they should be willing to keep trying. Jurors are subjective, and students need to realize that their work is probably just as good as the other work that may have won something.”

Jill Osgood, a senior studio art major who has an untitled relief wood block print featured in the exhibition, spoke about the importance of the selection process to a student’s growth as an artist.

“A lot of professional shows are juried, and a jury of your peers, those who are doing what you do outside of a classroom, is important,” Osgood said.

Osgood noted that student artists should keep their expectations realistic.

“Just because you submit your work doesn’t mean you’ll get in,” she said.

Kayla Frost, another senior studio art major whose work was included in the exhibition, also discussed what students can learn from participating in juried exhibitions.

“It’s a great opportunity to submit,” she said, “and see what other artists think of [your] work. ...It’s a great way to get your foot in the door [and] to really connect with the artists.”

The three jury award winners announced at the reception were Samuel Goldberg, Melissa Bardsley and Kayla Frost, all of whom received a cash prize. President Glen Cummings made a speech during the reception, highlighting how the student work displayed was not derivative but, rather, “original brilliance on the part of” USM’s art students. Cummings then discussed the many marketable traits he believed art majors possessed, and followed this with his response to whether or not an arts degree is worth anything.

“It’s everything,” he said.

Additional interviews provided by Kelly Scrima.

FP



Kelly Scrima / Multimedia Editor
USM President Glen Cummings and others attend the opening reception of the Juried Art Show. Many and various pieces are tastefully displayed.

ESOL peer mentoring enters its fourth successful semester

Sarah Tewksbury
Free Press Staff

Over the two and a half years since its inception, the English for Speakers of Other Languages Department (ESOL) at USM has served as a place where students whose first language is not English can have a one-on-one conversation with fluent English-speaking students.

ESOL Peer Mentoring was first created in the summer of 2015 to foster relationships between students that would help them develop their language skills. Since then, the project has grown to include 12 mentors and 12 mentees, and for the first time, ESOL Peer Mentoring has an abundance of mentors who will have to wait for students to request a partnership.

“At some point we would like to expand the program to include more community members from outside USM,” said Andrea Vasquez, the director of ESOL. “We had talked with Mariana Cruz about possibly creating an initiative to better include the community, but that has been set aside for now.”

Since Cruz resigned from her position as Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion,

there have not been discussions between USM administrative offices and the ESOL Department about building coalitions with community entities, such as local schools and multicultural organizations. Vasquez hopes to revisit the idea of building a strong community presence in Portland at a later date.

Though ESOL Peer Mentoring is a relatively new system to help individuals enhance language skills, students learning English at USM have been going on excursions as a group since the development of the ESOL Department. The excursions include going apple picking, bowling, going to see a movie or going snowshoeing. The group tries to get together for an event at least once a month. However, there is currently no funding for these extra activities, so the students involved all have to pay their own way.

The entire mentoring program is volunteer based, which has fostered a community-building environment. Vasquez believes mentors find working with a student from another culture incredibly rewarding. Mentors are paired with a mentee who they are deemed to be a good fit to work with.

Once the initial meeting has taken place



Photo courtesy of Michelle D. Perry

USM Students in the ESOL program have a grand old time picking apples together in a group outing.

between the two students, they are free to meet as often or as little as possible to discuss any topic. One of the main goals of mentor and mentee interactions is to help ESOL students build relationships at USM and to expand their support system.

“It is so amazing to see the human connections between students,” Vasquez said. “The experience is cross-cultural and is just as beneficial to the student trying to improve their English as it is to the local student.”

When a mentor and a mentee get together, they have the freedom to talk about a wide variety of subjects. When the conversation lags, resources are available to them to help facilitate discussions. At the beginning of the spring semester, ESOL staff members created a Blackboard page that allows mentors to access information such as conversation ideas, intercultural communication resources and American culture resources.

Students are encouraged to share the aspects of their culture that are important to

them with one another. By doing this, the mentor and the mentee create a bond that can be powerful and lasting. While some mentor and mentee pairs have kept in contact after leaving the program, some mentees have become mentors themselves.

Mentors are students from all grade levels and a variety of majors. When ESOL Peer Mentoring is looking for new mentors, education and linguistic majors are generally approached first. However, students from other disciplines are invited to become mentors.

Besides Vasquez, key figures in the ESOL Department include Claire Holman and Michelle Perry, both language instructors. Together, the three make up the entire department, even though they serve over 70 students. As a group, they hope the program will continue to grow to include a larger population of USM affiliates and individuals living in the greater Portland area.

FP



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MOVIE TALK | SHOULD I SEE OR SKIP? LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

Logan cuts through the bull

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

The year is 2029, Logan (Hugh Jackman) works as a limo driver in southwestern America while trying to care for his old friend and father figure Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), who is slowly losing his mind. Things take a turn when a young mutant named Laura (Dafne Keen) is on the run from a mysterious group and seeks Logan's help to get her to a safe location.

What Did We Like?

A: An aspect of Logan that I loved was how small scale and personal it felt. Director James Mangold allows for the film to take its time in allowing the characters to interact and for the human drama to take precedence over the gritty action sequences in many cases. This makes it a standout compared to the summer blockbuster feeling of most superhero films released today. This also allows us as audience members to spend more time with Logan, Charles Xavier and Laura and provides an excellent showcase for the actors/actresses inhabiting the roles.

Hugh Jackman has always been perfect as Wolverine/Logan, but here he gives his perhaps greatest performance as the character, still conveying Logan's world-weariness, rage and pain, but with an internal desire to help the people closest to him. Patrick Stewart is excellent here as Professor X, giving a heartbreaking performance as his character deals with dementia. Newcomer Dafne Keen is magnetic as Laura. She had to portray many moments of silence, and Keen conveys a lot of emotion with her facial expressions, body language and reactions, which makes her character a standout among already great, well-realized characters.

J: The opening scene alone makes a distinct point to the audience, which is "Hey, this film is rated R!" It's visceral, it holds nothing back and it's a delight. That's how each action scene felt. It's a reminder that while comic book films are entertaining, there's real violence happening. It's just that most films dumb down the damage that's being done.

Logan cranks the action up to eleven. Despite being a "comic book movie," this film has a human story to tell. It's about accepting what you've done in the past and how to move forward from your mistakes. The stakes are personal and don't have the typical, "We have to save the world!" thing that most comic book films have been pulling.

What Did We Dislike?

A: I have no major problems with Logan. There were a couple of scenes that felt a little long and the pacing seemed off, but it did not take away too much from the overall experience for me.

J: I have several issues, but I don't want to give too



20th Century Fox

much away. The one I will talk about is similar to Aaron's. There's a spot at the end of the second act where it feels like the characters are fumbling around until they get to the next location.

Who Do We Think This is For?

A: If you are a fan of X-Men, Wolverine or violent and mature character studies, I think you will enjoy Hugh Jackman's final outing as the character.

J: This is a film for those who have been wanting a true Wolverine film since 2000. That being said, having knowledge of this character isn't necessary to enjoy the film. If you're looking for a film with great characters, emotion and brutal action, then this one is for you.

FP

A Must-See



A&C Listings

Monday, March 20

A Tribe Called Red
 Port City Music Hall
 504 Congress St.
 Doors: 8:00 Starts: 9:00

Tuesday, March 21

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

Wednesday, March 22

The Expendables
 Port City Music Hall
 504 Congress St.
 Doors: 8:00 Starts: 9:00

The Kurt Baker Combo
 Portland House of Music
 25 Temple St.
 Doors: 8:00 Starts: 9:00

Thursday, March 23

Betty Harris
 Portland House of Music
 25 Temple St.
 Doors: 8:00 Starts: 8:45

Friday, March 24

Sassquatch
 Blue
 650 Congress St.
 Starts: 10:00

Saturday, March 25

Ms. Lisa Fischer & Grand Baton
 State Theatre
 609 Congress St.
 Doors: 8:00 Starts: 9:00

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

What caught your eyes and ears this week? Let us know! arts@usmfreepress.org

Perspectives

Importance of student journalists / 11
Let's talk about it: Building walls / 12
Puzzles and crosswords / 13

Editor Opinion



Bradford Spurr / Multimedia Editor

Flowers, flags, and cards decorate the nearly 3,000 names around the two 9/11 memorials. These names should serve as not only a memory of those that lost their lives but also as a reminder that even in the darkest of times we as Americans can come together in the face of ultimate evil and become a united country that our forefathers envisioned.

The dichotomy between memorial and commodity: 9/11

Bradford Spurr
Multimedia Editor

2,977 people died on September 11th, 2001, not counting the 19 hijackers who I even debated mentioning in this piece. I removed their statistics from the final death count, cowards deserve no fame in their death. An innocuous day in an otherwise auspicious city. Terrorism, hijacking, an indoctrinated theory of hate. People died in September. Nearly three thousand Americans were consumed in the fire, the rubble, the utter destruction of the symbolic center of American capitalism.

We all remember where we were, Mrs. Caruso's third grade class for me, and yet the memory remains emotionally attached to our sentence. There is a memorial now, two in fact. Infinity pools, reflecting pools, holes in the ground. The 9/11 memorial plaza was built to evoke some emotion, feeling, suffering, loss, finality. It was just after noon when I emerged from the T.S.

Elliot-esque metro. Faces amongst the blank and bleak darkness. The memorial (9/11) sits outside what one would consider a construction zone. There are pathways etched into the ruin of commodity. Two reflecting, infinity, perpetual pools of grief.

We have all seen the falling man, the man who made that decision to leap from a tower so high it seemed impossible, an image out of place. Lest the insatiable flames of hatred consume the body and technical soul, one had to make the choice between flame and freedom. People threw themselves from the edifice of American capitalism just so they could escape the inevitable flame.

It was just above thirty-five degrees when I climbed the stairs. The subway is just exactly what you would picture the subway to be. Sweatshirt, light jacket, preoccupied mind, we all remember where we were.

There are kiosks dotted across an other-

wise busy square. Carts pulled atop the ruin. Here you can buy a flag, emblazoned with the victims' names, and wait, there is a sale. Canvas tote of the 'Survivor Tree' the only remaining thing in the plaza that was there before the terrorist attacks.

The perimeter of each memorial is made of laser etched slabs, metal I believe, the names of the dead sit there in silent reminder. These people did not ask for this, they were not martyrs, they were just people, Americans. These were not monks in protest, their immolation stemmed from extremism and hatred. There were fathers, mothers, husbands

See **DICHOTOMY** on page 11

From **DICHOTOMY** on page 10

and wives, first responders, humans.

One World Trade Center looms down from the South, an eerie reminder of just why the twin towers were chosen as targets. It cost four billion dollars to build. Let that sink in. It is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere.

The September 11 th Memorial Plaza also contains the 9/11 museum and memorial

a picture with a sly grin, Tinder must have become frighteningly morbid if these are the pictures that get results.

I had an epiphany-like moment. Standing there it felt as though I was the only one who saw what was going on around me, it made me furious. I'm a photographer and I stopped taking pictures; I put my camera into my bag and just stood in the middle of the plaza. People, heroes in my book out of sheer circumstance. They did not ask for this

"People hit the pavement where faceless masses now jockey for the perfect selfie. Men and women were making a deliberate choice, a choice of their own, to throw themselves from a skyscraper because the alternative was just so terrifying that 60-100 stories seemed a better option."

center. The line was out the door, winding in deliberate fashion, herded by the black nylon straps that designated lanes. There is, naturally, a strong police presence, counter-terrorism police no less patrol the grounds and laugh amongst themselves, every now and then someone will approach them and they will shift their mode of nonverbal communication, adopting a stoic and controlled face, their stance hardens, some shift their guns.

A kid would just want a picture because to the young they are objectively cool. The mother thanks them for their service, as if their standing in a plaza extends to their brothers and sisters in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

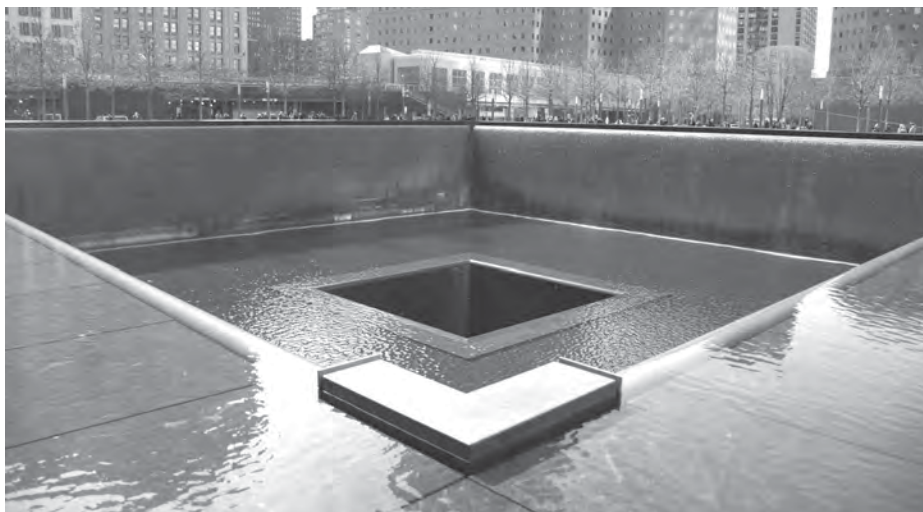
The real problem happened as I was awkwardly following a policewoman to see if I could get a picture. A father motioned for his son to join him at the edge of the South tower memorial. He pulled out a selfie stick and posed, smiles and all, with his small child. This was not the only example of this, this perverse sensationalization. Men a little older than me, 23/24, stood adorned in a tasteful scarf and designer sunglasses, snapping

and yet in 2017 we have turned 9/11 into a commodity with key chains, a physical space that begs for a picture to preserve the moment, but this is no pilgrimage, it is a box to check on the NYC double decker tour.

People hit the pavement where faceless masses now jockey for the perfect selfie. Men and women were making a deliberate choice, a choice of their own, to throw themselves from a skyscraper because the alternative was just so terrifying that 60-100 stories seemed a better option. Most of us will never have a moment like that. It is dark and scary, probably better to just not think about it but that would be a dishonour to those who died.

They didn't get a choice really, and in their final moments they took their destiny into their own hands, they refused to let hatred dictate their finality. So they jumped and they fell, and they died on impact. Some families would be lucky, in a horribly ironic sense of the word, to receive body parts to bury. But at least the 9/11 reusable shopping bag is \$6.00 instead of the usual MSRP of \$9.00. What a bargain.

FP



Bradford Spurr / Multimedia Editor

Our Opinion

In a time of hostility, journalism is important now more than ever



Editorial Board
Free Press Staff

As student journalists, we are not immune to the realities that more and more people are leary of the reliability of news in today's politically charged climate. During the U.S. Presidential election campaign, we began to notice the changes in public opinion. Instead of positive feedback and encouragement, we received emails with hateful statements against us.

We received messages telling us to, "keep drinking the kool aid," in reference to the Jonestown Massacre of 1978, where 900 members of a cult committed suicide-murder under the authority of Jim Jones. He was essentially calling us brainwashed. People came up with clever, but hateful statements to make us feel incompetent, to feel lesser, just because we are pursuing a career in Journalism.

"Fake News!" some emails read, while one person stated that they would, "continue taking dumps on blank pieces of paper... as that is the best approximation I have for your journalistic abilities." One person offered to send a photo of a dumpster fire, explaining it would be a good representation of the trash we print, while another offered to copy-edit the editor-in-chief's birth certificate. All of this hatred stems from the current political climate and readers' inability to understand just how important gathering and reporting accurate news is to the populace.

Our trip to New York City to attend the College Media Convention offered classes that directly reflected the current issues in journalism today.

There were a wide of courses offered at the conference, all meant to supply student journalists with information and tools needed to survive in the world journalism, and many were directly related to Trump's attacks on the media and the current political divide.

One session, The Critical Newsroom, talked directly about using feminism as a tool in journalism and how to avoid language that supports constructions of patriarchy. In fact,

there were several sessions that focused on the language used by journalists and how language can harm readers and contribute to biases. For example, one session spoke specifically about how phrases such as "illegal alien" or "illegal immigrant" were harmful and misleading, as a person cannot be illegal, only an action can be illegal. The speaker said journalists are perpetuating anti-immigration stances by using that type of language and should instead say "undocumented immigrant." She also mentioned that what language is appropriate is constantly changing and that it's the responsibility of journalists to stay up to date.

At a time when the credibility of journalists is being called into question by the highest government official in the United States, it is very important for us to make use of all the official data that we have available. In a situation where we need to investigate an issue or some sort of activity, one of the most powerful tools we have is the Freedom of Information Act. Under this law, we can gain access to virtually any government reports, whether it be on crime, public service usage, or a governmental department's budget. In most cases, the government is required to disclose whatever information is requested, unless a valid reason for nondisclosure could be provided, such as a case in which we are asking for sensitive information on a police investigation that is currently underway. This law is one of the most powerful tools we have available for protecting our credibility, as a government official could hardly argue with official government data.

Despite cries of "fake news" and the new creation of "alternative facts," journalists continue to play a vital role in supplying the public with critical information. Now, maybe more than ever, journalists must understand the role they play and power they hold as seekers and providers of truth and facts.

As writer and musician Oliver Emberton put it, "If you're not pissing someone off, you probably aren't doing anything important."

FP

Let's Talk About It

Building walls around myself

Johnna Ossie
News Editor

Months ago I wrote a column about radical vulnerability, and while in theory I knew and truly believed that being vulnerable is one of the most radical things we can do, I have to admit I haven't always followed my own advice. I grew up in a conservative household, and while it's no secret that I came out of that household a queer progressive, I still had instilled in me those good old-fashioned American values: pull yourself up by your bootstraps, you don't need anybody's help, because you are, in fact, an island.

"I don't need any help," is something that I found myself repeating all fall and winter. "I don't need anything from anyone. I can do it." I said this over and over and I tried to make it true (spoiler alert: It was never true).

So I spent all winter walking home by myself at 2 a.m. because I didn't want to accept an offer for a ride (dangerous). I hauled things down the block to my new apartment alone and pulled carrying boxes that were too heavy (dumb). I didn't go see my advisor for the first two years I went to USM because I didn't think I needed help picking out classes (second spoiler alert: I did).

I watched a video recently of social worker and Ph.D. Brene Brown, in which she said something that really stressed me out. Brown said, "If you cannot ask for help without self judgement, you are never really offering help without judgement."

That was a hard pill to swallow. As someone who has often prided myself on my desire to give to and help others, this one didn't sit so well with me. "I never judge people for asking for help!" I thought to myself. How could I?

I'm going to be a social worker! Judge? Me? Never!

But if I think back to my years growing up in my conservative home, it makes sense that some part of me, buried way deep down in the places we all shove the childhood things we don't want to deal with, sees asking for help as a sign of weakness. And if I show weakness, what then?

As someone socialized as a girl and someone who has been in abusive relationships, for me showing weakness has generally meant putting myself in harms way. The real peak of my "no man is an island, but this woman is" streak came on the tail end of a drawn-out court procedure to get a protection from abuse order to keep myself safe. After that I convinced myself that the best way to move on and be okay was to never appear weak, to never ask for help and to close myself off from vulnerability.

But after months of building walls around myself, it started to feel pretty bad alone on the island. It felt bad to be pushing away people who were truly invested in my well being. It felt bad to pretend like I didn't feel real feelings, or need help, or love or care. Ultimately, the pretending to be invincible felt much worse than anything else.

I can't say that it will be or has been an easy process. In fact, it's often physically painful for me to ask for help or to let myself be vulnerable. My throat closes up, my chest tightens and my heart races. Sometimes I want to scream, "Never mind, I didn't mean it!" after I share something that could leave me open to being hurt. But I do know that breaking down the walls piece by piece will only serve me well in the end, and maybe taking the risk is braver than going it alone.

FP

Advising Advice

Finding creative spaces to study

From Brooks to Woodbury, the options are endless

Megan Wright
Academic Advisor

Remember when you were a child and you built a fort in the living room or your bedroom? You grabbed blankets off every bed and created caves, castles and dungeons for you and your toys. Having those creative spaces just for you to escape to and let your imagination run wild may be some of your happier childhood memories. Then you started college. Today your forts look more like desks and your toys are now your trusty pens. Don't you wish you could still escape to a space you created?

Here at USM, the advising department has designed creative spaces for you. Every student has an area where they can study alone, with a group or prepare for a presentation. Let's explore some of these areas!

For students living on campus, visits to the Brooks Student Center, especially its Lower Level, can provide students with a cozy environment. Get comfy on the couches or the bean bag chairs. For a break, enjoy the foosball tables, games and the Husky Hideaway

for a late night treat with friends. Chat with people at the Student Activities Center or check out a basketball or volleyball game.

On all three campuses, USM has libraries with computers for individual work and study rooms for group work. If you want to escape to someplace quiet and use a cubby to focus, check out the upper floors of the libraries where you can find secret desks and chairs nestled on all floors. Bring your favorite slippers and headphones to finish up some homework.

Also check out Woodbury Campus Center on the Portland campus, where there are lots of couches. Quickly heat up some food that you may have brought in one of the microwaves.

If you are an athlete, there are spaces for you too. Student athletes are required to have study tables. In Costello Complex, athletes have a place where they can focus, get homework done and meet with tutors.

Read the rest online
usmfreepress.org

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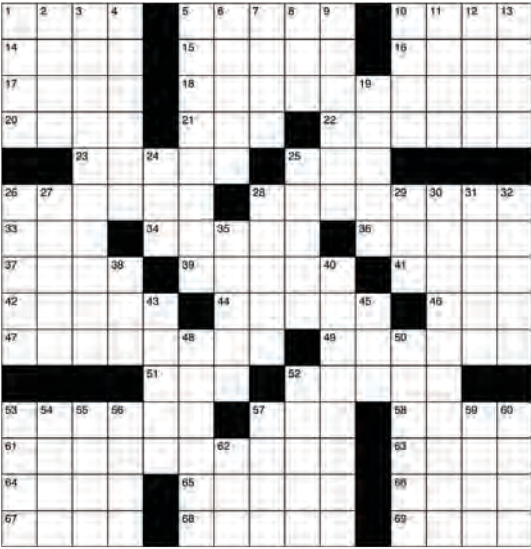
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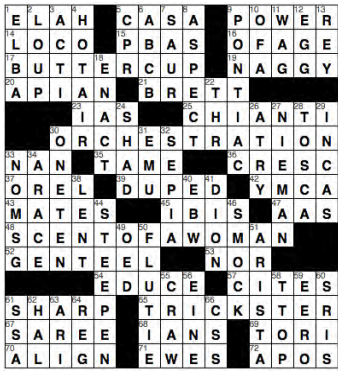
Crossword

- Across**
- 1. Triumphant taunt
 - 5. Walk in step
 - 10. French fantasy
 - 14. Las Vegas rival
 - 15. "Star Trek" role
 - 16. "Metamorphosis" author
 - 17. Is human?
 - 18. Drooling
 - 20. Hard to comprehend
 - 21. "Can ___ honest with you?"
 - 22. Jessica's little sis
 - 23. Bath powders
 - 25. Type of tray
 - 26. Fish dish
 - 28. Heel or ankle deformity
 - 33. Sashimi choice
 - 34. Amidala's planet
 - 36. One-named musician
 - 37. Stave (off)
 - 39. Biblical prophet
 - 41. 1972 Wimbledon winner Smith
 - 42. Standing at attention
 - 44. ___ nails (fakir's tool)
 - 46. CNN competitor
 - 47. Corn protection
 - 49. Within a deadline
 - 51. Apple mobile op. sys.
 - 52. Woods on greens
 - 53. Table spray brand
 - 57. Halloween shout
 - 58. ___ evil (be good)
 - 61. Do-or-die moment in football
 - 63. Happen ___: discover
 - 64. Difficulty in the throat
 - 65. Rajah's partner
 - 66. Circus ball balancer
 - 67. Wedding invitation encl.
 - 68. "May I have ___ with you?"
 - 69. Like an unswept hearth



- Down**
- 1. Made mad
 - 2. "The Way We ___"
 - 3. Lawyer fee phrase
 - 4. Desire of most e-mail users
 - 5. Flautist, e.g.
 - 6. Belonging to Melville's captain
 - 7. Command the kingdom
 - 8. Dernier ___ (last word)
 - 9. Lake that straddles California and Arizona
 - 10. Philip who wrote "Goodbye, Columbus"
 - 11. Unholy
 - 12. Grape's place
 - 13. "Close to the ___" (Yes album of 1972)
 - 19. "Harold and Maude" director Hal
 - 24. Certain hosp. employee
 - 25. Way to read
 - 26. Keepers of jewels
 - 27. Quartz
 - 28. Singer Leonard
 - 29. Musical syllables
 - 30. Facing defeat
 - 31. ___ fours (crawling)
 - 32. Bassless?
 - 35. Patisserie items
 - 38. Reagan National Airport's code
 - 40. Gestured
 - 43. Checker's dance
 - 45. Mediterranean tree
 - 48. Godzilla rival
 - 50. Her looks were petrifying
 - 52. Babel structure
 - 53. Failing marks
 - 54. Nick Charles' wife
 - 55. Twosomes
 - 56. Egg on
 - 57. U2 vocalist
 - 59. Webster or Wyle
 - 60. Having no siblings
 - 62. European crow

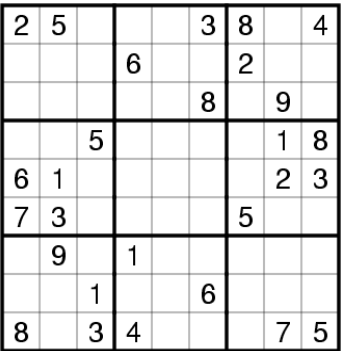
The solution to last issue's crossword



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 x 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.



Word Search

Theme: St. Patrick's Day

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



- bagpipe
- celtic
- clover
- coins
- fortune
- gold
- green
- holiday
- ireland
- jig
- leprechaun
- limerick
- lucky
- rainbow
- saintpatrick
- shamrock

Cryptogram

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

DTW BARVWUB OBORKKC UWEURDX EUSN
VWKKDXF HSAWB. VMWC'UW REURDL
VMW DTW NDFMV TURTA OJ.

And here is your hint: U = R



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USM Community Page



People of USM

Kaoru Phillips, Assistant Director of International Programs

Using personal experience to help guide USM students through study abroad

Eleanor Mair
Contributor

The transition into university can be difficult. The experience of living in a new town, trying to make new friends, participating in brand new courses and gaining a sense of independence can be overwhelming. For incoming international students, however, their recent travels, sometimes thousands of miles away from home, to immerse themselves in a completely new country and culture adds another layer to this experience.

Kaoru Phillips, assistant director of International Programs, has been through all of that. In 1984, she moved from Japan to Maine in order to learn English and immerse herself in an English-speaking culture. After completing an English as a Second Language course at Westbrook College, she transferred to USM to complete both her associate's degree in basic studies and her bachelor's degree in anthropology and geography.

She later began working in the Office of International Programs at USM after helping other Japanese students acclimate to life in the United States, and has worked there ever since, helping hundreds of students from the U.S. and around the world.

Phillips said that the most fulfilling part of her job is getting to know all of the students and experiencing all of the different cultures that new international students bring to the USM community. She stated that many incoming students are arriving from places such as the U.K., South Korea, Nepal and Nigeria.

Because of her personal experience, Phillips feels that she can relate to students and support them as well. Phillips still remembers the struggle of coming to a new country. At first she was really excited, but once the excitement wore off, culture shock and the reality of the sheer distance she was from her home set in. The language barrier she experienced added another layer of frustration.

"My host family couldn't communi-



Lauren Kennedy / Contributor

Kaoru Phillips, assistant director of International Programs, moved from Japan in 1984 to Maine in order to learn English and immerse herself in an English-speaking culture. For more information on Study Abroad, visit 101 Payson Smith.

cate with me and I'd get frustrated because I thought I was saying something but they couldn't understand me," Phillips said.

After six months, however, she felt more at home and now recommends that every student should take advantage of the many study abroad opportunities available at USM.

Students have the chance to travel to many different countries, with USM having many partner universities all over the world, including in the Netherlands, Japan, New Zealand and those countries mentioned earlier. Phillips believes that studying abroad gives students a chance to experience a new culture, as well as

learn more about themselves and their own culture.

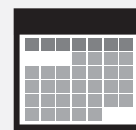
"I thought I knew about Japan before I came here but I realized that I didn't know anything," Phillips said. "I started learning a lot about my own country after I got out because I get to see Japan from the outside."

Phillips expressed how important it is for students to take advantage of available study abroad opportunities.

"Just do it," she said, noting the many chances students have to study abroad over the spring and summer breaks.

Lastly, the one thing Phillips misses most from Japan: "The food!"

FP



Community Events

Monday, March 20

Wellness Bible study
USM Gorham Campus
Brooks Student Center
Starts: 6 p.m. / Ends 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

Ashlee Haze: Spoken word poet
USM Portland Campus
Wishcamper Center 102
Starts: 6 p.m. / Ends: 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22

A Goofy Movie screening and pizza
USM Gorham Campus
Lower Brooks Student Center
Starts: 9 p.m. / Ends: 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 23

Chai chats
USM Portland campus
Woodbury Campus Center
Starts: 2 p.m. / Ends: 4 p.m.

Friday, March 24

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, March 25

Maine state spelling bee
USM Portland Campus
Abromson Community Education Center
Starts: 2 p.m. / Ends: 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 26

Bookbinding and the pursuit
of human touch
USM Portland Campus
Glickman Family Library 7th Floor
Starts: 8 a.m. / Ends: 5 p.m.

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

Sports

Monday

Baseball

vs. Wis.-
Whitewater @
Auburndale, FL

Tuesday

Softball

vs. Oberlin @
Clermont, FL

Tuesday

Women's Lacrosse

vs. Farmington
4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Lacrosse

@ Becker
4:00 p.m.

Friday

**Women's Track
and Field**
U of N. Florida
Invitational

USM wins first National Champion in wrestling

Senior Daniel Del Gallo brings home the title of the 149 lb weight class



Photo courtesy of USM Athletics

Del Gallo breaks all-time wins record for USM with 137.

Erin Brown

Sports Editor

Senior Daniel Del Gallo (Gardiner, ME) finished his collegiate athletic career in the way every college athlete dreams of, as a national champion. Del Gallo took to the mat last week in the two-day NCAA Division III wrestling national championship tournament in La Crosse, WI to become the first ever wrestling national champion at USM. Del Gallo is only the third USM athlete to win an individual national championship. His win was just the icing on the cake of his nearly perfect season and all around impressive four years at USM.

Del Gallo went 4-0 at the national championship tournament. In his first match, he broke the school record for most wins by a wrestler. The record previously was held by one of the guys in his corner for that match, head coach Mike Morin.

"It was exciting breaking the wins record. I made a lot of goals in the beginning of the season and that was one of them," said Del Gallo.

After earning the honor of All-American

and punching his ticket to day two of the tournament, Del Gallo was up against the top-seeded and two-time national champion Kenny Martin of Wartburg College for the semi-final round. After getting past the previous champion, it was onto the final match. For this match, Del Gallo took on Aaron Engle of Cornell College. Dan was able to go 4-1 to take down Engle and bring home his national championship.

"It was awesome. I couldn't have done it without my coaches, my teammates, and my family. A lot of people helped me get to this championship," said Del Gallo about his victories in Wisconsin. "I couldn't have done it on my own."

After four years of wrestling for USM and a career record of 137-19, the standout wrestler said that this was the best possible way he could have finished his career at USM.

"I can't think of a better way to have done it," he stated. "It's sad to think I won't wrestle at USM again, but for right now I'm still just very happy with how it ended."

FP

Dias and Gibeault earn All-American honors at D3 National Championship

Erin Brown

Sports Editor

Seniors Neka Dias (San Antonio, TX / Holmes) and Molly Gibeault (Brooklyn, CT / Woodstock Academy) both found incredible success this season in Indoor Track and Field. This past weekend, both attended the Division Three Indoor Track and Field National Championship at North Central College in Naperville, IL. Not only did both athletes earn All-American Honors, but they became the third and fourth women's track and field athletes at USM to do so.

Dias went into the national championship meet ranked fourth place out of 17 participants, after she achieved her personal best time of 8.80 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles at the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletic Association (NEICAAA) Indoor Championships. After getting through the preliminary round with a time of 8.889 seconds, she headed to the finals. In the finals race she earned her All-American Honor in the 60-meter hurdles when she finished sixth with a time of 8.97 seconds.

For her final collegiate indoor track and field season, Gibeault has added a number of accomplishments to her repertoire. Not only did she break the school pole vault record with 3.80 meters, but she also won the state of Maine championship, the New England Alliance and Little East Conference championship, the New England Division III championship and the NEICAAA indoor championship. All titles assisted with punching her ticket to her first ever nationals trip. At her nationals debut, Gibeault tied for eighth place in pole vault after clearing 3.60 meters, earning her All-American standing.

Both athletes were recognized as U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Region athletes at the end of the season, for Dias' 60-meter hurdles and Gibeault's pole vault. Both ladies will also be participating in Outdoor Track and Field this spring for their last season as Huskies and continuing with their respective events, looking for even more success with their team. The team's season will begin March 24 in Florida at the University of North Florida Invitational.

FP



Photo courtesy of USM Athletics

Neka Dias placed sixth in the sixty meter hurdles at the NCAA National Championship.



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