Protesters take over BoT meeting
In opposition to program cuts and faculty retrenchments, students disrupt trustees’ meeting

Sam Hill
Editor-in-Chief

More than 100 students marched into the board of trustees meeting last week to protest recent faculty and program eliminations.

Students flooded into the Sullivan Gym shouting “invest in USM” and “stop the cuts” while the trustees were taking their lunch break.

“I would be concerned if you weren’t here because that would show your lack of passion for your school and your lack of passion for your courses and your professors,” BoT chair Samuel Collins said to the mob after the trustees had looked on for 10 minutes.

The protesters booed him and refused to stop, drowning out both Collins and President David Flanagan when they tried to speak.

Protesters slowly inched forward in the gymnasium, and the trustees motioned for a recess of the meeting, but most left the gym immediately.

The trustees returned to their seats and picked up the meeting where they had left off, sticking to the agenda. A handful of protesters stayed to listen in on the remainder of the meeting, but most left the gym immediately.

Officials didn’t speak about the protest for the remainder of the meeting, but statements from Collins and Flanagan were issued later via email.

“I understand the frustrations that led to the demonstration that disrupted today’s meeting of the Board of Trustees,” wrote Collins.

“Our economic and demographic realities are forcing us to make some very difficult choices as we align the University of Southern Maine with the times and position the university as an affordable institution of higher education into the future,” Collins noted that he and Flanagan, along with UMaine Chancellor James Page, had met with student leaders, including some involved with the protest, the day before to discuss student concerns at USM.

Flanagan, as he has in the past, praised students for being engaged with the decisions being made at USM, but said that is is unlikely anything will be reversed.

“An engaged student body is part of what makes any university great. The recent changes have been dificult for the students, the faculty, the staff and for the administration as well,” wrote Flanagan. “USM’s leadership is charged with protecting the long term viability of the university as the best interests of its students. We continue to stand by the decisions the trustees have made.”

—news@usmfreepress.org

Admins to ignore AAUP sanction

Emma James
News Editor

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), an organization promoting academic freedom and shared governance, defined fundamental principles and values for higher education and ensuring higher education’s contribution to the common good, sent President David Flanagan a letter in opposition to recent cuts.

This is the second time this year the AAUP has intervened with administrative decisions. The first time was last spring when President Theodora Kalikow proposed the elimination of four academic programs, which would result in the elimination of tenured and non-tenured faculty.

According to the letter, USM has not acted in accordance to the AAUP’s sanctions, which state that universities have taken actions beyond those required by the AAUP joint statement of principles on academic freedom and tenure.

Chris Quint, executive director of public affairs, explained that all actions the university has taken to date are consistent with the elimination process have been based on contractual obligations, despite accusations the letter presents.

“From the purposes of who we follow, or what we follow when we follow the contract, or the program eliminations, we adhere to the contract, we adhere to the University of Maine system and the University of Southern Maine governing documents,” said Quint.

“While we appreciate their letter, at this point we have no plans to respond to them. They do not have any standing in this matter.”

According to Anita Levy, senior program officer of the AAUP, the organization has not yet determined next steps, as they are giving administration a chance to respond. If this does happen, an investigation may lead to a placement on AAUP’s sanctions list, which would seriously damage USM’s reputation even further.

See AAUP on page 11

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Patricia Higgins / Free Press Staff

(Top) President David Flanagan looks out to the group of protesters at last week’s board of trustees meeting. (Bottom) Students protest in the form of a walk-out, just before occupying the board of trustees meeting.
Admin plan to rebrand USM will cost $900,000

Francis Flisiuk
Managing Editor

The recent administrative push to make USM more attractive to potential applicants, and henceforth more profitable through a "metropolitan" rebranding, is going to come with a $900,000 price tag.

According to Richard Barringer, the head of a steering group created to implement the plans for the metropolitan university vision, the rebranding is necessary for the future of the university.

The steering group of over 30 members has been working since June to define exactly what a metropolitan university is and how they can achieve one. "Amidst all the chaos, the work [of the steering group] has proven to be a very positive experience," said Barringer. "I have no doubt that the repositioning of our university is critical for a successful future."

According to Barringer and members of the administration, becoming a metropolitan university involves crafting academic programs and departments around the needs of the community and local industries. Ideally, the university's campus life would mirror the city it serves. Students would be employed to fill internships and entry level positions with local firms that learned the relevant skills.

But to date, the steering group is "up front with the cost and if we want to see the benefits of the vision, we’ll have to pay the price. The $900,000 is just a snapshot, it doesn’t dictate what employers will fill internships and entry level positions, but it is the start," said Barringer.

According to Chris Quint, executive director of public affairs, this is the first time that a metropolitan rebranding has cost other schools anywhere from $100 per student to $500 per student.

"If we don’t report it, that may or may not have been due to a correlation with the other schools that don’t have a metropolitan vision under the same law," said Pufhal. "Sexual assault is the most extreme version of sexual harassment."

Joy Pufhal, dean of students, said the steering group's plan will make USM more attractive to potential applicants, and henceforth more profitable through a "metropolitan" rebranding, is going to come with a $900,000 price tag.

According to Tom Bahum, a student senator and senior, double major in history and political science, the law that people are most familiar with is VAWA, Violence Against Women Act to help stem sexual assault, abuse and stalking. "It is really unfortunate that whenever there is something positive and forward thinking proposed, those are the ones that simply criticize without taking the time to understand," said Quint. "I hope we move beyond that eventually."

Quint said that although the new metropolitan vision is being worked on at the same time that the USM community is trying to combat a projected $16 million budget deficit, the two efforts are completely separate. Barringer and his steering group team were never present during any budget meetings, so that his plan would be uninfluenced by the looming deficit.

"If there are folks out there that actually want to invest in USM, and move it forward, the metropolitan university is certainly an area that they could do that in," said Quint. "If people want to see a bright prosperous future for this university, this is the direction we’re moving and everybody is going to need to invest in."
Student senate donates $500 to survivors of Noyes Street fire

Some senators concerned about what the money will be used for

By Alex Huber

By a vote of nine to four, the student senate passed the motion to donate $500 to support Nathan Long and Kyle Bozeman, survivors of the Noyes Street fire that claimed the lives of six individuals.

The student senate’s donation would be in addition to the $2,000 already raised by the think of students office. The donations would be meant for expenses such as food, clothing and other possessions lost.

“We’re talking about $250 each, for two individuals who lost their homes,” said student senator John Jackson. “Put yourself in their shoes.”

Some senators feared that the money would not be spent properly. Jackson responded to these concerns stating that proper oversight would be possible through the dean of students office, which is running the campus wide donation collection for the two victims.

Several senators stated a need for transparency, especially in issues such as these.

“The community has shown the need was more important than anything else,” said Senator Matt Wilkinson. “I understand that the Muskie School plays an important role and will continue to help in the community.”

The Muskie School of Public Service recently celebrated its 100th anniversary at USM and is going to be faced with setbacks as some of its faculty have been retracted this semester.

“There won’t be a program anymore to teach these students, due to retraction and retirement,” said Carolyn Ball, a member of the Academic Affairs Committee and the Muskie School, stating that only one professor was left to teach public policy and management at the Muskie School.

Andy Coburn, the associate dean of the Muskie School of Public Service, who is also a research professor for public health, explained that, on a fundamental level, these cuts have hurt.

“One faculty member has been retracted, and a tenured-track faculty that’s contract has not been renewed. Many have chosen to retire as a result of the incenitive program that the university is offering,” said Coburn. “Losing all these professors that have been here just creates a tremendous sense of loss. He added that, for students, the circumstances leave some open-ended questions. Students and faculty alike aren’t sure what is going to be offered for degree completion; students want to know how to finish their degrees out.

“What we’re trying to do in the moment at the Muskie School, is align our academic programs more closely with what we understand the needs in the community and the state are with the broad area of public service and education,” said Coburn. “We’re trying to do that with the budget realities and resources that we know we will have going forward.”

Coburn noted the limited faculty resources in light of budget cuts as reason for reaching out to research staff and the community to identify academically qualified people who can help with courses the Muskie school might need, or for mentoring to students.

The Muskie School offers graduate programs in public health, public policy and management, and community planning and development. There is an undergraduate degree in geography and anthropology.

Ball believes that the public policy and management degree is essentially eliminated, despite the many graduates that are out there helping their community.

“The Muskie school is a relatively large organization that also has a vibrant portfolio where we’re working in Maine and Portugal and from social sciences to environment to public health,” said Coburn. “We’re remaining vibrant. It’s really important that students understand that the Muskie School plays an important role and will continue to do so.”

Ball noted that New England has a history of non-partisanship in local government, and that New England has more per-capita town managers than any other in the region.

“This was the only place in Maine to get a degree in public policy and management,” said Ball. “There is not an accredited program in New Hampshire, so this leaves Northern New England without a public service program.”

Coburn explained that the vest is convening faculty from the Muskie School, economics and other departments, on what the degree or degrees should look like, given the demand from students.

Both Ball and Coburn emphasized that this is not the end for the Muskie School and does not need to be the downfall of the school.

Ball said that students can reach out to their local and elected government officials for help and let them know what’s happening, and Coburn said that while it will be an adjustment, the programs should not and will not be cut. They both emphasized how important public service is to the community and how their graduates have helped and will continue to help in the community.

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Muskie’s plans for reorganization

Professors say the school’s transformation will be difficult amidst faculty retrenchments, but that it will prevail

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Dakota Wing
Free Press Staff

At a student senate meeting Nov. 14th, there was a motion to combine the Portland Events Board and the Gorham Events Board to become the Campus Activities Board. In the end, the motion was not passed. However, it was not without debate.

Lyndsay Lombardi representative for the PEB, did not wish to see the two groups combine. “I do will everything I possibly can. I’ll step in a chair position, work on recruitment, anything I possibly can to help PEB be successful,” Lombardi said.

Chelsea Tibbetts, who was the representative for the GEB, did not wish to see the two groups combine. “As it stands, we feel that it is in our best, and USM’s best interest to have a bunch of already well-versed students here, and do what’s necessary to make this an affordable and accessible university for our current and future students,” Quint said.

In the meantime, Levy urges students to remain involved and active on campus.

“For students to continue to be activists and to advocate for themselves and the faculty, and take an active role in trying to bring the administration into the daylight. They seem to want to operate behind closed doors,” said Levy. “That’s not the way to run a university.”

Quint indicated that USM will continue to operate in a direction toward financial sustainability, rather than change how things are being done to align with the AAUP’s standards.

“Do not think this is GEB absorbing PEB, but rather the two coming together for the best of the school and our students. We are one university and I think this change will reflect that,” said Frazier in the statement read by Dodge.

Dodge did not agree with the student body president. “I do not feel as though these should be combined simply because one of the two that would be combined does not consent to it,” said Dodge.

Dodge believed that it would not do the University any good if they combined the two into one entity against the will of one of those two entities.

When it came to the vote, there was only one present senate member in favor of the combination of the PEB and GEB, so the motion to combine them did not pass.

“Do the University any good if they combined the two into one entity against the will of one of those two entities.”

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Police Beat
Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety
police log October 29 to November 3

Thursday, November 13
Police sanctioned kegger
11:50 p.m. - Report of a small gathering. Officer checked room and everything was all set.
Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Friday, November 14
This phone’s off the hook
5:28 a.m. - Report of damage to an emergency phone. Officer checked and determined it to be undamaged and just loosely mounted.
Corinth Hall, 19 University Way

Paying for parking is bogus
7:49 a.m. - Vandalism. Parking meter knocked over.
Facilities reset it.
Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

My GPS told me to drive in circles
6:56 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop. All set, operator unfamiliar with campus.
Philippi Hall, 19 Campus Ave.

Seeing things is overrated
8:52 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop. Warning to operator for operating without headlights.
Campus Ave.

Saturday, November 15
Rent-a-cops thwart terrorist!
11:16 a.m. - Assisted Gorham Police Department with a call.
246 Main St.

Let the pooboxes roll on
4:06 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop. Warning to operator for expired registration.
Brighton Ave. at Woodmont St.

Sunday, November 16
Poobox dies in parking lot
8:35 p.m. - Towed disabled vehicle for obstructing roadway.
Parking lot P2, 35 Bedford St.

Monday, November 17
Free speech is peace, you boob
12:04 p.m. - Checking on loud groups of individuals. Peace restored.
Payson Smith Hall, 96 Falmouth St.

Cops grow up so fast
2:02 p.m. - Assisted Gorham Police with a call.
Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Ohh-ween the sticky-icky!
3:36 p.m. - Report taken for odor of Marijuana.
Woodward Hall, 20 University Way

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
Drag show performers stomp out the stereotypes

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

Drag kings and queens from all around Maine participated in the USM Royal Majesty Drag Show Competition this past weekend. Many of the performers made an amazing transformation and awed audiences with their abilities to change with just a little make-up.

Patrick Stavens, a student at the Maine College of Art participated this year in the drag competition. A huge fan of drag culture, Stavens explained that these shows always make for a fun and interesting experience. The transformation from dressing like a man to a woman can be an intimidating experience for new performers, but Stavens explained that this change allows him to feel good about himself as well as become a strong, empowered individual.

“This is only my second year performing, but I always love getting up on that stage. I’m pretty comfortable in front of a big audience, and performing in front of all these people makes me feel like a diva,” said Stavens.

Other performers, like professional drag show competitor and the show’s host Connor Tubbs, also known as Cherry Lemonade, have been performing for a long time. Tubbs, who has been performing professionally for over five years now, said that the reaction he gets from people before and after he puts on her drag always varies, but the most prominent reaction is always shock.

“Performing creates an illusion. When people in the audience have seen me as a man and then see me on stage as a woman they are completely in shock,” said Tubbs. “I think it is important to connotate that being lesbian or gay is where this drag show stems from. This is a safe place where people can feel safe and comfortable. USM is so welcoming and diverse and being a part of the LBGT community was a big reason I got involved in the show.”

At the end, people who dress in drag are no different than people who dress in gender appropriate clothes. In the end, we’re all wearing clothes and live on the same earth,” said Tubbs.

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Connor Tubbs, Professional drag show competitor and the host of the Royal Majesty Drag Show

Although each performer receives a variety of different reactions when they put on drag, their performance in the show at USM stemmed a lot of positive energy from the crowd and makes for an unforgettable experience.

Tubbs also explained that drag culture has a long and beautiful history that people often don’t recognize. She believes that the misconception that people in drag are abnormal or silly for dressing up needs to be put to an end, because this phenomenon has been going on for a long time and should be no surprise to anyone at this point.

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**A&C Listings**

**Monday, November 24**

**Film:** The Overnights 
SPACE Gallery 
538 Congress St. 
Starts: 7:30 p.m.

**Noyes Street Fire Benefit** 
1 Longfellow Sq. 
181 State St. 
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 25**

**Brian Callaghan**  
Andy’s Old Port Pub  
94 Commercial St. 
Starts: 6:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

**Aaron T. Stevan Art Exhibit** 
Portland Museum of Art  
7 Congress Sq. 
All Day Event

**Wednesday, November 26**

**Black Veil Brides and Falling In Reverse** 
State Theatre 
Saturday, November 29 
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

**Andy’s Old Port Pub**  
Live Acoustic Music  
12th Annual Beatles Night  
Friday, November 28 
Starts: 6:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

**State Theatre**  
The Worcester Sharks at Portland Pirates  
609 Congress St. 
State Theatre 
Black Veil Brides and Falling In Reverse  
Wednesday, November 26 
Starts: 6:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

**538 Congress St.**  
SPACE Gallery  
Film: The Overnighters  
Monday, November 24 
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

**Justicia Barreiros / Free Press Staff**

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**Arts & Culture**

**Husky Harvest Festival: Around the world in a matter of hours**

*Top left: Chaundra Malia a resident of Portland, is originally from Hawaii and teaches students traditional hula. Top right: Nik Frattee, Junior anthropology and tourism major, visits the Panda Express and Confucius Institute*

**Dora Thompson**  
Free Press Staff

The second annual Husky Harvest brought the Woodbury Campus Center to life this Thursday with food and dance from around the world. Where else but a multicultural celebration could students and community members enjoy Hawaiian hula dancing or savor a pan fried bao to the sound of African drums? Elizabeth Bull, a junior communications major and member of the Asian American Association Symposium had a booth at the festival and explained that students need to understand the importance of this event in order to appreciate the world around them.

“Especially now in the world that we live in, it’s important to be culturally aware. That’s what we try to spread. People should just enjoy other cultures,” said Bull.

This short culinary trip around the globe was brought to the community by the tourism and hospitality program. The planning for the Husky Harvest was the main focus of an event planning and management class, taught by anthropology lecturer Tracy Michael Stuzman.

“The class tried to focus on what is meaningful to us and can be fun but also helps us learn and gives us some skills that are important,” said Stuzman.

Amardea Florendo, a student in the event planning and management class and a senior tourism and hospitality major was in charge of getting outside vendors to participate in the festival. This event was also worked on by a food and culture class, who work with USM’s English as a second language students to learn recipes and communicate with their home countries. In exchange, the English as a second language class interviewed the food and culture class about their experiences learning to read and write in English. The two classes worked on the multicultural recipes together from Turkey, India and Africa, which were served to them at the Husky Harvest last week.

“What’s created is fun food that they share a synthesis of everybody. Food is such a great way to engage in different cultures,” said Stuzman.

Dora Thompson and several others from the Confucius Institute makes homemade dishes made from these exchanged recipes, the Husky Harvest featured food from community vendors and student groups. Slab, Panda Express and the Boothby House of Pizza offered samples of their cuisine.

The Confucius Institute connects USM to its sister University in Beijing, and offers Chinese language courses and traditional Chinese festivals to help introduce the culture to USM students and community members.

“I think it’s important to have multicultural events at USM especially for the multicultural students,” said Zhao Yue, co-director of the Confucius Institute.

Complimenting the delicious dishes were traditional dances being performed throughout the day. Konstantina Rigas, a senior in the tourism and hospitality program, performed Greek dancing, and helped cook Greek food with her family, who own The Fish and Chips. She said that she takes any opportunity she can represent the Greek culture and last year the last song was opened anyone that wanted to try their hand at the art form. One dance was called Tsirigotakis, an Island love song.

“In Maine we don’t have that much diversity, so when an opportunity arises where different cultures can come together and represent it’s good to take that chance,” Rigas laughed.

Great, led to a history teacher at the Gorham High School is teaching a Chinese culture class and brought some of his students to the Husky Harvest.

“Food, dancing and music are the easiest way to expose my students. These are all cultural barrier breakers,” said Welsh. “Hopefully my students won’t feel as hesitant to take a language or join a club or anything like that when they move on.”

Sure to only get more diverse, the Husky Harvest celebrates an array of cultures that exist at USM in a way that is accessible, entertaining and ridiculously tasty.

**Beer by Bruce**

Sponsored content from Shipyard Brewing Company

“I hope you’re feeling strong, bold, and maybe stout. Have you figured out where I’m headed? Let’s discuss stouts. Before we delve into the murky blackness that is stout, let’s dip our toes in a definition… STOUT, adj. 1. courageous; brave; undaunted. 2. a) strong in body; sturdy. b) strong in construction; firm; substantial. 3. powerful; forceful. 4. fat; thickset; stocky; corpulent. n. 1. A stout person. 2. A garment for a stout person. 3. strong, dark-brown beer, ale, or porter.

Stouts are a style of beer, is a wonderful and surprising mixture of several adjectives in our definition above. As alluded to, stouts are born out of porter. The creation of porter dates back to mid-17th century England, in step with the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

The porter style was likely the first combination of dark beer with hops produced for the mass market. Prior to this development, the beer of choice in cities like London was a sweet brown ale. It was with the migration of farmers and country gentry, who tended to prefer hoppy pale ales, to the large cities that a synthesis of sorts took place to form porters. As the advance in technologies born of the Industrial Revolution, the porter needed for large scale production to be economically viable, porters became the beer for the masses. As with many styles, porters were brewed at various strengths. One version of a stronger porter was called a stout porter. As the stronger brew gained favor the word porter faded away and the beer was simply called a stout. Many of you may know the world’s most famous stout, Guinness, is actually quite low in alcoholic strength but certainly of strong flavor. Similarly, Shipyard brews a classic Irish Dry Stout called Blue Fin Stout. While the dark roasted malts used in stouts give this beer its bold and powerful flavor and body, you won’t find the barley bit richer in mouth feel, with extra roasted coffee, espresso and chocolate character shining through.

Naturally, stouts can also be differentiated by their alcoholic strength; the strongest being Imperial Stouts. The first Imperial Stout was the famed Russian Imperial Stout formulated of higher alcohol to preserve it on its journey from British brewers to the aristocratic market in czarist Russia. This beer, famously favored by Catherine the Great, led to the porter arm of the Imperial moniker. Today the term Imperial is used to denote a beer of high alcoholic strength, the strongest being Imperial Stouts. Shipyard is pleased to be introducing a small batch of a Russian Imperial Stout called the latest release in the Signature Series, a line of special Shipyard brews of higher alcohol and in bottle conditioned.

If you’ve ever shied away from these dark beers, be brave, be courageous. The Boothby House and St. Patrick’s will be releasing January.

Want to submit an event? arts@usmfreepress.org

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**Christmas at the Victoria Mansion**

Victoria Mansion  
109 Danforth St.  
Starts: 11:00 a.m.

**Holiday Bazaar**

A Longfellow Sq.  
181 State St.  
Starts: 6:00 p.m.

**Holiday Bazaar**

Christmas at the Victoria Mansion  
Victoria Mansion  
109 Danforth St.  
Starts: 11:00 a.m.

**Holiday Bazaar**

Holiday Bazaar  
Maine Historical Society Museum Store  
489 Congress St.  
All Day Event
While we admire tenacity and passion of the students who walked the halls last week, we think that the protest might have done more harm than good.

We completely understand that the students and faculty at USM have a valid concern behind their protests and a desire to improve the classes and programs they care about and faculty members who have given their professional life to this university. But we are unsure of the reasons outside of their own control. Everyone is concerned, but trying to instigate shouting matches with the systems and facility occupying their desks aren't appropriate or helpful actions.

Student protests involved drafting alternative budgets, or cost saving proposals and concessions, then maybe the movement would be taken more seriously in the eyes of the administration. Protests have proved to us that students care about the future of the university. Many demands have been made. The board can simply flip a switch, rehire every retrenched professor and hope that the state will do the same. Giving the system better funding.

The fact is, we are all proud of ourselves in one way or the other. And when we come to school every day, we don’t leave it at the door. We bring it into the classrooms, where we learn, we retain, we remember. Every single time you've had an exam or gotten good grades or seen your potential or saw your potential, you felt that pride.

I have that pride in you, you incredible human. I have that pride here, at USM and in USM. If we can make it here, we can make it anywhere. We do more with less, we always have. There is a pride in that too. There is pride in the fact that even though things are rough and messy here now, you (yes YOU!) come time to come to school, go to class, and work for that degree. You’re amazing! You’re really doing it.

My idea is this: let’s take a moment to be proud of ourselves, collectively. Not as an “institution” but as a body of students and professors and staff who come here every day, despite the challenges we all face individually and as a school. Those challenges will come and go, but who we are, and what we are proud of? That will always remain within ourselves, that will always resonate in these halls. Be proud, wonderful person. Be so proud.

Rachael Cormier, non-traditional student and student representative on the Metropolitan University Steering Group.
As I expected, and as has happened to me before, my third week in Winchester, England, dawned with the insatiable desire to see the sea. Luckily, England is an island (which played no small part in my decision to travel here), and the sea was a mere hour ride on the train. So, gathering a quality travel companion, a beach towel, and a few good books, we made our way to Bournemouth, and to the beach.

When one thinks of beaches in England, one may have a pretty similar image to that of the beaches in Maine: rocky crags, plenty of quality skipping stones, seaweed lines and creeping crabs. It was a delightful surprise, then, to find sand. Real, Florida quality sand, a sliver of beach that stretched up and down the coast beyond vision. We all but ran the last few steps, yanking off our shoes as we went, to dive into that sand. And it was a quick hop-skip more to sink my feet into the English Channel, fed of course, by the very same Atlantic Ocean.

There is something about growing up on ocean air that makes it the only type I can truly breathe easily in. Each breath is a wave of nostalgia: from my childhood when I lived on Deer Isle, and every direction was towards water; my teenage years, when I could stare out the windows of my British Literature class into the harbor; and our Old Port, bustling with industry and a shared delight with the proximity to the water. There is a hidden bond I share with my English companions who also grew up near the shore, a sort of hidden understanding of each other. It shapes personalities as much as it shapes harbors.

So, you can imagine how happy I was.

Of course, I did not have a bathing suit on me (when one thinks of England in October, one certainly does not think of swimming weather!), though the sun was just warm enough to have me half-considering running to one of the waterfront shops and buying one. Instead, we kicked around in the shallows, collected spiraling seashells, and ogled at all the dogs and children running ecstatically around us. Exactly the sort of beach scene I’m familiar with.

After, like the diligent student I am of course, we spent a few hours like old retirees, reading poetry in the provided beach chairs. One eye was always out to the water, though, to make sure it was still there, still real.

The more time I have spent traveling, the smaller the Earth has become for me. This is not, as it sounds, a downside. Rather, home can be held closer, even as new cultures and new geographies are explored. Lying on the beach in Bournemouth is not what lying on the beach in Maine is. Who I might find next to me, what shades of sea glass might glimmer in the sun, what voices can be heard, are profoundly different. But around the world, just like in little Deer Isle Village, men and women wake before the sun rises, and push their boats out of the harbor. Some have engines, others oars. Some look for fish, some for lobsters, some carry passengers. Some carry thousands of gallons of oil, other will be satisfied with a bucket of crabs by the end of the day. We are water-dwellers, all of us, a unique brand of human being. As unique and individual as farmers, city-folk, desert-walkers. I started this trip with the challenge laid before me: to understand something about myself, a self that can only be seen when separated from its comfort zone, its locality. I’ve learned that I am filled with seasalt, that webs grow between my toes, and my lungs will always yearn for the crisp air of the ocean. In a tradition that stretches from Noe, to Longfellow, to Melville, and now to us. The ocean is my poetry. And I am proud to say I am its child.

Martin Conte is a senior English major studying abroad in the UK.

A chilling dip in the English Channel and a poetic reflection

Martin Conte
Free Press Staff

Scenes from a beach in Bournemouth, a large coastal resort town on the south coast of England roughly an hour’s drive from where Conte is staying in Winchester.
Aries

March 21-April 19

Expectations of love are high. Don’t succumb to unreasonable demands. Mutual commitment to the very best helps to create it!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Reach for the heights. You can fly high in love today, just don’t be so foolhardy you risk crashing to the ground.

Gemini

May 21-June 20

Fantasy land images prevail in play today. Give yourself permission to “space out” a bit and enjoy the show!

Cancer

June 21-July 22

Face facts about your love life today and take actions which will reap results. Practicality is your best tool.

Leo

July 23-August 22

Power plays or manipulations by loved ones are likely, so be extra empathic and cooperative tonight. Look for chances to be a team.

Virgo

August 23-September 22

A child seeks a way to demonstrate power over physical possessions and appetites. Food, toys, or money could be an issue. Stay cool.

Libra

September 23-October 22

Both work and home demand attention today. You find yourself giving support and assistance to other people’s ideas.

Scorpio

October 23-November 21

Treat your lover to a favorite meal, flowers, chocolates or another indulgence and s/he will show appreciation in exciting ways.

Sagittarius

November 22-December 21

You’re “up” today with more faith, optimism and confidence. You take direct action to advance truth, religion, education, or values.

Capricorn

December 22-January 19

Don’t let inertia keep you in old, uncomfortable patterns. Seek out what you know you will enjoy and do more of it!

Aquarius

January 20-February 18

Mysteries emerge today. You figure things out and may enjoy puzzles, riddles, novels, crime stories, or thrillers.

Pisces

February 19-March 20

If you focus on how your leisure pursuits fall short of your ideal, you’ll end up frustrated. Indulge in the recreation you most enjoy.

Sudoku

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

Cryptogram

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

USG PBV ZSK IKJMX VKU JYXGNOUBVX KTGNB 0BFX USBU SG AJOU IKJMX VKU TSBUVKU FU.

And here is your hint:

S = H

Weekly Horoscope

great
good
average
alright
difficult

The solution to last issue’s crossword

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Community Spotlight: 
Senator Angus King visits new cyber security lab 

Senator Angus King visited USM last Friday to tour the new cyber security lab in the science building, which according to the administration fits right into the school’s new metropolitan vision for the future.

President David Flanagan described the event as a “very positive and upbeat occasion.”

Senator King announced that the University of Maine system’s new cyber security program has been lauded by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as a National Center for Academic Excellence. This stamp of approval from the NSA was the first time such a distinction has been made across an entire system. According to Flanagan, the lab will thrive under the metropolitan model because it provides graduates with incredibly desirable skills and experience, in this increasingly digital age.

Members of staff representing Senator Susan Collins and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree were also in attendance.

During a brief press conference, Professor Glenn Wilson said that “cyber security is an area which expects tremendous job growth.” Wilson went on to say that he expected at least 300,000 job openings in the near future, which he said was a “very conservative estimate.”

According to Wilson, criminal elements are now making more money in [breaking] cyber security than illegal drugs,” going on to say that it was nearly “a $450 billion illicit industry.

In a speech to the collected faculty and students, Senator King said that “the next Pearl Harbor will be a cyber attack,” going on to say that the US is “technologically vulnerable” and that the power grid, gas lines and the financial markets are all targets. If the metropolitan model for USM is about shaping academic programs to fit the needs of the community, the cyber-security discipline is a relevant focus. USM officials have deemed the cyber security program a place where students can be groomed for 21st century jobs in a growing industry.

King said that cyber security was a “very important area of study” and expressed hope that it would make USM a primary destination for people looking to learn how to repel digital threats throughout the country and the world. King said that there was a 99.9 percent chance that graduates would quickly receive a job post graduation. According to King, the new programs will become the flagship of USM and that hopefully it will attract “21st century jobs” to Maine.

According to Glenn Wilson, the director of information and innovation, 300,000 cyber security jobs will open up across the country. Wilson said this program is ideal for career development.

King criticized his fellow members of congress for voting down a bill that would beef up grants for cyber security and said that there was “no time to waste.”

“What are you going to do when your bank account disappears,” asked King.

King described the battle against hackers as a “constant struggle” with “no moment of victory” because “the bad guys are continuously trying to exploit vulnerabilities.”

“This is a big deal, this puts us on the map,” King said. “I’m just delighted to be here today. It’s a great day for the university and the country.”

Photo courtesy of USM Office of Public Affairs 

Photo courtesy of USM Office of Public Affairs 

Anthony Emerson Free Press Staff

Eric Dubois (left) and Alex Weeman (right), students in cyber security, explain to Senator Angus King and President David Flanagan how one’s personal and financial information can be stolen at internet cafes.
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