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Whiteout shuts down USM

A student braves the storm and whiteout conditions on Tuesday and walks across the athletic field in Gorham.

For full story, see page 3

Library fines lock student accounts

Students collectively owe the Glickman Library in Portland an estimated amount of $4,375 in overdue book charges, with 29 students blocked by student accounts because they owe more than $100.

According to the director of libraries, David Nutty, once a book is two weeks overdue, it’s assumed lost and a “billed book policy” is started. The student is then charged $45 for the book, plus a $10 processing and billing fee. If the book is returned all the fees would be waived, if not the bill gets transferred to the student accounts office.

“Some people frankly just come in and say they’ve lost the book, pay the fees and move on with their lives,” said Nutty.

Another source of expenditure for the library is the occasional theft of property. According to Nutty, there’s been an individual stealing books from the library on two separate occasions: once in January and then again back in July. Nutty said that based on the images captured by security camera footage, the two thefts were committed by the same person.

Earlier in January, the individual set off the alarm and ran from campus with about eight books. By the time the police got there, the individual was already gone.

There is no way to exit the library without passing through the security gate, which reads the magnetic strip embedded within books, in a similar fashion to the gates in retail stores.

“That was the only blatant theft we’ve had in recent times,” said Nutty. “It’s not really a big problem for us. We’ve had more cases of petty thefts like purses or bags missing than anything else.”

“[I] believe my leadership abilities, skills, proven expertise in higher education, professional qualifications and personal characteristics are consistent with those you seek in your next president,” said Kesselman.

He went on to explain that in his current role, he is responsible for managing a $75 million academic system.
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Blizzard “Juno” results in a week of hazardous driving conditions

Francis Flisiuk
Managing Editor

USM shut down its campuses, suspending classes and activities, three times last week, in response to a series of snowstorms that blanketed Portland with over two and a half feet of snow.

Bangor Daily News reported that the first storm, colloquially named “Juno” dumped two feet of snow in some Maine communities, while the second one left Portland with another six-to-eight inches of accumulation.

On top of the accumulation, wind gusts of over 45 mph resulted in snow drifting from the side of the roads, reducing visibility and making travel conditions very dangerous for many students, like the student body president Kyle Frazier, believed that it was wise for USM’s administration to heed the National Weather Services predictions and close school, especially on its exclusively commuter Portland campus.

“The cancellations were a good move,” said Frazier. “We have a high amount of commuter students and while attending class is important, it is also important that students are safe, especially when many of them travel a pretty far distance to attend class.”

Students like Chelsea Bard, a sophomore communication and media studies major and her friend Nicole Downing, a sophomore art major, agreed and said that while education is important, it’s not worth the risk to driving during a whiteout blizzard.

“It’s too bad that some people got to miss out on their classes, but it’s better than being an accident,” said Downing.

“People say ‘oh you’re from Maine, you’re supposed to know how to drive in the snow,’ but it doesn’t matter who you are, driving on snowy roads is sketchy, even for Mainers,” said Bard.

Bard and Downing spent their time off in the same way that they believe most students did: relaxing and binge-watching some Netflix, while school work was put on the back burner.

“It was really nice to just have a couple days to chill,” said Downing.

Downing said that after stocking up on snack food at Hannaford before the storm, she knitted a winter hat, and had a Netflix marathon with her sister, knocking down several episodes of “Psychopath,” “Gossip Girl,” and “Parts Unknown.”

Bard, a resident in Gorham, spent one of her free days playing in the snow.

“I grabbed a sled and went out to the hill behind Robie Andrews,” said Bard. “There were people sledding, snowboarding and making snowmen.”

While it was evident through social media that most students enjoyed having three snow days, there were, however, some gripes expressed about the storm.

Downing proudly proclaimed that she didn’t fall down once last week, but she still cited unreliable buses in Gorham for being troublesome for Downing who said it was blocked off by a massive snowbank.

“I had to walk on the road for a bit and I kept hoping there would be no cars or buses coming down,” said Downing.

Frazier said that parking was more of an issue for him and his friends than anything else. According to Frazier, cars in the garage were locked within from 10 p.m. Monday to 4 p.m. Wednesday when USM resumed classes.

“I don’t understand why the gates that let cars out one at a time could not have been functioning during the hours they normally do,” said Frazier. “I understand not allowing cars in, but not letting them out seems odd to me.”

However overall students applauded the efforts of USM public safety of keeping the snow clear in a timely manner.

“I think the clean up job was great,” said Frazier. “I couldn’t imagine it being any better considering the amount of snow we got.”

According to the Bangor Daily News, along with USM, over 300 other businesses and events were canceled across the state because of last week’s weather conditions.

Francis@usmfreepress.org
@FrancisFlisiuk

From President page 1

budget, serves 8,600 students as well as 8,000 full and part-time faculty and staff, eight academic schools and several supporting divisions throughout the college.

“Working closely with the president and the board of trustees,” he explained, “I have been a transformational leader of Stockton.”

Dr. Jose Sartarelli, the second candidate to visit the university, expressed his interest in the position and explained that he was able to turn a “good college” into a “vibrant one” with the support of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

“Together we have achieved all-time record fundraising, $30 million in four years, reached all-time record enrollment, 2,709 students versus 1,452 in 2010 and strengthened and increased the financials of the college significantly, with $45 million in net assets versus $29 million in 2010.”

He went on to explain that they have expanded recruitment globally and now such particular programs have ranked globally.

In Dr. Glenn Cummings’s letter of intent, he explained, “Plainly said, I see this position from a deep-seated and well-informed belief in the power, importance and enormous potential of the University of Southern Maine.”

Despite significant recent struggles, he believes the university possesses all the assets necessary for a significant turnaround.

“My vision includes reshaping the University of Southern Maine into one of the most vibrant metropolitan universities in the country,” said Cummings. “I believe this is a vision that faculty, staff, students and community members share already as stakeholder.”

According to Cummings, with the right leadership, that vision is attainable.

In an email, Quint explained that following the campus visits the search committee will convene to consider community comments and finalize recommendations that will be forwarded to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees for approval.

During the hours they normally considered the amount of snow we got.”

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No consequences set for ‘mandatory’ training

Zach Searsles
Contributor

Consequences are yet to be set for the majority of students who haven’t completed the mandatory sexual assault prevention training.

In the middle of November an email was sent out to students. In downtown and on Maine Street, making students aware that the training must be completed. Originally, the training was supposed to be completed before the semester break, but due to lack of completion by a majority of students, no deadline has been made at this time.

As of now, there are no repercussions for not completing the survey. However, Joy Pufhal, dean of students, believes that there will be consequences, which the board of trustees is currently trying to determine.

“This is the next piece on our agenda,” Pufhal said.

Pufhal also believes that the consequences could be as severe as being placed on the student accounts that have failed to complete the assessment, meaning that registering for classes would be impossible until the training is completed.

The amount of people participating in the training is much less than the USM administration hoped. Sarah Holmes, assistant director of student life and diversity, thinks this could be due to the fact that students are only being reached through email and MaineStreet.

“A lot of people don’t pay attention to that stuff,” said Holmes. “There has been a slight increase in the number of students participating since the beginning of the spring semester.”

Holmes also commented that there hasn’t been a strong enough effort to get the word around. “We need other methods of reaching people and letting them know how important this is,” said Holmes.

According to Holmes, that includes putting a blurb in the News Flash, a poster campaign, or starting something on social media to reach more students.

Not only is the training mandatory, but Holmes believes that the training will educate those who may not have any idea that sexual assault and harassment can be a real concern in campus communities. Holmes also is hopeful that as more put into the training, victims of sexual assault will be able to speak forward and know who to turn to when they want to talk about what happened to them.

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Urban skiers hit Maine streets during snowstorm

Ailinn Sarnacki
BDN Staff

Mainers watched the warmth of their homes as snow piled up to their windows on Tuesday. Most Mainers, that is. A select group of adventurous people saw the snowstorm as an opportunity to get outdoors and ski places that are typically off limits.

In downtown Portland, dozens of people were skiing the streets, according to Portland police officer Alissa Poisson, and as far as she knew, the enthusiastic skiers weren’t causing any problems.

“It’s not against the law,” said Poisson. “I have heard from the other officers out on the street right now that they have seen a bunch of cross-country skiers out there. Some are using skis to get to work. We prefer they did that over driving anyway.”

Portland resident Annetta Weatherhead, 49, and her daughter Madeline Weatherhead, 20, were among the few who bundled up in layers and braved the storm to experience downtown Portland on skis. They skied from their home on Cumberland Avenue up Eastern Promenade to the ocean, then wandered the streets a bit before heading back home.

“It’s wonderful to be able to ski down the sidewalk on short skis through downtown Lewiston; and in Orono, police confronted some college students who were attempting to drag their friend down the sidewalk on short skis with their pickup truck.

“We just stopped and talked to them and asked them not to continued to ride down the side of the public way by being towed and skiing,” said Sgt. Dan Merrill of the Orono Police Department. “They were fine with it. They’d had their fun.”

The student on skis, who was wearing a helmet and goggles, had run into a snowbank just before being confronted by police, Merrill said.

“Other than that one incident, police officers didn’t report seeing any other skiers on Orono streets on Tuesday. Merrill suggested that the area has enough [land trust Portland] maintained 14 cross-country ski trails in the Portland area, including Evergreen Cemetery, Stroudwater Trail, Baxter Woods and Riverton Rail Trail.

On Tuesday, the urban skiing trend seemed to be mostly isolated to downtown Portland, though the Bangor campus to the Portland Observatory on Congress Street on Tuesday. It’s the best,” said Weatherhead of skiing in Portland during a snowstorm. “We always come out whenever it snows,” Annetta (left) and Madeline Weatherhead of Portland ski by the Portland Observatory on Congress Street on Tuesday. A skier crosses Park Avenue in Portland on Tuesday during the blizzard.

Troy R Bennett / BDN Staff

(Counter-clockwise from top left) Annetta Weatherhead of Portland skis up Congress Street on Tuesday. “It’s the best,” said Weatherhead of skiing in Portland during a snowstorm. “We always come out whenever it snows,” Annetta (left) and Madeline Weatherhead of Portland ski by the Portland Observatory on Congress Street on Tuesday.; A skier crosses Park Avenue in Portland on Tuesday during the blizzard.

For more photos of skiers who took to Portland’s snowy streets last week, check out the web version of the story on bangordailynews.com

From BDN

February 2, 2015
A plan for USM to begin its transformation into Maine’s premiere metropolitan university is set to begin and step one is to find someone to lead the charge.

We are ready to take the next step to implement USM’s Metropolitan University identity, wrote President David Flanagan in an email to students, staff and faculty last week. “The first charge the report gave me was the recruitment and appointment of an Interim Metropolitan University senior leadership officer to begin the transition from report to action.”

This leadership position would serve as a direct line between the community and USM’s senior administration, working throughout the year to create community ties and advance the metropolitan university vision.

The Metropolitan Steering Group’s report suggests that the person to fill this interim position should have a terminal academic degree, experience in higher education administration and a record of scholarship of and commitment to community engagement.

According to Flanagan, the administration is looking to find a qualified faculty member to take on this new role. Flanagan wrote that he will appoint a member to this role before winter break begins just two weeks from now.

“I would welcome your recommendations of who might lead this effort and fill this interim senior leadership role,” he wrote.

Recommendations can be emailed to Penny Glover, administrative assistant to the president, pglover@usm.maine.edu, by Wednesday, Feb. 4.

USM to host The Summit Project in early March

On March 6, USM will be hosting The Summit Project a nationally recognized living memorial which pays tribute to fallen service members from Maine who have died since 9/11/2001. The mission of The Summit Project is to honor Maine’s newest war casualties and the faithful spirit of all Mainers.

The names of each of these heroes have been engraved upon large stones which were given to us by their surviving family members and chosen from significant places within their lives. Members from within the community then carry forth not only these stones, but the memories of these great men and women from peak to peak, summit to summit across both trails and mountain ranges throughout the world.

Students and faculty members of USM will carry these stones from the Portland Waterfront to the USM Portland Campus before setting them within the honor display case inside Luther Bonney Hall. Upon completion of this march, the ribbon cutting ceremony will begin.

As the honor display case is brought to the Portland campus, we will host a ribbon cutting ceremony in Luther Bonney Hall. This static display contains different stones from The Summit Project and has been hosted by select organizations around the state.

USM is currently looking for volunteers to assist in the events throughout the day and an application can be found online.

More information about these events can be found by visiting one of the links below or by contacting Gregory R. Johnson@maine.edu

New option for CORE requirements

Beginning this semester, completing the requirements for USM’s CORE curriculum will be a little easier to navigate. Instead of having to complete one of the university’s “clusters” or add a minor to their studies, students have a third option: complete three upper-level courses outside of their major.

According to Susan McWilliams, the assistant provost of undergraduate programs, the change was made after a thorough review of the curriculum by an official committee, using responses from student surveys, direct student input from meetings with advisors, advice from faculty and hard data on upper level credit transfer requests.

“The results of this review revealed significant problems for students with completion of the requirement, especially for our large and diverse transfer student population,” wrote McWilliams in an email to the Free Press last week.

McWilliams said that the committee saw a need for a policy that was fair to students across the board, accommodating upper level transfer courses that are not accepted as equivalents by established majors or for which USM offers no corresponding degree program.

Students’ degree progress reports have been changed to reflect the new policy. If a student was in the middle of completing a minor to satisfy the cluster requirement, but had already managed to take three upper level classes, it will now read as being satisfied.
Faculty and alumni team up for joint exhibition

Gorham gallery highlights student-teacher bond

Dora Thompson
Free Press Staff

In past years, the work of faculty and alumni have been showcased separately, but this year’s exhibit is a testament to the bonds that can form and survive between students and teachers.

USM’s art gallery in Gorham held an opening reception for an exhibit that showed students the potential merits of actually listening to their professors in college.

The USM faculty and alumni invitational showcases the collaborative works of ten faculty members, who chose ten alumni to work with.

At the public opening reception several artists gave brief explanations about their work and how they collaborated on their creative ideas. The exhibit included diverse mediums; everything from painting and sculptures to ceramic and digital works were on display. The exhibit also featured a multi-media collaboration entitled “Ant Farm: at the nexus of art and science,” which recently travelled from Lewiston-Auburn. The artists Dorothy Schwartz, Colleen Kimball, Rebecca Goodale and Vivien Russe are all close friends and worked to bring an artistic representation of the social structure and life of the leaf cutter ant by combining printmaking, drawing, book arts and music. These “ant girls” created their project in the same collaborative nature as their subject, the female dominant, synergistic leaf cutter ants.

Art professor Lin Lisberger, paired with Kaitlyn Hunter, a 2012 alumni, have created art and foundations, and Kathleen Daniels, a 2012 alumni, have created an environmentally fueled exhibit titled, “New Life.” The exhibit shows the potential for new life forms to arise after a catastrophic extinction.

“This exhibit is the best public relations for showing that the students we have here are going places and doing things,” said Lisberger. “I have always admired Aaron a great deal, as a student, as a friend and as an artist,” said Shaughnessy.

Inside the hut the artists invited gallery goers to write down and share experiences that embody their own individual life journey.

“The hut was created with a notion of a safe container with the notion of energy and travel,” explained Shaughnessy.

Jan Piribek, professor of digital art and foundations, and Kathleen Daniels, a 2012 alumni, have created an environmentally fueled exhibit titled, “New Life.” The exhibit shows the potential for new life forms to arise after a catastrophic extinction.

“Imbolc Hut,” by professor of sculpture Michael Shaughnessy and USM graduate Aaron Frederick, is a testament to the bond possible between students and teachers, as they come together as professionals to create beautiful work.

In Maine we often get students that come from very rural places not the urban art environment,” said Lisberger. “To watch them grow and learn about what the more contemporary art scene is like and how it applies to them is really exciting.”

Another exhibit is “Imbolc Hut,” by professor of sculpture Michael Shaughnessy and USM graduate Aaron Frederick, a 1999 alumni. Frederick used a construction method for the hut’s roof, that he first observed in action in Scotland. The hut is constructed out of 12 walls all held together by tension.

“I’ve always felt like she [Hunter] had this real sense of where she should go with her art,” said Lisberger.

Hunter was in grad school when the project started, so the two didn’t really have a real chance to collaborate. Lisberger tried to channel Hunter’s artistic style, which she described as a bit weird and grotesque. Lisberger created wooden “anxiety vessels,” which embodied the idea of something you couldn’t get into, but also something that was trying to escape. One of these vessels even incorporated pig intestines into the design. Hunter’s work was similar in its loud and grandiose nature.

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“This exhibit is the best public relations for showing that the students we have here are going places and doing things,” said Lisberger. “This is a really great art school and it’s hard for people to see that. It’s a showcase.”

USM’s Gorham art gallery will offer this rich and diverse display of campus community art until March. According to the organizers, this exhibit is a testament to the bond possible between students and teachers, as they come together as professionals to create beautiful work.

This exhibit is the best public relations for showing that the students we have here are going places and doing things.

Lin Lisberger, USM Art Professor
**USM graduate writes a novel**

**Krysteana Scribner**

Art & Culture Editor

Every college student has an aspiration of pursuing a career in a field that they love. For Mary Lou Quinn, a USM history graduate, writing her first novel, *Lost and Found* was a dream come true.

"Lost and Found is about the journey of Margaret Mary Murphy through her loss of family and self as she tries to come to terms with life’s struggles.

Margaret is part of a multi-agency task force operation trying to handle the drug problem in Tyler County, where the small coastal town of Mundy Maine is located. The investigation sparks a series of deaths that ultimately threaten her own life based on a case of mistaken identity.

The novel itself takes many twists and turns in the plot, and the process of getting the book written, edited and published is its own story.

Her journey of success started during her years at USM, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history in 1987.

Quinn went on to study in a fifth year program for secondary education which she completed in 1988. She got her first teaching job at New Gloucester High School and later went on to get a job at Thornton Academy in Saco, where she taught English and history.

I was very involved with the history, geography and anthropology groups there," said Quinn.

When a permanent position at Thornton Academy didn’t become available, Quinn started her own business when she moved to Lubec, called Beachwalks, selling her work at a variety of craft shows.

"In between jobs, I decided to take the time to take the time to do what I have always wanted to do, which was write," said Quinn. “I taught creative writing at one point, and I was inspired not only by the world around me, but by the creativity of my students.”

While writing her novel, Quinn was faced with a variety of life changing scenarios that made pursuing her dream of publishing even more difficult.

"As the writing of my book progressed, I lost my father and that took the book in a different direction, said Quinn. "Then my husband had a heart attack so that became strenuous. There just wasn’t time to start writing because life was becoming too busy for me.”

Despite these events, Quinn wrote and edited her book in three years.

"In that time period, I was trying to run the gambit of finding agents. I couldn’t help but think, ‘now that my book is finished, what do I do from here?’" said Quinn. “I tried the traditional way of getting an agent who would get me a publisher, but I was trying to publish my book at a time when companies weren’t extending money to unknown works.”

Quinn was eager to share her story, so she decided to self publish, releasing it in hard cover, soft cover and as an Amazon e-book.

For Quinn, the finality of finishing her first book has inspired her to write a sequel to her first, which she is currently writing. Quinn said that during the process of writing, she ran into a lot of discouragement and naysayers, but that didn’t stop her from writing.

The greatest benefit of writing and being published is that you get to share your enjoyment with other people and that, is for me, the greatest thing that can ever happen.

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**Arts & Culture Recommends: An evening with Christopher Durang at the Portland Stage**

**Kristen Ouellette**

Contributor

With winter blues hitting us hard this semester, nothing warms the soul up like an evening of satire and a pistol packing nun. Come out to see “An Evening with Christopher Durang” presented by the USM Theatre Department. “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls” and “Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You” will be acted out at the Portland Stage Studio Theatre on February 6-14th.

This will be the fourth season performing at the Portland Stage Studio Theater, and the USM Theatre Department has a longstanding tradition of putting on one production each season here in Portland.

“Christopher Durang writes sizzlingly funny plays that often parody or satirize American artistic, cultural and religious icons,” said William Steele, production director and professor of theatre at USM. “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls” is a parody of Tennessee Williams’ 1944 play, “The Glass Menagerie.” “You’ll laugh heartily as you watch a definite clan struggle to connect with, succeed in and even survive in the outside world.”

This is a light-hearted one-act, Williams’ Laura is replaced with Lawrence, a hypochondriac with a treasured collection of glass kayak stickers. Fading southern belle Amanda readies her son for “femini- nine order” Ginny, while her son Tom takes in desolate sailors who need a place to sleep for the night.

Growing up, Durang attended Catholic schools and is he known for using satirical jokes to critique the culture of Catholicism. “Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You” is a play that features uncompro- mising nuns, whom addresses the audience to indoctrinate them on the dangers of sin.

“Durang takes on Catholic teachings as doted out to students by a fanatical nun,” said Steele. "The show offers audiences plenty of laughter, along with food for thought, at a time when cultures far and wide are suffering from religious extrem- isms.”

In this show, a prized pupil named Thomas chimes in periodically to recite the Ten Commandments in exchange for cookies. Halfway through the nun’s dis- course, a few of her former students ar- rive and weigh in with their own opinions about their religious upbringing and its in- herent psychological trauma.

In addition to these comical acts, the evening will also include an introductory speech by one of Durang’s characters, Mrs. Sorken. She will be presenting her views about theater and what is in store for the audience.

Durang won a 2013 Tony Award for Best Play for “Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.” He is a co-director of the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program at The Juilliard School.

Come out to the Portland Stage Studio Theater on Forest Avenue and see this play for yourself. All performances are at 7:30 p.m.

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**Mary Kate Ganza plays the role of Amanda and David Bliss plays the role of Lawrence in the play “For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls” by Chris Durang.**
Prepare to play your part in choosing USM's next President

When the USM administration announced last week that they had narrowed the field of presidential candidates from 80 to just three and that each would soon be visiting campus, we almost let out a sigh of relief.

Over the past few years (the timeline changes depending on who you ask), USM has gone through monumental changes, a snappy change of the leadership year after year and has lost a lot of qualified and well-loved faculty and staff members. Between lingering talks of system-level deficit projections, enrollment continuing to drop and administrators regularly referring to nimble state demographic projects, we know we’re far from the end of this tough patch, but permanently filling the leadership role at the top will be a landmark.

Our previous and current president both came out of retirement to serve a role here, but it never felt like either felt at home or were fully accepted by the community. Neither came here to make the university their own.

Each candidate will soon be on campus and will be making themselves available to meet with the USM community and take questions on a variety of subjects. If USM wants to make this appointment a serious change in our direction and culture, the entire community needs to be active and filling in the seats during each visit. Sometimes it seems like the community is stuck in a loop of being apathetic when it can be active, then being active when decisions have already been made and when nothing can be done. We’re urging anyone who wants a say in USM’s next five to ten years to make the effort to go to these meetings and have questions prepared for the candidates.

While it’s unclear what the format of these meetings will be or how the Q&A sessions could sway the final decision, it’s a situation where the general community has some say on the ultimate decision. This is a situation where students, faculty and staff have an opportunity to speak openly with our potential next president. We know from experience: if schedules are tight, there’s always a way to meet and attend that facetime with administrators is limited, so don’t miss out on the opportunity to hear from these candidates and use your voice as USM turns the corner to its, hopefully, brighter future.

Our Opinion is written and reviewed by the Free Press editorial board.

Pedestrians hate the snow too

Portland is regularly ranked as one of the nation’s most walkable cities, but you wouldn’t know it walking around the city. We get fewer than six inches of snow.

The day after winter storm Juno brought icy, high speed winds, over 70 miles per hour, essentially shut down all travel throughout New England, roadways were cleared and commuters were tentatively returning to their daily routines. Pedestrians didn’t fare so well.

Sidewalks were last on the list of items to check in on once the storm subsided and in some areas of the city paths are still caked with ice, blocked by snow boxes or have sloppy slush ponds popping up along the way. If anything it seemed like plow drivers were purposefully piling up treacherous snow swamps on Portland’s brick walkways, daring people to try to leave their homes for emergency supplies like board games, frozen pee or beer.

Okay, the city’s winter storm concerns probably aren’t going to get answered, but we’d like to think that those of us without cars are reduced to second-class citizens and left to wade through the white stuff on our own.

Even on Friday when wave two of winter hit Portland, delivering a few inches, by mid-day the roads are near as a pin while non-drivers may as well be trudging through the Arctic tundra. Walkers have to get to work too and some of us don’t have a pair of skis to use. Roads are obviously the priority and a bigger safety hazard. We’ve never heard of a two-block pile-up of people happening because some one almost slipped before awkwardly steadying themselves or stopped and looked because they got snow in their boots. The problem with commuters is that they’re going to drive no matter what, even if they’re 500 feet behind the road conditions are awful, so we get you, you’ve got to keep them safe. But we don’t want to be barricaded into our homes just because a handful of people didn’t get the statewide memo on purchasing snow tires.

We’re okay with snow rolling out our driveways and porches, even taking pride in it if we get up early enough, but we’re tired of walking on sidewalks because some neighborhoods don’t have enough businesses in them for adequate snow removal. We don’t expect dry, open side walks to skip along. It’s the middle of a Maine winter. All we’re asking for is a little help. Until then, the next time we see someone in a Prius, we might be able to observe the motion of light directly, like we can with a cork bobbing in the ocean. The time it takes the cork to go up and down once (or bobble) is the frequency of the waves. The waves out that we have a name for the “bobbling” of light that our eyes detect and that is color. Color is no more than a measure of how quickly the light waves are waving.

If our eyes were fast enough, we might be able to observe the motion of light directly, like we can with a cork bobbing in the ocean. The frequency of the light we see is so high, moving up and down at about 400 million times a second, that we cannot possibly see it as a wave. But we can tell by looking at colors what the frequency of light is, with lowest being red and the highest being purple, and in between all the other frequencies form a continuous band of color called the visible spectrum.

Now here is the crazy part. Color is an illusion. It is, as we know it, does not exist outside world beyond us, like gravity, or photons do. Our brain converts a certain range of the electromagnetic spectrum into color.

We can measure the wavelength of light, but we can’t measure or observe the experience of a color inside your mind.

So, how do I know when you and me look at the USM logo, and in my brain, this perception is “gold and blue,” but in your brain, a perception like “green and red,” but you also learned to call green gold and blue red. We communicate the logo effectively as gold and blue...never knowing just how different each of our internal experiences really were.

Conceivably, though, there could be ways of seeing that we use that causes color to look differently in different people’s minds, without altering their performances on any tests we could come up with.

Of course if that were the case, wouldn’t some people think other colors look better than others? Or that some colors look more complementary than others?

Well yeah, but that already happens.

This matters because this shows how fundamentally, in terms of our perceptions, that we are all alone in our minds. So the next time you’re arguing with a friend over what shoes complement your clothes for a night out in the Old Port, just remember their perception is a little different than yours.

Donald Szolosek is a USM graduate who majored in human biology and a minor in physics.
Getting tired of winter yet? Had enough of drafty windows, cold floors, and high heating bills? Well, tough luck, we’re in Maine and we got at least a month of this crap left. Fortunately, in the meantime with a small time investment you can take steps to keep yourself a little warmer, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and potentially save yourself a good amount of money in the long run.

How is this possible? With air sealing and insulation!

First off, it is important to understand that Maine happens to have one of the oldest housing stocks in the nation. Across the country, a significant amount of homes and apartments from the 19th and early 20th century have been replaced over the years, with better-constructed, more energy-efficient dwellings taking their place. However, Maine and the rest of the northeast still retain a large amount of housing that is old, poorly insulated, and terribly designed in terms of energy efficiency. Combined with our climate, this leads to most of us spending a significant amount of cash each year to keep our homes warm. In 2012, Mainers on average spent just over $3800 per person on energy bills, one of the highest in the nation (Maine.gov).

That said, the state of Maine isn’t going to demolish and rebuild every poorly insulated house in the state anytime soon. Thankfully, there are steps we as individuals can take to reduce our energy consumption, slow down our rate of carbon emissions and save money on our heating bills all at once.

The simple use of caulking or weather stripping, which plugs gaps around windows and doors, can have tremendous benefit for the heat retention of a house or apartment. Closing these gaps eliminates drafts of cold air and keeps warm air inside. There is also plastic film available that can be applied across windowsills, creating a space of air between the window and the living space, which has been proven to nearly double that window’s resistance to heat leakage. These products are extremely cheap at any local hardware store, and shouldn’t cost more than $20-40 for your entire home depending on how many windows there are. As soon as you receive your next heating bill, you will already have gotten your money back and then some.

Now I realize, you may be reading this and saying to yourself - “Well, those are nice ideas, and I probably should do that to save money, but I just don’t have the time right now”. Well, the good news is that there are options available for the on-the-fly insulators, which take almost no time at all. A towel or blanket tucked at the bottom of a door will do wonders for reducing drafts. Furthermore, keeping shades or curtains open during a sunny day to bring in natural light and heat, then closing them at night to form an extra barrier of air and material will also reduce the amount of energy you burn.

With fuel prices falling, it may not seem as crucial right now to focus on energy-saving behaviors such as insulation. However, the reality is that it is more important than ever, with each barrel of oil burned further depleting our worldwide stock and releasing carbon into the atmosphere. Unfortunately, gas prices being under $3 a gallon doesn’t make climate change suddenly go away, and can in fact accelerate it due to increased consumption. So – do yourself and the environment a favor – take a few minutes to insulate a window.

Caleb Cone-Coleman is a member of EcoReps and Students of Economic Interest, and is in his senior year as an Economics Major at USM.

Caleb Cone-Coleman
Contributor

Peace Corps
At the University of Southern Maine Career Fair
Choose where you want to go. Apply in one hour.
Make a difference overseas as a Peace Corps Volunteer
Thursday, February 5, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Sullivan Gym, University of Southern Maine
peacecorps.gov - 855.855.1961

View our job descriptions and apply online at www.usmfeepress.org/get-involved
February 2, 2015

Puzzles

Crossword

Across
1. Indian beast of burden
5. Note in a soprano’s range
10. Author Martin or Kingsley
14. Collar
15. Mosquito grid
16. Scandinavian goddess of fate
17. Woman’s statement after the match
19. Quiet exercise
20. Drum used to accompany a dance
21. Small floor covering
22. Small batteries
26. Where St. Paul preached
27. Just not a hit
32. ___ pro-nols
33. Treasure chest
34. Squares with force
36. Trip to Mexico
40. Gets ready for surgery
42. Movies in movies
43. Like sunflowers
46. Farmings
47. Suffice with Galate
48. Unlikely Blade Flute Evergreen member
51. Volleyball player
54. Cancel a correction
55. Practice Zen
58. MMIs offerings of the 30s
62. Author/Heater/Week
63. Jimmy Buffet’s fan
66. Signs of summer
71. Oceans’ countries
72. “Grasshopper” singer
69. Lananian
70. Gold-Blume of “HI Street Blues”
71. Regis’ pro-

Down
1. ‘Three Tenors’
2. Old comic strip character Kat
4. Hardly a genius
6. Get rid of
7. Stable serving
10. ‘Heart-beat age’
11. Sirens
12. Sexted leftovers
13. Designed for group singing
15. All-inclusive location
16. Rogers of the “Juicy” TV series
17. Militant Zionist group in Palestine
18. Storytelling risks
19. “Rough” writing
22. Org. for minor citizens’ rights
25. Discuss’s nursing
27. Davies polka north
28. Van Gogh’s copper center
29. 3157 S. Kenmore
30. U.S. tennis great
31. Bus sandwiches
33. Hill tribes
35. Popular Anglo-Nigerian singer
37. Yesterday, in Djibouti
38. Most sopranos
40. Less packed
42. Kind of soda
45. Boarded
48. Wine source
50. Needs scratching
51. Sense
52. West Indies volcanos
53. Chuck新股
56. Make compact, or pipe tobacco
57. First name in unit
58. Actress Malone of “Spinoffs”
60. Sun emissaries
61. Pierre’s static Alder
64. Rebrandt son
65. Bear in Barcelona

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.

UM C XLUWM ALVROS SWAUOW XV JC JW CT XL, LW NVROS ICGQ MV NO LUA OVTTWO SRU.

And here is your hint:
I = C

Weekly Horoscope

Aries
March 21-April 19
Your mind is more disciplined than usual. You probably want everything in order before speaking. A good time to plan ahead.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
It is time to plan for your future. Work up an approximate budget for the next five years. Don’t try to stick to it exactly, but use it to generate helpful ideas.

Gemini
May 21-June 20
Today your caring quotient is high. You can be extremely warm and nurturing, with a great capacity to love and be loved.

Cancer
June 21-July 22
A last-ditch effort by you brings better results than you had hoped. A partial reprieve occurs.

Leo
July 23-August 22
Today you tend to see only what you want to see. A positive focus is fine, but remember reality too!

Virgo
August 23-September 22
You’re inclined to take it a bit easy on the job today. Your good taste could be called upon, or diplomatic skills may be necessary.

Libra
September 23-October 22
Take note of vital details. You can pinpoint essential matters. Focus on the heart of the issue.

Scorpio
October 23-November 21
Be sensitive in what you communicate. Some secrecy may be necessary. Think before sharing.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
A partner is drawn toward grace, harmony and ease. Charm might be overdone. Share comforts and tasks.

Capricorn
December 22-January 19
A sudden attraction flares. Your circumstances will dictate whether it is appropriate to act upon or not.

Aquarius
January 20-February 18
Outdoor activities are a good bet for today. Go for a hike, visit the park, go walking around the neighborhood. Get out and be active.

Pisces
February 19-March 20
Time for something new in your life. Seek out the original, creative or different. Look for laughs.

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And here is your hint:
I = C

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

Leonardo’s Pizza
415 Forest Avenue, Portland
(207) 775-4444
www.leonardosonline.com

$3.00 OFF
any large pizza

www.leonardosonline.com
Free delivery or carry out
One coupon per pizza
Expires 5/1/15
Community Spotlight: Open Mic Night turned two-man show

David Sanok
Free Press Staff

Attendance was low at the Gorham Events Board open mic night last Friday with only 15 people gathered for an audience and only two musicians volunteering to perform, but the show went on and produced a successful jam session.

Strumming their guitars were musicians freshman Eza Krazich and sophomore Brian Wardwell, who despite a small crowd, were able to get a couple rounds of applause for each song they performed. The duo ended up performing a collection of covers, including acoustic-star Jack Johnson’s hits “Better Together” and “Banana Pancakes,” as well as showcasing some of their own original material.

Krazich and Wardwell first met each other last fall and bonded over their mutual interest and ability to play guitar.

“I was looking for someone I could perform on stage as a duo,” said Krazich.

“It was a difficult adjustment for the both of us because we’re so used to performing solo and working as a duo makes it more difficult to stay in rhythm. But we got the hang of it and now we can perform easily without worry of falling out of rhythm.”

The low-turnout did not bother either of the musicians and they attributed the low-turnout primarily due to the nervousness people have of getting up on stage and performing in front of an audience.

“I used to get nervous about performing in front people which was primarily due to people telling me I wasn’t good enough,” said Wardwell. “The song Lucid is about how I didn’t let the naysayers get to me and instead of giving up; kept persevering. I hope people will listen to the meaning of that song and use it as motivation to never give up.”

To address the low-turnout problem, both singers suggested better advertising to make the open mic night event appear less like a competition and more like a party.

“I think the problem with how this event was advertised was how it was made to look like a talent show, which made it seem more like a competition,” said Krazich. “USM’s open mic night needs to be advertised as a non-judgmental event more directly while still having the sign-up to keep people committed to joining.”

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Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff

Sophomore Brian Wardwell performs in the Brooks Student Center on Friday.

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Patrick Higgins / Free Press Staff

A lone car sits in the parking lot behind Upperclass Hall during last week’s blizzard. The storm dropped feet of snow in both Portland and Gorham and winds left waist-high drifts on both campuses while class was canceled for two days.
NOW OPEN!!!
University Credit Union is now open in the Brooks Student Center at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham!

Join us for a Grand Opening Celebration on Thursday, January 22\textsuperscript{nd}, from noon until 2 pm at the new Campus Branch in the Brooks Student Center!

Our Campus Branch in Gorham is open Monday through Friday, 10 am until 3 pm. Not near the Gorham campus? Visit one of our other two branches in Portland: 391 Forest Avenue and 1071 Brighton Avenue.

Become a member today at ucu.maine.edu!

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