Project honors Maine’s fallen

Volunteers at the Summit Project arrive at USM, after carrying stones 8 miles through the city of Portland.

For full story, see page 3

Flanagan focuses in on retention

President David Flanagan during last week’s faculty senate meeting.

President David Flanagan laid out what his three focuses will be during his final months in office at Friday’s faculty senate meeting: recruitment, retention and helping the transition between presidents.

Flanagan said that recruiting new students has been an arduous task for those involved and that while marketing and advertising efforts are likely to help enrollment, faculty need to keep recruitment and retention on their minds as well.

“Trying to attract new students is very important work,” said Flanagan. “Important not only to the people of Maine and this university’s students, but to you [the faculty] as well. If we fall behind, we already know that you are not isolated from the consequences.”

“We’re going to do everything we can to encourage students to enroll, but a lot of it is up to you, in being actively engaged in advising, supporting and counseling outside the classroom as well as in it,” he said.

The sentiment that faculty were responsible for enrollment and that their jobs may be at stake did not sit well with some members of the senate.

“It’s remarkable that your administration and Theo [Kakikow’s] administration has come in to this university and done as much as you can, much like Putin, turned us into junk bonds in terms of reputation and can take no responsibility for it, and actually come on to the floor of the senate and say that if we don’t do more, more of us will be fired,” said Shelton Waldrep, a professor of English and the Free Press faculty advisor.

“Here is no way the reputation of this university can increase, which means attracting students, as long as the administration denigrates faculty and attacks tenure,” he said. “We are an international symbol for the battle over tenure in higher education. That is not a reputation created by the faculty, but one created by you, your colleagues and the Free Press.”

McDonnell explained that USM has regularly used professional advisors and that their aim has always been to move a student closer to graduation.

“They aren’t recruiters,” said McDonnell. “They aren’t talking to students they need to convince to take courses. They are assisting students who are already here.”

McDonnell admitted that he had heard from students about poor advising situations, but said that the advising is generally successful and that poor advising needed to be dealt with on a case-by-case, one-on-one basis.

Lucille Benedict, an associate professor of chemistry, said, “If, in the new system, if professional advisors would now specialize in specific programs, noting that an advisor lacks knowledge in a program could lead to a student losing interest as well.”

“One of my concerns is that chemistry is one of the more rigorous degrees and people have misconceptions about it,” she said. “Students might encounter an advisor that goes, I can remember my chemistry course, and that conversation usually goes south. Advising that isn’t degree specific isn’t going to help anyone.”

According to McDonnell, a select group of faculty have been working in a committee to explore what changes would have made in order for the new advising system to work well, noting that having advisors with expertise in a point that has been discussed.

Once the committee has finished their work, the discussion will open up to the rest of the faculty.

Flanagan’s
debut

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Pearl Tap House

Open at 12PM!

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446 Fore St Portland, ME
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Volunteers marched eight miles through the streets of Portland last week, carrying stones bearing the names of fallen soldiers from Maine, before securing them in a wooden box.

The march, and subsequent ceremony were part of The Summit Project, an organization which honors Maine’s fallen soldiers, by engraving their names on family-picked stones, and hiking long into the mountains. In the way, the hikers learn the stories and experiences of the dead men they’re honoring and share them with others, in hopes that people will not forget the price they paid.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, 67 Mainers have died in Iraq and Afghanistan while serving a branch of the United States military. According to Ted Coflin, a civilian volunteer at the Summit Project, 47 stones have been donated by affected family members, some of which have traveled as far as the peaks of Kilimanjaro and the more close to home, Katahdin.

What makes the most to the hikers is the connection to the stone and to the families attached to them. It’s a bond, as Coflin, after two months at USM, the stones will move on and continue their journey.

Coflin said that there are more than 100 stones that are being processed by the MEPS in Portland, that anyone can check out and go on hikes with, just as long as the volunteers follow three rules. To participate in the Summit Project, one must learn about the fallen, endure some kind of physical challenge with the stone, and write a letter of reflection to the affected family.

“It brings it full circle and lets the families know that we are getting the word out and loved one didn’t die in vain,” said Coflin. “The ultimate goal is to make Maine a smaller state, with everyone knowing where their story is.

Marine David Cote flew in from the Pentagon to speak to a crowd in the Abromson center about his living memorial entitled, The Summit Project.

Cote spoke last to the audience and ended with a quote from the speech former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln gave on the freshly bloomed battlefield of Gettysburg.

“It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have thus far, so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us. That from these honoreddead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion”

Cote said that 1 in 7 Mainers are veterans and it’s important to keep their memories and legacy alive.

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**Condoms, lube and information offered at SexPo**

Zachary Searles
Free Press Staff

To drop some must-have sexual knowledge in the laps of USM students, social work graduate student Christina Cook and Sarah Milnor organized the first ever ‘Sexpo’ in the newly opened Goodbody campus center last week.

“We just wanted to throw a sex-positive event and maybe start some conversations,” said Milnor.

Some of the activities students could engage in was a taste test of flavored lube and edible body butter. Several tables provided students with information about engaging in safe sex and awareness pamphlets with information about sexual assault, rape and stalking.

One hosted table was set-up to show students all the latest sex-related apps available on digital marketplaces. The first app, called “Sex Positive” allows you pick body parts at the drop of a menu will tell you the sexual risks associated with that body part and how to prevent against those risks.

The second app, “Circle of Six,” has you enter six of your friend’s contact information and if you are ever in an emergency situation you can just tap one of the icons and messages will be sent out to your friends, alerting them that you need help.

“All of those options are really helpful,” said Ben Marine, who was manning the table. “If you are in an emergency situation, you can just tap one of the icons instead of fiddling around with your phone, which you might not be able to do.”

Cook commented that one reason for hosting an event like this was to start conversations around positive sexuality, because some students may be uncomfortable with the event’s subject matter.

“By doing an event like this we are trying to reduce discomfort around talking about these issues,” said Cook. “When many people are participating, it helps reduce that discomfort.”

“I think part of the definition of sex positivity is being okay with sex in a meaningful way. He never got to meet his daughter Alyssa, but he did hear his baby’s heartbeat over the phone,” said Hutchins. “All of the families here have a story to share. It’s tough and there will be tears, but if a few people can hear it, it means a lot.”

USM will take the job of guarding the memories of our fallen soldiersthereafter, said Flanagan.

“I’m proud to be here as an Americ an, as a Mainer, as a former Marine and as a USM graduate,” said Sauschuck. “I’m proud to be dedicated here to the great task remaining before us. That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.”

Cote believes that honoring veterans both dead and alive, can have a positive impact on anybody’s psyche.

“These heroes who left Maine can continue to inspire us today,” said Cote. “They push us to make better decisions, be more generous, and put others needs before your own.”

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Cote said that 1 in 7 Mainers are veterans and it’s important to keep their memories and legacy alive.
Lower class engineering students must take professor Ivan Most's engineering economics class if they want to graduate. Part of their course work is community-based projects, assisting area schools and foster solutions to the engineering programs. The class was the brainchild of STEM partnerships coordinator Emily Mitchell, who works in the community engagement office at USM. Her job is to act as a liaison between the eight Windham school districts and USM and foster the relationships between the two.

About 40 students are now part of that class working on problems such as area schools and foster solutions to their heating and energy audits and how best to heat the eight-campus Windham school system, as of now, has no centralized heating system.

"Teachers freeze at 68 degrees and boil at 72," said Bill Hansen, Windham school's facilities director.

The engineering students will perform a cost analysis on Windham's HVAC system and see if a centralized wood-fired heating plant makes sense.

"We can become a greener campus? Does that sound sense financially?" Hansen asked.

It is Hansen's job to efficiently heat the buildings, but to do so with energy audits and how best to heat the eight-campus Windham school system, as of now, has no centralized heating system.

"Teachers freeze at 68 degrees and boil at 72," said Bill Hansen, Windham school's facilities director.

"It's going to be a cool project," Sullivan said.

Also working on the Riverton project with her is Matt Araujo, a senior electrical engineering major, who is working on the Riverton school project.

"It's always been a male dominated profession," she said.

Sullivan is excited to mentor little kids and hopefully get some very young women interested in engineering. She actually switched groups to work with the younger kids.

"It's going to be a cool project for sure," Sullivan said.

Also working on the Riverton project with her is Matt Araujo, a senior electrical engineering major, who was also eager to get started on the project.

"The kids might not even know what engineering is," Araujo said.

Araujo and others will work with the school kids teaching them what engineering entails by having them observe the projects happening in their schools.

"It's a practice profession. You have to get out and practice," said Most. People like Most look forward to teaching more students the economics of engineering through real world experience and applications.

"I'm excited for the future of engineering at USM," said Most.

he said. "When you attack yourself, when you criticize the university, when somebody gets paid by the university steps up and says we're vocational, we're no good, we can't deliver, go to USM, that's ten times more devastating than if a competitor says it."

Flanagan said that he expects a setback in enrollment and reputation from the faculty cuts he's made this academic year, but that they have been necessary.

"It is our responsibility as public servants to let people know what is happening here, because we want our students to feel good about USM and we want students to come here," said Waldrep, defending faculty who have spoken out against administrative actions, but "that will never happen as long as the administration is attacking faculty and the sanctity of tenure."

"The reality is: we're not attracting students," said Flanagan. "We have a lot of negative publicity and it would be in everyone's best interest to try and turn that around."

Bad publicity and the amount of bad press USM has seen recently was a topic of discussion throughout the entire senate meeting and Flanagan said, as he has his entire term as president, that internal conflicts have been the cause.

"You can criticize whatever we do in whatever form, and that's great, but in a way, it's a self-fulfilling prophecy, because it discourages people from coming here and that starts the death spiral,"

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

Upper-class engineering students must take professor Ivan Most's engineering economics class if they want to graduate. Part of their course work is community-based projects, assisting area schools and foster solutions to their heating and energy audits and how best to heat the eight-campus Windham school system, as of now, has no centralized heating system.

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It’s not too late to file your FAFSA

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

With the financial aid deadline past, students have either completed the appropriate online forms or still have yet to start them. USM’s director of financial aid Keith Dubois urges students who haven’t submitted their FAFSA to do so immediately in order to obtain an appropriate financial aid package.

“Priority deadline was on February 15, which basically means any students who submitted by the date would be on the top of the list to receive financial aid,” said Dubois.

“The actual deadline was on March 1. We give these different deadlines because we understand that not everyone has the ability to submit the necessary forms on time.”

Dubois says that financial aid packages vary from student to student. The order of awards starts with grants and scholarships, which is essentially free money given to students for their education based on financial needs. Work study is put in next. Anything that cannot be covered will usually be aided by federal direct loans to cover the rest of the tuition cost.

According to Dubois, the average financial aid package is about $7,706 per student.

“Students need to understand that by filing for financial aid on time, they have a much better chance of having their tuition covered much better than someone who submits late,” said Dubois.

Junior health sciences major Jordan Henry explained that although he hasn’t filed for financial aid yet, he plans to do so very soon because he knows that the longer he waits the smaller his financial aid package will be.

“Often times my parents help me file for financial aid because they both work for colleges. They give me the heads up for when to file and are extremely helpful throughout the whole process,” said Henry.

“It’s complicated enough as it is, especially with taxes being done at the same time.”

Dubois points out that the coinciding tax season can be especially difficult for a lot of students, because not everyone has their taxes done in time to file for financial aid and therefore have to go through the process of submitting an estimated income and then have to go back once their taxes have been completed.

“This time of year creates a lot of stress for students and puts a lot of pressure on families who are attempting to juggle both financial aid and tax returns,” said Dubois.

For senior health sciences major Mary Macaluso, filing for financial aid has always been a relatively easy process, however, the amount of money she receives from her financial package seems to only get her by.

“I don’t usually receive financial aid because my parents are able to pay for some of it. It’s been difficult but I work two jobs to keep me afloat,” said Macaluso.

“I take out loans and my parents pay the rest of my tuition, which is hard because I never get any money in a refund check.”

Dubois points out that although it is uncommon, some students are not eligible for financial aid due to a variety of reasons. He explained that in situations like these, the student accounts office has a variety of payment plans so that instead of paying everything up front, students have the option to pay over a longer period of time. With the financial aid awards anticipated to be sent out by mid-March, Dubois urges students who haven’t filed yet to do so immediately.

“We try and exhaust every option that there is to help a student budget how they will pay any excess charges on their accounts,” said Dubois. “The best option to combat this stressful situation is to simply submit your financial aid on time. This isn’t to say you shouldn’t submit it if you haven’t already, but it’s something to consider for the next time you have to file.”

kristeana@usmfreeopress.org
@Krysteana2016

Police Beat
Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log
February 26 to March 5

Thursday, February 26
Playing With the Big Boys
2:19 p.m. - Assisted Gorham Police with a call.
South Street, Gorham

Ghost’s Puffing Tough
10:48 p.m. - Reported odor of marijuana. Unable to locate.
Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Friday, February 27
Probee on the Loose
1:58 a.m. - Motor vehicle stop. Nicholas J. Whitten, 19 of South Portland, arrested for violations of conditions of release. Issued a summons for criminal trespass.
Campus Ave. Gorham

Boys Playing Grab-ass
1:05 a.m. - Fighting. Subjects moved along and warned for disorderly conduct. Peace restored.
Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

The Bum-Rush
6:00 p.m. - Roy W. Presby, 50, transient, arrested for criminal trespass.
Glickman Library, 314 Forest Ave.

Sweet Sweet Pot
11:12 p.m. - Report taken for odor of marijuana.
Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Tuesday, March 3
Sketchy Janitors Do Their Job
2:19 p.m. - Suspicious person. Report of a subject trying to enter multiple rooms. Subject is an employee doing maintenance work and is all set.
Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Wednesday, March 4
Cops go to Bar
9:43 a.m. - Alarm. Assisted Gorham Police Department with a call.
Thatchers

Thursday, March 5
Tow that Poo Box Off My Lot!
5:26 a.m. - Vehicle towed for unpaid parking fines.
G12A Parking Lot, 128 School St.

Roaming Lunatic Frightens Dorm
12:13 p.m. - Well being check on a student. Unable to locate at the time of the call. Subject did later make contact with this agency and is all set.
Robie Andrews Hall, 39 University Way

Poo-Box VS Meter-Maid
10:48 p.m. - Reported odor of marijuana. Unable to locate.
Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

Poo-Box Meter-Maid
6:05 p.m. - Vehicle towed for unpaid parking fines.
G12A Parking Lot, 128 School St.

Poo-Boxes Towed All Dang Day
7:56 p.m. - Vehicle towed for unpaid parking fines.
G2B Parking Lot, 25 Husky Dr.

Majoring in Beatdowns
11:16 p.m. - Disorderly conduct. Report taken for an altercation.
Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
A group of students in the CI2 lab work together on video games

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

On the fifth floor of the science building, students with an interest in helping in the collaboration of technology savvy projects can venture into the CI2 lab to put their ideas into actions and their dreams into reality.

One group in particular focuses on video game creation. Jonah Sanville, a sophomore computer science major and coordinator of the video game group, explained that this lab allows for students to share ideas and work together. The game development group he helps run is all about creating video games that everyone can enjoy and everyone can engage in.

“Our video games are meant to be exploratory in terms of genre and make us rethink how we develop games as a whole,” said Sanville. “We have a lot of collaboration and always try and be there for people who may not know as much.”

Sam Capotosto, a sophomore computer science major, also helps with the video game group coordination. He explained the CI2 lab as being a big group made of subgroups and that although the video game group may seem extremely interesting, there is always so much going on that it may be hard to choose.

“The CI2 is a great place because of its physical atmosphere,” said Capotosto. “Our community is intangible and it’s hard to explain – but you come up here you can always find people who want to know what you’re working on and want to help you to succeed.”

The video game group gets together every Friday and has what Sanville calls “idea jams” where people get together and collaborate on potential ideas for games. They go around in a circle and talk about what the idea is, how it could be done better and what is realistic to apply to the gaming world. The group has been working on a variety of different games over the past semester, and different people in the lab do work on different sections of the game in the creation process.

Capotosto has been working on a PC game he calls ‘Firewall’ that involves your playable character running from explosive enemies, gathering power ups and upgrading skills in preparation to fight a boss at a higher level.

In collaboration with Capotosto’s game, Sanville is working on a game called ‘Virus Racer’. The objective of Sanville’s endless runner game is to avoid collisions and collect power-ups. As you advance to higher levels, the time speeds up and you can collect money that will ultimately become available for use in Capotosto’s game.

“There are a lot of dynamics that form together to make a cohesive video game. We’re trying to expand our gaming realm to every platform focus on nurturing that technological youth that are interested in pursuing these dreams but don’t have the means,” said Capotosto. “Recently I’ve been working on a game that’s playable with the Oculus Rift, a virtual reality headset that you immerse yourself in by putting on goggles and looking around in order to see the world in which you’re in.”

“You go into this virtual reality and you see from two eyes. It’s very realistic. You have a controller or a PC and you use the controls,” said Capotosto. “My game is a 1950s space exhibition, where you basically have a spaceship and travel to planets. It’s a very detailed world that you get to venture into.”

Sanville mentions that the CI2 lab is always trying to find more immersive technology and show students in Maine things that they’ve never even seen before. By using the Oculus Rift, students are creating video games that are not only creative but impressive.

Associate professor of design science and fine art Raphael Diluzio said that the CI2 lab is one of the few undergraduate-led facilities in the country. He believes that being an active participant in any group is important and a great opportunity to increase your collaboration skills. He also believes that funding plays a large role in how far they can push themselves to create top notch video games.

“When I first got here I was promised one thing and that is that we would get a little bit of funding that couldn’t be touched,” said Diluzio. “We got a new president and provost within a year and the new provost removed that funding and I’ve spent the past three years to get it back. The things these students are working on is amazing and the funding would have made it that much easier for us to work on more advanced projects.”

With hopes of expanding their group and getting more people to help out with future game design, Sanville explained that anyone with ambition and motivation to work can be successful at working with a group in the CI2 lab.

“We’re really looking to find more people who are interested in working on their dreams. People that can come here everyday and learn the core values of collaboration,” said Sanville. “We tell people that this is supposed to be a caring community for those who have big technological dreams.”

Krysteana Scribner
Arts & Culture Editor

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**Art aims to expose American dream**

**Dora Thompson**  
Free Press Staff

USM’s latest visiting artist really stuck it to the man with his presentation last Friday. Danish artist Lars Jerlash and British artist Helen Stringfellow’s collaborative art partnership, Tectonic Industries, tackle the myths and fake realities that pop culture creates. They essentially make a living off of biting the hand that feeds them and they do it well. Jerlash and Stringfellow met at the Edinburgh College of Art. They founded tectonic industries in 1999 and moved to the USA in 2001. They have lived in Portland for about a year now, raising three young daughters.

“It is a very good place to raise a family. We wanted to be in an environment that was literate and had culture. So we decided to come to Portland,” said Jerlash.

Jerlash held a discussion on his work, as well as giving some of USM’s art students a tour of his studio. Tectonic Industries offers several mixed-media exposures of the American Dream, and our obsession with self improvement and material gratification. The couple aims to do this with sound, light, film, and a whole lot of humor.

“Things I Learned from Movies” is a piece that is comprised of large neon signs mounted on a large barn door that preaches truths we all collectively learn from watching films after film. Such as, “don’t answer the phone,” and “don’t go into the corn.”

Jerlash also presented an examination of teenage angst to Tectonic Industries’ called, “Yeah Yeah Whatever (That’s What You Always Say).” The 55 minute video production shows a couple each singing top 20 love ballads. However, while one sings, the other remains static and stony. It is a commentary about how people have become selfish and obsessed with fictional realities, ignoring the possibility to actual connections around us.

Continuing with their theme of eye-catching titles, “The Probability of Successful Navigating An Asteroid Field is Approximately Three Thousand, Seventy Hundred and Twenty to One” is another art piece about the differences in how each person perceives an event. Tectonic Industries invited volunteers to recount, in their own words, the three original Star Wars films. The volunteers stood in front of a background wearing black shirts and told their version of the iconic films. The exhibit was comprised of twelve TV’s, playing the retellings all at once. The viewer was bombarded with such a variety of plots that it would be hard to tell everyone watched the same movies.

Even though Tectonic Industries pieces seem lighthearted and humorous, Jerlash stresses that it is not all fun and games and neon lights.

“Art is really hard work,” said Jerlash. “Being an artist I think it was inherently a very dramatic and somewhat excruciating experience. Because it never leaves you.”

Kayla Frost, a sophomore art major who attended the lecture said that one particular quote by Jerlash really inspired her.

“I think he showed the audience what it is like to be an artist, and what they go through,” Frost said.

Jerlash explained that working in a constant collaboration with his art partner and wife, Stringfellow has allowed him to realize he prefers to work with someone else than alone.

“The most fundamental thing about being a collaborator is that you have to leave your ego behind,” said Jerlash. “It’s not about me, it’s about us.”

If you would like to challenge your perceived reality and your identity as an American, check out their art on their tectonic industries website. Explore even more critical and humorous mixed-media pieces by the couple and say hello to Jerlash’s advice to young aspiring artists.

“Work hard and keep working, even when things aren’t turning out the way that you want them to,” said Jerlash.

“Believe in yourself and never admit failure.”

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“Believe in yourself and never admit failure.”

With hopes of one day getting a record deal with a smaller label, the band members say they would like to live in Maine if possible.

“If I could to stay in Portland and make the dream happen, that would be perfect,” said Rier. “Competition in Portland can be difficult and it is hard to get your standing. But I think the band is going in a good direction. We are going to make our rounds to the places that cater to local music before we hit bigger venues.”

**“Strange Nights” in the local music scene**

**Krysteana Scribner**  
Arts & Culture Editor

Portland has always been known for its local music scene, where bands are constantly forming and taking the stage in hopes of making it big one day. One new band that has emerged from Portland, called “Strange Nights,” is making its way up in this music scene and has advice for aspiring bands in the area.

The three band members, Nicholas Rier, Cody Mitchell and Tim Churchill have been friends a long time. When they were younger, they were in a band that they describe as hardcore. The band split up for various reasons, but the three remained friends.

After Mitchell and Rier attended a concert in Buffalo, New York and had an interestingly fun night on the town, they went home and convinced Churchill to become a drummer for a new band they wanted to start up. With Rier on vocals and guitar and Mitchell on bass, the three were on their way to becoming a part of Portland’s local music scene.

“Right now, we’ve released a few EP’s and we’re working on a bunch of other music as well. When we got back from Buffalo, we immediately got together in our practice space and wrote one of our songs called ‘Buffalo New York’ which is about the night that made us realize we wanted to be in a band again,” said Rier.

When writing their songs, the three of them each play a role in what goes into making a song successful and likeable to their audiences.

“The writing process is much more collaborative than any other band I’ve been in. I can really rely on Cody and Tim to help out,” said Rier.

Mitchell adds to Rier’s statement, saying that Churchill gets the last look at the song to see if he can come up with a good drumbeat to accompany vocals.

“Our drummer Tim usually tweaks things and adds parts to the songs,” said Mitchell. “We may go through the process of getting the entire song written and edited, and if Tim can’t get a good drumbeat to it, the song becomes a no-go. It has to pass the Tim test to be a good song.”

**Want to submit an event?**  
arts@usmfreepress.org
Our Opinion

 Collaborative advising will help retain students, help graduates

We commend the administrators, faculty and staff who have improved the advising process for students at USM.

While most students flow through student success and find a faculty member to advise them with ease, everyone has heard of the horror stories that some students tell everyone about advising gone wrong. Whether hearing about a required course just before graduation, looking back on freshman year at the wasted, misguided credit hours taken, having a class withdrawal fumbled or not being able to find a trusted guide who has had bad experiences, which generally lead to frustration, a bigger student debt and drop-outs.

Navigating degree progress can be tricky, and when students get bogged down in scheduling advisory meetings, only to hear something they don’t need or want to hear, most turn to do-it-yourself advising.

Plenty of student opt-out of in-person advising because their student success advisor isn’t an expert in their program or they’re avoiding their faculty advisor because they don’t click. It’s become a norm for some upper-class students and incoming students quickly do the same.

USM would be doing everyone a favor by revamping the advisory process firmly and avoiding future lost students without guidance.

The key is finding good pairings for students and helping them to find a fit, those they trust and can get to know over the course of their time at USM. Having professional staff who specialize in specific majors and programs will help everyone stay on the same page and ensure that students are never misdirected.

If the university is leaning toward a more personal, collaborative advising process, they should consider a more concrete, fail-safe system for recording credits and courses taken. We have heard of a student who hasn’t had a course gone missing or their major requirements hidden at one point or another while using Mainestreet. Let’s stop this.

Our Opinion is written by the Free Press editorial board.

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The Talk

How to make sex safer for you and your partner

Lorraine Kessler
Contributor

This segment focuses on safer sex methods and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Let me begin by explaining why we say safer sex instead of safe sex. When having sex, there is no way to be 100% free of risk of transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) from here on out, so there is no such thing as safe sex. But, there is safer sex! Safer sex is great and there are lots of ways to reduce your risk! Risk of spread of STIs can be reduced by use of a barrier method to prevent passage of either vaginal or seminal fluid during sex acts, or acts that involve fluid exchange can be avoided. For some people, exchange of seminal fluid can also mean risk of pregnancy, so barri- ers are beneficial in that way too.

If you’re not down for a barrier method, remember that you can have a spontaneous evening with someone just kissing, caressing, or mutually masturbating (where you’re only exposed to your own fluids) to reduce risk of STI transmission. Someone can contract or spread an STI regardless of orientation, and if they’re practicing sex with friends, family or partners, or the type of sex should make little difference in risk. Pregnancy prevention is a hot topic, so I won’t spend too long discussing this one. For people who are having sex that may result in pregnancy, there are many, many birth controls to choose from. However, remember that if you’re using a birth control method that requires no barrier, safer sex that reduces risk of STI transmis- sion requires a barrier.

I’m sure we all know at least some STIs: bacterial vaginosis, chlamydia, genital herpes, gonorrhea, hepatitis, HPV, HIV, syphilis, scabies, yeast infections, etc. More information on specific infections are just a Google search away, but remember that most are curable, and those that are not (includ- ing genital herpes, hepatitis, and HIV) have symptoms that can be treated and made the condition more comfortable. The best treatment is prevention, and the use of barrier practices will certainly decrease your risk.

The aim is to prevent the spread of seminal fluid, vaginal fluid, or blood from one partner to another; it’s important to remember spe- cific higher risk activities require specific precautions. For example, anal sex is more likely to result in a tear and bleeding than vaginal sex, and so use of a condom and extra lube are important. Blood is sometimes exchanged either as a consequence of a sexual activity or intentionally during BDSM encounters or during rough sex, so proper medical aftercare is important as well as preemptive methods to avoid exchange of fluids. Sex toys, if shared between partners or moving between one orifice to another, can give the opportunity for transmission, so use barrier like condoms on toys, or disinfect toys that can be cleaned; not all can be completely disinfected, so be sure to do some research on proper cleaning and storage for the type of toy used. The internet and local sex shops like Nomiya can help with answer questions about toys.

For oral to vaginal or anal sex, you can use a barrier method called a dental dam, or cut a con- dom to create a sheet of latex to keep a distance. Those allergic to latex can find alternatives at most pharmacies and sex shops. Male condoms are very common for use during oral sex performed on a penis, and for vaginal or anal sex. “Female” condoms are simi- lar, but are inserted into the va- gina or anus instead of placed on the penis. When performing sex acts manually on any genitalia or anus, gloves are a way to protect yourself from fluid contact if you have cuts on your hands; remem- ber that there are STIs that can be spread through skin-to-skin con- tact (scabies, herpes) as well.

Protecting yourself does not only mean using barriers; you can get vaccinated for hepatitis A, and B, and for HPV. Get yourself and your partners tested and have any infections treated as soon as possible. If you’re in a polyamorous relationship or causal relationship with multiple people, be honest and clear about who is sharing or not sharing fluids. Remember that because we’re all at risk regard- less of orientation, we should be taking steps to prevent STIs for ourselves, and for our partners.
A Cooperative (co-op) business is a business that works for everyone. A cooperative is a business or organization that is owned and used for the benefit of the individuals that are using its services. There are many reasons to love cooperatives, but here are my three top reasons why you should shop at locally owned cooperatives in Portland.

1) Local businesses like co-ops put more money into the local economy. A study by the University of Maine for Economic Policy measured that, on a dollar by dollar basis, buying locally yields large benefits for Portland's economy. For every one hundred dollars spent buying locally, fifty eight dollars will stay in the local economy. Comparatively, for every one hundred dollars spent at a franchised or national chain, only thirty dollars will stay in the local economy.

2) Co-operators address market failures. For some people, a business can be cooperatively owned and self managed by its workers, but is also why I am a day behind on my paper I realized that, while we may recall the pressures and other genetic disorders.

3) Co-operative owned enterprises address market failures that some people believe are low because they are available for loans and grants from state and federal agencies that are crafted to assist in co-op development. Specifically, in a survey of 162 non-agricultural cooperatives by Rutgers University, forty percent reported that their businesses could not have opened had they not been organized in a cooperative model.

There are many cooperatives in Portland you can support. Local Sprouts on Congress Street in the Arts District is a worker owned cooperative that serves some of the best food on the peninsula. The recently opened Portland Food Cooperative, also on Congress Street on the base of Munjoy Hill, boasts the ability to produce, buy, sell, and food, and a variety of bulk items (just make sure to bring your own container). Additionally, CLEAN (Cooperative Labor and Economic Access Naturally) is a house cleaning cooperative that uses environmentally friendly cleaning products. Professors are an excellent tool to use if you don't understand something, so don't hesitate to ask your professor, and take advantage of your office hours. Also, there are free tutors available to all USM students on the 2nd floor of Glickman Library. There are ESL tutors who have been trained by the ESL department, that will assist with phonics, homework, writing, grammar, etc.

How are we doing? What's new?

"How am I? I'm so glad you asked! Honestly I'm exhausted. I didn't sleep well at all last night due to over caffeinating myself because I have exams this week and I've only started one. I didn't go to bed until nearly 2:00 AM and the cat was walking all over me on being fed at precisely 5:15 AM this morning. I couldn't get back to sleep so I made a cup of coffee and tried to catch up on reading for an hour before finally putting on pants and heading off to work. I could really use a nap right now.

And what's new? I'm still in school, which isn't new at all of course, but I'm taking this really great class about global environmental issues which is very interesting though it can also be terribly depressing. I'm excited about a project I'm working on about the impact of house size and the average American family's carbon footprint. I started writing a column for the school paper, I've no idea how I'll make the time to write it, but I'm pretty sure I'll need it for the challenge. Oh, and since it's restaurant week I had dinner with an old friend of mine who's a chef, but is also why I am a day behind on my homework, and I kind of feel guilty about that but not really because I soooo needed to get out of the house.

All of the above is true, yet the answer that usually comes out of my mouth begins with an awkward pause followed by a fumbled mess of, "Oh, well you know the usual, still in school, still super busy," and "nothing too exciting, and hey aren't we all sick of all this snow?" I wish that when I talk about school to my non-student friends that I have the little doggie-woggie just did the cutest thing ever to someone who doesn't have pets or share the details Little Johnny's latest potty training milestone with someone who is not a parent. I get a lot of smiles, nods and "Oh isn't that nice? Wow. Look at the time, I really must be going." I've been so busy, I have great friends who have patiently listened to me chatter on about beloved school subjects, or complained about my lack of time/social life/decent eating habits and they have helped celebrate my successes, or connect in person with me that college is something that was finished 20 years ago. While they may recall the pressures and the stresses of college life it is not something that is current for them. Who can blame them if after ten minutes of my going on about a business plan project that their attention begins to wane a little? I admit that it is greatly out of a fear of being seen as a bore, that I just say, "I'm good, life is busy and isn't it windy today?"

Though I may be sparing my friends the burden of having to pretend to be fascinated by the ins and outs of finance or what the ratio of home square footage to increased energy use is, I still, as most humans do, desire connectedness. It may have been connection I was seeking when late one night last week, I was working on that belatedly started paper I took a break to browse a certain social media site. As I scrolled through my feed I saw a post from a friend and fellow non-traditional student who was stressing about upload off infection better. It was 1949, just four years after World War II when another major crisis was coming on the rise, killing millions of people a year. Malaria, a mosquito-borne disease caused by a parasite was found to be widespread in parts of Africa and Europe. People with malaria develop flu like illness that can rapidly turn severe, leading to organ failure and ultimately death. An American doctor by the name of J.B.S. Haldane was studying the disease in Africa where it is most commonly found. He later discovered that these people had at least one parent who had sickle cell anemia, a disease caused by mutation hemoglobin gene leading to an abnormal length of a protein. Haldane noticed that a some were not affected by the disease in high malaria prevalence areas. He later discovered that these people had at least one parent who had sickle cell anemia, a disease caused by mutation hemoglobin gene leading to an abnormal length of a protein. Haldane noticed that a some were not affected by the disease in high malaria prevalence areas. He later discovered that these people had at least one parent who had sickle cell anemia, a disease caused by mutation hemoglobin gene leading to an abnormal length of a protein. Haldane noticed that a some were not affected by the disease in high malaria prevalence areas. 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Weekly Horoscope

The solution to last issue’s crossword

Cryptogram

Sudoku

Crossword

Puzzles

March 9, 2015

Down
1. Grape soda brand
2. Plow-pullers
3. High-tech tablet
4. Princess Di’s boyfriend
5. Crazy
6. Crane from Sleepy Hollow
7. Jersey shore drink (for one, alphabetically)
8. Split, as soup
9. Normal (abbr.)
10. Low rise
11. Rule prefix
12. Decorated, as a cake
13. Wall Street market abbr.
14. Poison detection job
15. Muscle car
16. Ball part
17. With a, a Toyota
18. Minute
19. Like a writer in Siberia
20. Juicier January
21. Trading behind
22. Carrier to Singapore (abbr.)
23. Time (eventually)
24. Track and field athlete Jesse
25. She played Buffy
26. Bottomless
27. Baker’s deals

Across
1. Pizza destroyer of the 1980s, with “The”
2. Speech impediments
3. Like Nervous
4. Convention center event
5. Good-looking comic
6. Gov’t. bureau
7. One way to compete
8. Some college tease, for short
9. Middling neighbor
10. Escort
11. Redhead of sorts
12. Robbery
13. Handkerchief “Staple” and others
14. Dusty instrument’s key note
15. Places where one can get a license
16. Old-school rep name
17. 3/13
18. Sew
19. Up the road a bit
20. No seats available (abbr.)
21. Genuine
22. Animal life
23. Review question
24. Right out of the oven
25. Language of Karnataka
26. Fort in Pennsylvania
27. Fruit-tiled pastry
28. Stark (้อ) (cocktail brand)
29. Guide down the wrong path
30. Biblical virtue
31. Sheep units of weight
32. Spearhead of architecture
33. “Star Wars” guy
34. That’s nonsense
35. Fmr. IRA’s political wing

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.

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

YA CAQ JQUAJIS ILHI
GLSX HTKSXV HVS
YKVIC ILS JKBUTC
LSHY PAV ILS XSHVSJII
BSISAV JLAGSV?

And here is your hint:

L = H

The solution to last issue’s crossword

\[ \begin{array}{ccc}
1 & 2 & 3 \\
4 & 5 & 6 \\
7 & 8 & 9 \\
\end{array} \]

1. Dories
2. No seat available
3. Genuine
4. Animal life
5. Review question
6. Right out of the oven
7. Language of Karnataka
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9. Fruit-tiled pastry
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13. Sheep units of weight
14. Spearhead of architecture
15. “Star Wars” guy
16. That’s nonsense

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**Mon., March 9**

**Through the Looking Glass**
4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
169 Hastings

**Gorham Campus Activities Board Weekly Meeting**
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Husky Center, Gorham

**Astronomy Cafe: Astronomy of the Seasons**
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Southworth Planetarium

**Tue., March 10**

**IBEX Full Dome Show**
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Southworth Planetarium

**Queer Straight Alliance Student Group Meetings**
7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Alternating between Portland and Gorham

**Wed., March 11**

**Hot Cocoa and Mug Decorating Night**
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Lower Brooks

**Eight Planets Omni Dome Show**
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Southworth Planetarium

**Thu., March 12**

**Laser Tag**
9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Brooks Student Center, Gorham

**The Poets and the Assassin**
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Space Gallery 538 Congress Street, Portland

**Opening Reception: USM Juried Student Exhibition**
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Art Gallery, Gorham Campus

**Fri., March 13**

**Ping Pong Tournament**
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Lower Brooks, Gorham

**Catch Me If You Can**
March 13, 2015
Maine Stage, Russell Hall, Gorham

**Sat., March 14**

**2015 Engineering Expo**
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Costello Field House, Gorham

**Faculty Concert Series: Jobey Wilson and Friends**
8:00 p.m.
Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham

For more events:
www.usm.maine.edu/events

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**Send us your feature photo! If you captured a photo on the USM campus:**
› Send an email to editor@usmfreepress.org ‹

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**Featured Photo:**

A sunset over Dickey Wood Hall on the Gorham Campus last week.

Patrick Higgins / Free Pass Staff
Breaking News!

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