4-20-2015

The Free Press Vol 46 Issue 21, 04-20-2015

Sam Hill
*University of Southern Maine*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/free_press](http://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/free_press)

**Recommended Citation**


This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Free Press, The, 1971- by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.
CAN YOU LIE YOUR WAY TO A LEGAL HIGH?

BREAKING DOWN MARIJUANA LAWS

LOCAL ARTISTS WITH A PASSION FOR GLASS

YOUR BRAIN ON MARIJUANA
COMING SOON

GRAND RE OPENING

MARKS PLACE

OPEN TUESDAY-SATURDAY 7PM-1AM

DANCING 5 NIGHTS A WEEK!
GREAT DRINK SPECIALS!
ALWAYS A GOOD TIME!

416 FORE ST PORTLAND, ME 04101
207.899.3333
The laws and regulations concerning marijuana are complex and have been significantly changed. In 2012, the city of Portland legalized marijuana for recreational use, but individuals caught using marijuana in public can still be issued a citation because of state and federal laws.

According to Bobby Lewis, a licensed physician assistant at the Marijuana Policy Project based in Washington, D.C., which works on lowering laws for adults to use marijuana safely and legally, marijuana is currently legal in Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska — as well as the city of Portland.

"Nationwide, more Americans are arrested for marijuana possession each year than for all violent crimes combined," said Lewis. "These statistics indicate that a marijuana user is arrested every 48 seconds just for possessing marijuana.

Statewide, the legality of marijuana changes depending on where you smoke it. In Maine, smoking marijuana is legal anywhere outside Portland. If you are in Portland, adults can legally possess up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana. In Maine, the medical marijuana law states that you need to have a recommendation from a doctor who prefers to stay anonymous indicating that someone is suffering from cancer, post-traumatic stress, or any number of other conditions.

Dr. Li, a Portland-based medical marijuana doctor, said that up to 200 patients a day visit his clinic to get a recommendation for utilization of marijuana.\quad 33% of Americans approve medical marijuana as having many medicinal benefits, according to a national poll.

According to the Pew Research Center, a national survey conducted by the Free Press asked 300 students their opinions on the legality of marijuana. 42.3 percent of students wrote that they smoked marijuana, and 34 percent had done so on campus. Data from U.S. Marshal's police logs show that out of the 97 marijuana odors that were reported on campus, 39 of those were for Up-Hon Hasting.

Another anonymous USM student explained that the use of marijuana should be legal, but only for adults. "Marijuana is not safe for kids and adolescents. She explained that with the legalization of marijuana, individuals would have the opportunity to see what it actually does for the body and mind.

"I am currently on medications for a major depressive disorder, but the side effects of them leave me with no appetite and no sexual drive," said Lewis. "I know that technically it is illegal under federal law," he said. "If you were caught smoking by police I think it would probably be up to the officer that caught you on whether or not you would get in trouble.

Regarding the change in city laws, the use and possession of marijuana is still illegal at USM. According to Dean of Students Joy Pufahl, the legal possession of marijuana (for Portland and medical marijuana) on campus could result in a civil summons. She explained that there is no change in marijuana use on campus since Portland changed its laws because the federal law has not changed. If USM violated the Drug Free Schools Act, the institution would be at risk of losing all federal financial aid dollars.

"A student held responsible for possession of a small usable amount of marijuana on campus would generally be placed on a housing concentrated probation," said Pufahl. "Any future marijuana violation during their time at USM would be putting their housing and ability to continue as a student in jeopardy.

With all of these laws that have been put in place, there are people having opinions on the legalization of marijuana. A survey conducted by the Free Press asked 300 students their opinions on the legality of marijuana. 42.3 percent of students wrote that they smoke marijuana.

Gates has a friend that also suffers from a bad back. She sees a chiropractor, which decreases her back pain. Ultimately she finds that smoking medical marijuana enables her body, mind and spirit to relax," said Gates. "And relaxation is absolutely everywhere.

Portland Mayor, who wishes to keep her last name anonymous supports the legalization of marijuana both medically and recreationally, occasionally smoking it herself. "I think that pot gets a bad rep," said Brown. "Many people use it to effectively help with many health problems. Considering the opiates epidemic going on in our state, I think that marijuana is pretty tame in comparison to them.

"It has amazing health benefits, especially for seizure disorders. I hate the stigma surrounding pot," wrote an anonymous student on the Free Press marijuana survey.

Hannah Lyon / Design Assistant

I would simply suggest that people do not possess marijuana in Portland at all. I would suggest not to even try it," said Brown. "It alleviates my back pain tremendously," said Leathers. "I take about an eyedropper of CBD oil and it numbs the pain to the point where I can't even feel it. You can get wicked medicated."

Leathers is legally able to carry up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana on his person and cannot be denied employment, housing or education because he smokes marijuana.

Another anonymous USM student explained that although it's possible to get addicted to marijuana, the relaxing effects of the drug make for a much safer experience than someone who indulges in heavy drinking or smokes cigarettes for a long time. "I think that the marijuana industry is thriving, as documented by a national poll.

"Like many marijuana doctors, Dr. Li follows strict guidelines to make sure this doesn't happen, including asking for proof that the patient has been in pain for at least 6 months and that they've unsuccessfully tried other forms of treatment."

"If somebody comes in under the age of 30, they have a pretty good reason to be prescribed a marijuana prescription and uses it to make chronic pain feel better after an injury he sustained a year ago."

"I am currently on medications for the most rule-bending: pain. It has amazing health benefits, especially for seizure disorders. I hate the stigma surrounding pot," wrote an anonymous student on the Free Press marijuana survey.

"I think that pot gets a bad rep," said Brown. "Many people use it to effectively help with many health problems. Considering the opiates epidemic going on in our state, I think that marijuana is pretty tame in comparison to them."

"It has amazing health benefits, especially for seizure disorders. I hate the stigma surrounding pot," wrote an anonymous student on the Free Press marijuana survey.

Dr. Li spoke out against the use of medicinal marijuana and its 400 individual chemicals. Jordan Leathers, a former biochemistry major, has a marijuana prescription and uses it to make chronic pain feel better after an injury he sustained a year ago. "It alleviates my back pain tremendously," said Leathers. "I take about an eyedropper of CBD oil and it numbs the pain to the point where I can't even feel it. You can get wicked medicated."

Leathers is legally able to carry up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana on his person and cannot be denied employment, housing or education because he smokes marijuana.

Gates has a friend that also suffers from a bad back. She sees a chiropractor, which decreases her back pain. Ultimately she finds that smoking medical marijuana enables her body, mind and spirit to relax," said Gates. "And relaxation is absolutely everywhere.

Portland Mayor, who wishes to keep her last name anonymous supports the legalization of marijuana both medically and recreationally, occasionally smoking it herself. "I think that pot gets a bad rep," said Brown. "Many people use it to effectively help with many health problems. Considering the opiates epidemic going on in our state, I think that marijuana is pretty tame in comparison to them.
Non-smokers dispel pot stereotypes

Students cite odor and illegality as main reasons for not smoking

Francis Filius
Managing Editor

With marijuana legal for medical use in 23 states and legal recreationally in four, it’s clear that the mind-altering plant is gaining support across the country. Of 300 students polled at USM, 249 said that they think marijuana should be legalized nationwide. However, a lack of reliable knowledge surrounding the substance and its illegal status in some states contribute to common stereotypes.

Anonymous survey takers cited everything from a bad odor, addictive qualities and facilitating a culture of laziness as reasons why they’ve never smoked up some ganja.

There are many common stereotypes that plague the average marijuana user. Pot smokers are often labelled as “stoners” who have trouble holding a job, sport a five-word vocabulary and are absolute lovers to the munchies, ingesting junk food at a nauseating pace. Other stereotypes group smokers as long-haired hippies who wear tie dye shirts, listen to reggae and are in a constant state of confusion. Perhaps most detrimental to marijuana’s image, and remains willfully ignorant of its positives and misinformation deters its reputation.

“I know it’s still being taught in some places down south that it’s like meth or something, like it can kill you,” said Leathers. “I wouldn’t call it a drug, it’s just a plant.”

As marijuana becomes more socially acceptable, these stereotypes are becoming further and further from the truth. Plenty of hardworking Americans enjoy a joint once in a while, so Leathers doesn’t think it’s fair to label all “stoners” as lazy.

Outside of the medical marijuana community, opinions differ.

“People I’ve known in high school and college who smoked regularly didn’t care as much about their studies or getting a step ahead in life,” wrote one survey respondent. “It was tough to see in my future, because the plant has so many mind-altering experiences.”

Rowan Watson, a junior biology major, has never tried marijuana and has no interest in ever trying it, but doesn’t demonize its users or legalization efforts. Watson said that the main reasons he avoids the substance is because it’s illegal and it smells bad, but beyond that, he’s got no problem with it.

“The fact that it is already illegal influences people’s opinions on legalizing it,” said Watson. “Instead of seeing it as a potential to do great amounts of good, people remain willfully ignorant of its potential and even its effects because they see it only as an illegal substance.”

“I don’t smoke pot simply because it’s still illegal federally,” said Jasmine Miller, a junior women and gender studies major. “If I got caught smoking pot it would negatively affect my career.”

Rachel Gates, a junior communications major, has personal experiences with friends who are regular smokers, regular use of marijuana alters people’s personalities. “I’ve noticed a drastic change in those who’ve stopped smoking for certain periods of time.”

Despite their negative reactions to the high, Bezbradica and Gates still support people who decide to smoke a bowl instead of drink a beer.

“Everyone is and will always be different,” said Gates. “I believe it’s hugely important to keep an open mind about [marijuana] for the rest of the community.”

Rachel Gates, a junior communications major

Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky / Design Assistant

Non-smokers dispel pot stereotypes

Students cite odor and illegality as main reasons for not smoking

As You Like It

A COMEDY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY ASSUNTA KENT

Theatre 2014-2015 Season

April 17-26

Main Stage, Russell Hall

Gorham Campus

Box Office
(207) 780-5151, TTY 780-5646
or visit usm.maine.edu/theatre

$21 general public; $10 students $15 seniors, USM employees and alumni

francis@usmfreepress.org @FrancisFilius

As you like it

Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky / Design Assistant

Non-smokers dispel pot stereotypes

Students cite odor and illegality as main reasons for not smoking

As You Like It

A COMEDY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY ASSUNTA KENT

Theatre 2014-2015 Season

April 17-26

Main Stage, Russell Hall

Gorham Campus

Box Office
(207) 780-5151, TTY 780-5646
or visit usm.maine.edu/theatre

$21 general public; $10 students $15 seniors, USM employees and alumni

francis@usmfreepress.org @FrancisFilius

As you like it

Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky / Design Assistant

Non-smokers dispel pot stereotypes

Students cite odor and illegality as main reasons for not smoking

As You Like It

A COMEDY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY ASSUNTA KENT

Theatre 2014-2015 Season

April 17-26

Main Stage, Russell Hall

Gorham Campus

Box Office
(207) 780-5151, TTY 780-5646
or visit usm.maine.edu/theatre

$21 general public; $10 students $15 seniors, USM employees and alumni

francis@usmfreepress.org @FrancisFilius
Alcohol vs. marijuana vs. tobacco

In recent years, marijuana has become the most widely used illegal drug in the United States with over 94 million people having admitted to using it at least once. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a person that smokes more than five nights in a month, with 12.7 percent alcohol consumption, and 5 or more drinks in a night on 5 or more nights in a month). According to the CDC, 17.5 percent of adults in the United States use tobacco regularly, whereas only 6.7 percent of Americans claim to be a frequent marijuana user. Each day, 3,200 kids younger than 18 smoke their first cigarette.

Marijuana appears to be used far less by Americans than alcohol. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, 86.5 percent of Americans 18 or older have had a drink in their lifetime. Among full time college students, 94 percent drank alcohol in the past month, with 12.7 percent engaging in heavy drinking (having 5 or more drinks in a night on 5 or more nights in a month).

What are the mental and physical effects of using these drugs? According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, a person that smokes marijuana is likely to have altered senses, changes in mood, impaired memory and difficulty with problem solving. Some studies show that if marijuana usage starts as a teenager and continues into adulthood, there is chance of it affecting brain development and the loss of, on average, eight IQ points.

Comparatively, numerous studies show the usage of tobacco causing illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, strokes and many others. According to the CDC, 480,000 people die every year from smoking related illnesses and 16 million Americans are currently living with a disease caused by smoking. Not to mention, 88,000 Americans die every year from alcohol related causes, making it the third leading preventable cause of death.

According to a survey taken here at USM, asking 300 students which of the three is more dangerous, over 250 responded that marijuana is the least harmful. Unlike tobacco, there have been reports say that there are some benefits to alcohol and marijuana use.

Moderate consumption of red wine is shown to decrease the risk for heart disease and many states have started to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes because of studies that show marijuana can be used to treat illnesses such as AIDS and Alzheimer’s.

So which of these drugs are more harmful?

Gwendolyn Randall, a student at USM also believes that marijuana doesn’t change your mood or behavior as much as something like alcohol can.

“Marijuana doesn’t make people violent, or angry, or belligerent. Alcohol can be such a dangerous drug that it’s really ridiculous to place it on the same level of harm as marijuana.” Said Randall.

However, when it came to comparing marijuana to tobacco, Randall was a little more hesitant, and said it’s a little more reasonable to believe cigarettes are far worse for you than marijuana.

“If you look at a habitual cigarette smoker compared to a marijuana smoker, the tobacco smoker looks more harrowed,” said Randall. “Their teeth are more yellowed and disgusting, their hair thinner, their skin less hydrated, their voice more hoarse and the smell of tobacco covers them like a cloud.”

Thomas Collier, a recent English graduate, also commented saying that this question isn’t a matter of opinion but rather has a factual answer.

“Marijuana is chemically safer to consume than either tobacco or alcohol,” said Collier. “That’s just the way it is. People can and will believe whatever they want, but beliefs are not always founded in reason.”

Collier also believes that alcohol can drastically change a person’s demeanor but never witnessed any crazy behavior from someone who has smoked marijuana.

“I’ve never seen stoners get into a fist fight over a spilled beer, but I’ve seen a bar fight start for just that reason. It was ridiculous,” said Collier. “You just don’t see that sort of stuff with marijuana. If anything, marijuana pacifies those who use it.”

Alcohol, the least harmful, is chance of it affecting brain development and the loss of, on average, eight IQ points. Some studies show that if marijuana usage starts as a teenager and continues into adulthood, there is chance of it affecting brain development and the loss of, on average, eight IQ points. Some studies show that if marijuana usage starts as a teenager and continues into adulthood, there is chance of it affecting brain development and the loss of, on average, eight IQ points. Some studies show that if marijuana usage starts as a teenager and continues into adulthood, there is chance of it affecting brain development and the loss of, on average, eight IQ points. Some studies show that if marijuana usage starts as a teenager and continues into adulthood, there is chance of it affecting brain development and the loss of, on average, eight IQ points.
A passion for glass creation

Pipes are everywhere, especially in the city of Portland. They rest in smoke shop windows and displayed in art shows, and hidden in the dorm rooms of college students. Portland has a large community of glass artists who create their own pipes, yet still many buyers are not aware of where their piece came from. 33rd Street Arts aims to change this.

Two local artists, Sarah Mobsby, or “Marblesbee,” as Mobsby goes by in the art community, and Brian Owoc, or “KGB Glass,” have combined their talents to create 33rd Street Arts, a studio where they eventually hope to host glass blowing lessons. Mobsby makes small hand pipes and water pipes, along with jewelry, cribbage pegs and her signature design is his famous glass donuts. He crafts pendants, sliders and pipes, all shaped like the sweet breakfast pastry. His donut pieces are in high demand across the country, propelling his reputation forward in the glass industry. He has worked with some of the best artists in the U.S.A., such as Mr. Gray and Steve Bates. They sell their work to shops around the country and on their personal websites.

33rd Street Arts was a decrepit old building 6 months ago, until Mobsby and Owoc changed it into a place of creation. Graffiti covers the walls, depicting Portland’s skyline, with plenty of references to donuts and marbles. Inside, the studio is equipped with a ping pong table, a stereo and an expansive work space where the glass molding magic happens.

The couple explained that making pipes is no harder than anything else they create, but there is a higher demand for them. Owoc said he’s more likely to sell a pipe than non-functional glass art.

“Portland’s always had a really solid glass pipe art scene,” said Owoc. “There’s always been an underground presence here. A lot of amazing artists have come from this area.”

The couple observed that consumers seem more interested in and appreciative of local art lately. The couple has been known to spend weeks working on a single piece. When they set a price for a piece, they factor in time, cost of materials, rarity of the object and the overall dedication required to run a glass art studio. The couple deals with huge amounts of liquid oxygen, propane and their large and necessary ventilation system. Glass blowing is an expensive business for them, but it seems like it’s been paying off.

“It’s on an up and up right now,” said Mobsby. “There’s been growth. People are starting to see this as more than a business.”

Sometimes artists who create pipes have to deal with stereotypes. Mobsby explained that she is sometimes hesitant to tell people what she does for a living. Some visitors to the shop expressed disappointment when they learned that the colorful, creative pieces of glass art could also function as drug paraphernalia.

“People judge,” said Owoc. “But people will judge.”

Owoc said he loves his job because he loves glass blowing. Owoc said he loves his job because he loves to make and sell pipes to the public. Owoc said he loves his job because he loves to make and sell pipes to the public. Owoc said he loves his job because he loves to make and sell pipes to the public. Owoc said he loves his job because he loves to make and sell pipes to the public.

The couple explained that making pipes is no harder than anything else they create, but there is a higher demand for them. Owoc said he’s more likely to sell a pipe than non-functional glass art.

“Portland’s always had a re

Sarah Mobsby, co-owner at 33rd Street Arts heats glass with high temperatures up to 2,732 °F. Courtesy of Alex Caponigro

Where do you satisfy your munchies?
Tell us on Twitter @USMFreePress

1 Otto Pizza on Congress Street

The “munchies” is a feeling that often provokes a craving for greasy, warm foods. What better choice to satisfy that craving than a hot slice of pizza? Otto’s on Congress Street is constantly serving up not only your favorite traditional recipes but also unique variations that are fun to try when you’re high. Try a pie topped with pulled pork and mango. This place is a great spot to take your friends to satisfy your late-night cravings. It’s open until 11 p.m., and with friendly and attentive service as well as interesting flavor combinations, you can never go wrong with Otto’s.

2 Crown Fried Chicken on Forest Avenue

When we think of go-to food for the munchies, salty foods are usually the first to come to mind. Crown Fried Chicken is open 7 days a week and offers not only delicious selections of chicken, but also pizza, sandwiches, seafood, and much more. Specials are offered daily and the low prices are great for students on a tight budget. If the munchies have you needing salty foods, this restaurant is perfect for you.

3 Holy Donut on Park Avenue

Living a couple blocks down from the Holy Donut is a living and breathing donut. Holy Donut is a haven for those needing salty foods, this restaurant is perfect for you.

Barbara Benkay, co-owner at 33rd Street Arts heats glass with high temperatures up to 2,732 °F and attentive service as well as interesting flavor combinations, you can never go wrong with Otto’s.

4 Elevation Burger on Commercial Street

For late-night munchies that require greasy food, Elevation Burger on Commercial Street in Portland is the place to be. This is a build-your-own-burger joint, where hungry highlife can meander in and choose to build classic burgers. You can top this burger with anything your heart desires - and if you want the ultimate experience of a tastebud lled delightfullness.

Dora Thompson
Art & Culture Editor

5 Kushiya Benkay on Congress Street

It’s past midnight and you’re high, broke and hungry. Whether you know it or not, Kushiya Benkay is calling your name. Benkay is a Japanese sushi restaurant and bar nestled conveniently on Congress Street. Thursday through Friday it stays open faithfully until 2 a.m. After midnight on the weekends, Benkay spices it up colorful and entertaining any stoned customer for hours on end.

It’s past midnight and you’re high, broke and hungry. Whether you know it or not, Kushiya Benkay is calling your name. Benkay is a Japanese sushi restaurant and bar nestled conveniently on Congress Street. Thursday through Friday it stays open faithfully until 2 a.m. After midnight on the weekends, Benkay spices it up colorful and entertaining any stoned customer for hours on end.

It’s past midnight and you’re high, broke and hungry. Whether you know it or not, Kushiya Benkay is calling your name. Benkay is a Japanese sushi restaurant and bar nestled conveniently on Congress Street. Thursday through Friday it stays open faithfully until 2 a.m. After midnight on the weekends, Benkay spices it up colorful and entertaining any stoned customer for hours on end.
## Monday, April 20

**Laser Hypnotica**  
Southworth Planetarium  
70 Falmouth St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m.  
Music: Yellowcard  
The State Theater  
609 Congress St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

## Tuesday, April 21

**Taco Tuesday Movie Madness**  
Liquid Riot Bottling Company  
250 Congress St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, April 22

**Shure National Open Mic Night**  
The Dogfish Bar & Grill  
128 Free St.  
Starts: 7:00 p.m. / Ends: 11:00 p.m.

## Thursday, April 23

**Music: Ben Folds &**  
State Theater  
609 Congress St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m.

## Friday, April 24

**Music: Today Is The Day**  
Space Gallery  
538 Congress St.  
Starts: 8:30 p.m.

**Burlesque: The Rosie & Kiinky Show**  
Geno’s Rock Club  
625 Congress St.  
Starts: 9:00 p.m.

**Art: Rose Marasco: index**  
Portland Museum of Art  
7 Congress St.  
Starts: 9:00 a.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

## Saturday, April 25

**Maine Roller Derby Doubleheader**  
Portland Expo  
239 Park Ave.  
Starts: 4:00 p.m. / Ends: 9:00 p.m.

**Dance Show: Springtime Spectacular**  
One Longfellow Sq.  
181 State St.  
Starts: 8:00 p.m. / Ends: 10:00 p.m.

**Music: The Mallett Brothers Band**  
Port City Music Hall  
504 Congress St.  
Starts: 9:00 p.m.

## Sunday, April 26

**Film: Hard To Be A God**  
Space Gallery  
538 Congress St.  
Starts: 6:30 p.m.

---

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

### Lana Del Rey  
*Born To Die*

Lana Del Rey writes the most relaxing music that sounds like 50s and 60s Americano mixed with a current pop culture feel. Her music will swim through your ears as you melt into your couch at home. Between mouthfuls of crunchy Doritos you’ll hear her deep, meaningful lyrics in songs such as Born To Die that will have high listeners contemplating philosophical meanings of their existence. Each song is a mellow lullaby that tell a story. “Keep making me laugh, let’s go get high / The road is long, we carry on / Try to have fun in the meantime.” Even after the high has faded, the songs and the connection you felt with them will linger on long beyond the Dorito fingers and the cotton mouth.

- Krysteana Scribner  
News Editor

### Best Coast  
*Crazy For You*

Best Coast’s “Crazy For You” gives the impression that the duo of Bethany Cosentino and Bobb Bruno are singing while swaying gently through a smoky, 60’s themed room. Dreamy and raw, these tunes have the power to either heat you up or cool you down. Their guitar-heavy, echoey surf pop is the perfect accompaniment to any sort of after-hours indulgence. Cosentino’s lyrics will pierce the very heart of any female in her twenty-somethings, singing wildly honest songs about love, weed and lack of ambition. With lyrics like, “I lost my job, I miss my mom/ I wish my cat could talk (...) Nothing makes me happy/ not even TV or a bunch of weed,” Best Coast has truly birthed a righteous anthem.

- Dora Thompson  
Arts & Culture

---

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

---

**The Maine Loan®**

from **THE MAINE EDUCATIONAL LOAN AUTHORITY**

**Maine’s Alternative Student Loan™**

NEW LOWER RATES & More Flexible Loan Terms

- Range of Low Fixed Interest Rates
- Multiple Repayment Options
- Quick Online Loan Approval
- Maine-based Customer Service

whatthefee.do

THE LOAN FOR ME.®

www.mela.net  
1-800-922-6352

---

Want to submit an event?  
arts@usmfreepress.org
Lessen the pot punishment

The laws surrounding marijuana are pretty murky. Although marijuana has been legalized within Portland, and society is becoming more accepting of the practice, we advise students to keep their smoking habits within their own home and certainly off campus. We don’t think consuming marijuana is any more dangerous than some more common stress relieving vices, but if you’re not responsible, you are putting not only yourself but those around you at risk.

According to a survey we conducted, at least 104 students have smoked weed on campus. Students (EC) system. The usage of marijuana on campus will no doubt continue as long as students are under the age of 21 who consume alcohol will be subject to the state law and anyone 21 or over is allowed to drink in their dormitory. The USM policy writes, “Persons are expected to assume responsibility for their own behavior while drinking and must understand that being under the influence of alcohol in no way lessens their accountability to the University community.”

However, if a student is found on campus with the legal amount of marijuana for Portland (less than 2.5 ounces) or found to have medical marijuana, the student is breaking campus laws. It’s unfair to potentially punish one with an ounce and have a separate policy that punishes marijuana users at a higher extent.

We’d like it if the punishments for underage drinking on campus was the same for as smoking weed, but for now, just don’t take the risk with either.

Our Opinion is written by the Free Press editorial board.

Simple Science

Your brain on marijuana

Donald Szlosek  
Contributor

Ever wonder what the big deal was behind weed, or its scientific name, cannabis? Popular marijuana consumption has been consumed for over three thousand centuries in Central and South Asia, cannabis is used as a medicine, and recreational psychoactive drug. The principle psychotropic molecule of cannabis is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol better known as THC. To fully understand how THC works on the body, we have to give a quick lesson in neuroscience.

Your body sends electrical and chemical signals throughout its nervous system. As electrical signals are received through the dendrites of the neuron, they are processed by the soma and relayed electrically down to the axon which is the electrical system. This is where the electrical signals alter the release of neurotransmitters. The axon’s signal to receptors on the postsynaptic terminal. As a simple way of imagining this is if someone tells you a message (the electrical signal) and you write down that message (the electrical signal goes from the soma to the postsynaptic terminal) you are going to pass it to the next person (the postsynaptic terminal) and message is relayed.

THC acts differently than other psychoactive chemicals. It binds to special cannabinoid receptors. Chemicals such as THC along with their receptors make up the Endocannabinoid System (ECS). There are two main types of cannabinoid receptors: CB1 and CB2. One effect of THC is to overwhelm the ECS. It prevents the EC system from working normally. It prevents cannabinoids (which are chemicals that are naturally occurring in the body) from working normally. The result is that THC makes it more difficult for the body to respond to various stimuli.

Soon after cannabis was reintroduced into North America, research was conducted on the effects of THC on the brain. It was found that THC acts on cannabinoid receptors. Therefore, it can control many functions such as memory, appetite, mood, and pain. It also affects the release of neurotransmitters. When there is too much THC in the body, it can cause problems such as impairment, hallucinations, and paranoia.

Regarding your interesting report on the panel about “the Loss of Liberal Education,” I’d like to add a point about another loss related to liberal education. I don’t mean imposed by the administration, but by faculty themselves. It was unfortunate, I think, that the panel as originally planned included only faculty with one perspective, one point of view, one set of priorities. And that doesn’t mean I think the panel should include everyone who denied the value of the liberal arts (though that might be useful in a discussion), but that faculty or anyone else discussing the crisis in the university should recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinion and value in discussing these.

Wisconsinites got a little victory, based on the value of traditional ideas. It would be too bad to see liberal education in Maine suffer losses, just from inadequate appropriations, but also from faculty unwillingness to engage in debate and respectful discussion.

Eileen Eagan  
Professor of History

Subject: Panel on the Loss of Liberal Education

Upon reading the Free Press article on the shadowed production of “As You Like It,” several mistakes caught my eye. The fact that no students majoring in linguistics with a concentration in ASL-English Interpretation took part on the panel aside, there were several errors which were unsettling, and even offensive.

In Deaf culture, there is a difference between deaf and Deaf. When “deaf” is used, one is referring to the medical diagnosis. When “Deaf” is used, one is referring to being culturally Deaf, in as much as one uses visual language and is a part of the Deaf community. There was not one instance in which the correct “Deaf” was used.

In the article, the phrase “hearing the impaired” is used. I assume what was meant was “hearing impaired.” For many people within the Deaf community, that is a highly offensive statement. The implication in the article is that Deaf people are not equal, which is simply not true.

There is a problem with the shadows being called “inter- preters.” We are not a truly qualified interpreters; none of us are certified with RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) or have our licenses in Maine. Darleen Hutchins was referred to as a Deaf interpreter, which she is not. She, like the rest of us, is a USM student. It would be better to use the phrase “ASL shadow” or “shadows being called.”

Our goal is to ensure that misinformation about the Deaf community and the ASL interpreting program is not spread.

Miranda Muttillo and other Shadows

Congratulations on the job, and I hope you are able to find a lot more inspiration in your new role. I’d like to add a word of caution to anyone who is considering entering the field of accounting.

As someone who has worked in the accounting profession for many years, I can tell you that it is not an easy job. It requires long hours and a lot of hard work.

In addition, there are many different types of accounting, so it is important to choose the one that is right for you.

Congratulations again on your new job, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Donald T. Johnson

Professor of Accounting

The Free Press welcomes letters to the editor and guest commentaries from the USM community. Letters to the editor may not exceed 400 words and op-eds may not exceed 700 words without permission from the Editor-in-Chief. All content must be submitted electronically and must be free from all content or materials, if any. Full text of letters to the editor must be submitted in a readable format to our editors. Letters to the editor are subject to editing for length, clarity, and accuracy.

The Free Press is a student-run newspaper paid for in part with the Student Activity Fee. One copy of The Free Press is available free of charge. Up to 10 additional copies are available for $0.25 each at the Office of The Free Press, 92 Portland, Maine.

Interested in working with us? Visit our website at www.usmfreepress.org for a listing of available positions or email editor@usmfreepress.org with a copy of your resume and cover letter to apply directly.
Breaking News!

APPLY NOW
TO WORK WITH US
NEXT SEMESTER:

Start working for us today to get ahead.
For more info: www.usmfreepress.org/get-involved
or email editor@usmfreepress.org

Recent free press staff went on to work at:
Bangor Daily News | CBS13 | Mainebiz | Maine Magazine | The Kennebec Journal
Diversified Communications | The Portland Phoenix
Crossword

Across
1. Grey in black and white
2. Spa or neutral
3. Groups entering Noah's ark
4. Get in
5. "Trouble" (1994 movie)
6. French breakfast staple
7. Horn handed
8. Thin smoke trail
9. Magic or spell, e.g.
10. Divided
11. More run-down
12. Computer mishap
13. Antennas attraction
14. Weatherman's state
15. Italian word before "fico"
16. Not closed, in poetry
17. Pleasurable appreciation
18. Short musical passage
19. "Love _______, Ballad" (Pat Benatar hit)
20. Forensic bone
21. Dog's master
22. Aperitif
23. Not neat
24. Vagge
25. Sends out
26. Famed Russian author
27. Dinner roll
28. Last birthday of some octogenarians
29. Nacho topper, slangly
30. Famous Canadian physicist
31. Holders of ashes
32. Firefighter partner
33. Oxford dictionary?
34. H.15. class

Down
1. 10:00 out of "CBS This Morning"
2. "This is _______, for Superman!"
3. Auto parts giant
4. Supreme court (abbr.)
5. Most-debt money unit
6. Overdue ad
7. Tem (Thai salad)
8. Spacewalk for short
9. Check off
10. In the direction of
11. Film director Peter
12. River near York
13. Bay Area law enforcement org.
14. Requires scratching
15. Honey maker
16. Some Oscarist
17. Some chesmen (after the)
18. Breakfast chain, for short
19. Rock on a stage
20. Peak of Elberta Field
21. Get _______ on the word
22. Peck, stinkiness source of
31. Redhead squares
32. Church rooks
33. Suspicious (of)
34. "The Red Shoes" go
35. Inspirational saying
36. "Orangefinger" of "The Bridge of San Georgio"
37. May's superior
38. Book before Ethel in the Bible
39. In _______(dialed)
40. Tigranes enemies
41. Moscow loc.
42. Out, to Henri
43. Breakfast brand
44. Athens-Atlanta-James Bond фирм
45. Apple gadget
46. Form-fitting
47. Grow weary
48. Words before occasion or account
49. Polite rural reply
50. Sister of Alkios
51. Approximation suffix
52. Nikon article

Weekly Horoscope

Aries
March 21-April 19

Talk to people more; you need mental stimulation and new experiences. Be alert for ideas which enhance your abilities at work.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Today you get "instant karma"—no leeway for breaking rules, so stay sensible.

Gemini
May 21-June 20

Your mind is sharp and alert. Brainstorming and mental concentration go well. You think your way through problems.

Cancer
June 21-July 22

Mental activity, communication, learning or traveling with others are accented. Stimulate your mind with the people you love.

Leo
July 23-August 22

New alliances can bring money-making ideas into your life. Explore your possibilities.

Virgo
August 23-September 22

Mental activity, communication, learning or traveling with others are accented. Stimulate your mind with the people you love.

Libra
September 23-October 22

Your primary relationship is on your mind today, and could be a topic of conversation as well. You learn through interactions.

Scorpio
October 23-November 21

Your creative imagination and role playing come easily today. You enjoy charades, movies, theater or other entertainment.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21

Share thoughts and ideas today. You need to communicate who you are and what you want others to know.

Capricorn
December 22-January 19

Strong words over money could occur. Use your sense of humor to keep things light.

Aquarius
January 20-February 18

Your mind is sharp and alert. Brainstorming and mental concentration go well. You think your way through problems.

Pisces
February 19-March 20

Pour lots of energy into those small, essential tasks you’ve been putting off. You’ll be surprised at how much you can accomplish!

Cryptogram

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

BVMDS FS RGB
VZRBMSUS, TU
ZB31FS EKHTBSSRK
EBR GHSEMX VST EU
UHR RU DHESEB?

And here is your hint:
V = A

The solution to last issue’s crossword

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.

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
In anticipation of Earth Week, nearly 300 students from all over the state came together on Saturday, April 11 on the steps of the capitol building to protest climate change and government’s apathy towards it. The students were organized under Maine Students for Climate Justice along with the environmental group 350 Maine. Nearly every college in the state was represented and students from USM, UMO, UNE, Bates, Bowdoin, Unity, Colby, College of the Atlantic and UNH all made the trip to Augusta.

The students called their protest “Maine Rising.”

“We are Generation Climate, because our generation will inherit the burden of the climate crisis, and we are rising because now is the time to take collective action to change history,” the group organizers wrote in a press release.

“It’s devastating corporate greed,” said Sekera-Flanders. “We need to secure security for our future. Nestle takes that away and sells it in little plastic bottles. Only 25 percent of which are recycled.”

In addition to college students, 11-year-old Luke Sekera-Flanders of Fryeburg spoke out against Nestle’s Poland Spring plants around the state pumping public water out of the ground and selling it back to the public at inflated prices.

Students from nine different Maine colleges marched through capitol park protesting the government indifference to a growing global problem: climate change.

By starting with building no new infrastructure like the tar sands pipeline that was blocked in South Portland this past year, MSCJ says it’s a step in the right direction to think about alternative energy.

“A year ago we asked the board of trustees to divest from fossil fuels and put the eight million dollar endowment into sustainable, renewable stocks that are growing and they didn’t,” said George Belanger, Divest UMaine member and senior economics major at Orono.

According to Belanger, while the board of trustees did vote to divest from fossil fuels, they should be putting that money into solar power and emerging technologies that don’t harm the planet, because if they don’t they’re missing an opportunity.

The rally paused with fists in the air for a symbolic moment of silence at Governor LePage’s residence, the Blaine House, a stone’s throw from the capitol. After standing still and blocking traffic, the crowd chanted, “You sold us out, LePage!” and “LePuke!”

The students hoped their cries and chants wouldn’t fall on deaf ears. They see government inaction as inexcusable. Cat Fletcher, a member of Divest UMaine and a student at Orono, closed the protest. “We need politicians who put the planet over profits.”

Students, “I’m making it my mission to resurrect this place before I graduate. I hope I can leave behind something more sustainable for students,” said Nathan Baril, a senior biology major whose work study job is to care for hundreds of plants in USM’s greenhouse.
Keep swimming toward your degree!

With over 500 offerings, including more than 150 online courses, it’s easy to fit a summer course into your schedule.

usm.maine.edu/summer

Hey Huskies!

University Credit Union is here to help you with all of your financial needs.

Checking & Savings Accounts | Mobile Deposit & Online Services
Private Education Loans | Auto Loans | & More!

Become a member today at ucu.maine.edu!

Visit us in Portland at 391 Forest Avenue, 1071 Brighton Avenue and in the Brooks Student Center in Gorham!

800.696.8628 | Federally insured by NCUA
ORONO | BANGOR | FARMINGTON | GORHAM | PORTLAND | PRESQUE ISLE