4-27-2015


Sam Hill
University of Southern Maine

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AFUM brings alleged contract violations to arbitration with UMS

Image: Democratic needs Critical thinkers INVEST in USM

The state of Maine’s environment

What’s donating bone marrow like?

Invest in USM

INVEST IN USM

GO PROS

Free Press places in regional contest

Vol. 46, Issue No. 22
April 27, 2015

Will Portland raise the minimum wage?
Local campaign pushing for $12 an hour by 2020

Francis Flisik
Managing Editor

A very important question to any one who lives and works in Maine may be put on the ballot for 2016: Should the state increase the minimum wage? The current minimum wage of $7.50 an hour hasn’t changed since 2009 and is absolutely due for an increase. According to Andrew Francis, the communications director for the Maine People’s Alliance, an organization representing labor unions.

A team of 32,000 members and volunteers has spearheaded a referendum campaign that hopes to raise the current minimum wage to $9 an hour in 2017. After that initial boost up, the Maine People’s Alliance wants to see the wage increase by $1 a year until 2020 where then the wage would be tied to the cost of living. This statewide citizen’s initiative is currently fundraising and gathering 80,000 signatures which will soon be sent to the secretary of state for approval.

Francis, along with many Maine educators, believes that the minimum wage is a poverty wage and should be something a person can comfortably support themselves on; a idea that seems optimistic for the thousands that struggle to pay their bills with a low wage income. “The reality is that a lot of Mainer are working full time and still struggling to pay their bills and rent. Then they have to choose between putting food on the table, or medicine in their cabinet,” said Francis. “Raising the minimum wage is incredibly popular in Maine right now.”

Last year’s poll from the University of New Hampshire’s Survey Center showed that 75 percent of Maine respondents supported raising the minimum wage federally, with 60 percent expressing strong support. Hyper locally, a poll of 203 USM students showed that 190 people don’t think minimum wage is a livable wage and 148 said that it parses it to what jobs actually pay,” said Francis. “A living wage in the state of Maine, according to the report, should be around $15.85.”

After taxes, a full time minimum wage earner would bring home $12,300 in income, a figure members of the Maine People’s Alliance believe that a lot of Mainers aren’t earning a fair wage for their labor.

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Several issues plague Maine's environment

Industrial agriculture and rising temperatures cited as problems

Brian Gordon  
Staff Writer

The 45th annual observance of Earth Day was last week, and all around campus there were events to celebrate our relation to the Earth and how we can work to try and make it a sustainable place to live by preserving its natural resources.

Kappa Alpha Omicron, or KAO, the USM Environmental Science Student Honors Society invited Lisa Pohlmann of the Natural Resources Council of Maine to speak on behalf of USM's environmental student honor society about “The State of Maine’s Environment: A Status Report.”

Pohlmann laid out the current threats to Maine’s environment, most notably the government under Governor Paul LePage repealing environmental protections that have been in place for years. Several bills are before the legislature right now including a bill that would repeal the deposit on bottles larger than 32 oz.

According to Pohlmann, it will save companies such as Coca Cola billions of dollars because they now have to pay for that nickel deposit. If the bill passes, more two liters will end up in landfills instead of being recycled for the economic incentive.

Dr. Travis Wagner, environmental policy, teaches his students to come up with better policies and laws for protection so commercial development can continue, but do so in a sustainable way for the Earth and economics. He teaches consensus building at the grassroots level. Wagner agreed that the greatest threat to Maine’s environment is the “potential rollbacks” of laws.

“Proposal to take the parks and make that part of the department of forestry and to maximize timber harvesting on public lands,” said Wagner. “There seems to be no plan, other than just doing it. There’s no sustainability.”

Another of the events for Earth Week was the screening of the documentary “Cowspiracy – The Sustainable Secret.” According to the film, missing from the talk of climate change is the impact of agriculture, namely, raising animals for meat as the number one cause of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

A report from the United Nations found that animal agriculture contributes more methane and other toxins than all transportation in America. That’s more than all cars, trucks, planes and trains combined.

The filmmakers found the big environmental groups such as Greenpeace and the Sierra Club unwilling to talk about the ecological impact of commercial agriculture. Their stance being that Americans are unwilling to change their eating habits to more of a plant-based diet, even in the face of California’s drought, and rising temperatures and seas worldwide.

“Often people don’t realize the environmental impacts associated with the food they eat. Massive amounts of natural resources, namely fossil fuels, are used in commercial agriculture,” said Tyler James Cyr, president of KAO.

It takes between 442 and 8000 gallons of water to produce one pound of beef. Cutting down on your meat consumption could cut your carbon footprint in half.

“You’ve got some pretty high environmental costs associated with that sandwich you’re eating,” said Cyr. “Rethinking how our food is produced and where we source it from is going to be a key consideration for our generation.”

Wagner said that the most important action for students is to be informed, because if you’re not informed then you don’t become active and concerned.

Heather McIntosh, environmental science policy & planning sophomore, echoed Wagner’s idea, saying that the most important thing to stopping climate change is to, “Get involved. Volunteer. It feels really good to give back and connect with your community.”

For students interested in taking action to keep our Earth a sustainable and clean place to live, there are certainly environmental groups on campus to join in order to become more involved: The community garden has plots available and teaches students about sustainable practices, or you could join The Eco Reps or DivestUMaine.

Hannah Lyon  
Design Assistant

news@usmfreepress.org  
@USMFreePress
USM hosts bone marrow drive
Students explain misconceptions about donating

Lauren Durkin, sophomore nursing major

"When they told me I didn’t have a bone marrow match, it was a scary realization."

"I actually had a cord blood transplant because they couldn’t find a match," said Durkin. "I had to go through chemotherapy and radiation, which basically destroyed my entire immune system."

"When they told me I didn’t have a bone marrow match, it was a scary realization," said Durkin. "I was lucky enough to have a cord blood match and my brothers were lucky to have bone marrow matches."

"I was so scared," said Durkin. "I don’t know where we would be today if not for the kindness of donors."
Solar panels save USM money

Zachary Searles
Staff Writer

Earlier in the year, solar panels were installed on top of the Woodbury Campus center in Portland, sparking some questions. Where did they come from? Who paid for them?

Back in 2013, Dr. Fred Padula, professor emeritus of history, donated $50,000 to have solar panels installed in a visible location. Tyler Kidder, assistant director for sustainable programs, consulted Dr. Padula on where the panels should be placed.

“We wanted them in Portland,” said Kidder. “And wanted them to be very visible from around campus. Woodbury campus center was the best location,” said Kidder.

Some complications arose during the installation process of the panels.

“Unfortunately, Woodbury’s roof was in need of replacement before the solar panels could be installed,” said Kidd. “Much of the building has an old curved wooden roof, making solar installation nearly impossible on much of the surface.”

Because of these complications, the installation process was delayed a whole year while they waited for USM to replace the roof above the book store. This made it more so of the donated amount had to go to installation than originally planned.

“To this end, the solar array is smaller than it would have been if installed elsewhere, but also much more visible to passersby,” Kidder said.

Solar panels use light energy from the sun to generate electricity through the photovoltaic effect, which is the creation of an electrical current in a material due to the exposure of light. This is considered to be a chemical physical phenomena.

As of now, there are no data on how much money is being saved in energy costs, but Kidder states that the panels are rated to generate 8.5 kW of power, meaning that in perfect sunny conditions, the panels could be generating as much as 11,400 kWh of electricity in a year.

Kidder did state that those in perfect conditions and the panels will generally generate less due to conditions such as the angle of the sun or cloud coverage.

The panels themselves require little maintenance unless something happens to them, like a fallen branch striking it, or there is a roof leak.

“In general, solar panels have an expected lifespan of 20 years. After that time, they tend to lose generation capacity and create less power,” said Kidder.

Kidder expressed that she was interested in seeing more panels installed around campus. “If we can get more solar panels installed, especially with affordable installations, we can make a dent in our energy consumption.”

At this point, there are four solar installations on campus: Woodbury, Abromson, which has 52 panels that were also donated by Dr. Padula, Sullivan Gym Solar Thermal, which was installed in 1982, and on the childcare/police station in Gorham.

“We are always interested in more partnerships,” said Kidder. “As solar becomes more and more affordable, it is definitely on our list of ways to lighten USM’s carbon footprint and reduce our energy costs.”

news@usmfreepress.org
@USMFreePress

Free Press places in regional contest

The Free Press will soon be taking home another award. The newspaper won runner-up in the New England Newspaper and Press Association best newspaper contest.

Issues 7 and 15 of the past volume were submitted.

Issue 7 included stories on the Noyes Street house that killed six people, a faculty protest when some professor were fired through voice mail and Barrack Obama’s visit to Portland when he endorsed gubernatorial candidate Mike Michaud.

Issue 15 included stories on the snow storm that shut USM down for three days, the announcement of USM’s presidential candidates, a report on student library fines and a faculty-alumni joint art exhibition.

Managing editor Francis Flisiuk and incoming editor-in-chief Krystean Scribner will travel to Dedham, Massachusetts for an award ceremony and job fair this Thursday.

Earlier this year the Free Press won an award for best print advertisement design from the College Media Association.

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log April 8 to April 14

Wednesday, April 8
Midnight Bright Light
2:33 a.m. - Verbal warning following failure to dim high beams.
Robie Andrews Hall - 39 University Way

Sneaky Starving Artist
9:00 a.m. - Report of graffiti damage and the theft of a guitar. Report taken and the situation is under investigation.
Costello Complex - 43 Campus Ave.

It’s All in Your Head, Officer
6:01 p.m. - Officer reports three vehicles backed up to front door of Sports Complex. Clear, no problem.
Costello Complex - 43 Campus Ave.

Tail Lights? I Don’t Have A Tail!
8:10 p.m. - Defect card issued to student for having no tail lights.
Dickey Wood Hall - 17 University Way

Phone Call Report About Broken Phone
11:43 p.m. - Report of damage to the emergency phone near the bus stop. Report taken.
Bailey Hall - 16 University Way

Thursday, April 9
First World Problems
8:30 a.m. - Information provided via phone call regarding cyber security issues. Report Taken. Handled by Officer.

Expressing your Inner Creativity
8:35 a.m. - Reported graffiti at the top of a stairwell, first floor. Report and photos taken. Comment removed from the wall.
Bailey Hall - 16 University Way

I’ve Fallen and I Can’t Get Up
9:24 a.m. - Report of a student falling in the parking garage. Medical transportation brought student to MMC.
Parking Garage - 86 Bedford St.

I Need This Saw to Cut Vegetables
11:19 a.m. - Report of a theft of a Bosch saw. Officers unable to find stolen object.
Science Building - 70 Falmouth St.

Sunday, April 12
You Can’t Outrun the Po Po
2:36 a.m. - Request sent out to USM police backup for a Gorham officer responding to an assault.
121 School St.

Monday, April 13
Kick and Run
3:21 a.m. - Request to USM police backup for a Gorham officer responding to an assault.
Costello Complex - 43 Campus Ave.

Tuesday, April 14
Do You Smell What I Smell? That Smelly Smell?
8:36 p.m. - Report of smell of marijuana in the basement of Corthell Hall. Unfounded. Of
Corthell Hall. Unfounded. Of

news@usmfreepress.org
USM Free Press

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.
Broadway star does one-man performance

Bill Bowers has graced Broadway's stages as Leggett in "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and Zazu in "The Lion King." He has performed with the world-famous mime, Marcel Marceau. His award-winning solo performance exploring personal losses is a play that art is the most effective way to do so.

"Bowie Diggity Arts is a good place to learn new things, like how to be nice to your own friends," said one student at Momentum. "It's a pretty interesting place, with so much to work on including arts and crafts to do. I just like to be myself here."

On April 29, come out and show your support for not only the Bomb Diggity program and students, but the Portland art community as a whole. Tickets are only $5, and the fest is being held at One Longfellow Square at 6:30 p.m.
Fifth Harmony: Worth It

Listening to this song gets me pumped up to study for finals and write those last-minute essays. This song drops the beat in all the appropriate places, and the saxophone that plays in the background gives it a groovy '60s feel to go along with the rapping and melodic voices of Fifth Harmony. During finals week, I’m always stressing about the next thing I have to finish in order to enjoy the upcoming vacation. Not only is this song a good one to listen to during study time, but it’s also a good transition song that I can listen to in the car with my speakers blasted while I cruise around Portland wearing cheap sunglasses. The rapper in this song, Kid Ink, sneakily jumps in with raps that may not make any sense, but if you’re looking for a good, motivational beat, this song is certainly worth a listen.

- Krysteana Scribner
News Editor

Epic - Syco
Fifth Harmony: Worth It

What caught your eyes and ears this week? Let us know! arts@usmfreepress.org
Sam Hill  
Editor-in-Chief

After three long years at the Free Press, I’m excited to pass the torch on to a new team of staffers and watch how the newspaper evolves after I’m gone.

Instead of taking off on an inspirational or punchy note, I just want to share some of the things I’ve learned during my time here, because obviously I’m writing this on production day and have thought of anything special to write.

If you take yourself seriously, other people will take you seriously. Confidence is key, especially while transitioning from a campus environment to the “real world.” “Take it all you can from it” attitude honestly works, as long as you remember to learn along the way and play catch-up.

You need to learn how to be a team member. There are very few places in life where you can succeed at group projects, but chances are you’re rarely going to work entirely on your own. Surround yourself with people who want to work toward the same goal and learn to trust them. Eventually, you’ll have to do everything around yourself, find an answer, explore it and find an end. Chances are someone else is wondering the same thing but there might be something you figure out things out. Always be learning and sharing what you learn with others.

Set goals. Meet goals. Repeat. It’s good to get out of that “I sort of want to do something” mindset and actually focus in on a task. Whether that’s learning a new skill, getting a new job or just finally going down to the basement to retrieve the laundry you cleaned two days ago. Find something you feel happy and accomplished doing, then keep doing that.

There is such a thing as too much pizza. Sorry, Leonardo’s, but production day pizza for three years is enough.

The Free Press has treated me well. I’ve met a lot of great people through working here and have had access to amazing parts of Portland I wouldn’t have seen otherwise.

I wish the best of luck to all future Free Pressers. Don’t get spun around yourself, find an end. Chances are someone else is wondering the same thing but there might be something you figure out things out. Always be learning and sharing what you learn with others.

Francis Fisliuk  
Managing Editor

Hello readers. Some of you may know me simply from my byline, or as the annoying guy reaching out to you on Facebook, or showing my cell phone in your face while you’re trying to eat lunch in Woodbury. I’ve achieved a strange sense of pseudo-popularity, and I’m using this time as managing editor, at least judging by how fast my inbox fills up with press releases and how many friendly head nods I get on campus.

It’s the end of an era for me. I’ve been snapping photos, writing stories and bagging students for interviews for almost three years now, and it’s safe to say that the experience has defined my college career. When I came to USM as a sophomore, I had no idea what I wanted to major in and it stressed me out to no end. Picking a major that you actually enjoy is a huge decision. I made my life decisions in three times and each time I thought, “I’m not really sure if I’m going to like this career path, but here’s thousands of dollars, so let’s hope I do!” Thankfully, stumbling into the Free Press office eventually shined a light on a profession that I find pretty good at: journalism. So I majored in media and English. Getting paid to talk to USM community members and sharing important news was an eye opening experience, and

Sokvonny Chhouk  
Design Director

When I started at the Free Press, the walls in the Free Press meeting room were bright green and now they’re purple. I have definitely been here for too long. My journey at the Free Press is finally coming to an end. When I transferred to USM, I didn’t have a strong passion for computer technology anymore. My plan was to finish out school for the sake of having a bachelor’s degree. I always had an interest in graphic design but I didn’t know how to start it. I think it’s kind of a big deal now, but it is, seriously. I know Krysteana, Abby, Han-nah and Dora will kill it next season. Every awkward person that has stepped into this office has become someone and is pursuing a job in their desired field. I can walk away feeling confident and grateful for the past 3 years. I will always stay with me. I will miss asking, “What’s the kerming on that story?”
Thank you to our readers and advertisers. Without you, we wouldn’t be able to do the work we love.

Thank you to our advisory board for guiding us throughout the semester and providing critical feedback.

And a special thanks to Lucille Seigler, our business manager, and Shelton Waldrep, our faculty advisor. The newspaper wouldn’t be complete without your work behind the scenes.
Crossword

Across
1. "I don’t mean anything _______" (12,9)
2. 5. Type of beer
3. 10. Clark of "The Daily Planet" (12)
4. 14. Heli Box
5. 15. Take ______ (9)
6. 16. Comment after a trip?
7. 17. Wall Street Whiz
8. 16. Financial investor
9. 20. Shout of joy
10. 22. Decades, to centuries
11. 23. State shades, to starts
12. 25. Singers’ notes
13. 26. Cold state
14. 28. Rich desert
15. 33. Autor James Van _____ (12,3)
16. 34. Trouble
17. 36. Texas city just north of Dallas
18. 37. Trip to Mexico
19. 39. 506, once
20. 40. Cowboy hat feature
21. 42. Blender maker
22. 44. Idiotic
23. 46. Saint Lucia IOC code
24. 47. Singing groups
25. 49. Regarded
26. 51. Lincoln brand
27. 52. Mixus vocale
28. 53. Table cleaner
29. 57. Able, on a street sign
30. 56. Ice legend’s family
31. 61. Interior
32. 65. In too many’s ______ (cause navigation)
34. 66. Arab souhaleke
35. 67. Eugene’s home
36. 68. Engine type
37. 69. Solitaire starter
38. 70. Golf tape
39. 71. Hanpug

Down
1. Made a mess of
2. Informed opinion
3. Concerning
4. Sorts
5. Sought after feature in real estate, often
6. Muslim leaders
7. Weight training counts
8. 901, to Nero
9. Tools today
10. Book now
11. Cast forth
12. Enjoy a snack
13. Discount theater letters in NYC
14. "The Fox and the Grapes" author
15. Heart readout, for short
16. Underworld group
17. Line a specially appointed committee
18. Dog sleep
19. German desserts
20. Barnacle’s dig
21. Chief Jeeves, 1933-59
22. Prosprosk, in a way
23. Wandering lobstemman
24. Wall-chiners
25. Musician Garcia, informally
26. Opposite of a sort
27. Groppe mill product
28. Groot’s _____ for Evidence
29. Airport aide
30. Escrow and Micron, e.g.
31. Stop by
32. Dab with absorbent paper
33. Men, in Italy
34. Msp, as the deck
35. Note ___ (attention-getting phrase)
36. Transport of a sort
37. _____ Llama Ding Dong (Edwina hit)
38. Gulp from a bottle
39. Hungarian ion

Sudoku

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

Cryptogram

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

X HXT’V GUHQ RV GRV KXVNCQ, RT X HXTUM UL VEQXDRTP.

And here is your hint: D = K

Weekly Horoscope

Aries
March 21-April 19

Thinking for yourself is important. Be direct and forthright (but not too blunt). Your mind and tongue work swiftly.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

A day to dream and scheme about possible money-making projects. Think big today and let your imagination soar.

Gemini
May 21-June 20

Optimism is emphasized. You’re more restless today, with an urge to travel, to learn, to share ideas, or to make changes.

Cancer
June 21-July 22

You're inclined to be too hard on yourself today. Nobody’s perfect. Give yourself a break.

Leo
July 23-August 22

More errands or short trips and changes in the routine are needed. Be casual and flexible and you’ll handle whatever comes your way.

Virgo
August 23-September 22

A loved one demonstrates caring and commitment. Your bonds of attachment are strengthened.

Libra
September 23-October 22

If you listen closely today, you’ll hear a clue about what to get someone near and dear for next birthday.

Scorpio
October 3-November 21

Suit yourself as much as possible today. Compromise does not come easily, so do your own thing without battling with others.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21

Issues of practical empathy and realistic caring are uppermost in your relationships. Seek out support.

Capricorn
December 22-January 19

Suit yourself as much as possible today. Compromise does not come easily, so do your own thing without battling with others.

Aquarius
January 20-February 18

Doing things with friends is highlighted today. Flexibility allows you (and family members also!) to have a good time.

Pisces
February 19-March 20

You avoid unpleasant topics, preferring to keep things "nice." A smooth flow appeals, but don’t overdo.

Puzzles

Crossword

Down
1. Made a mess of
2. Informed opinion
3. Concerning
4. Sorts
5. Sought after feature in real estate, often
6. Muslim leaders
7. Weight training counts
8. 901, to Nero
9. Tools today
10. Book now
11. Cast forth
12. Enjoy a snack
13. Discount theater letters in NYC
14. "The Fox and the Grapes" author
15. Heart readout, for short
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The solution to last issue’s crossword

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And here is your hint: D = K
Community Spotlight:
Southern Maine Downs Bates 10-4; Flaherty Get 900th Career Win

The University of Southern Maine scored five times in the fifth inning to overcome a 3-2 deficit and went on to defeat Bates College 10-4 in non-conference baseball action Thursday afternoon at Leachy Field.

For veteran USM head coach Ed Flaherty, the win was the 900th of his stellar career. Now in his 30th season at USM, Flaherty has a 900-403-4 career record (.690 W-L pct.). The Huskies raised their overall record to 21-9 on the season with their third straight win. The Bobcats had their two-game winning streak stopped, and slipped to 11-13 overall. The two teams will play again next Wednesday (4:00 p.m.) at USM.

The Huskies took a 2-0 lead in the second inning when rookie Thomas Zarro doubled in a run, and classmate Ryan Browner hurled two innings of scoreless one-hit relief to finish.

The Huskies added on three runs in the sixth, again with the benefit of Bates miscues, to take a 10-3 lead. Sophomore Robert Jones, the second of seven Bates pitchers used in the game, was tagged with the loss. Jones retired the side in order in the fourth inning, but gave up four straight hits to open the fifth inning before being lifted.

Southern Maine is back in action on Saturday hosting Keene State College for a Little East Conference doubleheader. Bates begins a three-game NE-SCAC series at Tufts University with a single game on Friday.

Featured Photo:

Photos from the “Maineah” dance last Friday in the Brooks Student Center.
APPLY NOW
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