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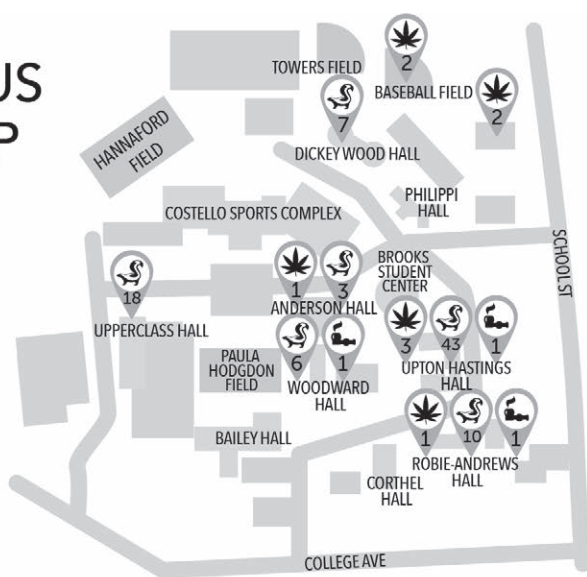
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Portland's marijuana legality won't protect you

GORHAM CAMPUS 2014 CRIME MAP

- ODOR
- SUMMONS
- SUMMONS AND PARAPHERNALIA

Data collected from
USM Police Department



Hannah Lyon / Design Assistant

Krysteana Scribner
News Editor

The laws and regulations concerning marijuana are complex and have been for many years. Last fall, the city of Portland legalized marijuana for recreational use, but individuals caught for possession of can still be issued a citation because of state and federal laws.

According to Bobby Lewis, a membership assistant at the Marijuana Policy Project based in Washington, D.C., which works on changing laws for adults to consume 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. "The statistics gathered 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 anywhere except Portland is against the law. In Portland, adults can legally possess up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana, but according to the Police Chief Michael Sauschuck, officers will continue to enforce state law that makes possession of up to 2.5 ounces a civil violation.

"I would simply suggest that people do not possess marijuana in Portland at all. I would suggest not to even take the risk," said Sauschuck. "The state law says don't possess marijuana and although it's legal locally, federal law supersedes state law and state supersedes local ordinances. I would hate to see anyone confused because they don't know the real case."

Even though marijuana is legal in Portland, charges can vary depending on the situation. A USM student who preferred to stay anonymous explained that although marijuana was legalized in Portland, he doesn't fully understand the legality because

you can still get in trouble for smoking it.

"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."

Regardless of the change in city laws, the use and possession of marijuana is still illegal at USM. According to Dean of Students Joy Pufhal, the legal possession of marijuana (this includes the legal amount 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 contact probation," said Pufhal. "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 into place, many students have differing 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, and 34 percent had done so on campus. Data from USM's police logs show that out of the 97 marijuana odors that were reported on campus, 39 of those were for Upton Hastings.

Another anonymous USM student explained that the use of marijuana should be legal, but only for adults 18 and older. 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," she said. "These side effects get better with my smoking of marijuana. I completely, 100 percent support the legalization of this drug."

A senior mathematics major, who would prefer to stay anonymous, said 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.

"The World Health Organization has estimated that over 100 million deaths in the 20th century were attributed to tobacco smoking," he said. "Zero deaths have been attributed to marijuana smoking alone in the 20th century. So I believe it should be legalized."

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So you want to get a medical marijuana card?

Despite loophole seekers, students say the industry remains honest

Francis Flisiuk
Managing Editor

Despite an outlaw image and often confusing legal status, marijuana is becoming widely accepted as having many medicinal benefits. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center showed that 77 percent of Americans approve of marijuana for medical purposes. Patients across the country are choosing cannabis over traditional opiates to treat the symptoms of conditions like cancer, Alzheimer's and glaucoma.

In Maine, the medical marijuana industry is thriving, as doctors like James Li in Damariscotta are writing prescriptions for approved patients to stop in at one of the state's eight dispensaries to pick up a bag, vial or edible of marijuana product. But according to Dr. Li, there are people that try to abuse the system by exaggerating their self diagnoses, in hopes of acquiring a means to a legal high.

"From screening people, I've seen people looking around for something that will give them legal standing to use it [marijuana] recreationally," said Li. "I make very certain to only prescribe it to the people that really need it."

According to Dr. Li, Maine has a fairly conservative list of 14 conditions that qualify for a prescription of marijuana, including cancer, AIDs, Alzheimer's, glaucoma and inflammatory bowel syndrome. Maine has purposely excluded the clinically ambiguous anxiety and depression from the list, but one subjective condition

remains that provides the avenue for the most rule-bending: pain.

"Anyone can walk into the office and say 'hey doctor, I've got pain,' and a less scrupulous doctor might hand them a prescription," said Li. "It's like an open reason for someone who wants to use marijuana recreationally."

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 to have a pretty compelling reason for wanting marijuana, because we want to make sure we're doing more good than harm," said Li referring to the negative effects marijuana has on cognitive function in adolescents. "It's pretty obvious to tell which people are serious."

"People will find loopholes and ways to exploit the program, it's inevitable, said Rachel Gates, a junior communications major. "But I think by legalizing marijuana, there would no longer be any need to abuse the program."

On top of having to show a tremendous need to use marijuana and its 400 individual chemicals as a pain reliever, potential patients also need to have a record free of criminal drug offenses.

Out of 300 USM students surveyed, 265 said they're aware that marijuana has positive, medicinal qualities. Jordan Leathers, a former biochemistry major, has a

marijuana prescription and uses it to ease chronic pain he still feels 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 definitely helps her alignment, but ultimately she finds that smoking medical marijuana enables her body, mind and spirit to relax," said Gates. "And relaxation is absolutely everything."

Portlander Erin (who wishes to keep her last name anonymous) supports the legalization of marijuana both medically and recreationally, occasionally smoking it herself. Erin said she enjoys seeing the positive effects that marijuana has on her close friend who is fighting throat cancer.

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

"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.



Photo courtesy of Wellness Connection of Maine

Apart from their Portland location, the Wellness Connection of Maine also serves patients at their marijuana dispensaries in Brewer and Gardiner. They offer 14 different strains of both indica and sativa.

One of the 34 students who wrote on the survey that marijuana has no medicinal benefits was Isabelle Alenus-Crosby. According to Crosby, marijuana is harmful to both kids and adolescents and can lead to both psychosis and schizophrenia. She also believes that the medical industry is vulnerable to people looking to score some legal bud.

"I know a lot of people who make up pain in order to get legal marijuana," said Crosby. "They think it makes them cool and popular. However, when I suffered from melanomas I was given regular painkillers which did the trick."

Dr. Li spoke out against the use of traditional painkillers like Vicodin and Percocet, saying that nowadays we've been marketed to use them too much and they

can often have fatal side effects.

Li said that he works primarily in the ER and that he's seen so much death and dying from inadvertent overdoses on opiates. After prescribing patients marijuana, the positive transformation on their health, demeanor and well being was described by him as amazing.

"After they were off their opiates and all their prescription pain medications, I didn't recognize them; it was remarkable," said Li. "They began to look and function normally again. I used to be a big skeptic, but then I saw a good proportion of those people found so much relief from medical marijuana that it changed their life."

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Non-smokers dispel pot stereotypes

Students cite odor and illegality as main reasons for not smoking

Francis Flisiuk
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. Out 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 a lingering social stigma. Anonymous survey takers cited everything from a bad odor, addictive qualities and facilitating a culture of laziness as reasons why they've never sparked up some ganja.

There are many common stereotypes that plague the average

to studies that show that long-term use has a negative effect on memory, motivation and cognitive function. Other people shy away from cannabis for the same reasons they do cigarettes: no matter what you're smoking, it's harmful to inhale the effects of combustion into your lungs.

Isabelle Crosby, an undeclared sophomore, is of this opinion and prefers relaxing with the occasional alcoholic drink instead. Crosby considers marijuana to be a "gateway drug," or one that sparks curiosity within some to try harder and more dangerous substances.

"I have seen people go rapidly from marijuana to class A drugs," said Crosby. "Friends of mine dropped out as a result and prob-



Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky / Design Assistant

does not mean that their encounter should speak for all marijuana users."

Gates used to occasionally smoke pot with her friends in high school, but it took her a while to truly feel high. When the high hit her, she decided to stop smoking altogether. Gates said her early marijuana smoking days were tainted by an overwhelming sense of paranoia, where all her anxieties became magnified, a feeling which she disliked immensely.

"Two years after high school, I tried smoking again and the same situation happened, so I'm completely done now," said Gates. "I think I react this way to pot because I struggle with anxiety on

a daily basis. In a weird way, it's almost like the plant holds up a mirror where you look into your reflection. Someone who is naturally calm will probably have a good time, whereas someone who is paranoid may struggle and try to fight the high."

Seasoned smokers like Leathers offered this advice to people thinking about smoking marijuana for the first time: don't overdo it, and moderation is key.

Natasha Bezbradica, a senior communications major, has tried smoking marijuana many times, but, like Gates, has also never enjoyed the effects.

"That's really the only reason why," said Bezbradica. "From my

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."

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“ I believe it’s hugely important to keep an open mind about marijuana for the rest of the community.”

Rachel Gates, junior communications major

marijuana user. Pot tokers are often labelled as "stoners" who have trouble holding a job, sport a five-word vocabulary and are absolute slaves to the munchies, ingesting junk food at a nausea-inducing pace. Other stereotypes group smokers as long-haired hippies that wear tie dye shirts, listen to reggae and are in a constant state of confusion. Perhaps most detrimental to marijuana's image, and most untrue, is the notion that it can be fatal to those who smoke, vape or ingest it.

But for Jordan Leathers, a former biochemistry major and medical marijuana patient, smoking pot is more than just a way to relax; it alleviates his chronic back pain. He said pot stereotypes are annoying, because the plant has so many benefits and misinformation deteriorates 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 every 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 intelligent, driven friends have their grades drop or drop out completely because they just didn't care anymore. I don't think it's any more dangerous than alcohol or tobacco, but it can have a similar level of impact on a person's life."

Opponents of marijuana and the culture it fosters often point

ably ruined their lives."

"Marijuana doesn't cause a physical addiction like other drugs do," explained James Li, a medical marijuana doctor based in Damariscotta. "From a doctor's standpoint, it doesn't even come close, danger-wise to the substances we've already legalized. People are prone to judge others that seek 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, said that the illegality has greatly influenced the public perception of marijuana. According to Gates, smoking weed has been the "cool thing to do" for some because it's illegal and taboo. She said that there are also people who adamantly oppose everything to do with marijuana simply because it involves breaking the law.

"That further contributes to the plant's misconstrued reputation," said Gates. "For some people, it's just simply enjoyable. I think that, like with most things in life, perspective is everything; just because some have had bad experiences with the plant, as I have,

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Alcohol vs. marijuana vs. tobacco

Zachary Searles
Free Press Staff


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 United Nations, nearly 159 million people have used marijuana worldwide, roughly 4 percent of Earth’s population.


The numbers of Americans who smoke tobacco are much higher. According to the CDC, 17.8 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, 86.8 percent of Americans 18 or older have had a drink in their lifetime. Among full time college students, 59.4 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







MARIJUANA

► 70 g

5,000 times more than normal amount

Source: Drug Abuse Warning Network

NICOTINE

► 30-60 mg

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ALCOHOL

► 13 shots (1 shot = 45 ml)

Source: Compound Interest

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 recent 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, Ran-

dall 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 what 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.”



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Police Beat

Selections from the USM
Department of Public
Safety police log March
23 to April 7

Monday, March 23

Take That Homework!

8:15 a.m. - Arson. Paper in building burned. Report taken Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Poo-Box Stone Cold Busted

9:28 a.m. - Motor vehicle stop. Summons issued to Samantha R. Conway, 23 of Richmond for registration violation. Brighton Ave.

Now, Where Did I Leave My Bombs?

4:37 p.m. - Suspicious activity. Report of two bags left outside of building. All set, lost items. Wishcamper Center, 34 Bedford St.

Backup Needed to Eat Donuts

6:57 p.m. - Assisted Gorham Police department with a call. G12 Parking lot, 19 Campus Ave.

Oh boy! Marijuana Cigarillos

8:26 p.m. - Reported odor of marijuana. Unable to locate anything other than cigarettes. G11 Parking lot, 52 University Way

Tuesday, March 24

Police Beats Makes Good Rolling Paper

4:01 p.m. - Report taken for odor of marijuana. Upton Hastings Hall, 52 University Way

You’re Infamous

7:36 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop. Summons for operating after suspension issued to Christopher M. Leblanc, 23 of Cumberland. Parking lot P9, 72 Falmouth St.

Thursday, March 26

Fratty le’ Femme

10:23 p.m. - Disturbance reported. Resolved without incident Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Spoke Too Soon

11:45 p.m. - Disorderly conduct. Arrested Jama M Ahmed, 21 of Gorham for violation of conditions of release. Upperclass Hall, 25 Husky Dr.

Sunday, April 5

Grouchy Poo-box

1:47 a.m. - Traffic stop for loud exhaust. Verbal warning issued School Street

Tuesday, April 7

Campus Lurker Leaves in Bracelets

3:05 a.m. - Amy Marie Belanger, age 38 of North Yarmouth, ME arrested on a warrant charging violating conditions of release. Also charged with unlawful possession of a scheduled drug. Transported to Cumberland County sheriffs office. 37 College Ave, Gorham

Police logs are edited for grammar and style. They can be found at usm.maine.edu/police/campus-crime-log.

Arts & Culture



Local Top 5:

Best places to satisfy the munchies

Free Press Staff

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 blessing and a curse for me. Their donuts repeatedly gain national attention for their potato dough, unique flavors and all natural ingredients. But don’t be fooled, these donuts are a decadent and delicious. Dark chocolate sea salt or lemon flavored donuts are natural fits to your wake-n-bake routine. Biting into a bacon cheddar donut, stoned to the gills, is an incredible morning munchie experience. The dough is warm and slightly sweet, while inside hides gooey, bacon filled delightfulness.

4 Elevation Burger on Commercial Street

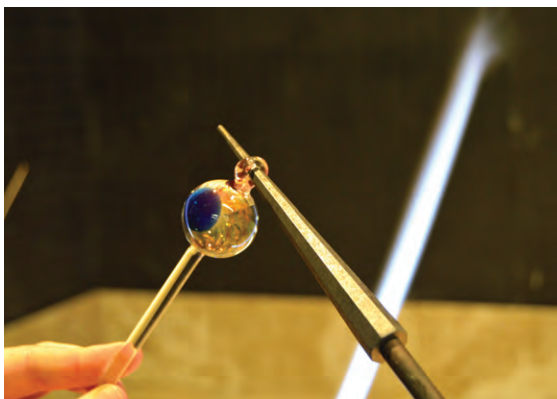
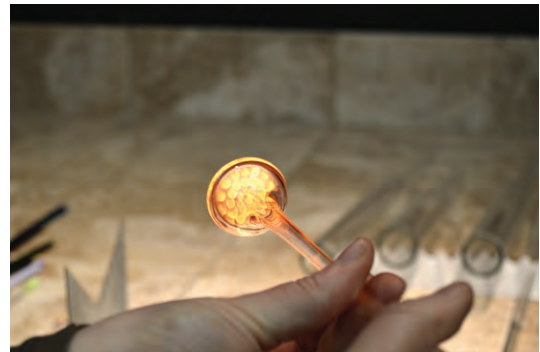
For late-night munchies that require greasy food, Elevation Burger on Commercial Street in Portland is the place to be. This is a build-your-own-burger joint, where hungry highlife can meander in and choose to build classic burgers. You can top this burger with anything your heart desires - and if you want the ultimate experience of a tastebud flavor explosion, having the triple decker vertigo burger stacked with bacon and extra mayonnaise is going to be the best choice you will make all day.

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 pub 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 lights, entertaining any stoned customer for hours on end. One can order \$3.00 meat skewers and \$2.00 plates of sushi. The chicken and shrimp skewers are classically delicious, and the more adventurous stoner can try octopus or beef tongue. Benkay will not only cure your munchies, but it will do so with a disco ball and a Shakira mix. What could be better?

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

A passion for glass creation



Courtesy of Alex Caponigro

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

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

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 true passion, marbles. Brian Owoc’s 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 re-

ally 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, liquid 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 as 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 in the end, it’s just art.”

They both expect that in time, people will become more and more accepting of the practice of making glass bowls and bongs.

Due to society’s reluctance to embrace the art form, the underground culture of glassblowing is rich and close knit. When Owoc first blew glass 15 years ago, there were virtually no classes offered in glassblowing, let alone pipe making. The artists had to teach each other. Owoc met some people in the craft while traveling, and learned the art through them.

“The community was very open with knowledge,” said Owoc. “When you see another glass artist

it’s like instant family. You’re going through the same thing and you’re eager to advance art.”

Local artists also often do collaboration work, so you may find a pipe with Owoc’s donuts on it, with another artist’s blown glass waffles.

Mobsby is a USM alumnus, with a degree in small business and entrepreneurship. She was the manager of Blazin’ Aces, another local smoke shop. Before that she started by selling her work at farmer’s markets.

The pair encourages buyers to purchase locally. They explain that many glassblowing industries don’t have proper safety equipment or air ventilation systems, and workers operate in dangerous conditions.

“You should care where your money is going,” said Owoc. “If you do have the choice, you should support local artists.”

Being a glass artist is no cakewalk. The couple spends ridiculous hours in the studio working every day. They say the hardest part about their job is the lack of benefits and paid vacations. Mobsby confessed that they had to bring their houseplants to the studio because they were getting neglected at home. However, the glassblowing power couple still enjoys showing up to work.

“I love glassblowing because I love puzzles and things that make my mind turn,” said Mobsby. “For me it’s a puzzle that’s never going to end because I’m always learning something.”

Owoc said he loves his job because he can be the master of his own destiny. Success depends solely on how hard he can work and how creative he can get.

For some people, stopping in to 33rd Street Arts inevitably leads one to lighting one up in honor of a highly functional and still beautiful art form.

dora@usmfreepress.org
@USMFreePress



A&C Listings

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 & yMusic
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.

Want to submit an event?
arts@usmfreepress.org

HEAVY ROTATION

WHAT CAUGHT THE EYES AND EARS
OF OUR STAFF THIS WEEK



Interscope Records

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



Jewel City

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. Thier 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



Cash Money

LIL WAYNE -
THA CARTER III

Hands down the most consistent, thorough, sick until the last track Lil Wayne record. If this isn't still in your rotation, you need to get it back ASAP. Gold from beginning to end. Get pumed up with "3-peat" and chill out to slower tracks like "Tie My Hands" or "dontgetit." Jay-Z and Busta Rhymes make appearances too. Like he says, to get on this level "you gon-na need a space shuttle or a ladder that's forever." If you get through this and still need more Weezy, check out some of his lesser known mixtapes like Dedication 2 or No Ceiling. Really, you could cruise to any Wayne slbum on 4/20 and really get into it.

- Sam Hill
Editor-In-Chief

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

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Perspectives

Our Opinion

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 it's not worth the risk.

According to a survey we conducted, at least 104 students have smoked weed on campus. Students at USM who get caught with marijuana on campus will immediately be given disciplinary action, which could include anything from suspension of financial aid to complete expulsion from the university. Getting high before philosophy class, may sound like fun, but if your education is at stake, just leave your bowl at home.

We do think USM's marijuana policy is too strict though. The penalties surrounding alcohol consumption on campus aren't nearly as severe. Individuals under the age of 21 who consume alcohol will be subject to the state law and anyone 21 and over is allowed to drink in approved campus facilities. 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 end somebody's academic career because they carry their medicine to campus. If penalties against possession and usage on campus must exist, let's keep them exactly the same as the ones pertaining to alcohol.

College students are always going to experiment with marijuana and although the Free Press doesn't condone the use of it on campus, it's simply unfair to implicate such harsh punishments when it is legal in the city. USM's policy says alcohol and other drug use interferes with the learning environment, but why have a 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 as for smoking weed, but for now, just don't take the risk with either activities.

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?

Found to be consumed for over three thousand years in Central and South Asia, cannabis is used as a medicinal and recreational psychoactive drug. The principle psychedelic 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 dendrite of the neuron, they are processed by the soma and relayed electrically down the axon to the presynaptic bouton. This is where the electrical signal causes the release of neurotransmitters out of the presynaptic bouton and into the synaptic cleft where they bind to receptors on the postsynaptic neuron. A simple way of imagining this is if someone tells you a message (the electrical signal) and you write the message down (the electrical signal goes from the soma to the presynaptic bouton) you pass to the person next to you (the postsynaptic terminal) and the message is relayed.

THC acts differently than other chemicals. It binds to special cannabinoid receptors. Chemicals such as THC along with their receptors make up the Endocannabinoid (EC) system. The normal process

of the endocannabinoid system is to help regulate how neurons communicate, how they send, receive, or process messages. Compared to normal neurochemical signaling, the EC system works "backwards." When a postsynaptic neurons is activated, cannabinoids are made "on demand" and travel backwards up to the presynaptic neuron, where they act on cannabinoid receptors. Thus they can control what happens next when these cells are activated. Cannabinoids act like a type of "dimmer switch," slowing down communication between cells, similar to having someone slow when you are trying to write down what they are saying. The natural EC system is finely tuned to react appropriately to incoming information, but THC overwhelms the EC system. It prevents the natural chemicals from doing their job properly and throws the whole system off balance.

Since cannabinoid receptors are in so many parts of the brain and body, taking in THC can be a whole-body experience; including decreased reaction time, disrupt the ability to remember things that just happened, cause anxiety and affect judgment. THC also blocks the release of the neurotransmitter GABA, which regulates the amount of dopamine released in the brain. The blockage of GABA allows unregulated amounts of dopamine to be released into the brain, leaving a persona in a state of euphoria.

Donald Szlosek is a USM graduate who majored in human biology.



Letters & Comments:

Subject: Panel on the Loss of Liberal Education

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, not imposed on 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 predetermined answers, what one might call one side of the street fight of the past several years at USM. It was, I think, a good thing that President Flanagan was willing to go into the den and offer a defense of his policies.

My view, a fairly traditional one, of liberal education is of a process and place where students learn from exposure to competing ideas, different philosophies, sets of evidence, and even differing values and priorities. That doesn't mean I think the panel had to include someone 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 and in higher

education should recognize that there are legitimate differences of opinion and value in discussing them. That's my view of a university. The University of Wisconsin, a truly excellent university system, is having its own financial issues and clearly ideological attacks on the role of the flagship campus and its sidekick, an excellent metropolitan university, in Milwaukee. Part of what their governor wanted to cut out of the System's stated purpose was "the pursuit of truth." What has been the Wisconsin idea of the pursuit of truth? It's a very populist, agrarian one, of the "sifting and winnowing" of analysis and evidence and of differing views to reach what might be truth.

Wisconsinians got a little victory, based on the value of traditional ideas. It would be too bad to see liberal education in Maine suffer losses, not just from inadequate appropriations, but also from faculty unwillingness to engage in debate and respectful discussion.

Eileen Eagan
Professor of History

Subject: the ASL Shadowed Production of "As You Like It"

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 Interpreting were interviewed 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; as in, one uses visual language and is 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 com-

munity, that is a highly offensive term. The implication in the article is that Deaf people are impaired, which is simply not true.

There is a problem with the shadows being called "interpreters." We are not yet qualified interpreters; none of us are certified with RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf) or have our licenses to practice 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 "signing shadow."

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

Miranda Muttillio and other Shadows

Have your own opinion?

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 prior approval from the Editor-in-Chief. Any content must be submitted electronically and must include the author's full name, school year or relationship to USM. We reserve the right to edit or refuse all materials submitted or solicited for publication. Columns do not reflect the opinions of The Free Press or its staff. We have a gender-neutral language policy. Deadline for submissions is the Wednesday before publication. Send submissions to editor@usmfreepress.org.



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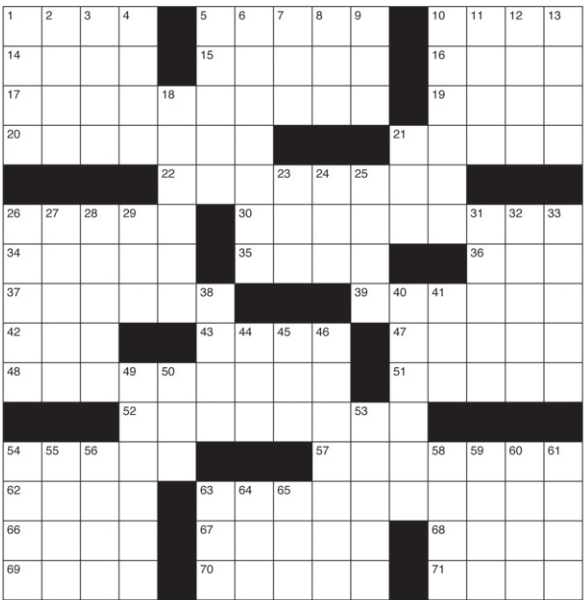
Recent free press staff went on to work at:

The New York Times | The Associated Press | The New York Post
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Diversified Communications | The Portland Phoenix

Crossword

Across

- 1. Grey in black and white
- 5. Spay or neuter
- 10. Groups entering Noah's ark
- 14. Get in ____
- 15. "___ Trouble" (1994 movie)
- 16. French breakfast staple
- 17. Incensed
- 19. Thin smoke trail
- 20. Magic or Bird, e.g.
- 21. Divulged
- 22. More run-down
- 26. Computer mishap
- 30. Amiens attraction
- 34. Wiesbaden's state
- 35. Italian word before "buco"
- 36. Not closed, in poetry
- 37. Pleasurable appreciation
- 39. Short musical passage
- 42. "Love ____ Battlefield" (Pat Benatar hit)
- 43. Forearm bone
- 47. Dog's master
- 48. Apart
- 51. Not neat
- 52. Veggie
- 54. Sends out
- 57. Famed Russian author
- 62. Goggle
- 63. Last birthday of some octogenarians
- 66. Nacho topper, slangily
- 67. Famous Canadian physician
- 68. Holders of ashes
- 69. Ends' partner
- 70. Oxford attachment?
- 71. H.S. class

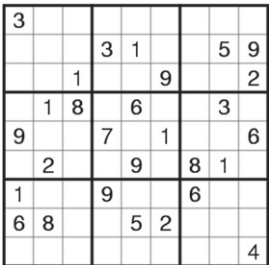


Down

- 1. '90s cohost of "CBS This Morning"
- 2. "This is ____ for Superman!"
- 3. Auto parts giant
- 4. Supreme rulers (abbr.)
- 5. Mideast monetary unit
- 6. Crete-born artist
- 7. ____ tam (Thai salad)
- 8. Spacewalk, for short
- 9. Checked off
- 10. In the direction of
- 11. Film director Peter
- 12. River near York
- 13. Bay Area law enforcement org.
- 18. Requires scratching
- 21. Honey maker
- 23. Some Duracells
- 24. Some chessmen (abbr.)
- 25. Breakfast chain, for short
- 26. Rock on a stage
- 27. Pee Wee of Ebbets Field
- 28. Get ____ on the wrist
- 29. Fed. disability support org.
- 31. Reddish equines
- 32. Church nooks
- 33. Suspicious (of)
- 38. '50s Red Scare gp.
- 40. Inspirational saying
- 41. Monogram of "the Sage of Concord"
- 44. Maj.'s superior
- 45. Book before Esth. in the Bible
- 46. In ____ (agitated)
- 49. Tlaxcalteca enemies
- 50. Moscow loc.
- 53. Our, to Henri
- 54. Breakfast brand
- 55. Actress Adams of James Bond films
- 56. Apple gadget
- 58. Form-fitting
- 59. Grow weary
- 60. Words before occasion or account
- 61. Polite rural reply
- 63. Sister of Helios
- 64. Approximation suffix
- 65. Italian article

Sudoku

A sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 x 9-square grid subdivided into nine 3 x 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 x 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.

BVMDX FS RGB
VZRBMSUUS, TU
ZBSIFSE KRHTBSRK
EBR GHSEMX VST EU
UHR RU DHSEB?

And here is your hint:

V = A

The solution to last issue's crossword



Weekly Horoscope



Aries
March 21-April 19



Trusting your instincts works well. You can achieve your goals by listening to your inner wisdom.



Taurus
April 20-May 20



Free exchange of ideas is inhibited today because someone feels threatened and put-down. Provide reassurance to ease the situation.



Gemini
May 21-June 20



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



Cancer
June 21-July 22



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



Leo
July 23-August 22



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



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



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



Scorpio
October 3-November 21



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



Sagittarius
November 22-December 21



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



Capricorn
December 22-January 19



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



Aquarius
January 20-February 18



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



Pisces
February 19-March 20



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

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Community Spotlight:

UMaine students rally for climate change action

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

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.

“Action is needed. We can’t be complicit in the human rights abuses of the fossil fuel industry in order to meet our own energy needs,” said Iris SanGiovanni, a political science sophomore USM student who coordinated and spoke at the protest. “We, as Generation Climate, demand no new fossil fuel infrastructure. We need to put all state investments in clean-energy solutions.”

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



Brian Gordon/ Free Press Staff

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

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!”

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.

“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.”

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 by saying, “We need politicians who put the planet over profits.”

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Campus Events

Monday, April 20

Real Talk
12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
302 Luther Bonney

Bill Bowers Artist in Residence
2:15 p.m.
Russell Hall, Gorham

Solar Party
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center
Amphitheater, Portland

Tuesday, April 21

USM Flow Jam
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sullivan Recreation and Fitness Complex,
Multipurpose Room, Portland

Bill Bowers Artist in Residence
7:30 p.m.
Russell Hall, Gorham

Wednesday, April 22

Wellness Breakfast
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Woodbury Campus Center,
Room 143a, Portland

Potted Plants Night
8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Brooks Student Center, Gorham

Visual Thinking: Using Art to
Improve Observational Skills
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Faculty Commons, Portland Campus,
3rd Floor-Glickman Library

As You Like It
5:00 p.m.
Russell Hall, Gorham

Thursday, April 23

Bone Marrow Drive
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Woodbury Campus Center
Amphitheater, Portland

Film Screening: Cowspiracy -
The Sustainability Secret
7:00 p.m.
Talbot Lecture Hall, Luther Bonney, Portland

USM Jazz Ensemble
7:30 p.m.
Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham

Friday, April 24

Visiting Artist Talk: Anne Harris
12:00 p.m.
Burnham Lounge, Robie
Andrews Hall, Gorham

As You Like It
7:30 p.m.
Russell Hall, Gorham

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



Featured Photo:



Francis Flisiuk / Managing Editor

“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.



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toward your degree!**



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4-WEEK SESSION

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May 11–June 5

Session 2:

June 29–July 24

7-WEEK SESSION

Session 1:

May 11–June 26

Session 2:

June 29–August 14

14-WEEK SESSION

May 11–August 14

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