Retrenchments, program eliminations could be voided

Officials from the UMaine system will go into arbitration this week with representatives from the Associated Faculties of the Universities of Maine over alleged contract violations that may have taken place over the past year during administrativa and budget cuts.

The union alleges that 11 different contract violations took place that involved at least 26 faculty members, specifically when three academic programs were eliminated by the board of trustees in September, when tenured faculty members were retained in October, and when two other programs were eliminated in November.

AFUM’s 50-page contract with the university has specific guidelines regarding how complaints, or “grievances,” are dealt with. If a member has an issue regarding an aspect of it, they can file a complaint with the university, and that decision will be legally binding. The re-tractions and program eliminations could be voided.

“Once I file a complaint, it’s an automatic decision,” said Feiner. “It’s taken up with the dean of the dean of the department who reports to me, and the provost, president and system-officials if the problem persists.”

Susan Feiner, professor and co-president of USM’s AFUM chapter, said that complaints about the alleged contract violations have been “blown off” during every procedural step.

Now that the union has exhausted contractual procedures, the statewide grievance board has agreed to fund the case being brought before an arbitrator.

“In this case, there were so many breaches of contract,” said Feiner. “This is crucial to our validity of our collective bargaining and it’s important to prove that tenure means something in our system.”

The arbitrator will decide whether or not the UMaine system violated faculty contracts and that decision will be legally binding. The re-tractions and program eliminations could be voided.

Feiner said she thinks that if that decision were made, the negotiation aspect of it might take longer than the actual arbitration. It wouldn’t be as simple as everyone getting their jobs and programs back.

“Some of the people who were fired are looking for other jobs, have found other jobs or have said, ‘I’m being forced to retire, I guess I’ll move to Florida,’” said Feiner.

During the two-week arbitration hearings, said hearings are scheduled to take place this Tuesday and Wednesday, with the possibility of two additional days in May due to the number of witnesses.

“There’s no way of knowing how long this will take,” said Quint.

The arbitrator will decide whether or not the UMaine system violated faculty contracts and that decision will be legally binding. The re-tractions and program eliminations could be voided.

Sam Hill
Editor-in-Chief

AFUM brings alleged contract violations to arbitration with UMS

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

Francis Flissiuk
Managing Editor

A very important question to anyone who lives and works in Maine is whether the state increase minimum wage to $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 Mainers, 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.

“Each year we release what’s low cost living in their cabinet,” 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 at the Maine People’s Alliance feel is “just not right.”

“Raising the minimum wage to $7.50 an hour would do a lot of good for our communities and small businesses because it would provide a greater incentive to work and spend, which would pump more money into the local economy. Apart from that, a wage increase would satisfy certain moral obligations, because Francis believes that a lot of Mainers aren’t earning a fair wage for their labor.”

“The reality is that a lot of Mainers are working full time and still struggling to pay their bills and rent.”

Then they have to choose between either putting food on the table, or medicating in their cabinet,” said Francis. “Raising the minimum wage is incredibly popular in Maine right now.”

Last year’s poll from the University of Southern Maine’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 didn’t think minimum wage is a livable wage and 148 said that they

See MINIMUM on page 2

Sam Hill
Editor-in-Chief
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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.

“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.”

“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. At the state level are groups like Pohlmann’s NRCM. She finished her presentation by saying “The bottom line is, are we going to fight or give up?”

Hannah Lyon / Design Assistant

Industrial agriculture and rising temperatures cited as problems
work hard, and eventually earn the money to make a living. But that shouldn’t deter someone who wants to help others. You can make a difference by donating bone marrow. It’s a simple process that can save a life. You could be the person that makes the difference. So, if you’re thinking about donating bone marrow, take the next step and do it. You never know who you might be saving.”
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, 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 so more 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 the panels are rated to generate 8.5 kW of electricity in a year.

Kidder did state that those are 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 very 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, Abramson, which has 52 panels that were also donated by Dr. Padula, Sullivan Gym Solar Thermal, which was installed in 1982, and on the childcare/po-lice 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

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 graffitis damage and the theft of a guitar. Report taken and the situation is under investigation.
Cornell Hall

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.

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 o 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. - Damage report to the glass in one of the main doors to the student center. Looks to have been kicked in. Report taken, incident under investigation.
Brooks Student Center - 32 University Way

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 Cornell Hall. Unfounded. Officer was unable to identify the source of the smell.
Cornell Hall - 13 University Way

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

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Bill Bowers has graced Broadway’s stages as Leggett in “The Scarlet Pimpernel” and Zazu in “The Lion King.” He has studied with the world-famous mime, Marcel Marceau. His award-winning solo performance, “It Goes Without Saying,” was repeatedly sold out on Broadway. He has also performed in Germany, the Netherlands, and other countries. After all his success, Bowers grew up in, and how nothing was ever talked about it. For the play he is performing is titled “Bomb Diggity Arts in Portland”.

Exploring personal interests and passions at Bomb Diggity Arts in Portland

Kristen Ouellette
Contributor

Portland is home to artistic minds galore. In fact, there are not many places you can walk through the city without seeing at least a speck of artistic talent, whether it be an eclectic, beanie-wearing artist walking on the sidewalk, or a mural painted on the side of a brick building. There are so many different outlets that Portland offers for those “striving” artists.

Diggity Arts work extremely hard to do so. The Bomb Diggity Arts program believes that art is the most effective way to put on their annual film festival is to ultimately express and explore the producers’ interests. In the photos above, individuals picked a subject they wanted to develop and created films that will be shown at One Longfellow Square on April 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Each spring, students at Bomb Diggity Arts work extremely hard to put on their annual film festival. The event showcases animation, short love stories, music videos, and many others. Each film is based on their own life. “It was the most powerful performance I have ever seen. His story telling, mining, and energy is simply amazing,” she said.

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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
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- Krysteana Scribner
News Editor

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

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This year has been one long learning experience. I’ve gone from being an egotistical volunteer writer, to staff writer, to Arts & Culture Editor, to News Editor and to next year’s Editor-In-Chief in such a short time span. I awkwarldy walked into the office with a nerdy button-up t-shirt and looked “professional” in hopes of impressing 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 go about it. My advisor Carl Blue suggested I check out the student newspaper. I didn’t take him seriously at first, because I wasn’t sure what the free press had to offer me.

In the spring of 2012, I started as a volunteer and worked my way up as a design assistant and design director. Before I knew it, the Free Press was basically my life. A lot of times, I put the paper before my school work; which is bad, but I don’t regret it at all. Running a newspaper with a bunch of other students takes a lot of dedication and teamwork. I’ll be honest, it was frustrating and challenging at times.

The Free Press gave me friends who share the same goal and dream as I do, the skills and experience I wouldn’t have gained anywhere else and it gave me pizza every Saturday on production day. We used to have plain pizza for two days ago. Find something you finally going down to the basement 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 changed my major three times and each time I thought, “I’m not really sure if I’m going to like this career path, but here’s hundreds of dollars, so let’s hope I do!” Thankfully, stumbling into the Free Press office eventually shined a light on a profession that I am 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 one that exposed me to almost all aspects of campus life. Now I’m prepared to take it to the next level. The Free Press gave me the skills my resume needed and I’m excited to say that I’ll continue my storytelling efforts at the Bangor Daily News this summer. Simply put, journalism is fun. Brainstorming ideas, researching interesting topics, meeting quirky characters and packaging a story with compelling images is an incredibly rewarding process. Although I’m graduating, I’ve found a way to continue educating myself and others, through what I consider a lifelong learning experience. I have big dreams about where my reporting will take me, but I’ll never forget my humble roots at the Free Press and the smart and hilarious friends I’ve made along the way.
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 _____!"  
2. Type of beer  
3. Clark of "The Daily Planet"  
4. Host Jay  
5. Take _____  
6. Comment after a trip?  
7. Way West's Way  
8. Financial investor  
9. Shout of joy  
10. Decades, to centuries  
11. State shades, to bits  
12. Singers' notes  
13. Cold state  
14. Rich desert  
15. Actor James Van _____  
16. Trouble  
17. Texas city just north of Dallas  
18. Trip to Mexico  
19. 505, once  
20. Cowboy hat feature  
21. Blender marker  
22. Idiotic  
23. Saint Lucia I.O.C. code  
24. Singing groups  
25. Regarded  
26. Lincoln brand  
27. Motor scooter  
28. Table cleaner  
29. Allen, on a street sign  
30. Ice legend's family  
31. Interior  
32. Aster  
33. on your _____ (cause noosphere)  
34. Arab sanitarian  
35. Eagle's home  
36. Engine type  
37. Soliloquy starter  
38. Golf tape  
39. Handicap

Down
1. Made a mess of  
2. Violent answer  
3. Concerning  
4. Sells  
5. Thought of feature in real estate, often  
6. Muslim leaders  
7. Weight training counts  
8. 901, to Nero  
9. Track lobes  
10. Stick stem  
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. Underwater group  
17. Speciality committee  
18. Dog step  
19. German deserts  
20. Barnacle's dog  
21. Chief Justice, 1933-38  
22. Processed, in a way  
23. Wandering lissomian  
24. Wall dizziness  
25. Musician Garcia, informally  
26. Opposite of a sort  
27. Goose mill product  
28. "_____, for Evidence"  
29. Airport code  
30. Ecorce and Vicereine, e.g.  
31. Stop by  
32. Dab with absorbent paper  
33. Men in Italy  
34. Mop, as the deck  
35. Note _____ (attention-getting phrase)  
36. Transport of a sort  
37. "_____, Lama Ding Dong" (Edwina hit)  
38. Gulp from a bottle  
39. Romanian coin

---

**Weekly Horoscope**

*Libra*  
September 23-October 22  
A loved one demonstrates caring and commitment. Your bonds of attachment are strengthened.

*Scorpio*  
October 3-November 21  
If you listen closely today, you’ll hear a clue about what to get someone near and dear for next birthday.

*Sagittarius*  
November 22-December 21  
Issues of practical empathy and realistic caring are uppermost in your relationships. Seek out support.

---

**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 HTV'V GUHQ RV GRV  
KXVNCQ, RT X HXTUM  
UL VEQXDRTP .

And here is your hint:  
D = K

---

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| Rolling over your retirement accounts to IRAs  
| Developing an investment portfolio  
| Family money issues

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**Libra**  
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  
Run that new idea you have by a friend. Feedback can help you sort out the best path.

**Leo**  
July 23-August 22  
You’re inclined to be too hard on yourself today. Nobody’s perfect. Give yourself a break.

**Virgo**  
August 23-September 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.

---

**Aquarius**  
January 20-February 18  
Doing things with friends is highlighted today. Flexibility allows you (and family members also) to have a good time.

---

**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.

---

**Pisces**  
February 19-March 20  
You avoid unpleasant topics, preferring to keep things “nice.” A smooth flow appeals, but don’t overdo.
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 Leach 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.

Bates got one back in its half of the fifth inning to take the lead for good. Junior Sam Dexter ignited the rally with a two-run single. 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 sixth, again with the benefit of Bates miscues, to take a 10-3 lead. Sophomore Paul McDonough brought home the first run with a single. Dexter scored an unearned run when sophomore Damon Wallace’s fielder’s choice groundout was mishandled. McDonough scored the third run on a fielder’s choice.

Joyce and junior Nick DiBiase had two hits apiece for the Huskies. Junior left-handed reliever Dan Kinnon picked up his first win of the season allowing one run over four innings. Kinnon gave up two hits and walked four while striking out 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.
Breaking News!

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