Students evacuated after fire in Robie-Andersons

Krysteana Scribner
Editor-in-Chief

Last Wednesday, a small fire broke out in Robie-Andersons Residence Hall on the Gorham Campus. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and students were evacuated immediately and allowed back in the building once the situation was assessed to be under control. With approximately 200 students and saw flames engulfing the back of my fan. It was simply a random fire that could happen to anyone." According to Hubbard, a firefighter said the fire was caused when something failed mechanically within the fan, but didn’t investigate further because it was melted beyond repair.

"Initially the fire seemed small enough that I could handle the situation and then tell someone," said Hubbard. "After I picked it up and moved it away from anything flammable, I grabbed a towel and tried to smother the flames. When I realized the fire wasn’t going to go out, I ran and got an RA and tried to alert people."

Once notified, an alarm went off in Hubbard’s unit of the building and two minutes later the entire building was echoing an alarm. Students rushed outside seeking safety, curious to know what was going on.

Matthew Macdonald, a senior art major at USM, had been in the dorm room that morning. As he laid in bed thinking he had more time to sleep, the building alarm began screeching. After the chaos of evacuating, he realized his friend, Hubbard, had been in the dorm room that caught fire.

"When we were outside, I saw her standing there with worried expression on her face. She told me what happened and how random the event was," said Macdonald. "I was surprised that it was something that would happen to someone I know, but I’m glad to hear everyone is okay."
New changes to take place in advising

Students should be more prepared before meeting advisor

Thomas Fitzgerald
News Intern

Advising is something that is crucial to the experience of every student’s education, but is every student informed about changes that have been made to the advising process?

Students who are currently enrolled are being assigned a multitude of advisors as they make progress toward graduation. It is important to be able to distinguish the differences they have in order to help you succeed.

Dr. Dan Panici, an associate professor of the communication and media department, outlined the distinct difference that advisors play within a student’s academic career.

Under his role as an Academic advisor, he focuses on both the scheduling of students and other inquiries that students may have within a semester.

“Advising is a component of teaching,” stressed Panici. “Faculty advisors need to focus on being more consistent in order to generate a more transparent advising process. Teaching, scholarships, and services are the three main components of employment for professors, and advising falls into the service component.”

Although not all staff members may specialize in advising, it is still part of their employment that should be fulfilled as passionately as their teaching.

To improve the quality of advising among different departments, there has been an advising committee established at USM where an appointed advisor from each department will meet in order to discuss opinions and changes that have been put in place.

“When we move student services to the first floor of Luther Bonney, it will become sort of a one stop shop for students, where they can get all the help and support they may need in one place,” Said USM President Glen Cummings, who believes providing proper advising for students is an important goal to reach.

“Come in with questions, and actively listen during meetings,” says Panici. “I have to know what students need when they schedule an appointment with me, so students should also ask themselves ‘What do I need to know?’ before coming in.”

One of the more important aspects of advisors is to keep students on track with adding classes that are relative to their degree. With what seems to be strict options for classes that complete what is needed for a particular degree, students may feel obligated to take what they can in order to obtain their degree. Panici stated that many students may not realize there are alternative options that can be taken just in case the cluster is not formidable to their academic needs.

“If a student looks through the pre-assigned option of clusters, and does not see something that is of interest, they can instead complete three courses of the two-hundred level that are not related to their field of study,” said Panici. “If that is still not satisfactory, any student in pursuit of a minor or a second major can qualify with that.”

All of these alternatives to the thematic cluster offer students a variety of choices on how to pursue the future of their academic career based on what their standing is.

“Building a personal relationship with students is very important to the process,” continued Panici “because if they meet with me and are uncertain about what they want to gain from our meeting, it can be difficult.”

Students who feel uninformed about the process of advising are highly recommended to make an appointment with their faculty advisor, and to discuss the options that are best fit for their academic career.

If students are finding that they are struggling with the advising process, there are many different tips offered from surveyed academic advisors that USM has made available through their website.

Students should be asking themselves ‘What do I need to know?’ before coming in.

Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky Multimedia Editor

News@usmfreepress.org
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Dr. Gunther von Hagens, anatomical artisan

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Science Exhibit in Portland uses real body parts

Samuel Haiden
Contributor

Science Exhibit in Portland uses real body parts

An anatomical exhibit described as a mix of “art, science, and circus freak show” will inspire and educate audiences here in Portland starting Friday, September fourth. The exhibit features real live human corpses, which have been voluntarily donated to the cause by the deceased— in most cases. These corpses are preserved by a process called plastination, developed by the anatomical artist himself, Dr. Gunther von Hagens, to display the complexity of the human body, frozen in perfect composition to allow for a deep and educational experience that brings the viewer into the clockwork of our very own bodies.

The process imbues organic tissue with silicone, leaving the musculature with a waxy and plastic appearance; but the lack of robustness does no injustice to the incredible complexity of the human anatomy.

In fact, the artificiality of the experience makes it much more approachable. Human legs are referred to as “lower extremity with knee-joint prosthesis.” The blood and gore expected with the display of disembodied human flesh is absent, bearing no resemblance to the zombie-like appearance of traditionally preserved cadavers.

In fact, the plastinated cadavers have become so popular that multiple European universities have purchased them for the study of human anatomy.

Hagens presents his exhibit as a “living anatomy,” in contrast with the traditionally preserved “anatomy of the dead,” and his fascination with the study of living anatomy has been compared to the Renaissance period. The nature of Hagens’ pursuits, however, carry with them a series of criticisms. The primary material in the process of making plastinated cadavers, of course, is dead people. The obvious criticism is that the exhibit is disgusting and nauseating; many complaints were made about the exhibit during the first several years of its debut, and it was protested in both Europe and Asia. These claims are quickly quelled by emphasizing the overwhelming educational benefit that the experience provides especially for University students studying medicine.

Some claims, however, are not so easily overruled. Within the first two years of the exhibit’s debut in 2004, many questions were raised about the source of the bod-
ies. These questions are detailed in a Guardian article from the same year indicating that at least two of the 647 corpses stored in his Chinese plastination facility were executed by a shot to the back of the head: implying that the corpses belonged to executed Chinese prisoners.

Von Hagens admitted to these claims and returned the bodies to be buried.

Two years later and to the contrary, he states in an NPR article, “I certainly never use for public exhibitions are unclaimed bodies, prisoners, bodies from mental institutions or executed prisoners.”

The exhibit has become a rampant success: and with good reason. Due to the highly academic nature of the plastinated corpses, the exhibit is very educational. It ran in Boston in 2014 and many members of the USM learning community made the pilgrimage to attend.

David Champlin, an Associate Professor of Biology at USM, found the exhibit to be an excellent learning tool. He was surprised to find that even within a group of science students, some were intrigued and some were repulsed.

“There are a small set of people who find the body fascinating whether it is healthy or ill or large or small,” he said. “Lots of them are heading into careers in health care and will help take care of us when we get sick, injured, or old.”

Ben Stone, a Pre-Med student here at USM agrees, “I saw the exhibit in Boston and really enjoyed it,” said Ben Stone, a junior pre-med major. “I believe there was a piece portraying the development of a fetus, which was really cool.”

When asked about his opinions on the discomfort exhibited by some attendees, he seemed perplexed by the notion that anybody should be grossed out by it, adding, “it’s what’s inside of us.”

Tourism program takes learning outside the classroom

Erica Jones
Contributor

Learning in an environment outside the classroom can be a rewarding experience. This month, a group of students, including USM seniors Jenna Rosnagel and Haylee Munson, interned with AAA last spring to create an even more engaged learning experience. Through hands-on experience that the exhibit allowed students to apply their knowledge and have an unprecedented learning experience in the real world. Tourists and hospitality industry--particularly Portland’s economy--rests in the hands of talented young people like these students.

“Students who travel outside Maine can bring back new ideas and innovation,” said Michael-Stutzman. “This perspective will benefit Maine and Portland as these students contribute to growing and managing tourism here so that we retain what makes this place so attractive in the first place.”

Being part of this program exposed us to several aspects of the Tourism and Hospitality industry...

Jenna Rosnagel, senior at USM

“Also, we really hope to have more than just Tourism and Hospitality students taking the class,” said Michael-Stutzman. Students interested in broadening their horizons through travel and incomparable experience should apply for an internship position with the AAA last spring. Opportunities like the internship with AAA and the cruise class allowed me to fuel my passion for the tourism industry,” said Munson. Michael-Stutzman commented that the cruise allowed students to "apply their knowledge and have an unprecedented learning experience in the real world."

Last month, USM, Holland America, and AAA of Northern New England hosted a fundraiser luncheon that’s success ensured the cruise allowed students to "apply their knowledge and have an unprecedented learning experience in the real world." The cruise was organized by the Tourism and Hospitality department, Tracy Michael-Stutzman.

The itinerary for the cruise’s four-day stay in Bermuda was selected by interns in the Tourism and Hospitality program, a driven group of students that included USM seniors Jenna Rosnagel and Haylee Munson, who interned with AAA last spring.

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As reported in the Portland Press Herald, the trip was primarily funded by private donations, which allowed students to pay less to embark on the trip. The program was envisioned and headed by the Chair of the Tourism and Hospitality department, Tracy Michael-Stutzman.

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Student enrollment down -6.7 percent from last Fall

What is being done to combat the low number of undergraduate, graduate and law students here at USM

Zachary Searles
Title

Enrollment has been down at USM over the past few years with a 13 percent drop since 2010. Last fall, there were 8,428 students that enrolled at USM, which is a 5.5 percent drop from the year before, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

This past July, it looked like USM would be following the same trend with enrollment being down around 13 percent from what was anticipated when creating the budget for the upcoming school year.

USM isn’t the only university that has been hurt by enrollment numbers. According to the Education Advisory Board, 59 percent of public universities in the nation missed their enrollment target for the 2013-2014 school year.

Christopher Quint, Executive director of Public Affairs, and President Glenn Cummings, explained that enrollment has been seeing an uptick since July. The numbers are still down, but now they are only down 6.5 percent from the original projections.

Quint did point out that those numbers are based on snapshots in time and no final numbers will be in until the middle of October, so he does expect them to change.

Since enrollment is still down though, USM is looking at a $2.5 million dollar shortfall in the budget that will have to be accounted for somehow.

Buster Neel, USM Chief Financial Officer, said in an interview with the Portland Press Herald that USM won’t have to cut any more programs in order to fill the gap.

Instead, USM will dip into some of its savings and delay facility upgrades to make up the shortfall.

According to the Portland Press Herald, President Cummings said that his first priority is to rebuild trust with students and faculty following the cuts that had already been made.

Last year, USM launched an ad campaign to help combat these low enrollment numbers, but Quint said that they can’t know for sure if the campaign has any direct correlation between the rise in enrollment from down 13 percent to down just 6.5 percent.

But Quint believes that the campaign did achieve some other things, “What that ad campaign did is that hard to measure, but that we know, both on anecdotal and we know from metrics that we see from online marketing, is that it increased the awareness in to showcase that USM had $1 million dollars in scholarships to give out. The money was disbursed amongst transfer students, pointed out that there were many others that gave donations and some of them were around the same size as Planagan’s.

We still have a lot more work to do and a long way to go, but it’s a good indication early on that changes are happening and they’re positive for the overall university.

Christopher Quint, Executive director of Public Affairs

The data in this graph is provided by the Registrar's office and may vary from data taken from the Office of Institutional Research.

The point of the campaign was to give out. The money was disbursed amongst transfer students, thousands of people in the United States, that it increased the awareness in to showcase that USM had $1 million dollars in scholarships to give out. The money was disbursed amongst transfer students, pointed out that there were many others that gave donations and some of them were around the same size as Planagan’s.

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Maine universities committed to increasing local food on campus

The University of Maine System announced last Monday that it has committed to purchasing locally grown produce on all seven of its campuses from local producers within the next five years.

The system has released a request for proposals notes that the provider should be able to ensure at least 15 percent of the food be locally purchased in the first year of the contract, increasing by 1 percentage point annually to reach 20 percent by 2020.

That 20 percent equates to about $1.7 million in local food purchases, calculated by the system, which spends about $86 million per year feeding students and employees.

Food is considered local if it is harvested or produced within 175 miles of the campus at which it is served.

However, a food provider that does business with any campus may sell food to any of the other seven campuses, according to the system. That definition was developed through discussions with Maine farmers and surveys of 2,500 dining hall customers, according to the system.

Local food production is part of Maine’s legacy and could be even more important to our state’s future, UMS board Chairman Sam Collins said at the Bangor Daily News on Monday.

“The farmers, fishermen, producers and processors that bring products to your table are a top priority for university research and spending.”

People gather for overdose victims as Maine death toll increases

People around the state are talking about drug abuse and the increasing number who have died from drug overdoses.

A vigil was organized last Monday, Aug. 31 in Monument Square. Organizers said that previous years had been focused on raising awareness, but that the tone had changed this time around.

“This year it’s much more of a somber mood,” said Brittany Dunham, an organizer with the volunteer-based group I AM HERE Outreach Team, which focuses on overdose prevention and community education.

Deaths from overdose in Maine increased during the first half of the year, according to officials in the office of the attorney general. First responders have attributed a spike in heroin-related overdoses to the dangerous addition of the pain medication fentanyl to drugs being sold here.

City officials announced that effort earlier this month, after a weekend when first responders in Portland handled 14 overdose calls in a 24-hour period.

Officials said that disposed needles in public parks and other public spaces have become a more frequent problem and urged residents to call the public dispatch service at 874-8493 rather than attempting to handle them.

Longtime LL. Bean leader dies

Leon Gorman, grandson of L.L. Bean and longtime leader of the iconic outdoor stores, has died from cancer. He was 80.

Gorman, known among employees for his no-nonsense manner and for often bringing his hunting dogs into the office, helped to make the family business known as a folksy $4.8 million catalog company to a $1.61 billion retailer with retail stores in Japan and across the United States.

After retiring as president in 2001, he became the company’s chairman and increasingly focused his attention on volunteer and philanthropic causes, giving his time and money to conservation groups as well as many charities in Maine, where he lived with his wife, Lisa.

Gorman died at his home in Yarmouth.

For the fourth time in company history, the 24-hour Freeport store — which has no locks on the doors — closed during his funeral service from 8 a.m. to noon on Sept. 13.

Portland bumps up minimum wage

A citywide minimum wage of $10.10 per hour will go into effect Jan. 1, 2016, after the City Council approved the ordinance by a 7-2 vote Wednesday night.

I am pleased that with this vote, Portland will finally raise its minimum wage to $10.10 per hour. This would give Portland the most progressive minimum wage in New England.” said Mayor Michael Brennan. “In order for our city to thrive long-term, our growth must be sustainable and all Portlanders must be able to share in its success. Raising the minimum wage will give all workers currently making less than $10.10 per hour a much needed and deserved raise.

The ordinance will increase the minimum wage to $10.68 per hour on Jan. 1, 2017, and future increases will be pegged to the rate of inflation in the Consumer Price Index urban measure.

Councillors, in effect, approved the ordinance for the second time in two months, but did so after reconsidering their 6-3 vote on July 6, so they could revise how workers making at least $30 per month in tips will be paid.

Councillors Nick Mavodones Jr. and David Brenerman voted against the ordinance.

Court finds pan-handling ban unconstitutional

A federal appeals court on Friday struck down a city law banning panhandling on median strips, delivering another in a series of recent victories for free speech groups.

U.S. First Circuit Court Judge David J. Barron wrote in a decision issued Friday that Portland’s ordinance violates the First Amendment right to free speech “because it indiscriminately bans virtually all expressive activity in all of the city’s median strips and thus is not narrowly tailored to serve the city’s interest in protecting public safety.”

The ordinance was successfully challenged by the Maine chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in U.S. District Court, prohibiting enforcement of the law. The city appealed the ruling to the First Circuit, where it lost Friday.

“This is a really important victory and not only for our clients who are in Portland but for activists around the country,” Zach Heiden, legal director of the Maine ACLU chapter, said.

“We’ve seen more and more cities and towns using ordinances like this to try to keep people out of downtown areas, and this decision is a reminder that those people have First Amendment rights, too.”

Police Beat

Selections from the USM Department of Public Safety police log August 13 to August 31

Thursday, August 13

Late Night Reads

Criminal in the Law Building

Officer advised of an intoxicated Male bothering pedestrians, looking for money. Person was last seen heading to Law Building. Officer checked area. Gone on arrival. Officer was advised person left area via Bishopton Ave. 911 call, E-Phone G20. Phone is malfunctioning. Email sent to notify condition.

Monday, August 17

Give me my bike back!

Theft complaint, Wish Camper Student. Report for a stolen bike. Report taken. Bicycle was found and returned to Owner.

Tuesday, August 20

Don’t waive health insurance just yet


Friday, August 21

Too fast, now furious


You’re outta there!


Creepy, but compliant

Suspicious person and activity, Glickman Library. Moved along. No report.

The great escape


Tuesday, August 25

Thought it was a light switch

Security alarm, alarm activation in error. No report.

Thursday, August 27

Ain’t no party like a parking lot party

Liquor law violation. Possible drinking in public, G16 parking lot. No report.

Saturday, August 29

Is this the Krusty Krab?

911 call, Glickman Library. False call. No report.

Most popular door, apparently


Sunday, August 30

Grandparents day

Abandoned motor vehicle, Vehicle parked in middle of University Way. Owner located, vehicle moved. No report.

Monday, August 31

The Hastings Hulk

Students explore local eats at Taste of Portland
From local restaurants to big name businesses, the variety was endless

Dora Thompson
Arts & Culture Editor

Nothing draws more student crowds than the promise of free food, and that is exactly what occurs at the Annual Taste of Portland last Wednesday. Food trucks and booths gathered to show off their stuff while students milled about to sample foods of several different vendors. A success in the past, this year was no different.

Portland’s food community is more alive than ever, sizzling its way into 8th place in The Huffington Post’s “Best Restaurant Cities in the Nation” by the Huffington Post. These tasty hidden gems often hide around busy streets in the Old Port. Taste of Portland helps to change that, offering students accessibility to foods and business they might otherwise not have known about.

“Most of our business is students,” he explained. “We deliver fast too, people are always surprised. We’re the best pizza in Portland!”

Navid Rohani, a junior Human Biology major, disagreed. “I think Otto’s Pizza was scrumuxxilly, umitious,” he exclaimed. Rohani believes Portland has one of the best food communities in the U.S. Every year, USM hosts a welcome week for students with several events. The Taste of Portland event was part of this series. At the first Taste of Portland in September 2013, Chris O’Connor, the director of Portland Student Life, talked about the events formation.

“One of the things we think about when we plan USM events is that students love free food, and Portland is known for this food truck phenomenon. Student love these food trucks so this year we thought ‘why not try something different?’ and it’s been widely more popular than we could’ve imagined.”

Lily Denmeade, an undeclared freshman, partakes in Portland’s most famous food trucks what weren’t in Portland in 1960’s travel trailer. Check out their twitter to see where they’ll go downtown, you see so many different choices. In central Maine, try some Mexican, or grab from down restaurant or a food truck, you just have Texas Roadhouse.”

“Of Portland’s restaurants, which didn’t hurt her decision to go to USM. Denmeade said she’ll continue exploring the cities food options after The Taste of Portland.

This year, students sampled food and drinks from Leonardo’s Pizza, Coffee by Design, Kamasouptra, The Marshmallow Cart, and many more. Curtis Scott, an employee of Leonardo’s Pizza, said the event will definitely bring more business to the shop.

“My most of our business is students,” he explained. “We deliver fast too, people are always surprised. We’re the best pizza in Portland!”

Top: Students mill around the different food trucks and booths hoping to taste what Portland has to offer. Bottom: Leonardo’s Pizza serves free slices to hungry passerbys each year at the Taste of Portland.

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Curtis Scott, Leonardo’s Pizza Employee

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Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky / Multimedia Editor

A whole pizza.

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USA’s television series Mr. Robot has received a 98 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, leaving viewers lacking negative feedback for a psychologically mind-bending series that uses clever plot pacing and secret layers of the main character that are sure to leave the viewer impressed.

The plot of this series is simple: a computer programmer who worked for a cyber-security firm ends up being recruited by a sketchy underground organization that spends all its waking hours dedicated to the destruction of corporate America and greed. The main character, Elliot, is played by Rami Malek, who you may remember from Night at the Museum or Need For Speed. Malek’s acting performance was so well done, I had a hard time figuring out what Malek may act like in the real world. Intelligent and likeable, Elliot deals with problems that most others face at least once in their lifetime: drug abuse, mental health issues, loss. This television series doesn’t have many humorous moments, but you do feel the awkward tension of what it must be like to be Elliot, the philosophical and mentally unstable drug addict who can solve problems faster than the Evil Corp Hacking Company portrayed in the series.

This isn’t a series that you can just play in the background while you do homework for an online class: this show deserves all of your attention. Elliot’s character is relatable and likeable simply because he is a scattered human being dealing with realistic life problems while facing a hacking industry that wants to change the world. He’s a modern superhero, if you will. He hides behind computer monitors and keeps his thoughts enclosed within emotional internal monologues that only you, as the viewer, have the ability to hear.

Clever plot pacing allows this USA television series to take a difficult subject of interest and make it relatable and easy-to-follow. Not only does it have great acting and plot, but it was also very visually striking. Elliot becomes an important character for the viewer but is often filmed amongst crowds, looking average to the passerby but known to be secretly smart to the viewers. This is worth a watch for anyone that likes complex, mind-bending psychological thrillers that provide you with a desire to create more change in a world where society has the most say.

The Appalachian Trail runs from Springer Mountain in Georgia, 2,200 miles North to Maine’s Mount Katahdin. This trek of a hike is very popular with young people, but A Walk in the Woods follows two seniors, Bill Bryson (Robert Redford) and his long estranged friend Stephen Katz (Nick Nolte), on their adventure up the Appalachian trail.

Bill Bryson, a retired travel writer, is bored with being old. A Walk in the Woods stresses this fact, spending a sizable amount of time brooding over old age and its setbacks with a funeral scene. A Walk in the Woods is perfect for when your are at the end of a long day, with an exhausted brain just play in the background while you do homework for an online class: this show deserves all of your attention. Elliot’s character is relatable and likeable simply because he is a scattered human being dealing with realistic life problems while facing a hacking industry that wants to change the world. He’s a modern superhero, if you will. He hides behind computer monitors and keeps his thoughts enclosed within emotional internal monologues that only you, as the viewer, have the ability to hear.

Clever plot pacing allows this USA television series to take a difficult subject of interest and make it relatable and easy-to-follow. Not only does it have great acting and plot, but it was also very visually striking. Elliot becomes an important character for the viewer but is often filmed amongst crowds, looking average to the passerby but known to be secretly smart to the viewers. This is worth a watch for anyone that likes complex, mind-bending psychological thrillers that provide you with a desire to create more change in a world where society has the most say.
Our Opinion

Why renovating Luther Bonny’s computer lab isn’t worth the cost

Editorial Board
Free Press Staff

With a new semester upon us, President Glen Cummings has arranged a variety of changes to take place on campus in order to better serve the student community. When everything is finished, the hope is to have updated and consolidated the center for Student Advising, Student Financial Services and Community Engagement and Professional Development. These changes were recently addressed by saying that consolidating the space will allow for a “one-stop shopping location” in the center of campus, such as services such as the Prior Learning Assessments, Veteran’s do not consider these services. We believe these changes are necessary to better serve students in their access.

One of the biggest changes taking place this semester will happen in Luther Bonny, where USM plans to create an updated computer lab. The plan is to temporarily move the computer lab and help desk to the third floor of Glickman library.

Staff will be relocated to the fifth floor of the Science building, and construction is anticipated to be finished by January (with Febru- ary being the latest in which con- struction may be completed). The opening of this project is coming primarily from the sav- ings in ending off-campus rents, maintenance, heating and cool- ing expenses. But do we really need to spend money on a new computer lab? Personally, we believe that student success isn’t based around the appearance of a computer lab if anything, our focus should be on student involvement and commu- nity outreach. Why do we need to renovate a computer lab that is in perfectly good condition? Other than providing a more at- tractive space (which may be per- suasive in a student’s choice to go to USM) why do we need to renova- te this area, especially during the semester when students need it the most?

We understand that involved staff are doing everything they can to assure students are getting computer access and IT help from a different location, but what we don’t understand is why we’re us- ing money saved from expenses that once spent on the 7 white residential buildings. If we want to create a University that feels more like a community, the focus should be on using the space from these buildings to ultimately provide an area for student groups and in- volved faculty to use.

Our Free Press office is located on 92 Bedford St. in a white building. All students involved in our student group would say that the white building has provided them with a safe space to learn and grow. We’ve made connec- tions here, created lasting friend- ships and ultimately obtained that “community feel” that many com- muter students do not feel when they attend USM.

The money saved that will be spent on the computer lab changes could be spent on something else more important. What if we uti- lize the “white house” as space to make students feel welcomed? What if we used that money to pay professors the income they deserve? It’s understandable that the University doesn’t want to waste money maintaining build- ings that are not being used, but if we put our heads together and planned ways that they could be- come a larger part of the student USM, it wouldn’t be such a problem.

As Chris Quint said in an in- terview with the Portland Press Herald in his “Spring,” “a lot of those white houses on Chamber- lain are secluded over there in sil- los. We want to bring people back on campus and make people feel like they are part of the campus, not stuck off where no one knows where they are,” he said.

Disagree with his statement. In our opinion, the white house’s broader campus life. Spending money on renovating a better looking computer lab may seem like a good choice right now, but when we’re looking to spend money on creating a larger, stron- ger student community, we may be out of luck at that point.

Can students really afford textbooks in this day and age?

Zachary Abbotoni
Contributor

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, new textbook prices are staggering 104% higher than they were in 1977. This is an astronovi- cal amount which has nearly tripled the rate of inflation within the United States during this time period. This trend of increasing textbook prices is detrimental to students as many are already dependent on student loans and financial aid to pay for school- ing. Unfortunately, book companies do not show any signs of lowering their book prices any time soon.

Much like the Pharmaceutical industry, major textbook compa- nies invest in convincing professors and schools rather than in the end consumer, the students, who are the ones ultimately using these books. Unfortunately many universities, and the professors within these uni- versities are not price sensitive, and do not consider a books cost when assigning it to students. This can make buying a textbook a nightmare for students each semester.

Students are convinced by the advoca- cy group U.S. PIRG stated that the average full time student paid $1,200 yearly on books and other school supplies. This is a massive expense that many students at USM have to cover through scholarships and other financial aid, paying for every semester.

Fortunately, there are ways that we as students can combat this rise in price. Students can qualify for a textbook and course material tax credit of up to $2,500 annually. Renting books is one solution that has increased in popularity in recent years, but with renting comes the absence of selling books back at the end of a semester. Some college stu- dents have turned to e-books, as they tend to be a bit cheaper than physical books. Other students have turned to torrenting their books online, al- though it is illegal, it is completely free.

James Suleiman, a business pro- fessor at USM, claims that USM should attempt to move towards be- coming more open source about the issuance of their textbooks. Schools such as Purdue and MIT have a multitude of online educational re- sources that are available for both students and professors to use out- side of their universities. Professor Suleiman has been an integral part in changing the standard way of buying books for classes.

previous semesters, Professor Sulei- man has solely used online articles for his classes, completely negating the cost of buying a textbook. Profes- sor Suleiman’s MBA 674 class still does not use a textbook.

Although he is required to use textbooks in his classes, he makes it a point to never use shrink wrapped books, books that have an online access code bundled, so that students will, the focus should be on making the books used and sell them back at the end of a semester.

Professor Suleiman is not the only professor at the University of South- ern Maine who is striving to dimin- ish what students are spending on textbooks. Professor Robert Sanford has co- written books that are used within the university, and is currently work- ing on another book which he will use for his ESP 101 class. His goal with these books is to create a prod- uct that is both superior in quality and cheaper in price than the books that are currently in use.

According to many students and professors, the textbook market is far from perfect. Fortunately, awareness amongst professors at USM is growing, then, professors seem to actively search for books that are affordable for their students. Some, such as Professor Suleiman, seek alternative methods such as using online articles, negating book costs altogether whenever possible.

Can students really afford textbooks in this day and age?
Portland Problems

Restaurant workers deserve pay equality

Brian Gordon
Free Press Staff

Look around your classes. Chances are a lot of your peers and professors are in an industry and many of them rely on tips to pay their tuition. Portland’s city council recently repealed a wage increase for the many tipped workers in town. That means that when the city’s minimum wage workers get a raise to $15 an hour, the minimum of $7.50 to $10.10, on January 1, servers will not be getting half of that, $5.05 as their base wage. The councilors sided with the restaurant industry to keep it where it is.

Restaurant owners and advocates like having the customers pay servers wages so they can keep more of their profits. Which is fine for summer, when a glut of tourists flood the Old Port with extra cash. It also means depending on the precariousness of a stranger’s whim. Maybe the server didn’t sing and dance enough to make you feel worthy.

As more restaurants open every month in Portland, more workers are becoming aware of knowing how much they will be paid. For full-time students who have enough to worry about with their classes, this is just another unnecessary burden of the haves vs the have nots.

I was a Portlander and have a chance to become something great, an East Coast model of a world-class wine, cannabis, and food scene. Portland’s city council has the power to make this happen. They can stop this to happen and stop weighing down workers on both the front of house and back of house.

Brian Gordon

Portland Semesters

“I’m a 43 years old college student and I’ve never done anything like this before.”

Joie Grandbois-Gallup
Contributor

In just a couple of weeks I’ll be accepted to the Semester at Sea program and I will be sailing around the world. The voyage of Semester at Sea. I’ve spent the past ten months raising funds, getting visas, for getting a pass to join me on the global voyages, and getting to know the necessary vaccinations, filling up the requisites of a global voyage for the first time. I’ve thought about it often, whether I would be able to attend a school where my studies would be conducted in three months around the world. I want to be able to experience cultures very different than mine. I wanted to see as much of it as possible before I made a significant investment into an experience I as an academic; I am a sustainable business professional and, in the minds of some, I am a global issue advocate. I have to be able to experience the world and learning from professionals who have done things like this before. I will be meeting people from all over the world and learning from professionals who I can’t be there for my friends and family. I will be spending a lot of time while I am away from home, a job, a career performance, my apartment, my home and stepping out of my comfort zone to experience new things.

There are definitely moments that I ask myself what I am doing in the world. How do I continue to be successful? What do I need to do this? In what moment of brilliance did I think this was a good idea? And then I remember that I will be visiting ten countries which I have never been to before. I will be meeting people from all over the world and learning from professionals who I can’t be there for my friends and family. I will be spending a lot of time while I am away from home, a job, a career performance, my apartment, my home and stepping out of my comfort zone to experience new things.

And so I pause, and I breathe, and I tell myself that this is going to be an experience of a lifetime, and that life changing experiences are often frightening. I know I will be okay and that this is going to be an experience of a lifetime.

I had various reasons that I decided to study abroad. Some were academic; I am a sustainable business major with an environmental sustainability minor. I know that many of the issues we face when it comes to sustainability are global ones. While I had certainly studied global issues while at USM I wanted to have a more direct experience of the global view than just that which can be taught in a textbook. Other reasons were personal ones; though I am partially into my fourth decade I had little experience with traveling abroad. I realized that while my life was quite full with school, I had never been in the most flexible time of my life. If I was going to step out of my life for a semester now was the time to do it.

What I didn’t know is where I wanted to study. Other than a smattering of French, I do not speak a language that would allow me to be able to attend a school where my studies would be conducted in three months around the world. I wanted to be able to experience cultures very different than mine. I wanted to see as much of it as possible before I made a significant investment into an experience I as an academic; I am a sustainable business professional and, in the minds of some, I am a global issue advocate. I have to be able to experience the world and learning from professionals who have done things like this before. I will be meeting people from all over the world and learning from professionals who I can’t be there for my friends and family. I will be spending a lot of time while I am away from home, a job, a career performance, my apartment, my home and stepping out of my comfort zone to experience new things.

Ten months later I recalled that when I was accepted to the program during which she spent three months travelling the Pacific Ocean and visiting a variety of countries. When I looked into the program, Semester at Sea, I realized it had all of the things I was looking for. An international body of students, intensive study in classes with a global perspective, and the fall 2015 voyage, the one I’d be applying for, visited ten different countries in three months. I approached my advisor about the possibility of me being accepted to the program, and the more excited I became. I was not able to be accepted to a school where my studies would be conducted in three months around the world. It also means depending on the precariousness of a stranger’s whim. Maybe the server didn’t sing and dance enough to make you feel worthy.

I recalled that when I first started at USM my advisor had just returned from teaching in a program during which she spent three months travelling the Pacific Ocean and visiting a variety of countries. When I looked into the program, Semester at Sea, I realized it had all of the things I was looking for. An international body of students, intensive study in classes with a global perspective, and the fall 2015 voyage, the one I’d be applying for, visited ten different countries in three months. I approached my advisor about the possibility of me being accepted to the program, and the more excited I became. I was not able to be accepted to a school where my studies would be conducted in three months around the world. It also means depending on the precariousness of a stranger’s whim. Maybe the server didn’t sing and dance enough to make you feel worthy.

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Weekly Horoscope

Aries
March 21-April 19
Be alert for a business opportunity or a chance to show your worth on the job. You gain respect.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Enduring excitement is a possibility, but a critical eye could set up roadblocks. Focus on what you love in a partner for best results.

Gemini
May 21-June 20
Fun and games time! Today’s the day to play with the kids (or your inner child) in whatever ways you can all enjoy. Be frivolous!

Cancer
June 21-July 22
Enduring excitement is a possibility, but a critical eye could set up roadblocks. Focus on what you love in a partner for best results.

Scorpio
October 23-November 21
Today you need to take at least one concrete, definite step toward creating the ideal working situation you have in your mind.

Sagittarius
November 22-December 21
Someone close to you is dealing with issues of addiction. Encourage a 12-step approach.

Libra
September 23-October 22
A friend tries to tell you what to do and how to behave. You’re an adult; assert your independence!

Capricorn
December 22-January 19
Sales people don’t want to hear “No” today. Stand firm and don’t purchase items you don’t need.

Aquarius
January 20-February 19
You feel critical of people or situations that do not measure up to your expectations. Take one small step to improve your sharing times.

Pisces
February 19-March 20
You have much vitality for success today, but strife is possible if you let others “bug” you. Tune out unimportant distractions.

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.

PA’G MFAP-JH MEK
DEF AE CKPSY QHK
CKHRVMRGA PS CHI.
GQH TES’A ARVH PA
JDPSY IETS.

And here is your hint:
K = R

The solution to last issue’s crossword

Across
1. Ornamental vases
2. Not suitable
5. Comic or “Dracula” fame
14. Canadian revolutionary Louis
15. Early 19th century English
16. “Sue!”
17. Farmhand parcel
18. Steps
20. Son of Jacob
21. “We’re ___ di-dah!”
22. Droopy-eared hound
23. Act in tent category
25. Schnozze
26. Zones
28. Louvers undone
33. 22nd Russian letter
34. Art gallery gathering place
36. Kith with a daytime TV show
37. Low growth
39. Hyaluria
41. Catch “well”
42. “All systems ___!”
44. Isaac Asimov’s genre
46. One thing ___ time
48. Various cookie
49. Key of Saint-Saëns’s “Danse macabre”
51. Tuxedo lend.
52. Pollution interruptions
53. They seem by a spider
57. First name of “Tokyo Rose”
58. Lamb tenders
61. Bullied
63. A hole in a bucket, maybe
64. Writer Jaffe
65. System start-up?
66. Amas Sr. or Jr.
67. Rondy of Alabama
68. Horse gall
69. Did an imitation of

Down
1. Cascade Sea feeder
2. Basel, e.g.
8. Of an informal appearance
13. Saint’s transport
15. Personification of America
16. An absence of musical skill
17. Snaphauncetios tops
18. Suffix with robot opponent
19. Personal padlet
20. Jewish ritual
21. Rivers, in Spain
22. Complication wise
23. The better part of
24. Small Indian drum
25. Sporty cooper
26. Monos members
27. Man’s name that means “great”
28. Peak, Klímpernov’s highest point
29. Time being
30. Decisive victory
31. Scout’s ride
32. Ray in the shorts’ future
33. Surgeon’s tool
34. Eve
35. Khabat natives
36. Gift ___
38. Beatles song “___, Mine”
41. Not long ago
43. Famous first name in the Philippines
44. Circumnent
45. River in Spain
46. Spear
47. Used up
48. Adult cognite
49. Tell the judges
50. Comfort
51. Board
52. Line
53. Any

the free press

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Expires 1/10/16
Students gather around tables at the Husky festival in hopes of learning more about the student organizations and campus groups that they can join this semester.

Students of USM

Hans Nielsen, Junior Photography major

Abigail Johnson-Ruscansky
Multimedia Editor

Hans is a third year Studio Art major with a concentration in photography. He spends most of his free time taking photos, and hopes to get a job as a full-time photographer after graduation.

He likes to take photos of the ocean, found objects and document interesting things that are happening around Portland. You can see more of his photos on his Instagram at Hansn_207.
WELCOME HUSKIES!

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