

The Equinox

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INSIDE

Weekend full of entertainment at Keene State
Between SAC's Extravaganza and the Paula Poundstone show, students had plenty to do this weekend.
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New approach needed for alcohol use



Equinox photo by Jesse Stenbak

Mark Reagan addresses the University System of New Hampshire Trustees during Thursday's meeting. Bernadette Ryan, r, and Jim Matthews listen.

Jonathan Cooper
The Equinox

A multifaceted approach is the only way to combat drug and alcohol abuse on campus, according to university system administrators.

During Thursday's meeting of the University System of New Hampshire Student Affairs Committee, Jim Matthews, Keene State's drug czar, gave examples to the board of what he called a "very serious alcohol problem at Keene State."

"The perception is: all students drink and all students do it at this level," Matthews said in reference to binge drinking.

Binge drinking is defined as consuming five or more drinks in a row one or more times during a two-week period for men and

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92 percent of arrests alcohol, drug related

Nicole DiPentima &
Robert K. Wollner
The Equinox

Twenty-six Keene State College students have been arrested since the beginning of the academic year.

Out of those 26 arrests, 24 were alcohol or drug related violations, or 92 percent of all student arrests made by Keene Police.

Eighteen of the arrests were alcohol related and the remaining six arrests were for drug possession or drug paraphernalia charges.

One of the alcohol related arrests involved a non-student, but the arrest did occur in Monadnock Hall.

These figures do not take into account the number of individuals who were taken into protective custody for alcohol or drug related incidents not criminal in nature.

Protective custody is a civil action police can take, where individuals are held in custody by police if they fear that an individual cause harm to himself or others.

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KSC alum stresses education during campus campaign stop

Kimberly L. Szydlo
The Equinox

He's the C.E.O. of a regional chain of music stores. He wears blue suede shoes. He owns one of Elvis Presley's old Cadillacs, and the Boston Garden organ. But what Fred Bramante really wants is to be governor of New Hampshire.

Fred Bramante, independent candidate for governor, spoke to members of the Keene State community Monday night at *The Equinox's* Candidate Forum Series.

Bramante focused on education and property tax-relief. He says right now these are two of the most significant issues for the residents of New Hampshire.

"If I don't address the most important issues in the state, the Republicans and Democrats won't do it," Bramante said.

As a former member of the New Hampshire State Board of Education, Bramante is aiming to improve the state's public education system.

Bramante says he would like to

work towards encouraging school districts to offer a variety of learning environments. By doing this, parents and children would be able to select the learning environment they find the most suitable, Bramante said.

"If I don't address the most important issues in the state, the Republicans and Democrats won't do it."

• Fred Bramante
Independent for Governor

This also would allow the state to create environments that "speak" to the individual students, Bramante said.

Bramante's goal is to attract students to school. "If you don't have an exciting education environment, then why would people want to come?" he said.

In order to accomplish these goals, Bramante has designed a plan involving a statewide flat-tax on property.

He says the tax would fund the

minimum education standards for public schools as set by the state.

The plan involves a local property tax to pay for local decisions regarding education. This way, Bramante said, "the state pays for state decisions and locals pay for local decisions."

The plan is designed to fix the problem of funding public education. It also focuses on correcting the entire education system, Bramante said.

Bramante does not have a plan for lowering tuition in the state university system, but says income taxes and sales tax are not the solution.

In terms of higher education, Bramante calls himself "a huge supporter." Education is a life long process, he said.

Bramante is the CEO of Daddy's Junky Music Store, Inc. "It's time a real business man took over," Bramante said.

When asked what he would do in terms of economic growth for New Hampshire, Bramante said he would find reasonable ways to get money in order to take care of



Equinox photo by Erin Wheeler

Independent candidate for governor Fred Bramante speaks during his visit to Keene State College on Monday.

needs before wants.

Bramante cited a UNH survey which said 70 percent of New Hampshire residents feel the American dream is dying. "I believe I can help bring that back," he said.

Bramante says he would like to make New Hampshire a more "business friendly environment" in order to attract more people and therefore more business.

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