

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 97
Issue 4 *Winter 2009*

Article 4

January 2009

Letters

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Recommended Citation

(2009) "Letters," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 97 : Iss. 4 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol97/iss4/4>

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Spoiling Town-Gown Relations

Regarding the Trustees' recent direction to the administration to eliminate the culture of excessive drinking on Colby's campus, the reputation Colby students have as extreme drinkers is one of the most detrimental aspects of "town-gown" relations.

Working in the greater Waterville area, I hear far too many contemptuous comments about "those Colby students" who abuse alcohol to excess and end up in the emergency room. The adjectives used to describe the students are not fit to print. The actions of these students reflect poorly on all of the Colby community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the administration. I agree wholeheartedly with President Adams when he says that the effort to reimagine student life *without* this culture of extreme drinking "is of critical importance to Colby and to all who live and work here," as he wrote in July. I urge everyone in the Colby community to work toward its full success.

Alison Jones Webb '81
Public Health Specialist
MaineGeneral Medical Center
Waterville, Maine

Give Him a C-O-L-B-Y

I recently visited Colby and was quite impressed by the new stadium field. One big thing missing, however: Where is the COLBY sign?

We are blessed with the Alford family support and should absolutely acknowledge the stadium in their name. But why do we no longer have the C O L B Y letters on the stadium building?

Another question: How will Colby's marketing materials going forward include a photograph of this spectacular stadium without leaving readers wondering if the image is of Rollins College, UMaine, St. Joseph's College, or Kents Hill High School?

Keith Gleason '94
Camden, Maine

What To Tell Our Daughters?

I am writing in response to the article "The Gender Gap" (*Colby*, fall 2008). I'm appalled. I have three daughters. What am I supposed to tell them? Work

hard and get good grades, be on a sports team, do the extracurricular activities, give your time to the community just so colleges now can discriminate against you because of your sex and your success? Is it the policy of the College to discriminate against people due to sex? Apparently so.

The more we seem to move forward the farther we go back. We elect an African American as president in 2008 but we will deny a successful woman admission to an elite college because of her sex in order to maintain some arbitrary ratio of males to females. If we ever thought discrimination was dead we only need to look at our colleges' admissions committees to know that it is alive and well.

Harvey S. Coco '81, D.M.D.
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Steve Thomas, director of admission and financial aid, responds: "Colby admits all qualified applicants regardless of gender, and our admissions statistics over the last five years and beyond clearly bear this point out. The majority of our admitted students and matriculated students in all classes from the Class of 2007 through the Class of 2012 are female. The percentage of females in these classes ranges from 51 to 57 percent. In all years a higher percentage of females are admitted to the class than the percentage that has applied. All of these students are admitted to Colby because of their qualifications regardless of their gender."

Comment on Sex Made in Jest

I am writing in response to a letter from Professor Ira Sadoff, published in the fall issue of *Colby*. He was critical of a comment of mine that was part of a story about my work as a psychologist that appeared in the summer issue ("Don't Worry; Be Happy," summer 2008 *Colby*). I have to say that I was distressed by his comments and wish to clarify the intent of my quote.

I was discussing a study that analyzed what individuals worry about on any given day. The results of the study were that women worried about 12 topics per day, while men worried about only three—their immediate family, their job, and money. Every time I mention this study, I am asked why I didn't include sex on that list. Needless to say,

I am merely the messenger here and am simply reporting the results of someone else's published research. However, in response to the reporter's query, I responded, as a joke, that men don't worry about sex; they just want it.

It was intended as humor, I know the reporter understood it as such. I am very sorry that Professor Sadoff, and perhaps other readers, did not realize that I was trying to be funny.

I have been providing couples' therapy for the past 20-plus years and understand that for many individuals, sex is indeed not a laughing matter. I have treated many men and women who presented with sexual dysfunction, and you are entirely correct that there are many men who in fact worry a lot about sex.

My quote was in no way intended to insult these individuals, but to simply add some humor to an article about me. I use a great deal of levity both with my patients and in the talks I give and it had always been well received. I am sorry that anyone did not understand my intent.

Alice D. Domar '80, Ph.D
Sudbury, Mass.

Can He Really Speak Swiss?

I enjoyed the profile of Morgan Murphy '76 ("A Study Abroad," fall 2008 *Colby*). Morgan lived on my floor, basement Coburn, my junior year, and had also gone to Stuyvesant High with a friend of mine. I always thought he was a neat guy. However, I was impressed to read he "speaks fluent Spanish, German, and Swiss." I'm pretty proficient in Mexican, and my Canadian is almost flawless, but I have always been stymied in my attempts to pick up Swiss. Perhaps you could enlighten us as to how Morgan managed to do it?

Harry K. Friedman '75
Brookline, Mass.

Editor's note: The writer of the profile was referring to Morgan's fluency in Swiss German, spoken in Switzerland and in some parts of Northern Italy. The dialect is markedly different from standard German and often difficult for native German speakers to understand.