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Albee Reveals Creative Magic

For playwright Edward Albee, the creative act is “a form of black magic. If you talk about it too much, it will go away.”

Before a standing-room-only audience in Given Auditorium in November, the three-time Pulitzer Prize winner did talk about the creative process, his work, and the path that led the self-described “lapsed poet and failed novelist” to become one of the most important playwrights of our time.

Albee was 28 and working as a Western Union messenger when his first serious play, *The Zoo Story*, was produced in West Berlin. He went on to write many award-winning, long-running, and critically acclaimed plays, including *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *The Sandbox*. All of his works involve characters that are three-dimensional. They “have a past and, unless you kill them off, a future,” Albee said.

“By the time I become aware that I have been thinking about a play, I’m aware of the characters,” he said, “I’m aware of the situation that they’re in. Not what the play means, the metaphor, the symbolism—I try to stay away from that stuff—but who these people are and why they are occupying that space in my mind.”



Playwright Edward Albee with Mindy Favreau '07 and Rishi Chatrath '08 at a president's house reception.

Albee engaged in a short improvisation session, assuming the voices of characters assembled from traits tossed out by the audience. While the exercise got the audience laughing, it did have a substantive subtext. “The creative act is the translation in the mind from the unconscious to the conscious mind to either the page or the canvas or whatever,” Albee said. ... “If somebody is good at it, you can’t stop them.”

At 78, he has not stopped writing and is currently working on a play called *Me, Myself, and I*, about identical twins, he said. Albee

said some of his best plays have been the most unpopular, “but that is the nature of our culture. Our culture is not based on the virtue of excellence but on the virtue of popularity.”

He warned of the stultifying effect of “the dead hand of commerce” on creative arts. Most theatergoers now are middle-aged and older white people—audiences that do not reflect the people of the United States. “Most of the people who can afford to go to the theater have already made up their minds about what they are going to think about just about everything,” he said. —Gerry Boyle '78



Serendipity and Sports Illustrated

Colby ground out a four-overtime 10-7 victory at Bates on October 28. For their efforts, the Mules appeared in the December 4 issue of *Sports Illustrated*. Heavy rain turned Bates's Garcelon Field into a quagmire—but it was not enough to deter the intrepid Daryn Slover, a staff shooter for the *Lewiston Sun Journal* on a freelance assignment for Bates.

Harris '93 Named ABC Anchor

ABC News announced in November that Dan Harris '93 is the new anchor of “World News Sunday.” He continues as a New York-based correspondent for ABC News broadcasts on television, radio, and



online. A government major at Colby, Harris returned as the commencement speaker in 2005 and was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree. In January Colby named Harris an overseer of the College.

Human Rights Lessons from High Commissioner

Mary Robinson can smell the blood in Somali churches following the genocide in 1994. She remembers the sight of prisoners in Rwanda, packed so closely that they could not move and developed gangrene. She recalled these scenes to draw a parallel to what is happening now in Darfur, she told a Colby audience at the second annual Senator George J. Mitchell Distinguished International Lecture in October.

“After Rwanda we said, ‘never again,’ and yet we are not really focusing the world’s attention,” she said. “We could relieve the suffering of those women who are being raped when they go for firewood, when they go for water, those villages that are being decimated.”

After serving as president of Ireland from 1990 to 1997, Robinson became the second United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In that role she traveled the world to gain a deep understanding of human rights abuses. In the subsequent decade, she says, things haven’t changed. “We haven’t got over the problem of the gross violations that require world attention,” she said.



ROB KIEVIT '09

Former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson

The crisis in Darfur, she said, is “getting worse and worse.” With the world’s attention focused on Iraq, Afghanistan, and Europe, “there’s not the political will,” she said, to devote the necessary forces to Sudan.

So what can college students do about this and other atrocities happening globally? Start small. “Often a very good thing is to work locally and work from the local out. ... Human rights, as Eleanor Roosevelt said, matter in small places.” It’s a lesson students can take from Colby to [wherever] they land—including their future workplaces.

“If human rights are going to matter in small places close to home, they have to matter a great deal more in the corridors of power.” That includes the boardrooms of major companies, she said. “Some of you, when you go where you’re going to go, will be able to be very influential in these areas.”

If the students’ activism on the issue of Darfur and Colby’s investments (see below) is any indication, they already are having an impact. —*Ruth Jacobs*

Colby Takes Stand on Sudan and Burma

On October 21 Colby trustees voted to divest of the College’s only direct investment in Sudan and to avoid direct investments in any companies that could financially support the Sudanese government.

The board agreed that there are some countries whose governments have “crossed a bright line” and engaged in activities that the Colby community declares to be so reprehensible that the College must sever any ties to those places. Sudan is such a country, the board agreed.

Colby also will write to the CEO of one other company that may be doing business in Burma/Myanmar and to managers of pooled investment funds to relay the College’s concerns regarding Sudan and Burma. The board included as part of its official action that using the endowment for political expression in this way should be extremely rare.

The board’s decision followed an intensive six-month review of the College’s investment portfolio, which was prompted by student activism in the spring of 2006. A delegation of about 20 students rallied outside trustee meetings in April to press their case for the College to adopt a policy of shareholder activism.

President William Adams said in a statement to the Colby community: “Actions such as divestment should be considered only under the most exceptional circumstances, which could include the placement of a country on the United States list of country-to-country sanctions, followed by a clear understanding and broad international consensus that the country’s government is in severe violation

of internationally accepted norms for government behavior, followed by Colby’s discovery that it holds assets that may support the activities of that government.”

President Emeritus and Life Trustee William Cotter cited as precedent the divestiture from apartheid South Africa in the 1980s, when Colby was a national leader in what was ultimately an effective campaign.

“This sets a very high threshold for this kind of activity, and it should be high,” Adams told the trustees.

The outcome, he said, “demonstrates the board’s interest in partnering with students to maintain the very high standards of Colby College.” —*Stephen Collins '74*

“[This] demonstrates the board’s interest in partnering with students to maintain the very high standards of Colby College”

President William Adams

Wit & Wisdom

“One student asked me at the ball why there were so many chaperones.”

Special Assistant to the President Janice Kassman, who explained to the student that the chaperones were actually Colby trustees, who made Colby's first Fall Ball possible last October.

“It's easy to go for the immediate reward. Choosing what might be better in the long term is a risk, and that's a much tougher call.”

Trustee Robert E. Diamond Jr. '73, as the commencement speaker at the University of Connecticut.

“She loved it. But she said they needed a bigger net. And why did they have to be so rough?”

Tony Marin (Physical Plant) after taking his mother to Colby's Alford Arena for the first hockey game of her life.

“In a rational world you would think all this would be dead by now. Immigration policy, however, behaves in a politically very irrational way.”

Harvard economist George J. Borjas, in Lovejoy 100, responding to a question about where the immigration debate in Congress might be headed following the November elections.

“It makes me smile when I think I am the president of the Colby Muslim Group.”

Adriana Nordin Manan '07, quoted in a Portland Press Herald article about spirituality on campuses. She said she couldn't imagine herself in a Muslim club at home in Malaysia, but that, as a religious minority in Maine, she felt an urge to educate her classmates about Islam.

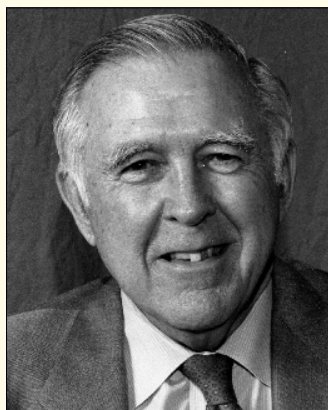
“I love this woman. You will learn a lot from her even if it has nothing to do with what you are supposed to be learning.”

A comment on RateMyProfessors.com about Professor of English Phyllis Mannocchi.

Robert Anthony: A Lifetime of Service to Colby

Robert N. Anthony '38, L.H.D. '63, a life trustee at Colby who was described by the Harvard Business School (HBS) as “a giant in field of management accounting,” died December 1 in Hanover, N.H., at age 90.

Anthony joined the HBS faculty in 1940 and was the Ross Graham Walker Professor of Management Controls, Emeritus, at the time of



Robert Anthony '38, L.H.D. '63

his death. He was world renowned as a scholar, author, and innovator in the field of management accounting and control. He also distinguished himself in public service as assistant secretary of defense (1965-68) and as an advisor to the Comptroller General and other government agencies.

He was named to Colby's Board of Trustees in 1959 and had a long history of service and generosity to the College. He was chair of the board from 1978 to 1983 and was one of only four life trustees at the time of his death. He received the Colby Brick Award, the Marriner Distinguished Service Award, and the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was a principal donor to the Anthony-Mitchell-Schupf Residence Hall.

At Colby he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He earned a master's degree in 1940 and a doctorate in 1952, both from Harvard, serving in the Pacific with the U.S. Navy during World War II.

“He had a monumental impact, not only on his students through his teaching and textbooks, but also on the business, nonprofit, and government worlds,” said Professor Regina E. Herzlinger, a for-

mer student who became Anthony's colleague on the HBS faculty.

At the request of the Federal Accounting Standards Board (FASB) he studied nonprofit organizations' accounting procedures and recommended that they produce the same sorts of financial reports as profit-making organizations. FASB standard number 34, on capitalizing the cost of

interest, is directly traceable to his work.

During the Vietnam War Anthony served as assistant secretary of defense under his former Harvard colleague Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. He was responsible for building and presenting to Congress an \$80-billion budget and for managing a monumental effort to overhaul the department's accounting and control system. “He changed the way the Defense Department operated,” a colleague said.

He also served locally. A past president of the American Accounting Association and a member of the Accounting Hall of Fame (at Ohio State), he took pride that he was elected town auditor of Waterville Valley, N.H., where he spent much of his retirement. In 1986 he said, “I had opposition the first time, but I haven't had any since. I got 24 votes last year; that's all there were.”

Anthony is survived by his wife, Katherine Yeager Anthony; a son, Robert Jr., M.D.; a daughter, Victoria '77; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his first wife, Gretchen Lynch Anthony.

NWF Recognizes Colby

The National Wildlife Federation awarded Colby special recognition for campus ecology in 2006. Reasons cited for the distinction included: silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center, the commitment of Colby's dining services to buy locally produced foods, and the College's waste reduction through the RESCUE program.

More Colbians Teach for America

In his first semester as a fifth-grade teacher at a Navajo school in Crown Point, New Mexico, Brandon Smithwood '06 searched for new ways to try to convince his young students that education is important. He explained to sometimes-disgruntled parents that a passing grade means nothing if the student hasn't grown academically. Smithwood tries to make a real difference in his students' lives.

"I hope I am," he said. "It's hard."

Smithwood is part of a bumper crop of Colby graduates that joined the Teach for America corps last year. Eleven members of the Class of 2006 made the two-year commitment to teach in schools in low-income communities—more than the previous three years combined, according to Ryan Weaver '07, a Teach For America campus campaign manager.

Those teachers, chosen from 33 applicants, are fanned out across

"[At Colby] I was very interested in environmental and social activism. ... This was an excellent opportunity to do something that, every day, you weren't just debating or sending your congressman a letter. Every day you were working to make a difference"

Brandon Smithwood '06

said his teaching job has introduced him to Navajo culture, the Southwest—and to "the culture of poverty."

"[At Colby] I was very interested in environmental and social activism, things like that," he said, from Crown Point. "This was an excellent opportunity to do something that, every day, you weren't just debating or sending your congressman a letter. Every day you were working to make a difference." —G.B.

the country, from New Mexico to Mississippi to Newark, N.J.

The increase is part of an overall boom in applications to Teach for America, with some 19,000 students asking to go into classrooms last year, triple the number in 2000. Teach for America officials cite September 11 and the New Orleans flood as catalysts for the outpouring of altruism among young people.

Smithwood, a government major and environmental studies minor from Massachusetts,



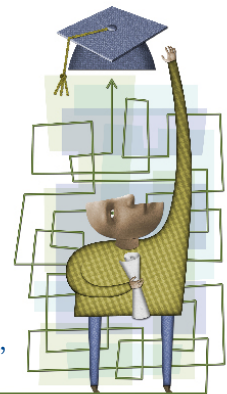
Watts Weighs In After an election-night appearance on CNN that lasted into the morning, former Republican Congressman J.C. Watts Jr. made his way to Mayflower Hill on November 8 to deliver a speech about American values. Regardless of race, political affiliation, and other factors, he said, "I believe that most Americans ... that their values are no different from mine and vice versa."

A 100th Birthday Gift

To celebrate her 100th birthday, philanthropist Kathryn Wasserman Davis has launched "100 Projects for Peace"—a program offering \$10,000 grants to 100 students who proposed grassroots projects with innovative approaches to world peace. Grants are available to students who attend colleges that are part of the Davis United World Colleges program, a scholarship fund set up by her son, Shelby M.C. Davis. Colby was one of the first five colleges selected for that program.

And the Survey Says!

Colby recently changed the requirements for Dean's List and Latin honors. In the last issue we asked, "Should the standards for academic honors be consistent across colleges and universities?"



76% Yes

20% No



Consider This . . .

As employers increasingly look at graduates' profiles on online networking sites, students at Colby are reacting by "cleaning up" their pages, including removing photos (see "Facetime," P. 12). Is it ethical for employers to look at personal Web pages?

To answer, go to www.colby.edu/mag.



Wylie's a Winner

Mark Wylie '88 works for a nonprofit organization called Best Buddies, which pairs young, intellectually disabled people with mentors. But that's not how he came to fame. As a contestant on the NBC show "The Biggest Loser," Wylie, an audience favorite, finished third on December 13 when his total weight loss of 129 pounds was announced during the show's finale.

Green Building Pros

All five members of the Physical Plant Department's project management team responsible for construction projects have been accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program. The LEED green building rating system is the national benchmark for sustainable construction, and certification requires experience and testing. "It's one of the College's goals to build sustainable buildings, and we need to be looking at renovations and other projects in a green way," said Patricia Murphy, director of physical plant.

ANOTHER ONE UP, MORE TO COME

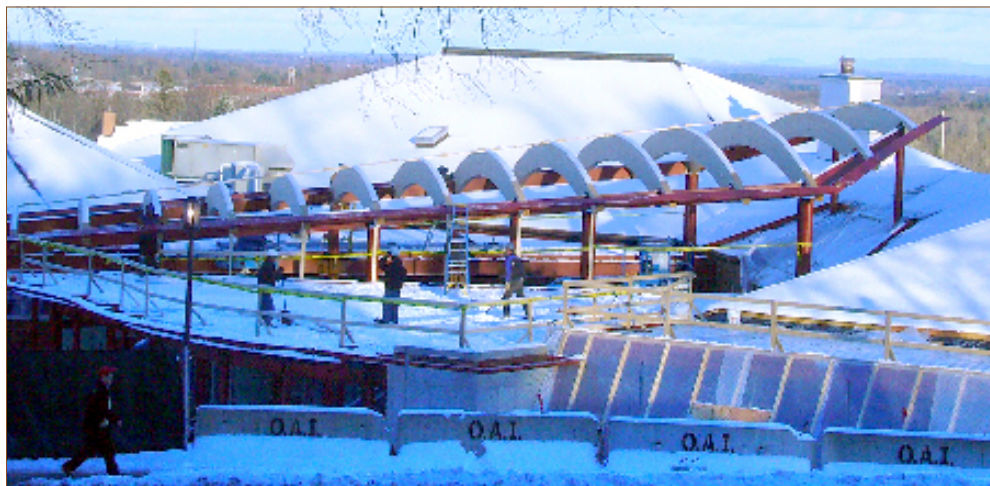
The Diamond Building, now Colby's largest academic facility except for Miller Library, opened for business with the start of second semester. At the same time, the first phase of renovation and expansion at Cotter Union stayed on track for a fall 2007 reopening of the student center, as construction continues transforming Mayflower Hill.

A second phase of expansion at Cotter Union—a 9,000-square-foot bookstore—was approved by trustees at their January 20 meeting, with construction to begin this year and occupancy planned in the summer of 2008.

The Diamond Building is a 53,500-square-foot facility located at the south end of the new Colby Green next to Lunder House, the admissions building. It contains classrooms, a large auditorium equipped with advanced teleconferencing capabilities, a GIS lab, and offices for four social science departments and four interdisciplinary programs as well as for student research teams. It also is the home of the Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement.

The naming gift was given by Robert Diamond '73 and his wife, Jennifer, and the building incorporates state-of-the-art green-building systems in anticipation of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Formal dedications of the Diamond Building and of the Goldfarb Center are planned for the weekend of April 12-14, with a series of



Construction on the new Pulver Pavilion in the Cotter Union continues.

panel discussions on how Colby engages the local community, the nation, and the world.

Across the street the Pulver Pavilion, centerpiece of a new and improved Cotter Union, was taking shape this winter in an effort to revitalize that facility as a true hub of social life on campus. The \$10-million project will add 8,000 square feet to the student center, unifying the two existing wings with a café, snack bar, and social space. Work on the new bookstore is expected to begin in earnest following this year's Commencement.

Designed by architect Peter Bohlin of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson (who also designed the Diamond Building), the Pulver Pavilion will reorient Cotter Union so that a main en-

trance will face Miller Library, contributing to a sense of a center of the campus. Traffic patterns and uses of space throughout the building will be improved. The naming gift for the pavilion was given by trustee David Pulver '63, his wife, Carol, and their daughter, Stephanie '93.

Construction crews won't rest following these projects. Discussion continued this winter regarding a new science building on the opposite end of the Colby Green from Diamond, and options were being weighed for renovation of the former fraternity houses on Roberts Row—with the first expected to be redone in the summer of 2008—and of the Roberts Building itself. —S.C.

Soft Landing

Paula Shagin '09 makes a snow angel on campus after one of the first substantial snowfalls on Mayflower Hill in January. It was an unseasonably warm and snowless start to winter, but in Maine it is best to keep in mind Mark Twain's comment, "One of the brightest gems in the New England weather is the dazzling uncertainty of it."

Photo by Adam Musial '09



From Democracy's Front Lines

BY STUART KRUSELL '85

For members of the Class of '85, the concept of a career in "democracy promotion" meant a political campaign or government service. None of us saw the sweeping changes coming within a few years of our graduation as freedom spread across previously oppressed countries.

Rapidly expanding requests for assistance in making this transition redefined the profession. My own opportunity to engage in this exciting career came thanks to the Colby network. An informational interview with Liz Dugan '78, a vice president at the International Republican Institute (IRI), led to an offer to work in East Timor as it prepared for its first legislative elections. Since then, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Egypt, and Iraq (working with Jeremy Greenfield '00) have been added to the list. As I write this, I ready for my next assignment: Morocco.

In each of these countries I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated and extremely brave local citizens who put their lives and livelihoods on the line fighting for a better life for their neighbors and future generations. Echoes of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, in a variety of languages, are easy to hear.

For the past year, my work has taken me to the Palestinian Territories. During the 2006 elections, I visited a dozen or more polling stations. Each stop offered the chance to engage local voters in impromptu focus groups. A consistent question posed was, "What one message do you want to convey to people in the U.S.?"

"Tell them what you saw," was the reply. "Tell them about how Palestinians held free and fair elections. Tell them that we are committed to democracy and to peace." It was the same answer every time.

Critics of policies aimed at encouraging democratic transitions discount such answers, citing the win by the Islamic Party, Hamas, as evidence that such efforts are doomed to failure, especially in the volatile Middle East. A look at the facts, and firsthand experience, offer a more hopeful view.

While the rules of the election gave Hamas a significant victory in terms of seats, the reality is that the vote was far from a mandate as Hamas garnered only 44 percent, with Fateh getting 42 percent and other parties making up the rest. Exit polls conducted by IRI's partner, Birzeit University, revealed that 43 percent of those voting for Hamas did so to end corruption, while only 19 percent stated religious reasons.

Far from being a radical endorsement of Islamic rule, the Palestinian people sought a government that was more responsive to

their needs. Sadly, Hamas has shown itself to be less than democratic and representative, preferring to offer more blame than solutions to the critical issues facing it. Governing is not the same as opposing. If the democratic process continues emerging, failure to deliver will dampen Hamas's appeal.

Contrary to the opinion currently in vogue, democracy promotion is not solely a U.S. initiative nor is it being imposed; it is a goal of

people from across the globe who understand the fruits of freedom. I have witnessed the impact of a Romanian who suffered under Nicolae Ceausescu speaking to Iraqis and Egyptians. The message resonates because both sides understand suffering and share the desire for democratic reform as the best way to end oppression.

People in the Middle East are no less capable of wanting democratic rule or being able to exercise it than others across the world. Their history may make them all the more willing to hear the call of freedom. What they need is long-term support and patience as they struggle to emerge from years of oppression. Democracy is not simply a matter of holding elections or the results of a ballot or two.

As many a Colby government or history major will tell you, few expected the U.S. experiment in self-rule to be a success when it began more than 200 years ago. A civil war, civil rights battle, and other significant,

painful challenges are reminders that democracy is a process based on ideals—a process that can get fairly messy. Countries from South Africa to Indonesia, from Brazil to India, can attest to this reality.

The challenges and opportunities surrounding democracy promotion will likely be as dynamic and unpredictable for the Class of 2010 as they have been for my generation. The debate will be spirited and vital to creating a peaceful future. Colby will undoubtedly give those students the same great preparation for engaging in that debate.

For me, every conversation with a Palestinian civil society leader, Iraqi party leader, or Cambodian farmer has been an exhilarating reminder of Colby's, and my own, founding roots. As members of this community, we have been fortunate to enjoy the fruits nourished by those roots. We should welcome the chance to share with others the knowledge and tools necessary for nurturing their own roots of freedom.

Stuart Krusell '85 is the International Republican Institute's director of operations for Morocco.



Stuart Krusell '85 (seated, in white shirt), with International Republican Institute office staff in Baghdad.