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From Courage to Conviction

Investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell remembers when Edgar Ray Killen, the man who ordered the 1964 killings of three civil rights Freedom Riders, walked Mitchell to his car after a meeting. "I could see he was memorizing my license plate number, making it possible for him to get my home address," Mitchell recalled in his Lovejoy Award acceptance speech on September 17.

He remembers a sheriff telling him he might want to think about driving home a different way.

He remembers Byron De La Beckwith saying to him, "If God does not punish you directly, several individuals will do it for him."

Ultimately the punishment fell upon De La Beckwith—the first of four Ku Klux Klansman to be brought to justice thanks to Mitchell's investigative reporting at *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Miss. "[They] tried to stop me, but the truth was, I wasn't going to stop," Mitchell told the audience in Lorimer Chapel.

For his courageous pursuit of justice in the face of threats, Mitchell received an honorary degree and the award, which is given annually in memory of Elijah Parish Lovejoy, Colby Class of 1826, who died defending his

printing press against a pro-slavery mob.

Mitchell was just a boy when the KKK killings took place. But in 1989, when he was a young court reporter, a source provided him documents that showed that the civil rights era trial of De La Beckwith for the murder of NAACP leader Medgar Evers had been corrupt—that a state commission in Mississippi had secretly been working to acquit him.

"A quarter century had passed since Evers had been assassinated, but his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, had never stopped loving him and did all she could to keep his story alive. After my story appeared, she asked authorities to reopen her husband's case," Mitchell recalled.

Four years later De La Beckwith was convicted and sent to prison. "And so began my journey into the unpunished killings of the civil rights era, and what's happened since has been amazing," Mitchell said.

Mitchell's work has led to the trials and convictions of three other Ku Klux Klansmen: Imperial Wizard Sam Bowers, for ordering the firebombing that killed the NAACP's Vernon Dahmer in 1966; Bobby Cherry, for the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, and

"When [my wife] was eight months' pregnant . . . she questioned my sanity when I told her I was leaving to interview Byron De La Beckwith, the man who shot NAACP leader Medgar Evers in the back and watched him crawl across the carport to die in front of his wife and three young children."



JEFF EARRICKSON

2006 Lovejoy recipient Jerry Mitchell

Cynthia Wesley; and Edgar Ray Killen, for orchestrating the 1964 killings of Freedom Riders Michael Schwerner, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman.

After all that he has endured in the pursuit of these stories, and after realizing these successes, Mitchell has maintained his humility. "Justice has come in some cases not because of my work, but because the cause is great and because there are many others greater than me who have taken up that cause," he said. "Too often we as Americans think of change as something accomplished only by rugged individualists. The truth is, change comes when many unite in a common cause to change a people and a place." —Ruth Jacobs



Beats Peanut Butter

During this year's orientation, COOTers on Flagstaff Lake heard the rumble of an approaching power boat, then a shout: "You look like you're from Bowdoin!" After a resounding "No!" the man on the boat yelled, "From Bates?" This time students replied, "We're from Colby!" Turned out the two men in the boat, professors Whitney King (chemistry) and Michael Donihue '79 (economics), knew that. They unloaded steaks and salmon and joined the group on the beach for a cookout. "They loved it," King said. Director of Outdoor Safety and Education Jonathan Milne reported 99 percent of the incoming class participated in 53 (count 'em) trips. Worst problem: nothing more serious than a twisted ankle.

In Kenya: Changing the Lives of Others

Dolfine Gumba Dawa, a soft-spoken Kenyan primary schoolteacher, brought home to Colby students in September the immense tragedy of AIDS in Africa.

AIDS, years of drought, and poverty have left her community in Kenya “torn to pieces,” Dawa said, speaking in the Olin Science Center.

Dawa spent many years teaching young students in a primary school in a remote region in western Kenya. Then tragedy touched her personally as her youngest son died of food poisoning and her eldest son died of AIDS. From the depths of her own depression, she vowed to make a change.

She started from scratch, she explained, bringing orphaned children into her home and helping widows start “small-small businesses” making bricks, liquid soap, and crafts. The number of children in her care



Dolfine Gumba Dawa

grew rapidly, and she cashed in her retirement funds to build a modest compound that houses the Korando Faith Widows and Orphans Group. Together with her husband, Dawa started Medoma Primary School.

Today, 25 orphans live in her compound and 215 live nearby in child-headed homes or with neighbors, Dawa said. All 240 children receive a free daily meal; 200 children attend the free Medoma School and 40 are sent to secondary school when funds are available to pay the school fees. The widows and children help finance the organization through their small businesses.

Dawa used her own successes to encourage students to aspire to change the lives of others. “If you are not sick, you are capable,” she said. “You can do something. . . . God will open a way.” —Alison Jones Webb ’81

Alumni Set New Giving Mark

The 2005-06 Alumni Fund set an all-time record, surpassing \$4 million on the strength of an 8 percent increase in dollars raised.

“The vast majority of our alumni will participate in the campaign through their gifts to the Alumni Fund,” said Vice President for College Relations Richard Ammons. “While many people think that in a capital campaign it’s the million-dollar gifts that matter, and they do, in reality it is the cumulative effect of smaller gifts that helps keep us competitive.”

“Every gift is important,” he said. And 9,854 individuals heeded the call.

The Parents Fund raised \$633,345—a 12.5-percent increase and a new record, with one third of parents participating, according to Kelly Dodge ’83, director of annual giving.

The Annual Fund is essential to the operation of the College, Ammons said: “It’s a critical part of our operating budget, and it provides the most flexibility for management.” Some of the fund is steered to financial aid, allowing the College to fulfill its commitment to meet all of the demonstrated need of any student who is admitted and enrolls. And because Alumni Fund and Parent Fund dollars are unrestricted, they can be applied to unanticipated needs—increases in energy prices, for example, Ammons said.

While 48 percent of the alumni who were solicited contributed to the College last year, that’s a slight decline from 50-percent participation in recent years. In September Dodge announced that a small group of concerned alumni had come forward with a challenge that will match, one-for-one, all increases in individual gifts to the Alumni Fund. Last year’s donors will be matched for any increase in the amount they give, and those who did not contribute last year will be matched dollar-for-dollar for their entire gift. —Stephen Collins ’74

Wit & Wisdom

“Are you serious?”

First-year student on her first day on campus—after her parents advised her they would be staying through dinner.

“Attitudes in the Middle East are so negative that you get one percent favorable—and they didn’t understand the question.”

Princeton University Professor of International Affairs Robert Keohane, at a Goldfarb lecture about anti-Americanism.

“This is my COOT trip.”

Rob Weisbrot (history), touring offices in the Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center for the first time while waiting for a meeting with a foundation representative. “People tell me I should explore Maine,” he said.

“Does this mean I have to call you Dr. Boo?”

A friend of Jerry “Boo” Mitchell when he learned that Mitchell would receive an honorary doctorate in conjunction with the 2006 Lovejoy Award.

“I’m so stupid. I heard I was podcasting, so I got dressed up.”

Earl Smith (college historian), following his interview with Emily Judem ’06, producer of the Inside Colby podcast.

“You don’t need a lot of people to make things happen. You just need a few people who think big.”

Hugh Gourley, emeritus director of the Colby College Museum of Art, quoted in the fall 2006 Haverford Alumni Magazine in a story about great college museums.

“Many, many e-mails. I had lots of friends.”
Jui Shrestha ’07, on the effect of getting a top-five room draw number.

“Colby Wait List – Exit Here.”

Sign posted at I-295 Exit 28 (Brunswick) on August 29, the day that first-year students traveled to Mayflower Hill.

New Look for Athletics

Colby athletics launched a new Web site in October making it easier to follow the Mules. The redesign includes current news and results on individual team pages. See www.colby.edu/athletics.

College Revises Honors Standards

News that the College changed the requirements for Dean's List and for Latin graduation honors left some students concerned about how the changes would affect them and whether the action was an indirect response to grade inflation.

After more than a year of deliberation, Colby changed the Dean's List standard so that, effective this fall, the top 30 percent of students ranked by the semester's grade point average qualify, assuming they meet all the other specified academic criteria. Previously the requirement was a 3.2 grade point average (3.0 for first-years).

Requirements for Latin honors changed from 3.75 (summa cum laude), 3.5 (magna cum laude), and 3.25 (cum laude), to the top 5, 10, and 20 percent of the graduating class. The Latin honors changes affect students entering in the fall of 2006 or later.

The changes resulted from comparisons with peer schools and the sense that, with almost three quarters of the student body making the Dean's List, the honor was no longer distinctive. Referring to a comment by President William Adams at an open forum about the children of Lake Wobegon, Dean of Faculty Ed Yeterian said, "All the children can't be above average. It's mathematically impossible."

Some students worried that, having made the Dean's List in pre-

vious semesters, it would look bad on their records if they no longer receive the honor, said Patrick Sanders '08, who was part of the committee that recommended the changes. But, he said, "If you expect to get this honor then we expect you to work for it."

In the old system, Sanders said, Dean's List no longer seemed like an honor. But some feel the new system favors students in certain disciplines. "It puts the science and, I could say probably the government students, at a real disadvantage," said Canaan Morse '07, an East Asian studies major. Moreover, "The underlying problem of grade inflation is what makes Dean's List a problem," Morse said. "It's false to argue [...] that the two aren't linked."

Yeterian says the changes were not a response to grade inflation, and that there are many reasons for students earning higher grades, including a more selective admissions process.

Adams tackled grade inflation at the open forum for students. "Grade inflation is one of those hugely vexing issues that faculties frankly have a lot of trouble addressing because it touches upon all kinds of intense feelings of prerogative in the classroom," he said. "I think this faculty will probably take up the issue of grade inflation reasonably soon, but that's for the faculty to decide." —R.7.

Three Mules in a Pod

Colby launched podcasting this fall with three options for listening to audio from Mayflower Hill: A student-produced documentary program called *Inside Colby* offers a view into Colby as students see it; the Goldfarb Center lecture series offers various Goldfarb events; and *The President at the Podium* is a chance to hear what's on the mind of William D. Adams. Subscribing to these podcasts means they're automatically downloaded to iTunes when new installments are posted. Or, simply listening online is always an option.

To listen or subscribe, visit
www.colby.edu/podcast/

Voices from *Inside Colby*

"The African community here is awesome. . . . I've got tons of people that I call homeboys surrounding me, and when I'm having trouble I can just go to them. . . we are very tight, we keep up with each other, we catch up, we cook African food. It's this nice little environment and it's sort of like we're a community within a community."

—Escar Kusema '09, "Drumming Up Community: African Students on Mayflower Hill" (Episode 1)

"I love the COOT rally. It's the most absurd thing, and it's just so fun. I love making the costumes and going crazy and looking at their faces. . . some of them look terrified, too. Absolutely terrified. Especially when the chainsaw comes out."

—Meagan Berg '07, "COOT Chronicles: Colby's Outdoor Orientation Trips" (Episode 2)

"I'm glad they're doing it [Cotter Union construction], because I think it's something that Colby needs. It's kind of soiling every beautiful view out my window, but that's okay. And they wake me up early in the morning. They're like, 'here, walk five miles on a two-mile-wide campus,' but whatever."

—Adam Newman '07, "To Unite a Disunion: Renovations of Colby's Student Center" (Episode 3)

"I've heard people read very personal things up there. . . whether its about their neighborhood, or racial disconnect, or abuse, and various different things. . . You wouldn't have a conversation with someone about that just on a regular day. . . so it's like, 'oh wow, okay, you went through that,' or 'that's what your story's about.'"

—Lauren Harding '09, "Midnight Voices: Poets Rest at Dawn" (Episode 4)

A Good Time for a Good Cause

The queue to The Mayflower Foundation's Summer Gala in Boston was out the door—a line of twenty-somethings in summer dresses and sports jackets. Inside the event tent a cover band played while hoards of people hit the dance floor and the two bars. Despite the festive atmosphere, these people weren't there just to party. By night's end the gala had raised \$10,000 for a local charity, with every penny coming from the young partygoers, mainly Colby graduates from the past five years.

The Mayflower Foundation is the brainchild of Jason Werlin '00, Kevin O'Brien '98, Rob Webb '01, John Brownell '02, and Alexander Porteous '01, who wanted to serve their community but weren't sure what impact they could have. "With our demographic, we have more time to donate than money to donate, so volunteering time can make a bigger difference than just a monetary donation," O'Brien said.

What these five graduates figured out is that it's possible to combine both. After years of attending office parties and friends' gather-

ings, it hit them: "Instead of having parties at bars where all the money goes towards drinks and food, we figured why not have a party where our money could go towards helping the community," Porteous said. The plan: organize parties for their peers and raise money for charity by selling tickets.

"Instead of having parties at bars where all the money goes towards drinks and food, we figured why not have a party where our money could go towards helping the community."

Their idea started to bear fruit in 2003 when the friends threw their inaugural gala to benefit the Make-a-Wish Foundation, raising enough money to send a child with sickle-cell anemia to Disney World with his family.

Since then the Mayflower Foundation has grown from the five founders to more than 150 volunteers across the country, with charity events held in New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and San Francisco.

Finding people to attend the parties (and to pay the average \$75 to \$100 ticket price) is fairly easy. "We just e-mail everyone we know: friends, friends of friends, whoever. People just show up," O'Brien said. And if you hold it, they will come.

Indeed, many of the partygoers at the 2006 Summer Gala didn't know much about the charity the event benefited; they just knew it was a good cause and would be a good time.

The proceeds were given to New England SCORES, a program that teaches both creative writing and soccer to third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders in 12 Boston public schools.

Though no formal relationship with the College exists, the organization's name, The Mayflower Foundation, was selected to suggest a connection with Colby and also, O'Brien said, because "it sounded credible."

Though important to some, the Colby reference is lost on others. "They just assume we're all descendants of the Pilgrims," O'Brien said. —Brendan Sullivan '06



ROB KIEVIT '09

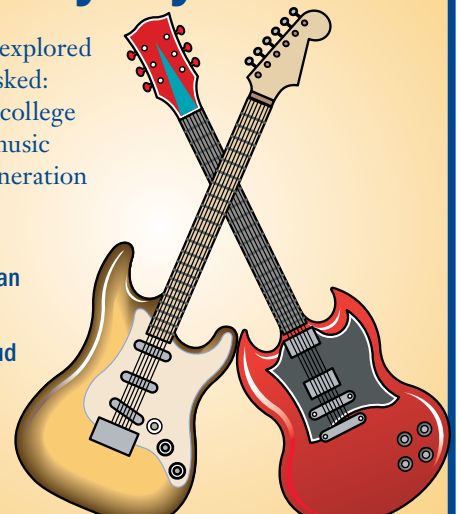
Float? James Brady '10, at left, and Robbie Knipp '10 head for the shore with their entry in the Johnson Pond Regatta in September. Students constructed watercraft of a variety of materials, with duct tape appearing to be the common denominator.

And the Survey Says!

In the last issue, *Colby* explored a musical trend. We asked: "The phenomenon of college students listening to music from their parents' generation makes you..."

92% Proud that they can recognize quality

8% Wonder what Freud would say



Consider This . . .

Colby recently changed the requirements for Dean's List and Latin honors (see page 7). What do you think of the change to the honors system? To answer, go to www.colby.edu/mag.

Over the River and Through the Woods . . .



Samantha Saeger '04

Samantha Saeger '04 doesn't just run. She dashes through woods and brush, leaps stone walls, sprints through fields, and finishes races spattered with mud, her shins scratched by branches and thorns. "Sometimes you're running through a marsh up to your knees," Saeger said.

And another thing. She does all this while reading a map.

Saeger is an elite competitor in orienteering, a grueling sport that is a sort of extreme cross-country race combined with the ability to navigate unfamiliar terrain by map and compass. Orienteering is most popular in Scandinavia, whose com-

petitors traditionally top the field at international competitions. Yet Saeger, who lives in Newton, Mass., bested many of the world's top orienteers at the world championships in Denmark in August. Her 29th place finish in the sprint event was the best performance by an American woman since 1985, when another American came in 29th. "My dream goal was top thirty," Saeger said.

She has been dreaming about orienteering since she was in grade school, when her parents, Judy Karpinski and Jeff Saeger, introduced her to the sport they had enjoyed for years. Saeger's younger sister Hillary also competes internationally, turning world championships into family affairs.

Requiring stamina, agility, and the ability to make strategic route decisions on the fly, the sport would seem to be a natural for fitness-crazed Americans. Yet it remains relatively unknown outside the circle of fervent competitors, family, friends, and fans. "It's hard to be a spectator when people are running through the woods," Saeger said.

The sport calls for competitors to find their way to several ordered points or "controls" marked on a specially made orienteering map that shows types of vegetation, water bodies, stone walls. Using compasses to orient their maps, competitors set off after a staggered start, taking routes that may vary according to their skills, preferences, and judgment. Saeger said she's gotten good at running over rough terrain and looking at maps at the same time—no small feat. "Orienteers joke that they bring a book when they go running on roads," she said.

Road running may seem tame, but it's part of the training regimen for running courses that typically range from six to eight kilometers in length, though the actual distance traveled depends on the route chosen—and whether an orienteer becomes disoriented, a.k.a. lost. Saeger said she runs 10-minute kilometers, which might seem slow but isn't, considering the terrain and the need to read a map en route.

Saeger said she loves running through the woods but also enjoys a sport that simultaneously engages her body and uses her brain.

She was to begin a graduate program in special education at Wheelock College, beginning in September. But orienteering was also on the horizon: Saeger is one of five women on the A squad of the U.S. National Senior Orienteering Team, a group that planned to compete in the North American championships in Ontario in October. She said that at 24, she hasn't peaked and still is learning the sport. "I can get so much better than I am now," Saeger said. —Gerry Boyle '78

NEVER MIND

Concerns that the use of a former convent bordering the Colby campus would disrupt the surrounding neighborhood turned out to be unfounded, according to police and neighbors.

"They were just fine," said neighbor Larry Griffin of the new students on the block. "They were nice kids."

Neighbors last fall raised concerns about Colby's use of the former convent on Mt. Merici Avenue for a dormitory, dubbed Colby Gardens. But the loud parties and excessive traffic that residents feared never happened. "Perfect," said Waterville Police Chief John Morris. "[The students] turned out to be good neighbors. We've had no complaints."



JUI SHRESTHA '07

Residents of Colby Gardens gather in one of the residence hall's common areas to study and socialize.

The College leased the former convent to accommodate an overflow of students resulting from an unexpectedly large enrollment in the fall of 2005, and before the opening of school Colby notified residents that it would continue to use Colby Gardens for the 2006-2007 school year. According to Janice Kassman, special assistant to the president for external affairs, the dormitory continues to be categorized as "party-free" and houses mostly sophomores.

One neighborhood resident, John Macklin '55, said Colby should build a new dorm if there is a need. "Just on general principle, I'm not particularly happy having Colby in the neighborhood."

But Griffin, a vocal critic at a meeting of the City Council, said he wasn't concerned, and he has enjoyed meeting the new students on the block. "I talked to them," Griffin said. "I met a baseball player and a guy from Latvia and some girls from Massachusetts and a girl from Gardiner, Maine."

He said there were a couple of moments of concern—when his dog was overly exuberant and gave some students pause. But, like the prospect of Colby in the neighborhood, there was little to fear. "She just wants to sniff your hand," Griffin said. "She's looking for a cookie." —G.B.

Heads Up

Women's soccer, which made the NESCAC playoffs last year, began this season 8-2-3 and clinched a NESCAC playoff berth. With a roster that includes 19 returning players, the Mules defeated Middlebury and tied Bowdoin and nationally ranked Williams. Forward Laura Williamson '07 (pictured), broke the all-time scoring record midway through the season, and goalkeeper Liza Benson '07 had given up only eight goals in 13 games. For more on the fall sports season, go to www.colby.edu/mag, keyword sports. Photo by Mary Schwalm '99



Locksmiths

Steve Carlin '09 sits for a haircut on the lawn from Willa Vogel '09, at left, and Reva Eiferman '09. Vogel and Eiferman, who are in Peru this semester, returned to campus to visit friends. Photo by Fred Field.

