

Colby



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Fraternity Advertising?

The *Colby* spring 2006 cover ought to be a vodka ad. The caption: “ABSOLUT HELLWEEK.”

Lydia Winter '72

North Bennington, Vt.

Colby No Place for Polar Bear

As a former member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, I was somewhat surprised by the incendiary nature of the cover of *Colby*, Spring 2006. My surprise quickly turned to dismay and embarrassment when I turned the page and saw the inside cover. As a former Colby hockey captain and dedicated fan of the Colby hockey program, I was shocked to see an individual adorned with Bowdoin hockey apparel decorating the inside cover. William Riley '99 would appear to be outfitted for an *I am Bowdoin* fund-raising campaign, not *I am Colby*.

I find it hard to believe that none of the decision makers involved with this publication, or the Colby Alumni Fund, found this picture to be inappropriate for the purpose of raising money from alumni. The Colby-Bowdoin hockey rivalry is one of the oldest and most intense rivalries in small-college athletics. The lack of awareness of this rivalry exhibited by this picture is disconcerting, to say the least. In the future, I hope that *Colby* can be more sensitive to the strong feelings of pride that some alumni have for Colby athletics.

Jon Doehr '87

Minnetonka, Minn.

On Fraternities' Demise

“We want there to be a sense of belonging to the College as a whole,” [President William D.] Adams said. “There are other places and ways of finding that.”

I hope this is true. During my last visit to Colby a few years back I noticed more “special interest” and ethnic specific rooms throughout the student union—more segregation and isolation than I experienced at Colby. We didn’t have those in the early Seventies when I was a student and treasurer of ATO. Granted we threw

some outrageous parties, but everyone was welcome! We also did a lot of community work, especially with the local Boys’ Club, as most of us ATO’s were on the swim team then. I can tell you when I meet up with a brother ATO today it feels like 30 years fade away. And there was just as strong a bond when I was a trustee for the new chapter here at URI. I doubt those types of bonds are formed today.

It was interesting that this article appeared at the same time as President Adams’s plea for financial support. I admit I make a very small donation to count towards the 50 percent participation. But I make a more generous donation to ATO! You will have a hard time convincing me Colby is a better place without fraternity and sorority presence on campus. And the so-called negative aspects (beer guzzling parties, etc.) still go on, only off campus in private residences where kids get back to campus behind the wheel, instead of a stumbling walk back to their dorm. Out of sight out of mind.

Paul Harrington '74

North Kingstown, R.I.

As a fraternity member, I recall being quite dismayed at the news [that fraternities had been disbanded] and the fact that no options were presented in public and to alumni. I believe that it has injured, in some cases irrevocably, the ability to reconnect with certain graduates, both in fund-raising activities and in loyalty to the school, at least in the graduates from my era.

Robert J. Ryan '81

Houston, Tex.

You may receive some comments on the reference to Tau Delta in “The End,” (spring 2006 *Colby*). I believe I inadvertently misled Julia Hanauer-Milne regarding the name of my fraternity by referring to the members as “Tau Deltas.”

Therefore, in her excellent article she refers to it as Tau Delta when in reality it was Tau Delta Phi. That reference in no way detracts from the thoroughness and accuracy of her comprehensive work.

The abbreviated references to the

individual fraternities were quite common at Colby and were also utilized in other colleges. Therefore, in the Colby vernacular: Tau Delta Phi was Tau Delt. Phi Delta Theta was Phi Delt. Lambda Chi Alpha was Lambda Chi. Zeta Psi was Zete. Delta Kappa Epsilon was Deke. Alpha Tau Omega was ATO. Delta Upsilon was DU.

No matter what an individual’s position was on the fraternity issue, it seems to me that over 20 years later all Colby people can take pride in the accomplishments of the College.

David M. Marson '48

Dedham, Mass.

More Advice from the “Real World”

Constantly keep your next move in the forefront of your mind. If you are unsatisfied with your current employment situation, formulate a plan to get to the job you want and then follow that plan (this will probably take a few years). Don’t beat yourself down about this time period, as you’ll be a lot happier when you’re in your mid and late 20s and have the career you want than if you settled for mediocrity.

Peter Hans '00

Washington, D.C.

The daunting question every recent graduate anticipates after leaving the Hill: “So, what are your plans now?” We have experienced this moment at one time or another. I, for one, was extremely nervous because I had no career offers after graduation, just the instinctive urge to volunteer and gain work experience; perhaps abroad. I knew I needed to take a step and relocate, taking my time to find a job I can truly appreciate and enjoy.

Through this process, I realized that I am very young and didn’t need to rush to find the “perfect” job. It takes experience, from the bottom up, to truly appreciate the choices you face and where they will eventually lead you. My first job was serving at a restaurant for eight months until I found my current position on Capitol Hill. I wouldn’t trade that experience for anything in the world.

Unexpected moments truly help you

One of the Mad Ones

In my 23 years, I've been lucky enough to know some incredible people, both at Colby and elsewhere, people whose lives inspired me to make mine more meaningful. In *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac writes, "The only people for me are the mad ones...who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn, burn, like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars..."

When I first read *On the Road* I was living with Chris Starz '05 and a few other ambling souls in a cheap apartment in Durango, Colorado. I was out there for a Jan Plan, doing a dubious internship in the restaurant business while climbing and skiing as much as possible. Chris was spending the spring semester away from Colby, enrolled at Fort Lewis College to pursue his interest in Native American literature. Raised on his family's summer camp in the woods of Wisconsin, Chris was the child of the forest that I, a suburban kid from Connecticut, had always wanted to be.

We spent that month together, with Chris's high school roommate and best friend, Dan, exploring the canyons and hills. Over that month, I came to better understand the complex character of my quiet friend.

Newly arrived at Colby, I sat in Lorimer Chapel and listened to President Bro Adams recite the impressive accomplishments of my new classmates. One had written speeches for a U.S. senator, others were valedictorians, and one had won a dogsled race. A few months later I found out the dogsledder was my friend Chris.

Over the next four years, I watched my friends grow and achieve. Chris would turn out to also be an incredible skier (he won a freestyle competition in Park City, Utah, shortly before

he died), a self-taught, virtuoso guitar player, a professional wakeboarding competitor, and a loyal friend.

Chris was the kind of person who wasn't just good at everything he did—he was amazing. He would score highlight-reel intramural soccer goals, learn songs on the guitar by ear after hearing them once, do back flips on skis and a wakeboard, write A-plus papers in a single sitting, cook elaborate feasts, and score breathtaking touchdowns in pickup football games.

For all his musical and athletic feats, Chris never liked to talk about himself or what he had done. His modesty was confounding at times and always admirable.

In March, a few days after the car crash on I-80 in Wyoming that took Chris's life, his family and a few of his friends gathered for a brief memorial in Rawlins, Wyoming. We recounted memories of Chris and recalled what he'd meant to us as a friend, son, or brother. The recurring theme was Chris's almost maniacal enthusiasm for life. He lived every moment as if it would be the basis for his soul's eternal judgment, though the only person he was ever out to impress was himself.

At the service and the ensuing dinner and party in his honor, we all agreed that the best way to honor Chris would be to try and live the way he did. Rather than talking about a goal, we would pursue and achieve it with unflagging perseverance, wild enthusiasm, and devastating style.

The only people for me are the mad ones—and Chris was as mad as they come.

Andy Orr '05
West Hartford, Conn.

define who you are and expand to who you could become. Even after a full year since graduation, I still have that urge to travel abroad and volunteer, but I know when the time comes it will eventually happen. It is never too late.

Jackie Dao '05
Washington D.C.

There is no doubt that the first year after college is an extremely difficult transitional period. It was hard for me to envision a world outside of Colby until I was no longer there, and even then, it took months for me to come to terms with the fact that it was over.

I highly recommend spending some time gathering yourself and your thoughts before you embark upon a career path or graduate school. Travel or just hang out

for a few months, but spend some time thinking about what you would like to be doing in a year. Also, keep in mind that every time you find something you don't like to do, you're one step closer to finding what you do like to do. Life after college may not be the totally consequence-free fun you remember from Colby, but it can be pretty awesome and rewarding. At least you still get weekends.

Dave Zohn '05
Boston, Mass.

Some Flashy Acclaim

Regarding the essay by Becky Munsterer '01 ("Wondering About Mr. Wonderful," spring 2006 *Colby*) I know for a fact that many a freshman boy lusted after Becky, driving around in her Plymouth Acclaim and drinking hot chocolate. She was, and still is, one hot ticket. You go, Miss Wonderful.

Abbie Parker '01
Portland, Maine

Letters Welcome

Colby welcomes your letters. Send them to Gerry Boyle, editor; *Colby* magazine; Office of Communications; 4181 Mayflower Hill; Waterville, ME 04901, or by e-mail to mag@colby.edu. Length should be limited to 300 words. *Colby* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.