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From the Hill

Neha Sud

Gerry Boyle

Robert Gillespie

Stephen Collins

Terror vs. Liberty

Goldfarb events consider balance of security and civil rights

NEHA SUD '05 STORY **BRIAN SPEER** PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

"There is a bomb ticking somewhere on Colby campus," annnounced Professor Kenneth Rodman during a policy workshop on terrorism. "You have arrested the person who planted the bomb, but he refuses to disclose its location. How many of you would torture the detainee to find out where the bomb is?"

After some hesitation, roughly half the students in the workshop raised their hands.

Rodman, the William R. Cotter Distinguished Teaching Professor of Government, posed a second question: "How many of you think that law enforcement officers will use torture?"

Immediately, the hands of all 20 participants shot up.

Rodman's questions marked the culmination of a series of events last semester titled "Fighting Terrorism: Ethical and Policy Dilemmas." Sponsored by Colby's Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement, the events ran intermittently from April 5 to April 15.

Since the Abu Ghraib prison scandal of last year, the question "what constitutes a justified response to terrorism?" has taken on particular urgency. According to Ariel Armony, assistant professor of government, the Goldfarb events were organized to illustrate the challenges of policy making in fighting terrorism.

"To provide complete protection from terrorism you can build a police state," Armony said. "But America is a democracy. As a democracy, we must provide effective protection from terrorism while sustaining and protecting civil liberties."

But where to strike the balance? Should laws be changed or ignored?

In his keynote address to the Goldfarb events, "Terrorism, Freedom, and Security," Philip Heymann, a Harvard Law School professor who served as a deputy U.S. attorney general in 1993 and 1994, focused on the necessity of responding to the terrorist threat in a manner consistent with the rule of law. He stressed that officials must be kept accountable to the system of criminal justice.

The conference's panel discussion, "Counterterrorism Tactics: Balancing Effective Policy and Human Rights," delved deeper into the policy dilemmas surrounding national security. The discussion featured four experts, all of whom agreed that coercive interrogation should never be the first resort. "The best way to get intelligence [regarding] terrorism is not to use torture but to find a source that provides continuing information," said Jack Devine, a 32-year veteran of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Rand Beers, who worked as a counterterrorism advisor to President George W. Bush before quitting in protest of White House policies, was pessimistic. "Today, guidance as to intelligence has become more muddy, and we don't have an oversight organization to rectify that," he said.

Joseph Saunders, deputy program director at Human Rights Watch, shared Beers's concerns about the culture of interrogation becoming looser. Saunders claimed, "we are facing a new kind of threat, but the greater danger is what we can do to ourselves more than what they do to us."

Margaret Crahan, professor of Latin American history at the City University of New York, advocated strengthening the international legal system in order to curtail the use of torture. "The issue needs to be transnational, and governments must be held accountable," she said.

In addition to national policy concerns about torture, the conference also featured events that broached the issue from a more personal perspective. Two plays written by Colby faculty members—"The Wretched," by Laura Chakravarty Box, assistant professor of theater and dance, and "All Pillows Are Soft," by Armony—were performed. Armony's play explored the moral quandary of a young nurse who discovers that the comatose patient in her charge is a former Argentinean lieutenant. The nurse then must decide whether to kill him.

The Goldfarb series ended with "The Ticking Bomb and Other Scenarios," Rodman's policy workshop. The workshop examined Israel's former interrogation policy of applying "moderate physical pressure," the only national policy to have sanctioned coercive interrogation in so-called "ticking bomb scenarios." Rodman divided students into three teams: the first defended the Shin Bet (Israel's internal security service), the second represented the moralistic concerns of human-rights advocates, and the third team acted as neutral judges questioning both teams.

The team representing Shin Bet argued that the terrorist threat had placed Israel in a state of "supreme emergency," thus justifying the use of "stress and duress" in order to elicit information. The human-rights advocacy team retorted that torture is a degrading and morally reprehensible act that must be prohibited under all circumstances. By the end of the workshop, students understood that the greatest dilemma of counterterrorism policy is the reconciliation of effective intelligence gathering with adherence to humanitarian norms.

As the international debate over torture has escalated, policy makers have struggled anew to find an alternative to extralegal coercive interrogation. A controversial idea proposed by civil libertarian and Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz recommends the legalization of torture to elicit information from terrorists. He believes torture is inevitable and will be used regardless of laws prohibiting it. Instead of being hypocritical, it is better to institutionalize torture by issuing warrants against specific individuals. The institutionalization of torture will ensure that its perpetrators are held legally accountable, he argues. There was little support at the conference for Dershowitz's radical proposition.

Meanwhile, this spring the U.S. Department of Defense drafted new guidelines for Army interrogation techniques and carried out criminal prosecutions in connection with Abu Ghraib.

Many experts believe these are cursory gestures. Critics maintain that the manner in which most threatened states have responded to terrorism has compromised the status of liberal democracies as humanitarian regimes. Some citizens of such democracies may themselves have moral scruples about using torture, but, as the response to Rodman's hypothetical question indicates, there appear to be few doubts that, for now, governments will continue to engage in such acts.

Q&A

POLITICAL CONSULTANT ERIK POTHOLM ON THE WAYS TELEVISION ADVERTISING DRIVES TODAY'S POLITICS

GERRY BOYLE '78 INTERVIEW **FRED FIELD** PHOTO

Erik Potholm '91 is a partner in the political advertising firm of Stevens, Reed, Curcio & Potholm, of Alexandria, Va. The company played a pivotal role in the 2004 presidential election when it represented Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, a group opposing Sen. John Kerry. Potholm grew up in and around Brunswick, where his father, Chris Potholm, is professor of government at Bowdoin. Erik Potholm spoke with Colby *about his career.*

I'm curious. Why Colby, not Bowdoin?
I grew up around Bowdoin and as a young kid obviously thought it was a great place and a beautiful school. But when I had that first visit up on Mayflower Hill I knew. I said, "This is the place for me."

And did you plunge right into the Government Department?
No, actually, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do. I think I may have actually been interested in economics at first, but I think my sophomore year I took a class with either Cal [Mackenzie] or Tony [Corrado] and I just said, "Oh, wow." And then I took one with Sandy [Maisel] and I just really loved it.

So what steered you toward the advertising end of politics?
When I graduated from Colby, in ninety-one, it was a tough economy. I ended up taking a job on a campaign. It was an issue campaign.

Which campaign was that?
This was the Maine Turnpike original widening referendum. I just became addicted to the campaign lifestyle, working long hours, the intensity. My side at the time had a lot of money, we were for the widening, and we outspent our opponents by quite a bit of money. But in the closing weeks, after coming home one night after a long day at the campaign office, my opposition came on with this very powerful and compelling TV spot. I knew right away how powerful it was. It hit all the right messages and all the right buttons and I had this sinking feeling in my stomach. I said, "We're in trouble." Sure enough, literally overnight the dynamics of the race changed, and they ended up beating us pretty soundly.

And that got you hooked?
I saw firsthand the power of political advertising, the power of TV. It can really make a difference. One of the people in that campaign said, "If you like what you're doing, you should check out this unique program at [George Washington University]."

So you did?
I went down there and it is a unique program in political management. I took a class on campaign advertising taught by one of the legends in this business, a guy named Doug Bailey, and also had a chance to take a class with the president of this firm, Greg Stevens. Once I was in those classes it was further confirmation that, boy, I love political campaigns, but what I really love is advertising and the role it plays. I landed here in 1994 and worked my way up every cycle and then eventually became a partner.

Was political advertising on television as influential then?
I think it was probably recognized, but it was probably recognized on the high-end races, meaning [U.S.] Senate races or governor races and big ballot measures. Today you're seeing even state senators and sheriffs running political ads. So there's much more prevalence now with the rise of cable TV. Smaller campaigns that wouldn't have in the past been able to afford broadcast TV can run some advertising in some capacity. And groups and parties have become more savvy to it as well. And sometimes the political parties are running ad campaigns on behalf of a slate of candidates, which really wasn't happening back in the early nineties.

And now a single ad that, as you say, hits all the buttons, can turn a race right around?
TV is just an incredibly powerful medium, and if you produce an ad that's compelling and relevant—and credible—it can be very effective in moving public opinion and moving voters. People are getting information these days from a variety of sources—the Internet or cable, radio—but, still, there's nothing that approaches the power and the reach of broadcast television. That's why if your campaign, your candidate, or your cause doesn't have the financial resources to be on TV in a significant way, and your opponent does, you're not going to be successful. It's really that simple. Campaigns that are outspent on TV usually don't win.

Your firm worked on the Swift-boat campaign. Were you involved?
I wasn't. One of my partners handled it and I'm familiar, obviously, with the success of it. A lot of people forget that when that group started off they had no money—they were going to hopefully get enough money to run some cable ads in D.C. And then, of course, it demonstrates the power of the national [news] media once different reporters and cable news networks started running those ads. So many thousands of people across the country saw it and logged on to the Web site—I think they actually ended up spending twenty-five million dollars on paid advertising, which certainly wasn't the plan in the beginning.

In campaigns that you work on, how do you come up with the message?
There's quite a bit of research that goes into the development of the advertising. Whether it's polling or focus groups, there's testing. What do we want to say about our campaign? What's the most effective thing that we can say? Who's the best messenger? That's a big part. I've done about eight successful ballot measures in Maine. Ironic as it sounds, I actually helped pass the [Maine] Turnpike widening in 1997. In that campaign we found out the best messengers were EMTs and fire chiefs and the best message was safety. I'm a big believer in spending a lot of time in pre-interviewing people, going out in the field and talking to a number of different messengers that could be considered for TV and deciding how they'd be received. Sometimes the real people can come up with things that are a lot better and much more effective than what we'd write, so using them in their own words as messengers can be very compelling.

What are you working on now?
It's funny. You finish the election and you've worked hard on different campaigns and suddenly you're back at square one. A lot of it right now is pitching and meeting with prospective clients. I've met people thinking of running for governor in Florida and Pennsylvania. We've had a number of meetings with gubernatorial candidates and senate candidates for campaigns beginning two years from now, and it always surprises me how early this process starts.

All political candidates?
There's also a trend where more and more corporations and trade associations are contacting firms like mine, looking for similar tactics. They're realizing that their bottom line or their market share may be impacted negatively by action here in Washington or in a state capital somewhere. So they're saying, "Wow, we need to use the same tactics the candidates are using. We've got to be fast. We've got to have a clear message." It's very different than a lot of the image-enhancing advertising that Madison Avenue firms do. They need a firm that can turn an ad around quickly, get out their messages. They also appreciate that we're very familiar with the target audience that they're going after because we spend a lot of time with those folks.

Is there anyone in particular you're working with now?
Corporations?

Yeah.
I think I could say to you—and they're very sensitive, obviously, of their public disclosure—that there's a number of companies that have contacted us. Upcoming telecom reform in Washington, medical liability, and other big issues here in D.C. Obviously Social Security is another example.

Do you think Social Security will be the biggest issue in the next year or so? In terms of issue campaigns?
Yeah, I think right now that Social Security is one of the biggest public affairs campaigns that D.C. will see since the Clinton healthcare fight.

The Chemistry of Nature

Colby alumni provide knowledge that could shape global environmental policy

ROBERT GILLESPIE STORY

Megan Melamed '00. Nate Boland '01. Jason St. Clair '00. Tim Bertram '00. Scientists all, they're working on big buzz projects.

Atmospheric chemist Megan Melamed, who's examining the movement of pollution from the Ohio Valley across the Northeast to Europe, is one of several recent alumni taking knowledge and training from Colby and making substantial contributions on the front lines of environmental research. Melamed studies emissions of ozone and aerosol precursors in plumes that rise high above Earth's surface.

Last summer a WP-3D airplane loaded with scientific instruments, Melamed's among them, flew from Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire into point source plumes from power plants and through regional plumes over Boston, New York City, and Alaskan wildfires, measuring different atmospheric pollutants—in Melamed's case, the ozone precursor nitrogen dioxide and the aerosol precursor sulphur dioxide, both precursors for acid rain. Her research, conducted for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aeronomy Laboratory in her hometown of Boulder, Colo., looks at how local pollution shapes regional and world air quality.

Melamed's instrument collects sunlight and scans the pollutants' bar code—it's just like the bar code on grocery store products. "I figure out how many molecules of pollutants are in the plume—you can calculate how much of that was released," said Melamed, a chemistry major with an environmental science concentration and now five years into a Ph.D. in the University of Colorado's environmental engineering department. Power plants have to say how much pollutant they've released, so their calculations and hers should match up.

She's also looked at other power plant plumes. Several in Texas were going to mandate reduction of emissions, "which would require tons of money to do," Melamed said, "but we proved that Houston was overestimating their discharge and that changing their emissions wouldn't affect air quality. But I'm not the pollution police. It's EPA's job. We try to stay out of policy. We make recommendations based on science."

Remember the problems with DDT and Freon? "A lot of environmental engineering today is thinking about how chemicals interact with the environment," said Nate Boland. Even before new chemicals are released, he wants to be able to predict adverse effects they may have in the environment.

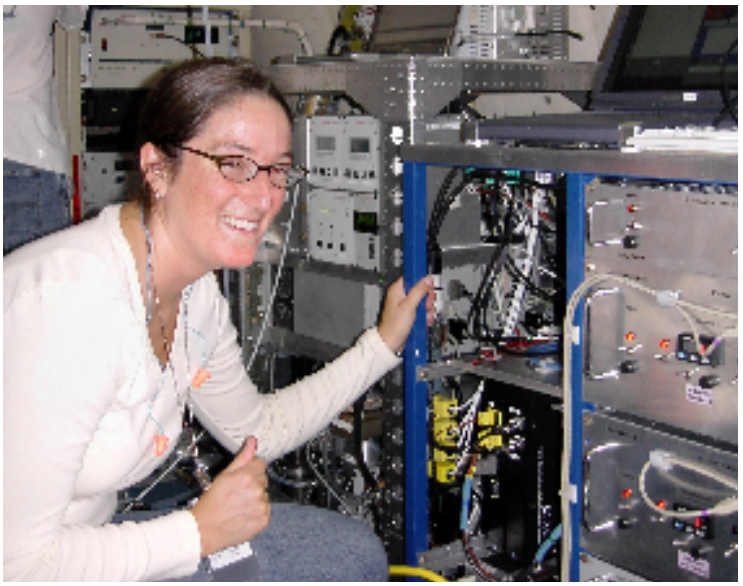
Boland's interested in the structure of chelating agents (chelating means "to bite into"), which are produced by plants (the vegetable kind) and by human synthetic organic chemistry for industrial cleaning, pesticides, herbicides, and the like. The chelating agents bite onto or bind with natural minerals in the environment such as metal oxides (rust) and with toxic metals like lead, nickel, and chromium. Some chelating agents, including synthetic organics, can re-dissolve the toxic metals. "If they're moving and end up in water supplies, that's a problem," Boland said.

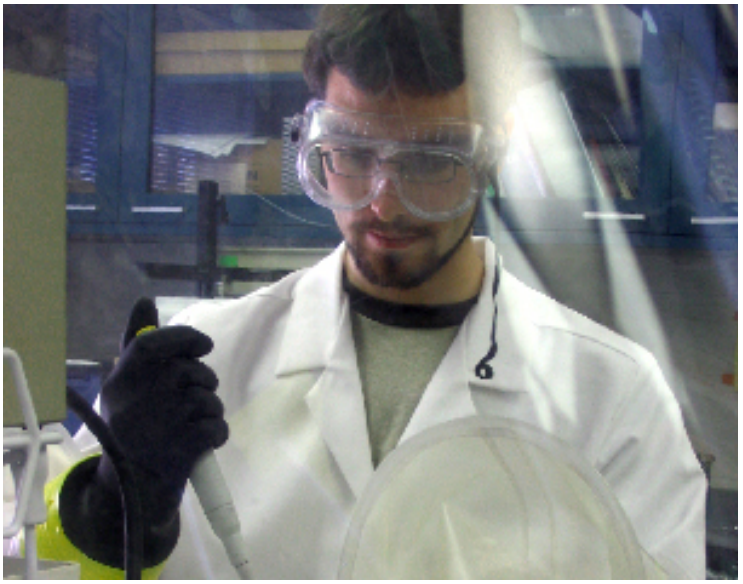
Fresh out of Colby, Boland joined Teach for America and taught chemistry for three years in a Baton Rouge, La., inner-city high school. One grant he lined up went toward water chemistry equipment. His students took water samples in a coastal bay, discovering how infiltration of saltwater into freshwater estuaries affects organisms that live there.

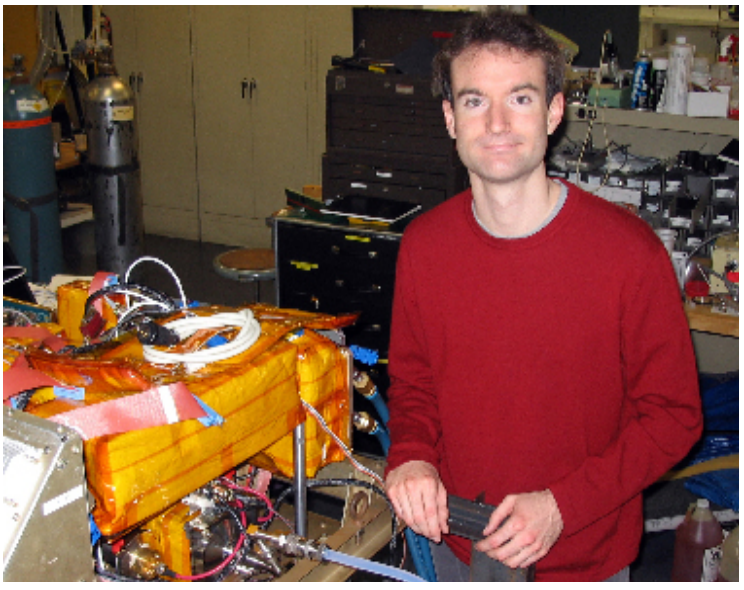
"That was huge. Kids got excited. They came back and taught their classmates how to do water tests," Boland said. Teaching is "still big in my heart and I miss it. I recognized I did love chemistry. It's cool," he said, though he has shifted focus slightly to do environmental chemistry in the context of environmental engineering in the department of geography and environmental engineering at Johns Hopkins. "But the bigger issues are educational."

Boland's long-term plan is to teach in a selective liberal arts college and to recruit students, especially African Americans and women, and get them excited about science and engineering.

The recipient of a prestigious National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship recently, Boland says his Colby professors helped him when he was looking for his career path. "The fact that I got my first job at Woods Hole really springboarded me to get to Colby," he said. "That experience made me stand out. I want to do the same things for my students."







Megan Melamed '00 (top), Nate Boland '01, and Jason St. Clair '00 are among a growing contingent of Colby scientists examining pollution and the chemistry of Earth's environment. Melamed is studying the movement of pollution from the Midwest; Boland studies the potential effects of new chemicals on the environment; St. Clair is examining ways the atmosphere will be affected by climate change.

Jason St. Clair is interested in "the whole water transport issue"—the convective transport processes that move "atmospheric species" such as water vapor and affect the warming and cooling of Earth's entire atmosphere. A warmer planet "may have stronger convection," he said, "like the water in a boiling pot of water turns over faster as the water gets hotter."

A fifth-year Ph.D. candidate in physical chemistry at Harvard, St. Clair is part of a varied group of scientists looking to understand the chemistry of the atmosphere and to predict how the atmosphere will be altered by climate change. On their most recent trip, a flight out of a former Air Force base near Houston to measure water vapor and isotopes, liquid water, and ice, they loaded their instruments into a specially equipped B-57, which can climb to 60,000 feet. "Then you cross your fingers and wait till the plane comes back," he said.

A summa cum laude chemistry major with minors in geology and math, St. Clair was interested in "doing science and doing something with a social benefit" and arrived at Harvard thinking he'd be a professor. "You can do a lot of good work," he said. But global warming involves "a lot of politics, which makes it interesting."

Climate-change skeptics—the fossil fuel industry in particular—need to be convinced about the effects of the CO_2 we're producing, St. Clair said. "The question is, at what point do you go proactive? What if we switched off fossil fuels? What's the cost of getting off? But we don't hear much about the cost of *not* getting off. Higher temperatures will affect agriculture. It's something to worry about."

The work being done by Colby scientists points to new trends in public policy. At least "that's the hope," according to St. Clair, whose group aims to launch a small satellite to accurately measure climate trends within 10 years.

Like Boland, Melamed, and other Colby alumni working in environmental science, "We're filling in the gaps," St. Clair said.

Clean Air

In a university lab in Berkeley, Calif., Tim Bertram '00 worries about the air quality of rural New England. Although pollution levels in San Francisco are troublesome, as in most urban areas across the country, Bertram knows that there are pastoral regions in the Northeast that have higher levels of smog than their metropolitan neighbors.

"I find it very alarming that these small communities who aren't responsible for this pollution are getting the short end of the stick," said Bertram, noting that urban emissions stream and sink into rural areas in and around Maine.

Bertram is finishing his fourth year as a doctoral student in chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley. Despite being on the opposite side of the country, he knows firsthand about the ozone that surrounds his undergraduate alma mater.

Read more of Sarah Toland '00's story about Tim Bertram's research at www.colby.edu/mag/bertram.

PARKER GOES WEST

IN *APPALOOSA*, SPENSER'S CREATOR, ROBERT B. PARKER, INTRODUCES ANOTHER AMERICAN HERO

ROBERT GILLESPIE STORY **FRED FIELD** PHOTO

Appaloosa, Robert B. Parker '54's new novel, transports us to the wild west. Just where in the west doesn't matter. It's the mythic west "that really exists only in movies and literature, in our collective imagination," Parker said in a recent telephone interview.

The hero, Virgil Cole, is the legendary gunfighter who consecrates his life to championing the law the moment he pins on a marshal's star. The aldermen of Appaloosa hire Cole and his sidekick, Everett Hitch, to take down a band of marauders who ride into town from a nearby spread, extorting vittles and whiskey, murdering and raping whenever they have a hankering. They're ranch-hands for Randall Bragg, "a spare man, wearing a black duster and a high-crowned black hat," whose imminent takeover of Appaloosa keeps the townfolk quaking in their boots.

Each one of *Appaloosa*'s 59 terse chapters puts a charge in one convention or another of the western: the lady of eastern refinement opposite the tart with a heart who understands men better than the lady (and better than men understand themselves); the timorous shopkeepers in the dusty, wind-blown town; the barred cells in the marshal's office; the Boston House Saloon where Cole plays poker and gunplay erupts; the dry washes where Cole and Hitch track kidnappers; a skirmish with Kiowa Indians. And, the inevitable confrontation of good and evil, the showdown in the street.

In the hills above town a wild Appaloosa stallion roams with his mares and foals, needing no other reason for being than to protect and preserve his herd. Cole needs no other reason for being than to assert six-gun law.

The best-selling author of 32 novels featuring Boston private eye Spenser, Parker acknowledges that Cole derives from the same archetype as the urban private eye—"the cowboy dismounted and moving gracefully through the streets of the city. . . . My doctoral dissertation was on the American hero, so I have all of this crap that I still know. *And I can't get rid of it!*" That delivered in gruff stage voice.

Virgil Cole, unlike the gregarious, sunny Spenser, is an inward, broody man of few words. In the western, inarticulateness bespeaks nobility, courage, a hard gemlike morality. That's why Everett Hitch, Cole's partner for 15 years and a gunhand with gumption, is qualified by his West Point education to be the voice intelligent enough to narrate the story. Like Nick Carraway on Gatsby in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (a novel Parker says he's almost never unaware of when he's writing), Hitch tells Cole's story because someone has to tell it for him. The hero can't speak of his own exploits; it'd be puffery and the ruin of his heroic stature and purity of purpose. Cole's unwavering stand on the law must be superhuman, and Hitch, though he witnesses events with an outsider's considerable insight, is the man of lesser stature who must underscore how magnificent, even eerily magical, the hero is.

The western may be simpler, Parker says, than the detective story. "I don't know that it's simpler to write, but the hero's actions are less circumscribed by the context. There're fewer people and more openness and space and fewer rules. That's part of its charm. The goodness and badness can be black-hatted and white-hatted." And the western, unlike the detective story, doesn't much rely on mystery. The western's appeal, Parker says, is "the isolation, the individuality, the outside-ness, the self-actualization through violence."

Appaloosa wins the triple crown for galloping pace, grand drama, crisp characterization. You're not about to bed down before finding out what happens in this familiar American fable. And it doesn't play out quite the way it always has.

When a train approaching town spooks the wild horses, the east is encroaching on the west. Bragg, reemerging with a presidential pardon, makes a power grab that now benefits the town—development of Appaloosa into the finest city between the Rockies and the Mississippi River. Cole makes possible a world that makes Cole irrelevant.

"When you read a western novel you know that that way of life is doomed," Parker said. "So there is something implicitly tragic in the western because it is a way of life that is passing as you read it." Whether Virgil Cole kills or is killed in a shootout, he's as done for as the western culture that made him.

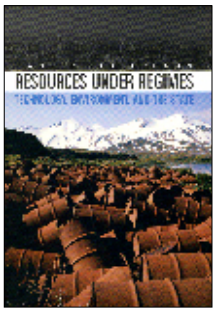
Appaloosa follows Parker's 2001 western, *Gunman's Rhapsody*, his version of the Earps' gunfight at the O.K. Corral. These days he's writing three books a year, one each on the adventures of his three series heroes, Sunny Randall, Jesse Stone, and Spenser, but he says he might mount up another western if *Appaloosa* sells well—or is made into a film.

One thing Parker does promise: he won't do science fiction.

RECENT RELEASES

Le Christ Peint
Le Cycle de la Passion dans les Chapelles Peintes des Etates de Savoie au XV Siecle
Véronique Plesch (art)
Societe Savoisienne d'Histoire et D'Archeologie
This book is the product of 20 years of interest in the art produced in small chapels in the Alps, in particular art from areas that in the 15th and 16th centuries were part of the Duchy of Savoy (today France, northern Italy, and Switzerland). Focusing on more than 40 pictorial cycles dedicated to the Passion of Christ, Le Christ Peint offers a detailed explanation of the scenes (and their relationship to the Gospels and to pictorial traditions) as well as the functions such cycles were meant to perform in the rural communities for which they were created. (In French)

Resources Under Regimes: Technology, Environment, and the State
Paul R. Josephson (history)
Harvard University Press (2005)



Societies share basic needs: clean air and water, a way to manage natural resources. In the industrialized and industrializing world, the responsibility to manage these resources falls to government—democratic and totalitarian, colonial and post-colonial. Josephson looks at the ways different states manage—or mismanage—natural resources. From the Three Gorges Dam to nuclear power to fish farming, the book explores ways government policies shape the way we live and the environment we must live with.

Recits des Antilles: Le Bois de la Soufriere
Adrianna Paliyenko (French and Italian)
L'Harmattan (2005)
The French Antilles captured the imagination of 19th-century author Anaïs Ségalas (1814-1893), whose mother, a white Creole, hailed from Haiti. Ségalas's poetic expression from *Les Algériennes* (1831) to *La Femme* (1847), coinciding with turning points in France's colonial history, favored the abolition of slavery but left undisturbed the idea of a superior race. This modern critical edition of Ségalas's popular novel, which saw eight printings, the first concurrent with the 1884 call for French colonial expansion into Africa and Asia, brings to light a striking reversal in her politics that mirrored the troubling racist culture of late 19th-century France. (In French)

Unrequited Love and Gay Latino Culture: What Have You Done to My Heart?
Daniel Contreras (English)
Palgrave Macmillan (2005)
A book about valuing the sensations of loss and melancholy and the longing to transform the painful into something meaningful. Contreras, drawing on art, theater, music, and literature, argues that unrequited love can be an experience of possibility and transformation.

Class Act

Cancer shows Dan "Mac" Lynch to be the ultimate team player

GERRY BOYLE STORY **BRIAN SPEER** PHOTO

It was by no means the first time Dan "Mac" Lynch '05 had been called a team player. An athlete since he was a young kid, the Pittsburgh resident had logged three years of Colby baseball, catching behind All-NESCAC catcher Eric Roy '04. The '05 season was to have been his year to step up—and in a way he did.

But this spring it was Professor Elizabeth Sagaser (English) who described Lynch as "a team player all the way." That's because Lynch, an English major, often went to Sagaser's poetry and theory seminar directly from undergoing intravenous chemotherapy. He made it clear that he didn't want to be treated differently from any other student, and he was an active and attentive participant in class, which, by the way, dealt with poetry's relationship to mortality and melancholia, among other things. Yet Lynch made a profound impression on Sagaser with his sense of humor, joie de vivre, and what she calls "his ability to not catastrophize."

Two weeks before the baseball season got underway, Lynch was diagnosed with testicular cancer (the same cancer that befell Lance Armstrong). With Lynch, the disease surfaced as what was first thought to be a possible muscle strain. Doctors looked closer and found not only a tumor but also evidence that the cancer had found its way to Lynch's lymph system. "It went from 'You'll miss two weeks of baseball,' to it being spread to another place," he said. "It happened so quickly."

Instead of a spring baseball trip to Florida, Lynch flew home. Head shaved, down 20 pounds, he spent the semester at Colby making trips to MaineGeneral Medical Center in Waterville for chemo.

But Lynch, who early on led younger players in pre-season workouts, continued to be part of the team, even after his illness was diagnosed. He caught in the bullpen for a time, came to practices even after he was too weak to participate. "Here he is, he's bald and he's losing weight and he's white as a ghost," said Coach Tom Dexter, "and he's excited about the team, offering input on drills. He's a class act—no question."

Instead of being behind the plate as the baseball season got underway, he took a seat in the stands, though he was kept on the roster and was welcome in the dugout. "I don't want to get in the way," he said.

Lynch's approach to his illness is so low-key that he spent most of an hour-long interview talking not about himself but about all of the people at Colby who have supported him. "He's such a non-complainer," Sagaser said.

She made sure she e-mailed him on weekends and several times during spring break, and she scheduled a few "Mac only" office hours so Lynch could catch up on anything he missed. They talked about travel, families, teaching, waiting on tables, Italian culture, surfing—and always baseball. English Department faculty, including assistant professors Daniel Contreras and Tilar Mazzeo, Professor Laurie Osborne, everybody in the Athletic Department—they were there for him throughout, too, he said. Teammates and friends have stood solidly by him, he said, including Shareen Abbasy '05 who, before Lynch's illness, survived her own bout with cancer at Colby (see editor's desk, p. 4). "Obviously I was really upset because I know how bad it is," Abbasy said. "But I was really glad I could be there if he wanted me to be."

And he did, along with the others who stood by him. "Without them, things would have been a lot worse," Lynch said.

But not as bad as what many people go through, he pointed out. For one, he was told early on that there was a 90 percent survival rate for his type and stage of cancer. And his body seemed to handle the chemo better than many—including his classmate Abbasy. For another, his hospital stays (the first in his life) showed him that there are countless people dealing with even worse cancers. "It's a pretty big eye-opener," he said. "The idea that anybody can get anything. I definitely thought, 'There's no way I can get this if I'm healthy.'

"A college athlete, going to Colby—I have a lot of things going for me and I've still got this disease. It definitely opened my eyes."

Lynch, who will teach and coach baseball and football at St. Thomas More School in Connecticut in the fall, opened a few eyes at Colby himself, as well.

Three Colby athletes joined the All-America ranks at the end of the spring season. **KIM JONES '05** was named to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association/US Lacrosse All-American Team as a defender. **ANNA KING '08** and **XAVIER GARCIA '05** each notched the honor at the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships, King with a seventh place in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and Garcia with his best-ever leap in the triple jump for sixth place (a school record). . . . **WOMEN'S LACROSSE** finished 11-5 and earned the fourth seed in the NESCAC playoffs, losing a tough quarterfinal game to Williams. The Mules were ranked as high as eighth nationally in Division III. Head coach **HEIDI GODOMSKY** got her 100th win, while midfielder **LAUREN BARRETT '08** was Co-NESCAC Rookie of the Year. . . . Two years after winning the school's first-ever NCAA team championship, **WOMEN'S CREW** returned to the NCAA meet in Sacramento, Calif., finishing sixth. . . . **MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK** saw **IAN LONDON '07** win the New England Division III Championship in the 1,500-meter. **JASON FOSTER '06** was a NESCAC champion in the hammer throw. For complete and updated spring season highlights, go to *Colby Online* at www.colby.edu/mag/sports_shorts.

This 'Hippie' Does Economics

Emilia Tjernström's knowledge of the system may be a boon to the environment

STEPHEN COLLINS '74 STORY **FRED FIELD** PHOTO

During the Friday afternoon session at the Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium in late April, a half-dozen students and four or five professors settle into the Hurd Room in Roberts to hear about an economics research project conducted in Morocco. Its title, "Satan Makes Me Spend My Money," is a quote from one of the subjects of the study, they learn. The paper's subtitle is "A Study of Street Children's Concept of Money and Economic Behavior, Tangiers, Morocco."

A couple of students in the audience wear neckties; one has on a blazer. Presenting, Emilia Tjernström '06 wears sandals and a floor-length skirt that could be North African. She launches into her PowerPoint presentation, which features photos of teenage boys at an educational farm as well as graphs that reflect the boys' attitudes toward money, resources, the future, notions of wealth, life in general—data that Tjernström collected in interviews in January.

It is evident from her talk that economics is just one lens through which Tjernström viewed the world when she studied in Morocco. And it's not surprising to learn, in an interview separate from the presentation, that the reason she chose an economics major isn't related to making a lot of money in finance when she graduates.

"[It] usually surprises people," she admitted, "because hippies aren't supposed to do economics." But as a young woman earnestly committed to social justice, she decided that "Economics *is* the system," she said. "You can't do anything about it unless you know the system." She zeroed in on environmental economics after a course with Mitchell Family Professor of Economics Tom Tietenberg. When it comes to environmental concerns, she said, "Markets on their own don't necessarily produce the best outcomes." So now she is interested in how to use economic markets to control pollution, for example.

Tjernström worked as Tietenberg's research assistant for the last two years helping to prepare new editions of two books, including *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*, the most widely used textbook in the field. His sabbatical this year, he said, "was much more productive for all the work she's done for me."

At a time when "all academic disciplines are becoming more specialized," Tietenberg said, "a lot of problems are beginning to overlap disciplines"—climate change as a case in point.

Increasingly, leaders in solving societal or global problems will be people who have a deep understanding in a particular area and can bridge gaps among disciplines, he said. "I think Emilia is certainly on that track."

Bringing that interdisciplinary curiosity and an analytical intensity to her study in Morocco, she talked about choices she has that the street children she worked alongside never will have. She observed that she doesn't take running water for granted anymore. She was clearly touched when, following a call to prayer, the boys worried about her and wanted to teach her how to pray. And she spoke about her desire to wring every last drop of opportunity from her time at Colby. What the College offers is not something that, if not fully taken advantage of, can easily be transferred to someone else, she has come to understand. "There's no such thing as conservation of privilege."

With one more year to go at Colby, Tjernström is anxious about what she may have to miss. "There are so many amazing people here—I just wish I could take so many more classes, in so many departments," she said. "You just can't do it all in four years. . . . I can think of another dozen majors I'd like to do."

You might guess from the umlaut in her name—though not from her American-inflected English—that Tjernström is from Sweden. Harder to pinpoint is where she'll pop up on campus. This spring she competed as a member of the very successful women's woodsmen's team at the same time she was organizing Colby's first Dialogue House—the Green House that will take over the Goddard-Hodgkins dorm, on Roberts Row, in 2005-06 with a serious environmental agenda (see article, p. 12). She also was the director of the 2005 International Extravaganza in April, managing 70 or 80 students who performed 21 acts.

She is president of the International Club, and since arriving at Colby, from Red Cross Nordic United World College, she has been an active member of the Movement for Social Justice, an issues-oriented umbrella for student activism. She was involved with the new Colby for Humanity group that sponsored a conference on genocide titled "Shadows of Rwanda" (see article, p. 28) and was involved in efforts to draw attention to the genocide in Darfur.

Back at the research symposium, Tjernström said that her conclusions after her study of street children as economic agents turned out to be a series of paradoxes. Socially the boys are on the margins if not outside of Moroccan society, but she saw the ways in which they are part of the society and aspire to achieve certain social norms. While some of their attitudes are childlike, the boys are mature beyond their years in other ways, having been forced to grow up quickly and to fend for themselves, Tjernström observed. Though the boys are independent and resourceful, they exhibit powerful solidarity and are willing to share anything they have with almost anyone. Most puzzling, she said, is a dynamic whereby making money in the streets is sufficiently easy that the boys' marginal status can't be explained simply as a function of meager income.

"To get children off the street will require changing their attitudes toward the future," she said. Quoting the director of the pedagogical farm where she worked with the boys, she said, "You can get the kid off the street, but it's hard to get the street out of the kid."

Bearing Witness

W.T. Mason watches as, after nearly 60 years, "the struggle continues"

GERRY BOYLE STORY **FRED FIELD** PHOTO

For the three students, it was meant to be an end-of-semester treat—a nice dinner at Waterville's Elmwood Hotel, a fancier alternative to the usual Colby hangouts.

"A little break, you know?" said Virginia attorney W. T. Mason '47, recalling that December evening in the hotel's Pine Tree Tavern. "We were talking. Didn't even notice that nobody was paying any attention to us. We'd been there twenty minutes and no waitress had come up."

The waitress continued to ignore them, and Mason, a senior from outside New York City—and an African American—figured out why. "It was perfectly apparent to me what was going on."

It soon became more than apparent as the hotel manager told the students that, in the interests of the white patrons, Mason could not be waited on in public. "We were told they had new management . . . and they weren't serving black people," recalled Donald Klein '47, one of two friends who accompanied Mason to the hotel that night.

The incensed students left the hotel—since razed but then located just down the street from the old campus—and returned to Colby to spread the word. A meeting was called in the chapel and throngs of students turned out. "The place was packed," Klein said. "Bill was very popular."

According to Klein, who went on to become a professor of psychiatry at Columbia, the plan was for the students to march to the hotel in protest. But then President J. Seelye Bixler, pronouncing the discrimination against Mason a terrible thing, also quoted the Bible: "Why beholdest the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Bixler, Klein said, was referring to discrimination by fraternities and sororities. "I don't know if that was his intent," he said, recalling the scene, "but it sure sabotaged everything we were trying."

Bixler did advise the organizers to return to the hotel and demand an explanation, Mason said. A tepid apology from the hotel manager followed, and it was printed in the *Echo* along with editorials and letters from around the state decrying racial discrimination.

Mason, who went on to a distinguished law career in Norfolk, Va., said he doesn't think of the Waterville incident often. "It was just a little blip," he said, in an interview in the library at his law office. "There were just so many other things that were a whole lot more important than that."

And Mason has lived through them.

A conversation with the venerable lawyer—still practicing law at 78— is like a survey course in the Civil Rights movement. At Howard University Law School, Mason was taught by trial lawyer James Nabrit Jr., an African American who successfully challenged the whites-only primary elections common in the South and led a court fight that knocked out the discriminatory poll tax in 13 states.

Mason witnessed the "Massive Resistance" movement in Virginia, a series of unprecedented (and ultimately illegal) legislative maneuvers taken as the state tried to sidestep the desegregation of schools ordered by the Supreme Court in the landmark case of Brown *v.* Board of Education (another Nabrit-led challenge).

As the first black assistant U.S. attorney appointed (by Attorney General Robert Kennedy) for the Eastern District of Virginia, Mason's own civil rights work often involved discrimination by the railroad industry. And while his nine-year stint as a federal lawyer prohibited much direct involvement in the desegregation battles in Norfolk in the 1960s, Mason's parents were major players.

But his introduction to the cutthroat business of legislating civil rights took place in the lily-white halls of the statehouse in Augusta, Maine.

Mason's path from Norfolk to Colby was a circuitous one. Refusing to allow her only son to attend segregated schools, his mother, a welfare administrator with a degree from the University of Chicago, moved with him to New York. His father, an immigrant from Trinidad who owned an insurance business in Norfolk, traveled back and forth while Mason went to school in Mt. Vernon, a suburb. "That was a prominent belief in many minority families," Mason said, "that education was the way out of this trap, this discriminatory situation. You just had to be better educated and know more and perform better. . . . There were people who had achieved and there were opportunities."

His first college experience was a stint at his dad's alma mater, Virginia Union University. With the student body decimated by the draft for World War II (Mason started college at 16 and wasn't eligible) and a dearth of pre-law courses, Union wasn't a good fit. Mason looked for a more suitable college and picked Colby.

He recalls being one of two or three African-American students on a campus where many students, including some from rural Maine, had never before met a minority. Mason enjoyed Colby and was on the *Echo* staff. "I hope that it provided a little educational background for some of my classmates," he said. "Some of them benefited, I'm sure. Others may not have been as open-minded, but if they weren't they kept it to themselves."

In fact, Mason didn't see blatant racial discrimination in Waterville until that night at the Elmwood. And while he briefly described the incident itself, it's the students' subsequent effort to bring an anti-discrimination statute to Maine that he recounts in detail.

Over Christmas break, the students—Jean Whiston '47, Shirley Lloyd '47, Donald Klein '47, Burt Krumholz '48, and others—got organized. Whiston went to the offices of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund in New York City, met with then-NAACP general counsel (and future Supreme Court justice) Thurgood Marshall. Whiston, who went on to a career in journalism, is deceased, but the *Echo* reported that Marshall was enthusiastic about the Colby group's efforts.

Whiston came away with a model public accommodations statute. She returned to Maine and, rebuffed by a local legislator, the group made several trips to Augusta to find someone to introduce the statute as a bill. One legislator—the only woman in the State Senate—agreed, and the statute, tacked on as an amendment to a law prohibiting discrimination against veterans, went to committee.

"It became perfectly apparent to us that a group of five or ten students coming down to the committee hearing was not going to be a big help," Mason said. "So we divided up and we went to various cities and towns and we talked. We'd get sponsored by the League of Women Voters or we'd get sponsored by a church group. We didn't have a car so we'd take the bus. . . .

"So when they had the hearing, the room was packed. It was standing room only, not just from Waterville but from around the state. About two or three of the blacks who lived in the state also showed up. They were voters. None of us voted; we weren't old enough."

The students stood in the back of the room and watched as speaker after speaker stood to praise the bill. "I don't recall anybody speaking against it," Mason said. "But we didn't know what was going on behind the scenes. You see, we were pretty new at the whole legislative process."

And the public part was only the tip of the iceberg. It turned out that the hotel lobby was determinedly opposing the amendment behind the scenes. When the committee reported out, it tabled the bill, 7-3. The bill was dead.

"You know why they opposed it?" Mason said. "They didn't want to take Jews [in their hotels]. They didn't have to worry about blacks. This was the 1940s, right after the war. There weren't that many blacks who had any interest in vacationing in Maine, and the numbers who could afford it were so few."

Was his group disappointed? "Sure," Mason said. "We worked very hard."

He recounts the experience matter of factly, perhaps because of his philosophical nature, but also because of the long view he takes of the Civil Rights movement. In that context the Elmwood Hotel incident pales in comparison to the tribulations of others caught in the throes of racial discrimination, as a driving tour of Norfolk with Mason demonstrated.

Navigating the city behind the wheel of a minivan, dressed meticulously in a brown suit with a Norfolk State University lapel pin, Mason spoke of the 17 black children who enrolled in white public schools in Norfolk, only to see the city close the schools rather than let them attend. Mason's mother, Vivian Carter Mason, entered the fray. Her son pointed out the church where she started a school for the 17 to continue their education while the matter went through the courts. Ultimately, both white and black parents sued to have the schools reopened, allowing the 17 to attend. Mason's mother was among the activists who met with the children after each school day. "They didn't want to leave these kids out there with the feeling that the whole battle was only theirs," he said.

Mason pointed out the locations of banks formed for African Americans only to be closed by regulators who didn't want competition for white-owned financial institutions. He drove past what had been Norfolk Community Hospital, opened because the burgeoning ranks of African-American physicians weren't welcomed at white hospitals.

There still is concern about integration of faculty in the area's schools, with the best black teachers recruited to teach at white schools in Norfolk, Mason said. And housing prices and location of schools are contributing to what some see as a troubling trend toward resegregation.

"It's very interesting," Mason said, nearly 60 years after a hotel manager in Maine refused to serve him dinner. "The struggle continues."

Alumni of Color Form Network

Colby's Office of Alumni Relations, with Dimitri Michaud '03 and LeAndrew Rankin '03, has created an alumni of color network. With about 70 alumni already taking part, the AOCN will offer speakers, mentoring, and networking opportunities. The first AOCN panel was held on campus April 8, with more sessions planned. Margaret Viens '77, director of alumni relations (alumni@colby.edu), welcomes suggestions. Read more online at www.colby.edu/alumni/clubs/aocn.