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Readers Write

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"Early Years" Is for Toddlers

The last issue of Colby magazine (summer '99) arrived here about a week ago. Ed [the Rev. Edwin H. Shuman '38] and I have very much enjoyed reading the various articles and features. However, when we turned to the section called Alumni at Large, we were appalled to discover that anyone who graduated before 1940 was non-existent, with the exception of Newsmaker Ray Farnham '36 and a long list of alumni who had died.

Do people at Colby think that anyone over 80 years of age does nothing except sit in a rocking chair and ruminate? . . .

Why did someone have to lump the 50-Plus group into "The Early Years" just as if we were toddlers again?

Sorry to be complaining but it troubles me greatly that Colby has apparently not realized that our generation is living longer and doing more than ever before, even if a little more slowly!

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Ill health has forced Fletcher Eaton '39 to suspend his duties as correspondent for the classes of 1939 and before. News of those classes may be submitted directly to Associate Director of Alumni Relations Meg Bernier '81 in the Alumni Office, Colby College, Waterville ME 04901. Please also send suggestions for renaming "The Early Years," and we'll adopt the best one.



The coat in question.

On Diversity

I am writing regarding a recent event that occurred at Colby that appeared in the most recent Colby alumni magazine. It is quite obvious that Colby continues to struggle with the same issues of "diversity" and "race" that plagued the school when I was a student (1986-91). It is disappointing to see that the same liberal rhetoric and indoctrination that was foisted upon my classmates and me is still alive and well on Mayflower Hill. . . .

While I detest racism in any form, I don't believe that the College has any right to provide "diversity training" to any of its students or faculty. If there are issues that trouble any group of students at the college then the college has a responsibility to provide adequate forums for the students and faculty members to exchange ideas and discuss these prominent issues. The College should not endeavor to regulate or legislate what students can and cannot say and think. If there are racists among the student body, then they should be disciplined appropriately. This Orwellian phrase "diversity training" is merely a way to restrict freedom of expression and speech. . . .

I think that it is time for Colby College to take a leadership role to teach its students the qualities that all human beings share and that are common to all races and religions. Instead of focussing on "diversity" and the qualities that make the student body different, why can't the protesters focus on the qualities

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In the Trenches

I enjoyed the article "Charlie Bassett and his trademark trenchcoat prepare to leave Colby." I certainly wish him well in his future adventures. He sounds like my kind of guy. As a lifelong haberdasher, I wonder if I might be permitted a minor quibble. (And I know that Pacy and Ludy are looking over my shoulder as I type this.) The coat that you give a full-page color photo to under the title "Hanging It Up" may indeed be Charlie's trademark, but it most assuredly is not a trenchcoat.

Greg Thomajan '58
Boston, Mass.

Colby

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