

Colby



Colby Magazine

Volume 88
Issue 4 *Fall 1999*

Article 5

October 1999

Periscope

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Recommended Citation

(1999) "Periscope," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 88 : Iss. 4 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol88/iss4/5>

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By Earl Smith

Colby Is 18th

The unhealthy emphasis on college rankings aside, Colby folks will be pleased that the College held close to last year's placement among *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of the "Best National Liberal Arts Colleges." Colby was tied for 18th, after being 17th in 1998. Bowdoin dropped two places to 9th; Bates, four places, to 23rd. Other NESCAC schools are Amherst 2nd, Williams 3rd, Middlebury 5th, Wesleyan 10th, Trinity 22nd and Connecticut College 25th.

Best of Web

Colby's Seaverns Bookstore Web site was rated the #1 site by AltaVista for folks searching for Maine books. While most companies pay to have their sites listed that high, **Bruce Barnard** and company just work to have a great selection, excellent response for searches and quality customer service. Much of the credit goes to **Barb Shutt**, book division manager and Web guru.

Best Buy

The September *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks the "Top 100 Values in Private Colleges," and Colby is 77th. Not all the NESCAC schools made the list. Those that did include Amherst 6th, Williams 27th, Middlebury 43rd, Tufts 51st, Bowdoin 61st, Colby 77th, Bates and Hamilton (tied) 84th and Trinity 88th.

Boost for Books

Colby's summer Great Books Institute got even more famous with some fine publicity in Arthur Frommer's syndicated column, "Budget Travel." The first half of a July column (in *The New York Daily News* and elsewhere) was a glowing recommendation for Colby's program that concluded, "Anyone who treasures ideas should come away with a refreshed set of perspectives."



We Teach

In July the Sunday *New York Times* reported that "After years of shying away from the field, a growing number of college students, including those from elite liberal arts colleges, now say they want to be schoolteachers." In that article, **Mark Tappan** (education) said, "In the last 10 years, the number of students in Colby College's education and human development program has doubled, to almost 100."

Long Peddle

The Randolph (Vt.) *Herald* reported June 17 that **Blakeney Sanford '01** passed through, headed for the coast. The West Coast, that is. Sanford and Jacob Grant, both Californians, were riding 4,500 miles from right to left and raised more than \$3,000 for the Environmental Council in Santa Barbara. A Vermonter told them that if you flatten the Green Mountains, Vermont is as large as Texas. Having pedaled up several of them, the pair was inclined to believe it. Meanwhile, coming east from San Francisco on a bike, **A.J. Wall III '99** of Belgrade, Maine, kept us up to date with published dispatches each weekend in the *Central Maine Morning Sentinel*.

Beetle Bob

Bob Nelson (geology) is quoted at length in an article

about fireflies in the July *Down East* magazine. *Down East* tapped his knowledge—not of rocks but of beetles (which is what fireflies are). Explaining the function of firefly flashes, Bob said, "It's an internal biochemical process used principally by females to attract males." Sometimes it's an amorous come-on; sometimes it's to attract males of another species. "They'll come flying in," he said, "and the female will eat them."

Debra's Dust-Up

Some Boston College officials were upset with **Debra Campbell** (religious studies), quoted in the June 14 issue of *People* magazine in an article about the dismissal of that school's controversial faculty member **Mary Daly**. "Boston College's claims to fame are Mary Daly and the football team," quipped Debra, who

teaches a course on Daly. The *People* article was prompted by a court ruling supporting BC's decision to force the tenured associate professor to retire as a result of her persistence in refusing to teach men and women in the same class. Daly teaches both men and women, but separately.

Discover Colby's Back Yard

Two of **Russ Cole's** biology students, **Darcy Cornell** and **Rachel Palmer**, both '99 grads, have written a splendid guide to the Colby nature trail. The illustrated booklet introduces elementary schoolchildren to basic ecology through hands-on activities, and youngsters who visit the Museum of Art get a copy.

What's Brewing?

Four recent Colby grads, who among them have degrees in biochemistry, molecular biology, physics and economics, started the Coastal Extreme Brewing Co. in Middletown, R.I., and their first batch of Newport Storm Amber Ale was to ship this summer. In May an Associated Press story about **Derek Luke '98**, **Will Rafferty '97**, **Brent Ryan '97** and **Mark Sinclair '97** began: "Four college buddies and a consuming passion for beer might sound like a formula for disaster. But to the young men toiling away in a shop at the Middletown Tradesman Center, it's a business plan."

Moosecellaneous

Charlie Bassett's warm puss was on page one of the July 16 *Chronicle of Higher Education*; he was featured among other revered U.S. college professors who retired this year. A truly wonderful article on Charlie leads an inside section titled *Wrapping Up Scholarly Careers*. . . . Colby's and **Jim Wescott's** men's cross country team continues to boast the highest of collective GPA's, with the squad posting a 3.574 to finish third (behind Hobart and St. Mary's University) among all of the nation's Division III schools. . . . **Janice Kassman** was recently asked by the Smith College trustees to travel to New York and meet with them to discuss Colby's residential life program. . . . **Tamae Prindle** (East Asian studies) has been re-elected president of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association of New England (JLTA-New England).