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From the Hill

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Give That Fellow A Hand
White House, senator intervene to get Colby lecturer Ahmed out of Pakistan

By Stephen Collins ‘74

Aided by White House involvement and the intervention of a U.S. senator, Colby’s first Oak Human Rights Fellow, detained journalist Zafaryab Ahmed, received special permit early in December to leave his native Pakistan. After months of frustration trying to get Ahmed to Maine, the College got his case raised at the highest level—a state visit to Washington by Pakistan’s Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, in early December. On December 15 Ahmed arrived on Mayflower Hill.

Ahmed was supposed to arrive in August to begin the inaugural fellowship of the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights. Having been charged with treason for his human rights work, though, he remains on Pakistan’s Exit Control List, and despite the pleas of private, diplomatic and non-governmental organizations he has been unable to leave his country legally.

That changed December 2 when President Bill Cotter learned from Senator Tom Harkin’s (D-Iowa) office that Pakistan had granted Ahmed permission to travel for 90 days. “Rosemary Gutierrez from Senator Harkin’s office called me to say that the senator personally handed my letter to the Pakistani prime minister,” Cotter reported. “Senator Harkin reminded the prime minister that he (Harkin) had helped get the prime minister’s brother off of the same ‘Exit Control List’ when [Benazir] Bhutto was prime minister. The Prime Minister’s brother, who was in the room, smiled and said he well remembered.”

David Leavy ’92, a special assistant to President Bill Clinton and spokesman for the National Security Council, also pushed the matter onto the White House agenda, and Cotter received word of the provisional travel permission that afternoon.

As Colby officials scrambled in the second week of December to make arrangements for Ahmed’s arrival, the victory celebration was tempered by several troubling conditions that came to light. Oak Institute Director Kenneth Rodman, professor of government, said, “We’re happy that the Pakistani government has offered this waiver, but it carries some conditions that are very unfair.” He said he was still trying to negotiate the terms of the waiver. Ahmed’s passport was still in government custody and visas had not been issued when the 90-day window began, and the waiver put future restriction on Ahmed’s travel as well.

Eliza Denoeux, associate director of the Oak Institute, said the apparent breakthrough was the result of persistence by individuals who worked through the fall on Ahmed’s behalf. Denoeux credited Maine Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe and their staffs (including Mark Adelman ’97, director of correspondence for Senator Snowe) for consistent help over the last six months. She said several State Department officials had quietly worked long and hard on the problem and non-governmental organizations including the Committee to Protect Journalists, Amnesty International and the Journalist Resource Center in Lahore, Pakistan, also contributed.

Walesa Seeks ‘A Century of Solidarity’

Lech Walesa, the shipyard electrician and Solidarity labor leader who became Poland’s first democratically elected president, held the rapt attention of an overflow crowd in Cotter Union on December 7. Speaking through interpreter Magda Iwierska, Walesa said a “century of crime and hatred,” which saw tragedies on the scale of the Holocaust and Stalinism, is giving way to what he hopes will be “a century of solidarity,” featuring pluralism, open borders and the opportunity for stable peace.

Asked about the legacy of communism in Poland he said, “Polish communists were just like radishes. They were red only on the outside.”

Walesa’s appearance generated the largest audience of any speaker in recent years. When the Page Commons Room was full, students jammed into the Fishbowl, Lovejoy 100 and various other campus locations to watch Walesa’s speech on closed circuit television.
The Colby community has provided an outpouring of support for the family of Rosamond L.L. Huntoon '01, who suffered serious injuries following a fall from her third-floor bedroom window in Dana Hall on October 15. The 19-year-old sophomore, known on campus as Lindsey, fell at approximately 4:45 a.m., according to police and rescue officials.

On the night of the accident, Huntoon reportedly attended an off-campus party and returned to her room at around 2 a.m. She talked to her roommate and went to bed, which was located adjacent to the window. Investigators found the window screen in the raised position after Huntoon's fall. She incurred internal injuries and fractures and sustained a severe head injury, which induced a coma.

Residents of Dana awakened by the commotion rushed to Huntoon's aid. At least two of the students immediately on the scene were members of Colby Emergency Response. Huntoon was taken to MaineGeneral Medical Center, where she spent 17 days in the critical care unit.

Her parents said they received "extraordinary, spontaneous support" from Colby students while staying with her at MaineGeneral. Christopher Huntoon, her father, said, "The entire rugby team was there when we arrived. Lindsey is extremely fond of all her teammates and it was obvious to me why. Her room was filled with flowers and posters made by her friends."

More than 700 students attended an interfaith prayer vigil on October 27 for Huntoon, who remains at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston, close to her Wenham, Mass., home. Spaulding is regarded as one of the best facilities in the country for treatment of brain injuries. While showing small signs of improvement, Huntoon had not yet regained consciousness early in December, according to her parents.

A 22-year-old student was arrested 13 hours after the accident on charges of providing alcohol to minors and providing a place for minors to consume alcohol. He was released on his own recognizance and pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in early December.

In a letter to the Colby community, President Bill Cotter said that "every segment of the campus, especially students, must draw together, reflect on what has happened, and resolve, individually and collectively, to keep students and others from the terrible harm that can come from the inappropriate and excessive use of alcohol."

Alcohol-related issues already were being debated among students and administrators prior to the accident because of a spate of summonses handed out by investigators from the Maine Bureau of Liquor Enforcement during the first three weeks of school. Huntoon's accident, combined with the MBLE crackdown on underage drinking, has heightened awareness and a sense of responsibility, say students. Many student party hosts are choosing to hold parties in groups to increase their ability to supervise. Also, a new rule approved this fall by the Student Government Association calls for a $250 fine for any person caught outside of a designated party space with an open alcohol container.

A Swing Around the Campus

It isn't exactly Pebble Beach, but there is no shortage of exotic challenges on the Colby Golf Course. And it has hazards the greatest course designer never imagined—buildings, for example.

Campus golf—typically played with a tennis ball, a driver and a putter—has been around informally for years, but this year I-Play got serious (if that's the right word), producing a playing manual complete with photos of each hole and tips on how to approach them.

Designer Jake Conklin '00 used peculiar features of the campus to create a mixture of playability and gorgeousness. On the par 4 fifth hole, for example, golfers tee off from the gate between East and West Quad and finish by hitting the dumpster behind Miller Library. A major impediment to completing the hole is that a car could run over your ball as it rolls across the semi-circular driveway.

Traffic also comes into play on number 13, which traverses the quadrangle below the library, crosses Mayflower Hill Drive and ends at the steps of the Lunder House, where unsuspecting recruits and their parents present additional concerns.

The signature hole is 18, a par 5 that tees off next to the statue on the Bixler patio, passes under the Arey-Keyes walkway and finishes at the flagpole in the center of the campus. The course description is mute on what constitutes "out of bounds," so our advice to campus pedestrians is the same advice golf instructors give to their pupils: Keep your head down.
The Alfonds Give Again

Philanthropists Harold and Dorothy "Bibby" Alfond have made another major gift to Colby—$2.5 million for the construction of a new on-campus apartment complex for College seniors.

Under construction since last spring, the Harold and Bibby Alfond Residence Complex will open for next year's fall semester. The apartments are an integral component of a $40-million plan to upgrade residence halls and reconfigure campus housing.

This gift is the latest in the Alfonds' long history of support to Colby totaling more than $6 million since 1950. They earlier funded the Alfond Ice Arena, the Alfond Arcade in the Bixler Art and Music Center and the Alfond Lounge in the Easts Administration Building. Their challenge grants helped the College build an all-weather track and a sports medicine facility. After a fire caused extensive damage to Wadsworth Gymnasium, the Alfonds donated $3 million that helped repair and renovate the athletic complex and added new locker rooms and a fitness center. The sports complex was renamed The Harold Alfond Athletic Center in 1994. Their philanthropy at Colby also extends to scholarships, endowments and other gifts.

Harold Alfond, a successful businessman who was the founder of Dexter Shoe Company, is still part-owner of the Boston Red Sox. Mrs. Alfond was a member of the Class of 1938 at Colby, and the College gave Mr. Alfond an honorary doctorate in 1980. Their son William graduated from Colby in 1972 and granddaughter Jennifer graduated in 1992.

Alida Camp, Beloved Student Advocate, Dies At 89

Alida Milliken Camp, a Colby trustee since 1964 and a beloved advocate for students, died at her home in Blue Hill, Maine, on September 19. She was 89.

Famous for her generosity—Camp's financial support to Colby as well as a handful of other colleges, preparatory schools and charities totaled millions of dollars—she was a favorite among Colby student leaders who occasionally were treated to sailing trips on her boat, Thistledown.

Sailing was her passion from an early age. She once told a reporter that her earliest memory was "standing with my father at the tiller." Shannon Baker '98, former president of the Student Government Association, recalled in an Echo article that Camp carried photos of her boat in her wallet and would produce them to share with other people show pictures of their children.

Camp's involvement with Colby began when her husband, Fredric, was named to the College's Board of Trustees in 1941. Fredric Camp died in 1963 and Alida replaced him on the board. She was named a life member of the board in 1985. In 1979 the College awarded her an honorary degree and in 1989 she received the Marriner Distinguished Service Award.

"Although she was a member of a number of trustee committees through the years, there is no doubt that she was most satisfied by her long service on the Student Affairs Committee, where each generation of student leaders came to know her well and unfailingly looked forward to trustee meetings for the chance to renew friendships with her," said President Bill Cotter in his memorial tribute to Camp. "Her interest in the lives of these young people was matched only by the respect and affection they held for her," added Larry Pugh '56, chair of the board.

Her husband's death, from multiple sclerosis, was the impetus for her long and deep involvement in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, an organization she helped establish. It was one of many non-profit organizations she supported for more than a half a century. She was one of the bulwarks and a long-time board member at the College of the Atlantic, and she was a strong supporter of her alma mater—the Brearley School in New York, Milton Academy and Smith College—as well as Blue Hill schools. George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill dedicated its library in her honor when the building opened in 1992.

Born in 1908 in New York City to Dr. Seth M. Milliken and Alida Leese Milliken, Camp spent every summer of her life in East Blue Hill.

She is survived by five adopted children, Nicholas R. Camp of Carmel, Maine; Susan C. Schewe of Lecanto, Fla.; Donnell Camp of South Londonderry, Vt.; Catherine C. Lund of Groton, Mass.; and William M. Boardman of Woodstock, Vt.; as well as by 14 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Two brothers, Minot K. Milliken of New York City and John F. Milliken of Pittsboro, N.C., also survive her.
Watts Happening

Now it can be stated quite literally: Colby has power.

One year after the Great Ice Storm of '98 crippled Maine's electrical grid for almost two weeks, Colby's physical plant personnel charged with keeping the campus running in the event of a power outage can breathe easier.

Although the storm was viewed as an anomalous event caused by the peculiar influence of El Niño, but it pointed out where Colby was vulnerable, says Doug Terp '84, director of personnel. In response, Colby reviewed its emergency preparedness and developed a far-reaching and acutely detailed crisis management plan to deal with a prolonged power failure.

The biggest asset in Colby's strategy is a new, campus-based generator that uses excess steam from the College's steam plant and converts it to electricity—a practice known as co-generation.

Plans for generating electricity with the excess steam to reduce the amount of power bought from Central Maine Power Company had been discussed for a couple of years. The co-generation unit will pay for itself in less than five years, mechanical services supervisor Gus Libby said. Gross savings would average about $157,000 in the first two years of its operation, according to figures provided by Libby.

The co-generator's value as an emergency power supply is important, too. Since campus electrical service and steam pipes all run underground, they are immune to ice storms and falling trees. With the new generation system in place, says Terp, Colby can effectively operate about 60 percent of the campus without external power supplies. Cut off from the state's power grid, the steam plant and its co-generator could electrify residence halls, including at least one dining hall. The co-generation system also provides enough supplementary power to keep telephones operating on campus, which wasn't possible under the old plan that relied on the fuel-powered generator, Terp says. Climate control systems that protect artwork in the museum and sensitive equipment in the science complex would be kept operating as well.

The old crisis plan called for students to be moved into the Roberts Building, the field house, and the sciences buildings in the event of a power outage on campus. "We could have kept students warm, dry and fed but not much else," Terp said.

Now, even in the worst-case scenario, in which the campus is cut off from Central Maine Power supplies for an indefinite period, the College could keep students comfortable in their rooms and could operate critical functions. "We can't run the entire campus," Terp said, "but we are in a position now to protect the safety and welfare of students and protect College property, which were our top two priorities when developing the new plan."

A Felicitous Example

The new hit Warner Brothers television series, Felicity, has a Colby influence.

Scott Foley, who stars as Noel, Felicity's love interest, patterns his character after his brother, Sean Foley, a Colby senior. Scott told the Daily Dish, an online entertainment site, that his brother, a resident advisor in Mitchell Hall, provides the inspiration for Noel, an R.A. at the fictional University of New York. "Sean has been an R.A. for years," Scott said. "I used his mannerisms, his speech patterns ... all that stuff helps me become Noel."

So far Scott has not consulted Sean about the intricacies of life as an R.A. Nevertheless, Sean says, big brother is doing okay with the role. "His character seems to care about the students in his hall. I think he's doing a good job."

Sean says he has taken some good-natured teasing about his brother's appearance in the show, but he is enjoying Scott's success. "I'm excited about it, my family is excited about it and my friends are excited about it," he said.

wit and wisdom

"In the real world there are a lot of idiots."
Mike Yunes '95, to an Echo reporter during Homecoming, comparing life at Colby to that in the "real world."

"God does not take a position on the balancing of the American budget."
R. Laurence Moore, professor of American studies at Cornell University, at a Spotlight Event, on why religion and matters of state should be kept separate.

"She's a woman of dignity in a Jerry Springer world."
Jane Moss (women's studies and French), a Wesleyan College classmate of Hillary Rodham Clinton, during an interview with The Boston Globe, on the first lady's response to the Monica Lewinsky scandal.