

# Colby



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## From the Hill

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## Shelter From The Storm

Colby weathers the Great Ice Storm of '98

By Sally Baker

All Colby departments got the call on January 8. It was Personnel Director Doug Terp '84, and the question was: Do you know where your employees are? The College needed to know, he said, that everyone was safe.

That was typical of Colby's response to the ice storm that devastated most of Maine and parts of northern New York and New England and southeastern Canada during the first full week in January. The storm left millions of people—including two-thirds of those in Maine—without power for periods ranging from hours to weeks. It damaged or destroyed thousands of trees, eliminated telephone service for hundreds of thousands and put a premium on all sources of heat and light: wood, kerosene heaters, camp stoves, batteries, candles and generators. L.L. Bean and others even had to donate warm clothing for the hundreds of out-of-state utility workers who flocked to Maine to work 18-hour days in sub-zero temperatures.

Colby, one of the few places



BRIAN SPEER

The willows around Johnson Pond are one illustration of the effects of the storm across Maine.

in the state that never lost electricity, served as an emergency shelter for people from all over the region. The request came from the mayor's office on Thursday, January 8, and the first people began arriving that morning to find Terp, Athletic Director Dick Whitmore and a few others setting up tables and chairs in the field house. Beginning that day and continuing through lunch a week later,

the facility housed hundreds of people who could not keep warm and fed in their homes. They slept on mattresses Colby happened to have in storage, on Army cots and on mats from Colby's aerobics center and gym. And they ate hundreds of pounds of food donated by the College, prepared by employees of Sodexo, Colby's food-service contractor, and served by Colby dining services work-

ers and volunteers from the community and the College.

Colby's effort was coordinated by Terp, who also was a force behind an emergency plan the College has had in place for two years—a plan that meant Colby could respond to the crisis promptly, efficiently and meaningfully. The students came first, of course, and there was a contingency for taking care of them in the event of a campus power

### Assessing the Damage

Keith Stockford, Colby's grounds and moving supervisor, says he won't know the extent of the damage the ice storm caused to the campus until at least July. By press time he had already tagged about 30 trees for removal, and his crews have begun "corrective pruning" on many others. "They'll grow nicely," Stockford said. "We'll get them looking good."

In the storm's immediate aftermath, Stockford brought in a commercial tree company for seven days to help remove upwards of 250 hazardous "hangers"—branches that could fall on walkways and parking lots. Between those and the branches taken down by the storm itself, about 15 pulp-truck loads of wood have been removed from the campus.

Stockford and his crews put in several 12- to 14-hour days to recover from the storm and to deal with two more storms within the next 10 days. "Thanks to the electrical department," which provided emergency heating and plumbing services to some employees' homes, "a lot of us could breathe easier. We really had to concentrate to get this job done, and it helped that our minds could be here, instead of at home."

Two weeks after the storm, preparing for yet another snowfall, Stockford was still shaking his head over the damage he hadn't had time to evaluate among the hundreds of trees in remote areas of the College. "I wouldn't walk around some parts of campus without a hard hat," he said, smiling. "Not on a windy day, anyway."



outage. Colby closed for one of the few times in its history on January 9 so employees could take care of their homes and families and could avoid driving on icy roads. Dining services, security and physical plant workers were asked to report if they could do so safely, and many left families to cope at home while they worked 12- and 16-hour shifts. One week after power went out, PPD still had five two-person teams taking electrical generators from house to house trying to give employees still without power enough electricity to keep their houses from freezing up. Unfortunately, they were not always successful; other employees were being deployed to drain plumbing and heating systems where freeze-ups had occurred or were imminent.

Shelter guests, fighting boredom and occasionally bent on mischief, made things difficult for Athletic Department members, who nevertheless were able to go about their business—including staging a two-day men's basketball tournament. Still, Whitmore said, the situation presented "the custodial problem of the century."

Colby employees were invited to move to the campus, and despite the fact that there were no empty dormitory rooms available, some did. Bets Brown and Herb Wilson (she of development, he of the Biology Department) moved into Herb's lab with their cats. Security and physical plant employees slept in lounges.

But most used the College as a place to get a hot shower and a hot meal and as refuge for pets. Kay Devine (admissions) kept her birds in Lunder House, there were cats and dogs in nearly all of the academic buildings and there was one report of a lizard living off the Colby heat largesse.



Three-year-old Jamie Labelle and her doll were among the hundreds who took refuge in the field house.

More than 100 Colby students pitched in at the shelter, particularly Colby Emergency Response leaders Jon Michael Vore '98 and John Maddox '99, who coordinated round-the-clock service (a total of 372 hours) by a staff of 20 student EMTs, and Craig Belanger '00, who as a January Program intern in the office of Waterville Mayor Ruth Joseph served as liaison between City Hall and the shelter. Belanger was interviewed by the host of Public Radio International's *Marketplace*, David Brancaccio (son of Prof. Pat Brancaccio), for the program's newscast.

Perhaps most dramatic, a group of 24 students (wearing hard hats to protect them from falling ice and branches), who deployed in Waterville to knock on doors and check on people in especially damaged areas, were credited by Fire Chief Darryl Fournier with averting many tragedies and saving at least two lives—those of an elderly couple in the advanced stages of carbon monoxide poisoning from using unvented heaters in their apartment.

Not all responses to the storm were so noble. Physical Plant Director Alan Lewis reported at one of the daily meet-

ings organized by Terp to share news among the College, city, Red Cross, National Guard and Waterville police and fire departments that he was negotiating to buy a tree hanging dangerously close to one of

Colby's main power lines. The tree's owner held firm for a high price, but the College is still negotiating to take it down, Lewis says.

But warmth was spread at Colby, with people sharing their homes and offering showers and meals, passing no-longer-needed heaters to those still without power and going beyond duty to serve the College and the community.

One employee, worried about her furnace, stopped Alan Lewis in the athletic center lobby.

"What's the temperature in your house?" Lewis asked.

Forty, he was told.

"You're fine," Lewis said.

"But it gets below that, you call."

Call who? she asked.

"You call me," Lewis said. ♦



## They Ate Hearty

More than 6,200 meals, prepared by Colby's dining services workers, were served at the emergency shelter in the field house. According to Lloyd Comeau, the guests consumed:

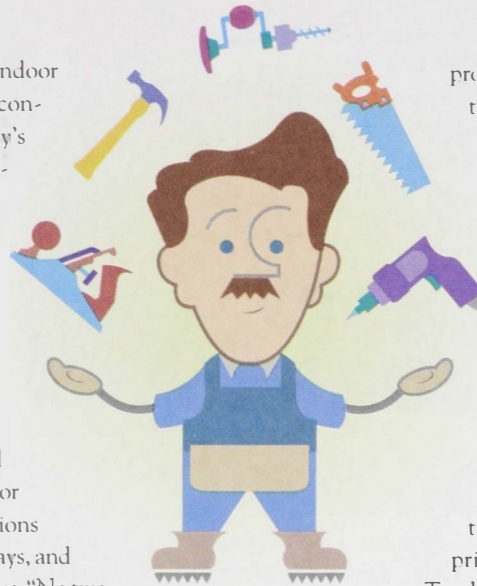
2,000 bowls of cereal	8,550 cookies
7,000 half-pints of milk	1,000 doughnuts
100 gallons of juice	110 gallons of soup
1,000 bagels	175 pounds of pasta
3,000 sandwiches	95 gallons of pasta sauce
7,000 cans of soda	2,150 dinner rolls
1,650 apples	235 loaves of bread
1,630 oranges	155 pounds of turkey
2,000 bananas	120 pounds of ham
1,400 cups of hot chocolate	200 gallons of coffee

## Making Things Right

When students interested in having an indoor climbing wall needed expertise on how to construct it they didn't have to look far. Colby's Physical Plant Department carpenters modified an existing design and then spent 350 hours assembling the structure. Result: more happy customers.

"We get our satisfaction from building what the customer, so to speak, needs," said Jeffrey Tuttle, who worked on the climbing wall for an entire month last year. "Often, what they need they can't go out and buy."

Typically, the carpenters are asked to build shelving or cabinetry to fit unorthodox spaces or for specific functions. These custom applications occupy about 80 percent of Tuttle's time, he says, and the requests come from all sectors of the campus. "No two

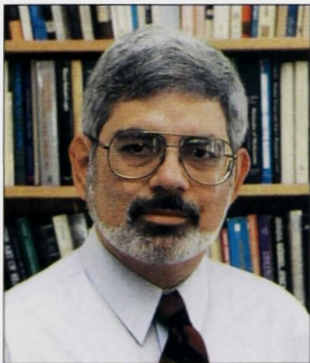


projects are alike," Tuttle said. "We've built everything from the podium they use at Commencement to the special shelving in the multicultural room at Cotter Union."

They even build furniture. When the communications office needed a special table for its designers, with an unusual arrangement of pigeonholes and drawers, the PPD carpenters produced a birch piece that, if purchased, would have cost hundreds of dollars. And they did it in a week.

Tuttle and a crew currently are renovating the Marchese Lounge in Cotter Union into a pub expected to open in February. When they're finished they will have left another imprint on the campus. "That makes you feel good," Tuttle said. ♦

## Yeterian Will Be Dean



Edward Yeterian has been named dean of faculty and vice president for academic affairs, effective July 1.

Yeterian, the Audrey Wade Hittinger Katz and Sheldon Toby Katz Distinguished Teaching Professor of Psychology, succeeds Robert L. McArthur, who served as head of the faculty for 10 years.

"I and my colleagues in the administration look forward with great anticipation to working with Ed," said President Bill Cotter. "Bob McArthur has set a very high standard for Colby as dean of the faculty and vice president, and I know he will be extremely helpful to Ed in both the coming months and succeeding years."

Yeterian holds a Ph.D. in physiological-comparative psychology from the University of Connecticut and a postdoctoral degree from Harvard in neuroanatomy and neurology. His research on the brain, particularly in primates, has produced more than 20 publications. He has taught at Colby since 1978. ♦

## New Pub on Tap

Students have clamored for years for a campus-based pub, and now they're getting one.

Renovations are under way in the Marchese Lounge in the lower portion of Cotter Union that will transform it into a small tavern. The lounge was chosen by a student task force that considered other campus sites but rejected them for legal and aesthetic reasons. Maine law prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages in residence halls and academic buildings.

The pub was expected to open in February. ♦

## Knock It Off

Commenting on a brawl that resulted in the ejection of more than 200 fans from the Colby-Bowdoin hockey game December 3 at Alford Arena, the *Echo* chastised students who instigated the fight.

"Picking fights with Bowdoin fans proves nothing and reflects poorly on the entire student body," the *Echo* said in an editorial. "Other schools have banned students from hockey games between rivals because of excessive violence and inappropriate behavior. How far are we willing to push before we are no longer allowed to watch our team engage in one of the longest-standing rivalries in NESCAC?"

The incident occurred midway through the second period when a group of Colby students entered the Bowdoin cheering section and began taunting the fans. A fight broke out and police, unable to identify all of the individuals involved, cleared the entire seating section. Only a handful of spectators actually were involved in the fight, according to Waterville police. Five students, including one from Colby, were arrested.

Colby won the game, 3-2, in overtime.

