As a publicity stunt, it worked fine. A photograph of two women students pretenting to touch up the lettering was printed in newspapers and magazines around the country. Captions and stories advertised the new Colby. As a sales pitch, it was a flop. Before long the sign looked as forlorn as the crumbling campus buildings it advertised.

When the downtown campus was fully vacated in 1952, Harvey D. Eaton Jr. '16 proposed the College give it all to the city. Neither Mayor Squire nor College officials had any comment. The College needed money for bricks. Some parcels sold quickly. A piece on the corner by Front Street became a filling station. A paint store and a linoleum store went into buildings south of the station. The Phi Delta Theta fraternity house became a supermarket. Father John Holohan leased Foss Hall for a Sacred Heart parochial school. Mary Low, on the corner of Getchell Street at College Avenue, became Robert Drapeau’s appliance store. Melvin and Meverett Beck bought two lots near the river on Champlin Street, expanding the family enterprise in metal roofing. Across the way, Yvonne Mathieu bought land to establish a family business, in auto repair. On the central campus a few of the buildings were used for storage. Sears, Roebuck rented part of Memorial Hall.

By mid-decade there were still nineteen parcels of land and six buildings left (Memorial, Champlin, Coburn, Roberts, Hedman, Chemical). In 1955 Governor Muskie, Mayor Dubord, Brown, city engineer Ralph Knowlton, and Keyes Fibre president Wallace Parsons proposed a study of the cost of eliminating the crossings, and that winter Dubord and State Representative Albert Bernier '50 got the Maine Legislature to approve the project. The federal government agreed to pay 90 percent of the cost. In November 1961, the Federal Bureau of Roads—which only a few years earlier had thrown a monkey wrench into the plan to move I-95—approved the $2.6 million project. A month later more of the old campus was sold and deteriorating Memorial and Champlin halls were all that remained. Although Memorial Hall had fallen to near ruin, its razing was surely a crime. Waterville Mayor Cyril M. Joly Jr. '48 tried to raise funds to save it. He might have succeeded if the building could have held together another ten years; then it could have become a National Historic Landmark. Instead, in 1966 it fell to the wrecking ball, and the nation’s first college Civil War memorial building was gone.43

43. In 1979, Ernest Marriner scoffed at a fleeting effort to preserve the architectural integrity of old Foss Hall even though the building was no longer in the hands of the College. He wrote Dick Dyer to say that while it was by then all “spilled milk,” Memorial Hall was “the one building most significant for preservation.” Foss Hall, he said, “does
In 1984 the remainder of the old campus was sold to Clifford and Jacqueline Morissette who allowed the College to erect a granite monument marking its original home. It had taken four decades to finally sell it all and then only for an amount barely half the original estimate. The plaque, located near the highway on the south end of the old campus, can be read at risk of life and limb.

Earlier, at the site of the Elmwood Hotel, local historians also installed a sign denoting the College's first home. This one was quickly taken down. "On This Site," the sign read, "Was Held the First Classes of Colby College." The short-lived sign prompted Professor James Gillespie to quip: "They wasn't English classes, was they?"

Every college knows the awkward emotional distance between alumni and undergraduates. At Colby, with the distance of place as well as time, the gulf was even wider. The campus that most alumni remembered was gone. Students arriving after 1950 had no memory of it at all, and complained they had precious little to tell them of the history of the College they inherited. Pragmatists had outnumbered sentimentalists in the matter of rescuing old campus things. There was barely money for repairs and less for preservation. Nevertheless, everyone agreed two icons had to be rescued: the Lion of Lucerne and the Revere Bell.

The College used its own crews to move the grand marble lion and its accompanying plaque. Ansel Grindall and his men were reluctant to take on the job of moving the precious four-ton sculpture out the second-story window of Memorial Hall, trucking it a mile, and putting it through a basement window of Miller Library. It took eleven days in the snowy January of 1962 for the lion to be moved onto the basement "street" of the library. Later the display was slid along the same floor to an inelegant and obscure place near the newspaper archives. It was too heavy to move any higher.44

No item carried to the Hill brought with it more lore than the great bell. Bearing the inscription Paul Revere & Son, 1824, the 700-pound instrument

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44. In 2003, at the urging of students, the old lion was again skidded along the ground floor, this time to a more prominent place.
was cast by Revere's son Joseph and purchased new by the College. In its first years it was needed to synchronize classes. A half-century later Memorial Hall got a tower clock; but, as with the Miller Library clock that was to come, it was rarely accurate, and it was the student-powered bell that served to regulate both the finicky tower clock and personal watches. If the tolling for classes was acceptable—especially in the years when it pealed above the din of steam locomotives—it was its annoying 6 A.M. clanging to rouse students for chapel that provided most of its legends. Just as latter-day students occasionally shoot the messenger by abusing bedside alarm clocks, nineteenth-century scholars took revenge upon the annoying bell. Time and again the clapper was removed, once embedded in the masonry of a building undergoing renovation and another time buried in a gravel bank near the river. Once the entire bell was taken by sleigh to Brunswick where students swapped it for the bell at Bowdoin, each one then installed in place of the other. In 1880 the bell was smuggled and shipped to the sophomores at Harvard who, in turn, sent it to the University of Virginia. The College hired detectives who found the crated relic on the deck of a sailing packet in New York, bound for London and addressed “To Her Gracious Majesty, Victoria, Queen, Defender, etc., Windsor Castle, England, C.O.D.”

For a time there were plans to hang the bell in the tower of Miller Library. In one of his P. T. Barnum-like moments, publicist Joe Smith suggested re-dedicating it there on April 19, 1947, the anniversary of Revere's famous ride. He wrote Paramount Pictures and Fox Movietone News to invite them to come and make newsreels. Neither replied. The library plan didn't work out either. In 1951 South College Hall was rented to a furniture company, and the bell was taken from the belfry and put into the basement of Hedman Hall where it ignominiously collected dust for a year until it was installed on the second-floor portico of Roberts Union. The bell and porch got some fixing up in 1979 as part of the Fiftieth reunion gift of the Class of 1929. It rings only on special occasions and on the fall Saturdays of a football victory, a tradition assuring moderate use and preservation.

As the principal part of its 1979 reunion gift, the Class of '29 also provided for the relocation of a pair of iron gates that had once stood on College Avenue in front of South College Hall. First presented in 1927 as a twenty-fifth reunion gift of the Class of 1902, they were intended to be the first of at least five gates to entrances to the in-town campus. No other gates were ever built. Designed by Horace True Muzzy, a Waterville architect, the set was constructed by the local Horace Purington Company, headed by Cecil M. Daggett '03. They were placed at the top of the stairway between East and West dormitories, facing Johnson Pond.
In 1929, after President Arthur Roberts's death, local citizens named the square at the junction of College Avenue and Front and Chaplin streets for him. In 1964, when Roberts Square was obliterated by the road relocation, the monument was taken to the intersection of McCann Road and Mayflower Hill Drive. Sections of the granite post-and-rail fence that once traced the front of the early campus were used to surround it.

Old building plaques were easiest of things to rescue, and most were pried from the walls and brought along. Among them were tablets honoring Jeremiah Chaplin, Samuel Smith, and the martyr Lovejoy, all placed in Lorimer Chapel along with ancient pews from the two earlier chapels, first fastened on the main floor, later in the balconies. The south-wing Rose Chapel took the large wooden plaque listing of the names of early graduate missionaries. The chapel was named for Francis Rose '09 and his wife, Gertrude Coombs Rose '11, missionaries executed by the Japanese army on Iloilo in the Philippines in 1943. The Roses, who operated a small mission station and helped to found the Central Philippine College, chose to flee the Japanese invasion. They hid in the hills with native Christians until they were caught and killed.

As each of the buildings fell, the president's assistant, Dick Dyer, hounded the B & G department to retrieve cornerstones and building markers. They were piled in nearly forgotten storage until the mid-1990s when history buffs Anestes Fotiades '89 and David (Ben) Jorgensen '92 collected the bronze markers and had them installed along a wall on the bridge of the Student Center (later Cotter Union).

The Lovejoy family hearthstone was no more than settled into the ground on the old campus when it was moved to the center of the mall in front of Miller Library. The Lovejoy bookcase, handmade from wood taken from his last home in Alton, was put in the president's office. In 1986, President Cotter uncovered the abandoned practice of placing engraved stone class numerals in Memorial Hall. Dyer had saved them as well. Cotter had the old plaques installed around the fireplace of the Marchesi Pub in the new Student Center. Each year, after Baccalaureate, seniors present their own numerals to be placed with the others. Also rescued from Memorial Hall was a plaque given in 1916 in memory of Edward Winslow Hall '62, professor and librarian (1866-1910), now in the library, together with the bust of the poet John Milton by sculptor Paul Akers, given to the College in 1877 by Boston alumni.45

45. Nathaniel Hawthorne saw the work in 1858, soon after it was sculpted, and later said it inspired his *Marble Faun.*
The new campus slowly began to create memorial places and traditions of its own. Most prominent was the 10 ft. × 7 ft. replica of Chaplin's sloop, the Hero, a weathervane atop Miller Library. Most obscure was another weathervane, on the president's house, showing the first bars of Ermanno Comparetti's *Mayflower Hill Concerto*, first recorded in 1953. Memorial willow trees, named for Boardman, were planted around the pond, and chapel carillon bells, given by alumni to honor those who died in World War II, were renewed and automated in 1992 and named in honor of former dean of men George Nickerson and his wife, Ruth.

In a curious way the bricks the College struggled to buy became icons themselves. Architect Larson liked the color of the bricks at Harvard but feared their chemistry might be vulnerable to harsh Maine winters. He wanted a harder brick, and Alcaeus Cooley of Portland mixed it for him at the Morin Brick Company in Danville Junction, Maine. The Morin company, which made the Colby bricks in its kilns in Auburn, asked permission to name the new product for the College. It remains a popular standard in the trade.

In 1948 the flagpole on the central mall was dedicated to the memory of the more than one hundred students and alumni who died in three wars. The names are inscribed together with a quotation from the 1841 commencement address of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Nearby is a memorial stone listing the names of those who gave their lives in Korea and Vietnam.

Of the many enduring artifacts on the Hill, none is more curious than the large, tombstonelike “Anti-Gravity” monument, installed in 1960 at the request of the entrepreneur and scientist Roger Babson. The founder of Babson College had given Colby and several other colleges five hundred shares of the American Agricultural Chemical Company, valued at $12,500. He required that the stock could not be sold for thirty-five years and that the College erect a monument devoted to the discovery of a substance immune to gravity.46 The monument was initially placed near the road on the east side of Mayflower Hill where its tempting inscription invited students to tip it over. In the 1990s it was moved into a grove of pines nearby where the force of gravity and a

46. His antigravity interest may have come from two family tragedies. His son had been killed in an airplane crash; his grandson had drowned.
good deal of concrete keeps it upright. The chemical company became Continental Oil, acquired by DuPont in 1981. When the stock was sold in 1995 it yielded $2.7 million, all of which was used, in accordance with Babson’s wish, for science equipment and facilities.

Not the least of the trappings brought to the Hill was the white mule mascot, the 1923 legacy of the legendary tub-thumper Joe Smith. Live mules came and went, but the mule icon stubbornly stuck. In the early 1940s the College briefly adopted a true mule, Aristotle. In 1953 the father of Maury Turney ’56 gave a stand-in mascot to the student body, creating a quandary as to who was supposed to take care of him. Louie was already famous, retired after playing a major role in Aida at the Metropolitan Opera. It took five men to get him off the train at the Waterville station, and at his one and only Homecoming appearance he bolted from the stadium at halftime. Students renamed him Ybloc (a fittingly backward notion) and pastured him at a local farm. By 1956 they despaired of paying the rent ($150 a year) and decided to do without a live mascot. He wasn’t a mule anyway. He was a Sicilian donkey.
3. THE 1960S

ROBERT E. L. STRIDER

In the tracings of history, the turning of a new decade is most often unremarkable. Significant changes rarely align with anything as tidy as a calendar. The year 1960 was different. It precisely marked a number of beginnings. Two young and charismatic leaders moved to the center of the national stage. John F. Kennedy, forty-three, became president and promised a “new frontier.” The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., thirty-one, took the pulpit at his father’s church in Atlanta, and stepped up the battle for civil rights. In Waterville, the interstate highway opened its two ramps into the city, creating new opportunities along Upper Main Street and the old Oakland Road (too soon to be named in Kennedy’s memory). A crush of motorists threatened to suffocate Main Street, and the city began looking for what seemed to be the promise of urban renewal. On the Hill, the time was ripe for change as well. Seelye Bixler, president for nineteen years, had retired. Taking his place was forty-two-year-old Robert E. L. Strider.

Dan MacKnight, the College electrician, fiddled with the microphone one last time to see if he could stop the screeching. He might as well have turned the decrepit equipment off. The booming basso profundo voice of Robert Strider needed no amplification, even in the cavernous fieldhouse. Rugged and six feet tall with a flattop crew cut, the figure of the new president matched his voice. If it were not for his scholarly black-rimmed glasses, he might have been taken for a linebacker.

Strider had been dean of faculty since 1957. He became Colby’s seventeenth president in June 1960, and his October inauguration was significant in any number of ways. For one, no one in the crowd had ever attended a Colby presidential inauguration. The last such ceremony was in the summer of 1908 when Arthur Roberts took an oath at the First Baptist Church. Frank John-
son's inauguration was a private affair, held at the President's House on College Avenue. Seelye Bixler took office without fanfare in 1942, in the midst of war.

Strider spoke of his plan for new academic directions. He said there would be “further development of programs in the languages and the sciences, new departures in philosophy and the study of government, and the adoption of continually more suitable educational methods and devices.” He promised there would be “shifts in emphasis toward a greater proportion of individual study in all areas of the curriculum.” He also talked of “maintaining a faculty distinguished for teaching and devoted to scholarship” and said there would be strengthening in standards of admission. All of it came true, and none of it surprised anyone, least of all Bixler or the trustees.

Four years earlier, when the time came to replace Marriner, Bixler consulted a Colby friend, Bill Avirett, who had been on the search committee for a new president at Mount Holyoke College. The Holyoke committee had taken a close look at a promising assistant professor of English at Connecticut College, but decided he was a bit too young. Bixler investigated and liked what he found. Strider had written a book, acclaimed in scholarly circles, on the seventeenth-century Puritan writer Robert Greville. He was a popular teacher and had supported faculty-initiated reforms. He was active in Democratic politics and a member of the hierarchy of the Episcopal Church. And, to Bixler's delight, he was a musician.

Bixler also admired Strider's candor. The candidate had very nearly nixed his chances of coming to Colby at all when, at his first private interview, Bixler inquired about what he thought of the College catalogue. “Why on earth,” Strider asked without hesitating, “do you have a department of business administration?” Eustis and Williams—half of the entire small department—were in the room. There was a general shuffling of feet. Eustis died before the end of Bixler's term. He almost certainly would have opposed Strider's elevation, as he saw the young dean as something of an upstart, and the two were ideologically worlds apart. Never mind that Strider looked askance at Eustis's favored department, or that the young dean was a Democrat (Strider and his wife, Helen Bell Strider, had worked on the presidential campaigns of Adlai Stevenson), Eustis was accustomed to running things, and Strider was unmanageable.

2. When Strider was first dean, Eustis came to warn of the pressure that would come from all quarters and said if he planned to succeed he'd have to stand up and be his own man. Within weeks the Committee on Academic Standing voted to suspend a prominent football player whose only appeal for reinstatement was to the dean of faculty. Eustis
The 1959 search for the new president, if not pro forma, for the first time was open. Reginald “Styve” Sturtevant ’21, a trustee since 1949, was chairman of the twelve-member search committee. More than one hundred applications came in, most of them unsolicited, over the transom. Twenty-four final candidates were interviewed; only two got more than a passing glance. Strider’s election was unanimous.

Neither politics nor religion were factors in his selection as dean or president. At his inauguration Strider joked that the Civil War must surely have ended if the grandson of one of General Jeb Stuart’s private soldiers could be president at the college of Benjamin Butler. Whether or not he mentioned the tie to the Confederacy, his roots were plainly evident in his name—Robert E. Lee—passed through three family generations. His investiture as president fell precisely on the thirty-sixth anniversary of his father’s consecration as Episcopal bishop of West Virginia. Gardner Colby would have been appalled. Episcopalians are a far theological cry from the Baptists, but by 1960 the College had all but shed its Baptist mantle. Two years before trustees had delicately informed the National Baptist Convention that Colby would no longer participate in the annual campaign to raise funds for its “church-related” educational institutions. College-church ties, if not severed, were hanging by a frail thread of institutional memory.

Strider was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. His mother, Mary, died at his birth. He was valedictorian of his class at what was then the Linsly Institute, a private military school in Wheeling, and followed with a year at Episcopal High School in Alexandria. At Harvard he studied English literature and graduated, cum laude, in 1939. For a short while he thought he would make a career in radio—he certainly had the voice for it—but changed his mind. Instead, he worked as an assistant undergraduate teacher at Harvard and Radcliffe and received his Harvard A.M. in 1940. That year, at joint rehearsals of the Harvard Glee Club and the Radcliffe Choral Society, he met Helen Bell, a Radcliffe sophomore. They were married in 1941, and the following year she went to Strider and recommended clemency. A winning football team, Eustis said, was vital to alumni and town relations. Strider reminded the vice president of his earlier advice. The suspension stood.

3. His family considered naming him after Grover Cleveland, but fortunately thought better of it.

4. He later recalled being on the road to Pittsburgh for an audition, reconsidered, turned around, went home, and filled out an application for Harvard’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He was going to be a teacher.
finished her degree, Phi Beta Kappa. When war came, Strider served as an ensign and then lieutenant in Navy communications, stationed in Washington, D.C., where Helen found work at the Department of the Navy. Following his discharge, in 1946 he joined the English department at Connecticut College and taught there eleven years (completing his Harvard Ph.D. in 1950) before Bixler brought him to Colby.

The Striders were a team. Her background was in many ways more fascinating, and certainly more unusual than his. Born in Pegu, Burma, Helen was the daughter of Methodist missionaries, and lived with her family at various postings throughout the Far East. In 1934 the family returned to the United States via a jury-rigged Chevrolet camper, the Wild Goose, that carried them through the Indian deserts to Teheran, Baghdad, Damascus, Jerusalem, north through Turkey to Vienna, on the ferry to England, and on the ocean liner to New York. When the Bells returned to India the following year, Helen, age fifteen, remained behind for schooling, first in Idaho and then in Connecticut. In Hartford she was taken into the family of Francis Sayre, then assistant secretary of state, and soon became a permanent part of the Sayre family. She attended three high schools before graduating from Western High in Washington, D.C., where she received a scholarship to Radcliffe.

While he was dean, the Striders and their four children lived on Gilman Street. When they moved to the fishbowl of the President’s House, she skillfully juggled roles as wife, mother, and gracious hostess to a steady stream of visiting lecturers and other dignitaries. (In 1960 daughter Mary was seventeen, sons Robert “Rob” and William “Bill” were fifteen and ten, Elizabeth “Betsy” was seven.) Through it all she found time to promote music concerts for area youngsters, encourage public conservation, and follow her passions for cooking and gardening. She supported her husband in countless ways, and defended him mightily, fuming privately whenever he was crossed.5

Throughout the search process there was some anguish, public and private, about being able to find anyone who could match Bixler. When he announced the formation of a search committee Leonard noted “Colby has had a succession of great presidents” and it was going to be “most difficult to find a man who can measure up to the quality of these men.”6 Strider himself was sur-

5. Helen Strider died on her seventy-fourth birthday, in 1995, at their summer home in Mackinaw City, Michigan. The couple had been married fifty-three years.

6. Following Bixler was, to be sure, daunting, but no more so than the thought of Bixler following the Man of Mayflower Hill, or Johnson himself coming after the beloved Prexy Roberts. Indeed, it was doubtless as difficult for the obscure Rufus Babcock after the ignominious departure of the founding president, Jeremiah Chaplin.
prised to find himself as president. In his first message to alumni, he wrote:
“I still have occasionally the uneasy feeling that the trustees must have had
someone else in mind to sit behind this desk . . . and that some morning the
sheriff will be on the doorstep.”

The decade brought not only a new president but also a virtual clean sweep
in the rest of the higher echelon. At the top, Leonard, a member of the board
since 1933 and chairman since 1947, gave way to his 1921 Colby classmate, Stur-
tevant, whose father, Chester, had founded the Livermore Falls Trust Com-
pany in 1895 and served two terms on the Colby board. The younger Styve now
ran the bank. Newcomers to the board that fall were Robert Anthony ’38, a
teacher at the Harvard Business School, and Wilson Piper ’39, a Boston attorney. Each made immense contributions to the College through the next three
decades and more.

Parker Johnson was the logical replacement as dean of faculty, having al-
ready partnered with Strider in pressing for curricular change. A research sci-
entist and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Johnson came
from the Bowdoin faculty in 1955 to chair the department of education and
psychology. George Nickerson soldiered on as dean of men, but Frances Seaman
was only two years into the job as dean of women, following Florence
“Polly” Tompkins, who had resigned to join the United States Information
Agency. Within the year Dick Dyer became Strider’s assistant. Earle McKeen
was just then defining Colby’s new position of director of placement and in
two years took yet another new position, as director of financial aid. Sid Farr
returned as an assistant to two veterans, alumni secretary Bill Millett and de-
velopment vice president Ed Turner. Farr replaced Millett following Millett’s
retirement in mid-decade. Following Galen Eustis’s death the year before,
Ralph “Roney” Williams was new to the role of administrative vice president.

The new team met its first test in the spring of 1961. It did not come from
within, as so many others would; instead it came, of all places, from the fed-
eral government. The National Defense Education Act of 1958 required all ap-
plicants for federal student loans to sign an affidavit swearing the recipient
“does not believe in, and is not a member of and does not support any organ-
ization that believes in or teaches the overthrow of the U.S. Government by
force or violence or by illegal or unconstitutional methods.” President Eisen-
hower said the affidavit was “justifiably resented” in the academic community,
Senator John Kennedy called it “distasteful, humiliating, and unworkable.”
Many colleges withdrew from the program in protest. At Colby, where schol-
arship money was dear, pressure mounted to do the same.

In January 1959, Colby joined with Bowdoin and Bates in issuing a joint
statement condemning the affidavit, and with the law still unchanged, in November 1960 the faculty asked the board to withdraw from the program. In June 1961, as Strider was closing his first year as president, trustees said the College would withdraw within a year if the law was not changed. The delay was in deference to students already in the program. There weren’t many—fewer than one hundred—but for those who signed the oath and borrowed, the maximum $1,000 loan represented half of the newly increased cost of board, room, and tuition. The College looked to alumni for new loan funds to cover the expected shortfall. Congress repealed the offending requirement in the fall of 1962. Colby, out of the program for less than a year, agreed to re-enter although trustees made it clear they were still opposed to sections of the amended legislation “that contain invidious non-academic discriminatory conditions” for the granting of the loans.

The first storm was weathered and the new team resumed its quest of the goals Strider and others set. Among them was the plan to raise $20 million before the end of the decade. If there were doubters, the number of them quickly dwindled. Within two years three-quarters of the goal was met and the business of curricula reform was well under way.

ACADEMIC ADVENTURES

Changes in the broad curriculum—general requirements, major areas, and programs—come only with the consent of the full faculty, and usually at the rate of retreating glaciers, requiring both pressure and the melting of strong opinions. Colby was accustomed to more rapid change all around (the new campus was evidence of that) and now the faculty began to approve a succession of curricular experiments and enrichments that changed the College forever. Through it all, the core curriculum remained untouched. New features were additions, not replacements, and included expanded opportunities and incentives for independent study, course offerings in non-Western cultures, and the introduction of interdisciplinary studies. Leading the parade was the most striking and pacesetting new idea of all: the January Program of Independent Study.

The germ of an interim study term was already growing when Strider arrived as dean. Sensing a mood for change, Bixler had assembled an ad hoc committee to look into reform. The committee, with Strider soon on board, first investigated the new three-semester, year-round program at Dartmouth. Committee members were impressed, but the full faculty was not. Bixler dismissed the informal group and promptly created an Educational Policy Committee
(EPC), chaired by the dean. He gave the EPC the same charge as before: explore ways of making constructive change in the academic program. In the spring of 1958 a delegation of faculty members urged Strider to have the EPC think more about independent study, and see what could be done to fill the listless academic period between the December recess and first-term examinations in late January.

That fall the committee sketched a program that would end the first semester before the holidays and begin the second semester in early February. They called it a Jan Plan. The idea, fleshed out by Strider, went to the faculty for a test drive. The reception was lukewarm, but the idea survived. The following summer (1959) Colby was one of thirty colleges invited by the Danforth Foundation to send a team to a three-week workshop at Colorado Springs. Each team was to have a project. Colby’s delegation—Strider, Mark Benbow (English), Harold Raymond (history), and Robert Reuman (philosophy)—chose to work on the Jan Plan. Their proposal, approved by the EPC that fall, required freshmen to participate in one of a number of classes on special topics. Sophomores would generally work within the division in which they expected to major. Upper-class students would undertake faculty-supervised projects of their own choosing. There would be no grades; students would either pass, pass with honors, or fail. A Jan Plan would be required for each of the four years. (“Otherwise,” Strider said, some students “might consider the month a gratuitous opportunity for skiing and little else.”)

On the edges, concessions were made. The modern languages department worried students would lose momentum over January, and so the proposal included language refresher sessions. The EPC knew it would be hard getting the votes to approve the proposal in the first place, and in a barefaced political move, agreed that faculty members would teach only every other year. In December 1960, after long and intense debate, the faculty adopted the plan (53 for, 31 against, and 3 abstaining), and the Jan Plan began in January 1962. Colby was the first to have an interim (4-1-4) program, although Florida Presbyterian College (later Eckerd College) had a Jan Plan from the time of its

7. Strider was, by then, president-elect. A colleague, wary of the proposal, asked if perhaps Strider would follow the tradition of Colby presidents and refrain from debate when the Jan Plan idea came up at the Faculty Meeting. Strider had invested far too much in the idea to sit on the sidelines. “Hell no!” he said.

8. The vote may have swung on the plea from Everett Strong (modern languages), most conservative and customarily reticent, who stood to say that, on principle, he generally opposed any changes at all, but that he liked the Jan Plan idea and was going to vote for it.
founding in 1958. Months after Colby approved its plan, Smith College ratified one as well, only to abandon it after 1963.

Over time, no facet of the Colby academic program has been more highly touted—or more often revisited and revised—than the Jan Plan. Critics cite an overall lack of academic rigor. Defenders point to myriad examples of scholarly work. Deans fret that students have too much free time on their hands, and the student activities office works to fill the January calendars with after-class events and other entertainment, rarely well attended. In January, the road to Sugarloaf Mountain is busy with Colby cars, but admissions officers delight in the program attracting creative students who seek opportunities for independent study.

The faculty was let out of its year-on/year-off contract in the mid-1980s when teaching loads were reduced to provide extra time for research. By century’s end, less than 15 to 20 percent of the faculty was taking January duty. The Jan Plan requirement was reduced from four years to three and—making a curious disincentive for independent study—January internships and compressed regular courses began to come with conventional letter grades. Although the plan has strayed from its original concept, it has survived with an ever-growing line of students and alumni who will testify that the January experience gave them a new appetite for learning, the discovery of major fields of study, and the opening of unexpected life paths to graduate schools and careers.9

Not every venture into more independent study worked. One venture, Program II, was not a complete failure, but its greatest profit may have been its lesson on the limits of student academic independence. The plan called for granting a select number of entering freshmen a full four years of independent study, free from class requirements, without examinations or letter grades. Patterned after the system in place at Oxford and Cambridge for centuries, the idea appealed to officials at the Ford Foundation who thought it was worth a try in the United States. Beginning in 1965 the Foundation funded experiments at Allegheny, Colorado College, and Lake Forest in Illinois. The following year, Colby, Pomona, and Florida Presbyterian (Eckerd) were invited in.

At Colby, there was controversy from the get-go. The grant was made in February, and the Foundation pressed to have the program begin that fall. The admissions cycle was about to end, and there was no time to wait for the next faculty meeting. From his sabbatical leave abroad, Strider sent word to accept the grant and begin the student selection process immediately. Many faculty

9. By the end of the century there were more than 160 American colleges with January programs.
members bristled; some sat on their hands and refused to participate. A few signed on to help. Thomas Easton (biology), James Carpenter (art), Eugene Peters (philosophy), Robert Reuman (philosophy), Eileen Curran (English), and Charles Quillin (associate dean of students) formed a committee that chose twenty-three students from the entering class of 1970. Easton, one of the few scientists willing to wade into uncharted academic waters, was the Program II director. Curran replaced him in the second year, and stayed to the end. A Victorian scholar, she had studied at Cambridge and knew the open system. Moreover, she had a zeal for working with the most eager students, and they, in turn, admired her.

In the first two years, participants came and went. “The best bet,” Curran said, is the student “who has the gumption to be different at an age when belonging is of supreme importance.” The lack of grades made assessment difficult. Students wrote weekly papers that faculty advisers marked up but did not grade. (Curran agreed it was a problem, noting “No amount of red ink has quite the shock value of an ‘F’ on a student’s first paper.”) The downside also included the extra expense of intensive one-on-one faculty oversight, far more than the cost of traditional teaching. Without Ford’s money, Colby could not have experimented at all. Program II was abandoned after one generation of students. Of the twenty-three original enrollees, fourteen graduated on schedule (1970). Two others finished late. Seven transferred or withdrew.10

Although experiments in independent study grabbed headlines and brought Colby an ever-broadening reputation, independence was not the only umbrella under which change was taking place. Program offerings were branching out as well. In his 1961 commencement address, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas chided all colleges for failing to reach out to the rest of the world, and the U.S. government for not embracing Western philosophy in its foreign policy. “We have been possessed with the idea that if we fill underdeveloped nations with refrigerators, bathtubs and tractors the battle against communism will somehow be won,” he said. He feared foreign students at U.S. colleges (Colby had fewer than twenty foreign students in 1961–62) would return home thinking of America as “a callous place,” and he pointed to racial discrimination as one of the reasons.

10. Experience was similar at the other five colleges, ending after a single student generation. Most called their ventures the Ford Independent Study Program (FISP). Lake Forest called it Operation Opportunity. At every college there were faculty reservations, even resistance, and, while there were many student success stories, there were too many instances where students were unable to handle the freedom or were traumatized by it.
The Douglas remarks did not prompt Colby changes—they were already under way—but they reinforced a growing view that students needed a broader understanding of the world. Until the 1960s the major academic divisions operated in relative isolation. There were only two combined major opportunities, one in history, government, and economics; the other in American civilization. Soon combined majors grew to seven (American civilization; classics combined with English or philosophy, geology, and chemistry; psychology and math; and math with philosophy or psychology), but the first adventure outside these traditional offerings did not begin until 1967 when George Elison (history) came to teach Japanese. A year later a new combined major in East Asian studies was added.

Most noticeable among the gaps in the general catalogue was one that came to be called, for the lack of a better name, non-Western studies (the Far East, Middle East, Africa, and Latin America), the absence of which, Strider pointed out, came from an illusion in higher education "that the history of the world is the history of Europe and its cultural offshoots." In 1961, under an exchange program made possible by Fulbright Fellowships, John Clark (philosophy) taught in India, and an Indian philosopher, Amar Nath Pandeya, came to teach at Colby. The lectureship continued, and in 1964 Vishwanath Naravane established the first course in Indian thought and aesthetics. In mid-decade the College offered Japanese and Chinese history, and African politics. The continuation and expansion of non-Western studies was ensured by a 1965 grant from the Jacob Ziskind Trust.

The worldview also broadened with the burgeoning of foreign study and improvements in the study of foreign languages. In 1961 Archille Biron (French) was named director of a Junior Year in France program sponsored by Sweet Briar College. Colby students joined more than one hundred others from forty-five U.S. colleges for a year of study in Tours. Eileen Curran (English) was off-duty for January 1965 and planned to do research in London. Some students asked if they could tag along and make the trip a Jan Plan. She agreed.11 The students attended thirty-seven London plays, wrote their papers, and got Jan Plan credit. Soon after, Curran became chair of the faculty's new foreign study committee. At the same time, Jean Bundy (French) took language instruction into the new era with a most modern laboratory on the top floor of

11. Three men and three women signed up, and Curran found a house where they all would live. Campus coed living had not yet been approved. Someone in the dean's office (a "pipsqueak" she said) thought the close sex mixing in London was dangerous and threatened to squelch the plan. Curran prevailed.
the Lovejoy building, where students practiced oral skills at their own pace, mimicking tape recordings of native speakers.

One foreign language initiative involved the introduction of the Spanish language and culture in the local schools. Archille Biron (French) spent a sabbatical leave observing successful foreign language instruction programs at elementary schools throughout France. He encouraged a replication of these programs in Waterville, and in 1960 Henry Holland and Francisco Cauz began teaching Spanish as volunteers at the North Grammar and Myrtle Street schools. Spanish was chosen instead of French to avoid "extraneous influences" on the children.

Expansion of opportunities for hands-on work in the sciences included an instrumental analysis laboratory in chemistry, named in honor of retired Merrill Professor Lester Weeks (1966), and an unusual outdoor science laboratory given via the Maine Nature Conservancy by Hallowell, Maine, conservationist Dorothea Marston (1967).\(^\text{12}\)

The term "interdisciplinary studies" was still new in 1966 when Leonard Mayo '22 came as professor of human development and began to bring faculty and students together across departmental lines. He was well suited to his new role. An internationally known social worker, he was director of the Association for the Aid of Crippled Children and served as an adviser to five U.S. presidents.\(^\text{13}\) His credentials and warm personality broke down old departmental barriers, and his work, "free from the fetters of precedent," paved the way for many interdisciplinary initiatives. Human development expanded to a major offering (1974). As interdivisional courses grew more commonplace, the major itself was abandoned, but his work made it possible to mount new programs by borrowing faculty members from various disciplines instead of hiring new ones. The scheme worked well in filling the voids.

The old American civilization combined major was in the main a compilation and tweaking of existing courses; none of them centered on the American black experience. Nationwide, many felt the omission, together with dis-

\(^{12}\) The Colby-Marston Preserve, a twenty-acre glacier-formed sphagnum "kettlehole" bog in nearby Belgrade, is named in honor of her late father and Maine educator, Walter Marston, Class of 1871. In 1975 the National Park Service declared the preserve, which holds plant life typically found in the tundra of northern Canada, a registered natural landmark.

\(^{13}\) He had been vice chairman of Truman's White House Conference on Children and Youth, chairman of Kennedy's Panel on Mental Retardation (together with respected Waterville pediatrician Edmund Ervin '36), and a member of Johnson's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.
tortions in the existing curricula, contributed to racial strife. One small Colby remedy, an exchange program with Fisk, a predominately black university in Nashville, began in 1960, but with few takers in either direction. In his first year on the faculty (1963–64), Patrick Brancaccio offered a Jan Plan in African American literature, the first of its kind at Colby. His course opened the door a crack, but it would be another six years before the study of black history and culture found its way into the regular program.

In 1969 the EPC formed a black studies subcommittee with Brancaccio as chair; Jack Foner came as a sabbatical leave replacement and taught the first regular term course in black studies. At the end of the year Strider, Johnson, and history and government department chair Al Mavrinac urged Foner to stay on to help build a new program.

Foner had been out of work as a teacher for nearly thirty years when he came to Colby. He had begun his career in 1935, on the downtown campus of City University of New York (now Baruch College). In 1941 he and some sixty of his colleagues were called before a state legislative committee looking into suspicious activities in the educational system of New York. Foner was suspect because of his support for anti-fascist forces in Spain and for U.S. trade unions. It also seemed to investigators he was doing altogether too much teaching about the role of blacks in American history. He and the others refused to answer the committee’s questions, were labeled as communists, and fired. In 1981 the New York City Board of Education apologized to the victims, acknowledging an “egregious violation of academic freedom.” Foner retired from Colby in 1976. In 1982 the College awarded him an honorary degree for his pioneering work in African American studies.

Within a year Colby had a fledgling Black Studies program, one of the nation’s first. Foner taught three period courses and a seminar; Brancaccio, black American literature; and Lewis Lester, black psychology. The ten-year effort to mount the new study area was a difficult and often noisy struggle against those who felt the specialty would be too costly, overnarrow, or even unnecessary. And while no black studies program would be for blacks only, there was the unrelenting problem of having precious few blacks in the student body and only an occasional black person on the faculty. In 1971, Charles Bassett (English) led the program in American civilization, soon renamed American
studies. It became one of the College’s most popular majors. The following year Afro-American studies, by itself, became a major.

A proposal for creating an experimental “living-learning” complex was first floated in 1967 when a committee working on coeducational living urged the creation of a “sub-college” that would provide “a new milieu, which more closely relates living with academic affairs.” The following spring, Strider’s administrative assistant, Howard Koonce (English), was asked to head a Colby project, funded by the Braitmeyer Foundation, aimed at exploring residentially-based units of faculty-student associations at other colleges. Koonce traveled to some twenty colleges with “sub-college” units and returned convinced Colby should have one of its own. In the spring of 1969 his committee proposed a program focused on interdepartmental courses that would encourage more faculty-student interaction and create a pervasive learning environment. That fall, ninety-three members of the Class of 1973 signed on to live in Woodman and Foss Halls, newly constituted coeducational living units. The hope was to transform these places from “sleeping chambers,” into “vital centers of learning.” It was named the Center for Coordinated Studies (CCS). Koonce was its director.

The first initiative of CCS was to enliven what many felt had become a moribund freshman experience. Students could choose among four “cluster” areas of interdisciplinary study: bilingual and bicultural studies (French and English), Western civilization (classics, history, English, and biology), human development (biology and English), and an amalgam called “music and the other arts.” Within four years the “clusters” expanded to eight, and in 1974 the center offered its first fully coordinated course when Bassett and Louis “Sandy” Maisel (government) joined two courses into a single six-credit course they taught together. Other coordinated courses soon followed. It wasn’t long before CCS experimented with a college within itself. CXC (“X” for experiment) enlisted volunteer teachers—faculty, students, and others—offering free courses on both academic and nonacademic subjects. In 1976 a government grant made it possible to include area citizens as both students and teachers.

Like Colby’s early Baptist missionaries, Koonce sang the praises of living and learning to students and proselytized colleagues to teach in the program. Many students were attracted. Many faculty members, whose participation was voluntary, were skeptical. At the core of the program was a changing cast of a few faculty associates who worked half-time in the center. Over time, a

14. The direct budget for CCS was never more than $350 a year, although the green
larger group of some thirty faculty affiliates (one-fifth of the faculty) taught occasional courses, without course relief.

By standard measures (SATs, grades) the CCS students were similar to their counterparts elsewhere on campus. In other ways they were perceptibly different. With few exceptions they were not involved in athletics and had a marked tendency to eschew fraternities and sororities. In the selection of majors they tended to choose English or interdisciplinary studies over economics or administrative science. They were, in the main, idealists.

Attempts to extend CCS involvement beyond the freshman year were largely unsuccessful, but the center's influence reached the entire campus. The CCS Academic Planning Board, heavily influenced by students, played key roles in the 1973 acceptance of interdisciplinary majors in both human development and Western civilization, and the center's successful social and residential component became a model for the move to self-governance in other dormitories.

The initial enrollment of ninety-three was never again matched. By 1974 the number dropped to forty. Idealism was, by then, on the wane. Students were eager to find work, and some worried employers would be wary of credentials earned by interdisciplinary studies. Moreover, for those who wanted them, interdisciplinary courses and programs could be found elsewhere. Faculty members, pressed by increased demands of teaching and scholarship, no longer wanted to overload schedules by volunteering in CCS, and support withered. In February 1978, it was simply announced at the Faculty Meeting that the Center for Coordinated Studies would be discontinued in the spring.

Before it ended, CCS broadened and added a new dimension to a campus split that had existed on the Hill since the days of coordination, when student life was divided in both real and artificial ways: women living south of McCann Road, men to the north. Coming on the heels of coeducation, CCS attracted some men south (a few women moved north), but the fraternity houses and the athletic facilities remained powerful male magnets. Not only did the gender balance stay skewed, but now the ideological scales slipped out of balance as well. Conservative elements of the campus lived mainly to the right of the library. Only the bravest and most idealistic men volunteered to live in the south. Like the nation at large, the campus had a New Left (in campus folklore, the phenomenon was un-gently labeled “the jock-freak split”), and CCS became the liberal wing of the campus, a perfect incubator for the discontent and protest that rumbled into the next decade.

eyeshades pointed to some $40,000 of lost revenue from the occasional course-relief for faculty and the use of student bedrooms for faculty offices.
Given Colby’s precarious beginnings, reaching its sesquicentennial was remarkable all by itself, but the occasion was much more than that. By 1963, Colby had come of age. Faculty and students were getting comfortable in the clothes of the new campus, and, like a debutante, the College began to catch the eyes of a growing world of college-goers. Looking back, if anyone were asked to pick the precise moment Colby moved into the big leagues of small colleges, they would have to choose June 26, 1962. On that day the old Paul Revere Bell rang out across the campus when Strider announced the Ford Foundation had chosen Colby for what was, far and away, the biggest gift in the College’s long history.

Word was out that the Ford Foundation planned to make a series of “accomplishment” grants “to develop selected independent institutions of higher education as regional and national centers of excellence.” Colleges could not apply; they would be chosen. Any hope Colby might be included in the first round of grants in 1960 was dashed when the Foundation said places with new presidents would not be eligible. But in January 1961, with Strider in office for barely eight months, he received a call inviting him to a meeting with Foundation officials at the upcoming Association of American Colleges (AAC) meetings in Denver. A number of Ford representatives were in the room when Strider arrived. He held forth for an hour or more, and left the room with no promises and a briefcase-load of forms.

A Ford representative visited the campus in the spring of 1962, and several weeks later called Strider to say he wanted to meet some College trustees. The meeting was arranged at Boston’s Union Club, where the discussion centered on how much money Colby could raise. At least two dollars would be needed for every one awarded. Ford was giving grants as big as $2.5 million, but only to heavy hitters with strong records in fundraising, and then only with a 3-to-1 matching requirement: $7.5 million. Colby was eligible for between one and two million dollars and would have to raise double the amount. Several trustees speculated the College would do well to come up with a match for the minimum $1 million. They were taken aback when the Ford official said their president had already asked for twice that much. The Foundation settled on

15. The meeting was held at the Brown Palace Hotel. A cowboy convention was also in town, making an odd mixture of humanity in the hotel’s grand lobby. As Strider rode an elevator to the Ford meeting, a cowboy noticed the tag on his briefcase. “Does Colby have a rodeo?” the fellow asked. “Nope,” Strider said, “just a three-ring circus.”

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$1.8 million, an amount nearly six times more than any gift the College had ever received. The Ford largesse to thirty-five institutions nationwide totaled $114.7 million. Colby was the only Maine college and one of only four New England colleges (with Amherst, Mount Holyoke, and Hamilton) on the full list. In selecting Colby, Foundation officials noted the “vitality” in its curriculum, its strong teaching, and its educational experimentation (Jan Plan). They also cited Strider’s leadership and the “strong participation and support” from the local community.

The morning before the public announcement Strider called an employee assembly in Given Auditorium. Faculty and others left the meeting buzzing about the enormity of the gift. Bixler wrote to say the grant was comparable only to the historic occasion in 1930 when the trustees agreed to move the campus. The Sentinel called it “a shot in the arm” for the economy of the Waterville area, as the grant would “make it possible for Colby to contribute to the community’s social, cultural, and economic life in even greater measure in the years to come.”16 The gift also had a major impact on the $20 million Blueprint for the Sixties campaign, voted on the 1960 fall weekend of Strider’s inauguration, and now quickly integrated with a new Ford Challenge Campaign to make the $3.6 million match. Trustees took the lead. Neil Leonard, board chair from 1946 to 1960, was named national chairman. Gordon Jones ’40 was general campaign chairman, and Ellerton Jette was put in charge of major gifts.

It was not a difficult sell. More than one thousand people attended a February kickoff dinner in Boston, the largest-ever off-campus Colby gathering. A full 100 percent of the faculty, administrative staff, buildings and grounds, and food service employees (311) made early contributions. Robert Rowell ’49 and Henry Rollins ’32 were chairs of a local campaign that raised more than $200,000, twice what was given to keep Colby in Waterville. Alumni giving topped $1 million; parents chipped in $270,000. Through his foundation, Connecticut philanthropist Charles A. Dana gave $300,000 at the end of 1963—the second largest individual gift ever—and it was applied to the cost of a new $1.4 million women’s dorm, the nation’s seventh college building to bear the Dana name.

The Ford money came without restrictions and provided, as Strider said, “the opportunity to determine our own destiny and pursue our own way.”

16. Strider’s elder son, Rob, momentarily dampened the exuberance when, at an evening party at the President’s House, he spoke up from a corner of the room to caution there was little time to celebrate. He had calculated that if Colby were to meet the challenge, his dad would have to help raise $137 an hour, day and night for the next three years.
A down payment of $400,000 had to be spent in the first year. The boom in student applications prompted trustees to plan an increase in enrollment from 1,200 to 1,500 by mid-decade, and some of the first money went for preliminary work on the new dormitory, a women’s playfield, laboratories and equipment in the sciences, and library improvements. The rest was for faculty salaries and financial aid. In June 1964, the pot had reached $3 million. Two months before the end of the campaign, a bequest of $400,000 from the estate of an old Colby friend and English professor, Florence Dunn ’96, put the effort over the top. On June 30, 1965, with all counted, the College exceeded the challenge by $1 million. A total of $4,622,950 had been raised in three years. Strider borrowed from Lewis Carroll, and called it “a frabjous day.” Colleagues and other friends celebrated with champagne and strawberries in the back yard of the President’s House.

Dunn grew up in a home opposite the President’s House on College Avenue. Her grandfather, Reuben ’67, made his fortune as a developer of the Lockwood cotton mills and as founder of the Dunn Edge Tool Company along the Messalonskee Stream. An accomplished writer and teacher of English, she served on the Colby faculty and the board, always working for the equal recognition of women. (Judge Cornish once said “she fought for the girls without making a nuisance of herself.”) In the early 1920s she made a key gift of $25,000 for a women’s gymnasium on the old campus, and in 1939 another to build the Women’s Union named for her friend Ninetta Runnals. Four decades after the campaign-making bequest of 1965, in the midst of the kickoff phase of yet another Colby capital campaign, her estate yielded a second bequest. This one was for $1.6 million.

In five years, faculty salaries rose 39 percent and the financial aid budget vaulted 191 percent. Success in meeting the Ford challenge brought riches beyond what the money could buy, and the occasion of the sesquicentennial provided a perfect opportunity to show it off. Observances began in October 1962 with an academic convocation centered on the topic of the influence of machines on the life of man. Speakers were Frank Stanton, president of CBS; Gerard Piel, editor and publisher of Scientific American; and Oscar Handlin, Harvard’s Winthrop Professor of History. Barnaby Keeney, president of Brown University (the only Baptist-founded New England college before Colby), spoke...
as well. Marriner’s *The History of Colby College* was released in November; and on February 27, 1963, the dean spoke on the precise anniversary of the signing of the charter and the creation of the College. Strider ordered a birthday cake, and he and Marriner cut it for the photographers.

Some thirty colleges and universities sent delegates for the grand finale in the spring. Over two days, the fieldhouse was jammed to hear addresses by Stuart Udall, U.S. secretary of the interior; Earl Warren, chief justice of the United States; and Thomas Storke, editor of the *Santa Barbara News-Press* and the 1962 Lovejoy fellow. Birthday celebrations ended on Alumni-Commencement Weekend with the largest crowds ever. Bixler returned to give the Commencement address.

It was a remarkable year, but when the clamor and speeches were over, the most enduring feature of the observance was an exhibition of Maine art. The Ford grant gave the College itself new prominence; the show vaulted the tiny art museum onto the national stage. The idea of mounting the ambitious sesquicentennial art show came from inveterate promoter Joseph Coburn Smith, by then a trustee and consultant on public affairs. Three years before the anniversary he was asked to propose how best to celebrate. As usual, his suggestions were over the top: invite the president of the United States to speak, give honorary degrees to Albert Schweizer and Charles de Gaulle, commission Leonard Bernstein to conduct the Colby orchestra. His proposal also included the notion the College might “gather a really notable exhibition on 150 years of American art, or something similar.”

The College took the “something similar” idea. With only a part-time curator, Christopher Huntington, plans were made for a survey exhibition, not of American art but of two hundred years of art in Maine, a state rich in art and artists. The exhibit, “Maine and its Artists, 1710–1963,” opened in May 1963. Thousands came to see it. *Time* touted it as one of the world’s twelve most outstanding international shows of the year. The magazine recited the places to visit: New York, Paris, London, Brussels and ... Waterville, Maine.

17. The Sesquicentennial Committee had wanted President Kennedy as the featured speaker; the chief justice was an alternate choice. Warren spoke on the morning of the second day, May 17. That afternoon he took a stroll on the campus and stopped for a rest and to enjoy the view from the steps of Runnals Union. Within minutes, nearly one hundred students gathered around, and he chatted with them for nearly an hour. The serendipitous gathering was one of the warmest and most memorable moments of the entire anniversary celebration.
A book by the same name was published in conjunction with the show (Viking Press, 1963); for collectors and dealers, this book remains the definitive work on the art of Maine. After its Colby closing in the fall, the show traveled to the Portland Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Just as the building of the Bixler Center provided the impetus for more ambitious undertakings in the visual arts, so too the facility made possible new ventures in music. Under the leadership of Mary McGowan, and with help from Helen Strider and Willard and Helen (’11) Cummings, the Friends of Music group was founded in 1961. Four decades later, subscriptions of the Friends made it possible to open the annual music series to the public without charge.

The Summer School of Music was established in 1963. Under the direction of Colby composer and conductor Peter Ré (music), the school began with the world-famous Juilliard String Quartet as faculty-in-residence. The following summer the Hungarian String Quartet began a nine-year run as teachers in the monthlong program offering master classes and public summer concerts. The following year Ré began an eleven-year stint as conductor and music director of the Bangor Symphony, the nation’s oldest community orchestra.

Two of the principal benefactors of the arts were Ellerton (honorary L.L.D., 1955) and Edith (honorary M.A., 1962) Jette. By 1960, the Jettes were already prominent Maine art collectors. Their American Heritage Collection gift to Colby in 1956 was the core of the College’s holdings. The Jette success came from shirtmaking. A Connecticut native, he left his studies at Boston University to serve in World War I and never returned to school. In 1932 he was the lead investor in the purchase of C. F. Hathaway, the country’s oldest shirtmaker.

The new Hathaway president was as elegant and gracious as the fine shirts he sold. He made friends easily and never seemed out of place driving the only Rolls-Royce in a town where all the Cadillacs were counted. Like the company’s namesake, he was obsessed with quality; unlike Hathaway, however, Jette had a bent toward the flamboyant. Hathaway didn’t like buttons at all; Jette liked them king-sized, and, for added distinction, with three holes. His

18. In 1966 the quartet included in its final summer concert Ré’s own three-movement Quartet no. 1, first performed by the Juilliard Quartet in the opening summer. The score became part of the Hungarian’s repertoire.
innovations included the introduction of oval collars, square-cornered cuffs, single-needle stitching, and one-piece sleeves. He led the shirt industry into the world of exotic fabrics and color: silk and Madras from India, gingham from Scotland, prints from France, broadcloth from Japan, and Lochlanna from Switzerland. At heart, he was a marketer and a promoter. Under his leadership the old company flourished as it never had before and never would again.

The advertising icon for Hathaway shirts was the famous “man with an eye patch.” David Ogilvy of the prestigious New York advertising firm Ogilvy, Benson & Mather took credit for creating the branding image often cited as the epitome of advertising genius. In fact, it was Edith Jetté’s idea. One evening in the winter of 1950 as she and Ellerton were traveling on a cruise ship, an elegantly dressed man with an eye patch entered the state dining room. Edith whispered to her husband that they had found the Hathaway man. The following September “The man in the Hathaway shirt”—gray mustache, white shirt and tie, black eye patch—first appeared in the New Yorker. Sales of Hathaway shirts soared. (Ogilvy client Rolls-Royce saw a similar profit jump in 1957 with use of the slogan: “At 60 miles an hour the loudest noise you can hear is the electric clock.” The line, almost verbatim, was first used in 1933, to sell the Pierce-Arrow.) When Jetté became trustee chairman at Colby, he convinced Ogilvy to join the board. It was not a good match. Ogilvy thought many of his trustee colleagues were too “Victorian.” He quit.

When Warner Brothers acquired Hathaway in 1960, Jetté stepped down as president. In 1965 he retired from Hathaway altogether and agreed to follow Sturtevant as chairman of the Colby board. Although Strider and Jetté came from different worlds, they were in many ways soul mates. Jetté was a Renaissance man, with interests and talents ranging from manufacturing and marketing to the fine arts. (Fellow trustee and former chair Neil Leonard called him “a creative businessman turned humanist.”) He supported Strider through thick and thin, and throughout his tenure (1965–70) there was plenty of the thin. The two men found the most common ground as visionaries. Jetté, in fact, wanted to add a “dreaming committee” to the list of otherwise traditional and functional trustee committees. It didn’t happen, but at least twice Jetté called selected trustees and key administrators to brainstorming retreats.

The Jettés were engaged with Colby well before he took his turn as board
chair. Together, they helped to make their dreams for a noteworthy museum come true. When the College decided the new Bixler Center should have a real museum, the Jettés scoured the circuit looking for someone to make a naming gift. They were not successful. On the eve of the sesquicentennial show, Strider announced that the new gallery would be named for them.

“T I ME S T H E Y A R E A-C H A N G I N’”

Young people began to gather on the new road even as the decade opened. By the time Bob Dylan gave them an anthem in 1964,19 they were already joined in the crusade for social change and civil rights. It was, most certainly, a battle that “shook the windows and rattled the walls.”

For many, ugly memories of the integration battle at Little Rock High School had faded. In February 1960, a small group of protestors staged a sit-in at the segregated lunch counter of the Woolworth Store in Greensboro, North Carolina, and when at the same time the Reverend King took his new pulpit in Atlanta, the demonstrations multiplied. Nightly television carried stark pictures of the conflicts, and the nation again became anxious. As the tide of confrontations rose, students at Jackson State University in Mississippi passed a simple resolution favoring integration. The college’s president abruptly abolished the student governing body. Many students were suspended and five were beaten in the melee that followed.

Colby’s student government sent a telegram to President Kennedy and his brother Robert, the attorney general, protesting the abridgment of academic and constitutional freedoms. Students at Harvard and MIT formed an Emergency Public Integration Committee (EPIC) and began picketing Boston’s Woolworth stores. In March, Colby students created their own EPIC, with the philosopher and pacifist Robert Reuman as faculty adviser, and called a public meeting for “anyone who ever felt disgust at the way the southern situation is handled.” Some 150 gathered in Lovejoy Auditorium, and for more than two hours talked of ways to respond.20 Someone suggested one or more of the sus-

20. By coincidence, the following week United Nations Under Secretary Ralph J. Bunche came to give a Gabrielson Lecture on Africa in the U.N. Bunche knew of the EPIC meeting and encouraged the local committee. “Significant material and moral support is needed,” he said, “for those who are combating discrimination in our country.” He came to speak again, in April 1965, a month before his son, Ralph Bunche Jr., graduated from Colby.

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pended students be brought to study at Colby. Jackie Lee '63, one of a half-
dozen black students, warned it might not be such a good idea, that Colby was
not altogether free from discrimination itself.21 A white student from North
Carolina cautioned students to move slowly. She blamed the Civil War for the
southerners' “dislike” of Negroes, and Eisenhower for perpetuating the prob-
lem by sending troops into Little Rock. “Southerners like to feel superior to
Negroes,” she wrote in the Echo. “Isn’t that human nature? Don’t Maniacs feel
superior to French Canadians?”

The idea of staging a sit-in at the Waterville Woolworth store was rejected
out of concern that it would “further unfriendliness and misunderstanding.” In
stead, EPIC sent a letter to the local manager protesting his company’s dis-
criminatory policies, and agreed to raise scholarship money and send it south.
A work project was scheduled for a Saturday afternoon in April. Thomas Ju-
nior College students pitched in and local clubs and churches agreed to find
work raking leaves and taking down storm windows. EPIC raised $539.65 and
sent it to the NAACP. Thurgood Marshall, director and counsel to the associ-
ation, wrote to say thanks.

Although the topic of discrimination had been swirling for some time, there
was little evidence of racial discrimination among the fraternities or sorori-
ties. Of the small number of minority students enrolled, a few were pledged to
Colby chapters, almost always in defiance of the national organizations. Many
local chapters had begun to pester the nationals to abandon onerous mem-
bership requirements.

Jacqueline Ruth Nunez of Freehold, New Jersey, was a sister of Chi Omega,
a writer for the Echo, and a member of Student Government. In May before
her 1961 graduation she introduced a Stu-G motion calling for the abolition of
discriminatory clauses in the charters and constitutions of all campus orga-
nizations. She felt pressure from Stu-G might assist the local chapters in their
efforts to force the change, and she acknowledged that a student initiative
would take the heat off an administration likely to face resistance from alumni
if it took that road by itself. The Nunez Proposal was part of a rising tide of
pressure on the national organizations from colleges across the country. The
“grand worthy chief” of Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) explained the organization

21. A classmate, Camilo Marquez, later recalled that there were too few black students
for generalizations to be made about the campus climate. He said he was not discrimi-
nated against because of his color and, besides, black students were not looking for
recognition as a community, “just acceptance on our merits.”
was a "Christian fraternity," and freely acknowledged both racial and religious discrimination. The local chapter ignored the rule. Lambda Chi Alpha (LCA) eventually removed membership restrictions (1964), but held that brothers "must believe in the principles of Christianity." Efforts to eliminate restrictions at both the national and local levels of Phi Delta Theta (PDT) were routinely overruled by the majority vote of its national members. The sororities had no written rules, but local presidents feared expulsion from the national organization if they sought to admit a Negro.

In the fall, Student Government embraced the Nunez Proposal, giving it extra teeth by calling for a deadline of June 1963. The Faculty Meeting concurred. Strider added his own endorsement and in November took the proposal to a board of trustees laden with fraternity alumni. Trustees took aim, but did not pull the trigger. Although they expressed opposition to any fraternity or sorority that discriminated, they gave no deadline for compliance. Strider was horrified by the trustee inaction. He told his wife, Helen, that perhaps they had made a mistake in coming to Colby. Student leaders were enraged. The *Echo* charged that bigotry had played a role in the board's decision, and that trustees were clinging to an "old Colby," and running against the tide. "There is nothing quite so touching about an Old Regime," an editorial said, "as its death." Board Chairman Sturtevant replied in an open letter in which he confessed the omission of a deadline was in deference to alumni, "whose contributions are largely responsible for Colby's establishment, maintenance, and future growth."

The first board vote had been a narrow one. Bixler, now a life trustee, might have turned the tide. Instead, he did not speak up and later confessed to Strider he had been asleep at the switch. He had not seen the ambush by those who lined up ahead of time to oppose a deadline. Sturtevant, Neil Leonard, Dwight Sargent, and a handful of others led an effort to have the trustees revisit the question, and a year later, in November 1962, the board finally gave the Greeks an ultimatum. They had until Commencement 1965 to satisfy the requirement or be banned from the College.22 More than a dozen other colleges had by then taken a similar stand.

Slowly, the national fraternities gave in, but there were casualties along the way. Williams College abandoned its fraternity system altogether, citing a waste of energy in its efforts to erase the "rigors and humiliations of the caste system." The ATO chapter at Bowdoin, protesting the "whites only" rule, dis-

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22. The extended deadline was in deference to the national organizations, some of which had tri-annual general meetings.
affiliated. At Colby, the ATOs and other chapters hung on until the national organizations relented. In 1964 the national sorority Delta Delta Delta (Tri-Delt) ended its fifty-six-year association with the College. Its national president wrote Strider to say Colby's criteria “cannot be reconciled with our organization.” Colby's Tri-Delts formed a new local sorority, Delta Alpha Upsilon.23

It took ten years to heal the rift between the student body and the trustees, and by that time there were new divisions. At the end of his tenure as Stu-G president, Frank Wiswall Jr. '62 wrote a letter to Sturtevant in which he cited “a tremendous lack of rapport” between students and trustees, caused in some measure by the board's “slight” in ignoring the student position on the fraternity/sorority matter.

Student mistrust of the established order, growing since the beginning of the decade, turned to despair and disillusionment on a cloudy Friday in November 1963, the day John Kennedy was killed. Many of them, like their teachers and others, wept openly. That night, Strider called students and faculty to Lorimer Chapel to “share a common grief.” He said “the emptiness we feel tonight will never leave us” and that Kennedy had “reaffirmed our faith in the dignity of man, at the same time that he has shared with us our common condition, in triumph and in suffering.” Five days later, classes on the Hill and in the local schools were canceled as millions watched the televised funeral.

Although ten million Americans who hadn't voted for him would later say they had, claims of an affinity with the fallen president in Maine and at Colby had some validity. The College gave his father, Joseph P., an honorary degree in 1946. Following the Democratic National Convention in the late summer of 1960, candidate Kennedy made his first campaign stop in Bangor. In the fall, David Buston '60 organized Colby Young Democrats to greet him on a Sunday night in Portland. Dean Nickerson gave permission for the women supporters to be out after eleven. Henry Wingate '61 bodily carried the back-ailing Kennedy from

23. Jackie Nunez graduated at the top of her Colby class and went on to earn a master's degree at Harvard. She was teaching at Bedford Hills (Massachusetts) High School when she became ill and died in 1966, at the age of twenty-seven. Led by her former roommate, Gracie Hall (Studley) '61, classmates established an all-College award in her memory. The Nunez Prize is given each spring to a senior woman who has demonstrated "academic excellence and personal leadership."
the airplane to a waiting flatbed truck. In the month before the 1960 election, the *Echo* ran a political advertisement from the Harold Poll of Cambridge that harshly played upon Kennedy's religion: "If we elect a creature that does not worship once in a church other than his own without the permission of his religious boss, will we have a man or a mouse in the White House?" Response to the ad was immediate and damning. The price of the ad was $1.90, and the editors said they wished they hadn't taken it. When Kennedy made his last Maine appearance at the University stadium at Orono a month before his death, many Colby students were in the huge and enthusiastic crowd.

The summer after the assassination, college students composed a majority of the quarter-million people who marched on Washington and heard King speak of his dreams. After King's speech and Kennedy's death, the commitment of college students to find racial justice became unshakable. Although many students came to revile Lyndon Johnson for the lingering war in Vietnam, for now they stood with him as he embraced his own convictions and the Kennedy legacy in the fight for civil rights. Before the 1963–64 year ended, Colby students formed chapters of the national Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Northern Student Movement (NSM). Each group worked to raise money in support of efforts to register Negro voters in the South and pressed for passage of the new Civil Rights Act, slowly moving through Congress.

Despite Colby's remote location, students were well informed on world issues, helped in no small measure by a steady string of prominent visitors who came to teach and speak. Besides the headliners who added sparkle to the Sesquicentennial, the 1960s brought a succession of notables including Bunche, and former Kennedy advisers Henry Kissinger, Adam Yarmolinsky, and Zbigniew Brzezinski. In 1962, James Jackson, editor of the communist newspaper *The Worker* squared off in a colorless debate with Senator Muskie.

The year 1964 opened with two lectures, each more significant in retrospect than at the time. In January Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford came at the invitation of Student Government Association president Stephen Schoeman '64. Ford had been named to the Warren Commission, investigating the Kennedy assassination. The subject was off-limits. On the whole, his lecture was uninspired, although students listened carefully when he borrowed from Thomas Paine and said it was "no time for summer soldiers and sunshine pa-
patriots.” A final bit of advice, while portentous, would in a short while seem unnecessary. “It will be an evil day in this country,” he said, “when it is wrong to say no.”

Four days later a crowd jammed into Averill Gymnasium in Runnals Union to hear James Meredith, who two years before had tested the federal school desegregation laws and under the protection of federal troops became the first Negro student at the University of Mississippi. Meredith, self-effacing and outwardly shy, warned the current crisis in race relations was “more explosive than the issues of slavery,” and unless a solution could be found “another Civil War could very well be in the making.”

In the spring, as Meredith graduated from Ole Miss and the Reverend King began a march from Selma to Montgomery, the Colby chapter of NSM staged “a peaceful picket” in Post Office Square, denouncing a Senate filibuster of the Civil Rights Act. Colby’s commencement speaker was the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, who spoke lightheartedly to the matter of student activism:

I think we older people ignore students at our peril these days. While sometimes their emotion exceeds their judgment, student demonstrators have even been toppling governments all over the world. . . . It is getting so that old-fashioned dictators can’t enjoy a safe night’s sleep any more. Happily for us, students have not tried to overthrow the Government of the United States, but they certainly are making their views felt in public affairs. I think especially of the participation of American students in the great struggle to advance civil and human rights in America. Indeed, even a jail sentence is no longer a dishonor but a proud achievement. Perhaps we are destined to see in this law-loving land people running for office not on their stainless records but on their prison records.

At the same time Stevenson exhorted students to “fight against injustice and for its victims’” and, “above all, do not wait too long, for time is about the only commodity in America of which we do not have enough.”

24. In the minutes before Meredith’s lecture, as he was being interviewed in a second-floor room by Echo editor Jan Wood (Parsons) ’65, a pickup truck pulled up the loop road in front of the Union. A man got out and bounded up the front steps, threatening and yelling racial epithets from the back of the packed gymnasium. There was a brief scuffle before he was subdued and arrested. Police found a 30-30 rifle and ammunition as well as handmade racist posters in the back of his truck. Meredith did not know. Two years later, during a freedom march in Hernando, Mississippi, a sniper succeeded in wounding him.
In July 1964, with King at his side, President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act and a month later received the Democratic nomination to face Barry Goldwater in the fall elections. That summer Bobby Vinton sang *Roses are Red* at the Skowhegan Fair, WTVL Radio brought Don McNeil and his Breakfast Club to Waterville, and the literary giant E. B. White came to Colby to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. White had been on Kennedy’s prize list at the time of the assassination. Johnson wanted to honor the late president’s choice, but White’s wife, Katherine, was too ill to travel to Washington. The Striders and the Whites were friends, and so it was arranged for Senator Muskie to make the presentation in a brief, private ceremony in the boardroom next to Strider’s office. When it was over, White commented that during the drive from his home in North Brooklin, he had pondered the significance and current relevance of the names of several Maine towns (Union, Liberty, Hope), including one he had driven through that morning: Freedom.

**BREAKING THE MOLD**

Circumstances, events, and new regimes of leadership called urgently for changes in the old order, at home and around the world. Nikita Khruschev had put up a wall in Berlin, and in Waterville a battle raged over an urban renewal project that would rearrange the face of downtown. A slumping Maine Central Railroad discontinued its passenger service to Waterville and Northeast Airlines removed LaFleur Airport from the list of stops for its DC3s. On the Hill, the first wave of baby boomers altered the size of the student body, and in the midst of it all, Strider was launching his own fight to escape the monotony of treasured campus architecture.

Colleges saw the postwar babies coming, and administrators smacked their lips at the prospect of greater selectivity and of added money for strained budgets. Faculty members, always happy to teach brighter students, were not eager to have larger classes. Bowing to temptation and demand, trustees agreed to admit 150 additional students for the academic year 1964–65 and push up enrollment to 1,500.

Except during World War II, the men had always outnumbered the women, and the capacity of the fraternity houses only widened the gap. To balance the scales (and, as a bonus, to improve the academic profile markedly), all of the new students were to be women. The newest 210-bed dormitory was meant to handle the increase. Groundbreaking ceremonies for Dana Hall were held in the fall of 1963. Doris Kearns (Goodwin) ’64 spoke for the students. The build-
ing wasn’t quite ready the next fall when the first wave of extra students arrived. As a temporary fix, some women were moved across the previously sex-dividing McCann Road and into Averill Hall. Rooms for sixty-eight displaced men were rented at the Elmwood Hotel and for another fifty at the Hotel Cassini (once the James) in town. Ninetta Runnals spoke at the opening the following September. In October, Charles Dana brought the gift of his own portrait for the dedication ceremonies.25

Strider was happy to have the new building, but unenthusiastic about the way it looked. The large, prominently placed structure was the last neo-Georgian building on the original Larson plan. Strider had gingerly suggested that perhaps it was time for an architectural change. Trustees would hear none of it. Any architectural changes were bound to be hard sells. College tub-thumpers had never lost opportunities to tout the striking, unified appearance of the new campus, and the bragging was contagious. As far as many were concerned, Larson’s red brick village with its magnificent towered library was what made Colby most distinctive. For them, any variation was unthinkable.

Although Larson’s buildings were certainly impressive and easy to look at, those who lived and worked in them knew the inherent difficulties. The repetitive and strictly defined spaces were monotonous, and torturous when time came for the inevitable renovations. Dana Hall became a model of the worst features of the Larson style. Until major renovations were made more than three decades later, the dormitory was the dead-last choice of students.26

In 1965, even before Dana Hall was open, Strider enlisted no less an ally than the eminent American modernist Edward Durrell Stone. Stone knew Colby (he received an honorary degree in 1959); and when he returned to give a public lecture, Strider seized the chance to ask his advice on campus planning. The man who had designed the original Museum of Modern Art and was soon to be at work on the Kennedy Center agreed a change was in order.27 Later that spring the board began to lay plans for new athletic facilities and more dormitories. To deal with the design of the new buildings, Strider con-

25. The philanthropist was by then quite old. No one, including his chauffeur, dared tell him his fly was unzipped. All photographs of the occasion are cropped, like Elvis on Ed Sullivan, from the waist up.

26. Dana Hall never ranked as the most ugly building on the campus. That prize went to the three-story, cinder-block press box that first offended the landscape in 1961. No amount of repainting or lettered decoration could ever disguise it.

27. Meanwhile, the College acquired a classical New England structure on the edge of campus. A fine house, modeled after the old library in nearby China Village, was purchased by the Alumni Council and named for Bill Millett.
vinced a committee of trustees, faculty, and administrators to depart tradition, and the board gave the dormitory design contract to another modernist, Benjamin Thompson of the Harvard School of Design. In no time at all, Strider began to get letters and calls from irate alumni. The yelling got louder when the Thompson dormitories popped out of the ground.

Strider’s reply, on the President’s Page of the *Alumnus* had the tone of strained patience. He reminded readers of the announced decision to hire Thompson. “It was thoroughly understood at that time,” he wrote, “that such a decision would mean a modification in the classical red brick Georgian style of architecture.” His defense was simple, and he repeated it throughout his presidency. While the planning objective was to create a campus with “harmony, balance, and beauty,” even a good thing could be overdone. “If a pattern, no matter how lovely, is too long continued, monotony rather than harmony will be the inevitable result,” he wrote. He also hinted Colby was getting behind the times:

> We are two-thirds of the way through a century marked by exciting architectural development. We think of Colby as a college in tune with its century in every sphere of its activity. With our handsome and dignified nucleus of 18th century buildings, typifying the age of rationalism and the enlightenment, is it not appropriate for us now to expand upon this nucleus with visible symbols of thinking in our own time? From many, the answer was plainly no.

The new project, including four dormitories and a chapter house for Kappa Delta Rho (the last fraternity house), was assigned space in the woods, west of the library, overlooking the pond. Its location was a concession to those who wanted it hidden, but it turned out to be the perfect spot: striking white buildings nestled into the hillside with native landscape restored and embellished under the supervision of Carol Johnson of the Thompson firm. Construction—delayed three days to accommodate a nesting woodcock—was completed in time for the opening of school in 1967.  

> The buildings were called the first “coed” dorms, although connecting staircases safely separated the men and women. They were named for former board chairs and 1921 Colby classmates Sturtevant and Leonard, for Ernest Marriner, and for the late Pro-

28. That summer, in a gesture to the past, an outdoor music shell, named for its donor, Ralph T. Gould, was set up near the Coombs baseball field. The structure, a war memorial, was moved from the grounds of South Portland High School where it had stood for thirteen years.
Professor Julian Taylor. When fraternities were closed in 1985, the KDR house took the name of its brother, benefactor, and vice president successor to Eustis, Ralph Williams. Collectively, the buildings were called the Hillside Dorms.

Complaints over the new architecture slowed to a simmer when the places opened in 1967 and the new Maine Commission on Arts and Humanities gave a special award to the College "not exclusively for the excellent architectural and landscape design," but for the "courage in bringing contemporary architecture to Central Maine—an area not renowned for its 20th century architecture." Further vindication came when the American Institute of Architects (AIA) chose Thompson and his Colby project for one of twenty national Honor Awards, the only one in New England. Students also gave high marks, although early on many were asking when the room ceilings were going to be finished. The poured concrete had been simply whitewashed, leaving the imprint of the wood knots, seams, and fasteners of construction forms. Thompson said it was exactly what he wanted, and to leave it alone. What Thompson and others had not considered was that the expansive lounge windows faced directly north, into the bone-chilling winter winds. Much of the glass was un-artfully sheathed over during the energy crisis of the 1970s. The playfully decorated lounges became a whole lot darker but a good deal warmer.

The temptation to increase enrollment had not ended. Even while the bulked-up classes were working into the cycle, trustees considered whether there might be an educational advantage to adding three hundred more students. In 1967 they concluded there was no advantage at all. It would require too much new construction. Instead, goals were set to reduce the teaching load of faculty from four courses to three and improve the student-faculty ratio of 15 to 1.

It was hoped the four hundred new beds of Dana and the Hillside dorms would provide student housing aplenty, but they didn’t. Harry Carroll came from the University of New Hampshire as the College’s first experienced dean of admissions in 1964, and his marching orders were never to undershoot the planned size of an entering freshman class. He never did. At the same time, the ratio of admitted-to-enrolled students kept going up, and the place often overflowed for the first semester, sometimes for the full year. Whenever students outnumbered campus beds, the College simply rented space in town. The Elmwood Hotel was on its last legs when the men stayed there waiting to reclaim Averill Hall. Afterward, the Hotel Cassini got used once more, and in 1966 Robert Sage ’49 opened his Fenway-Maine Motor Hotel at the I-95 interchange on Upper Main. Sage, unfailingly helpful to Colby (and Colby people), rented satellite rooms there as well. And, to further relieve the pinch, the num-
ber of students given permission to live in their own rented off-campus apartments was allowed to grow.

Being sent to live off campus had many disadvantages, but there were bonuses as well. Among the plusses was the increased opportunity for mischief. One warm fall night some students consigned to the Hotel Cassini climbed to the large, blinking, red-neon rooftop sign of the same name and shorted out the last two letters of Hotel and the first and last three letters of Cassini before retreating to the building’s interior, padlocking the heavy roof hatch behind them. Traffic moving north along College Avenue quickly slowed to a crawl. Drivers honked their horns in merriment. Someone not among the honkers called the cops. It took nearly an hour to break onto the roof and pull the plug.

Downtown Waterville had its own share of crowding, and the old order of things was changing there as well. In cities and towns everywhere, too many automobiles were competing for too few parking spaces. Even as the federal government helped finish the interstate highway, it was providing money to revitalize the in-town areas where the highway had stolen business. Democrat Albert Bernier ’50 was mayor (1958–61) when the city first applied for a local project. His successor, conservative Republican Cyril Joly ’48, preferred to have Waterville pay its own way, but the scheme was already too far along and too expensive. When the first federal check arrived in 1962, the wrecking balls began to swing. By the time Democrat mayor Malcolm Fortier took office in 1966, the shape of the project was cast in concrete. It took another thirteen years to complete and, as on the Hill, controversy followed it every step of the way.

In the end most of Temple Street was gone, and, with it, all of Charles Street and the apartment buildings of adjacent neighborhoods where tenants had once walked to Saint Francis for mass and to Cottle’s store for groceries. All that was left was the red brick Sentinel building (later pale yellow), too big and too expensive to move, a looming ark in a sea of asphalt. Casualties along Temple Street included the YMCA and the grand old New England-style Congregational church. The “Y” was replanted at the corner of North and Pleasant, where George Keller presided over a new, single-story building with a flat roof (yes, it leaked). The altar and stained-glass windows of the Congregational church were rescued and installed in a new building, with architecture mimicking the nearby College, on the corner of Upper Main and a new parkway named in memory of Galen Eustis.
Alice’s Café, né Onies, in business since Prohibition, also had to go. When it closed in the spring of 1965, its wooden booths were saved and ensconced in the Zeta Psi house on campus. Uprooted merchants were variously angry and pleased. George Desmond’s Ford garage and Dakins’s sporting goods store went out of business. Eddie Vlodek’s dry goods store and Leo Diambri’s restaurant traded up, moving from their quaint Main Street roots into new cinder-block, plate glass, and Formica-furnished quarters on the Concourse. The K-Mart came as the centerpiece, their rooftop logo sign both the smallest of any K-Mart in the country and the largest ever seen in town. A plea for a few trees and an occasional grassy strip was roundly nixed in favor of extra places to park.\(^29\) The following year, amid the local frenzy to tidy up, two other great landmarks—the Elmwood Hotel and Memorial Hall—fell as well.

While new projects on the Hill led to better days, urban renewal could give only a brief reprieve to the health of downtown Waterville. At best, the rearrangement of the Main Street environs produced more parking spaces. At worst, it destroyed some of the very things that might have made downtown a more attractive destination in the years to come.

**MULE TRAIN**

*At Colby, as with many American colleges, football was the icon of sports, a galvanizing force at the opening of each school year that, if fates allowed, could carry a special campus spirit the whole year through. In the 1960s, football fortunes began to dwindle, and sports fans began to find pride at different venues: the ice arena, the baseball field, and the track. A new athletic facility broadened recreational opportunities all around, and the doors began to open ever so slightly to a more comprehensive and competitive program for women.*

Invigorated by a talented young coach and a parcel of stellar athletes, men’s ice hockey began to play the role of David in matchups with the Goliaths of the Northeast. Jack Kelley’s teams were mesmerizing. Sold-out home seats were rarely sat upon. Fans rose howling to their feet when the team skated onto the ice to the throbbing strains of their theme song, Vaughan Monroe’s “Mule Train,” and didn’t sit down until the game was over.

29. The bleak parking lot remained unchanged until the mid-1990s when, in a valiant attempt to attract shoppers, it was broken up by plantings, a maze of roadways, and curbing. A controversial steel sculpture was set in the middle. The changes brought a tiny bit of charm and a great deal of traffic confusion.
In 1960–61 the front line of Ron Ryan ’62, John Maguire ’61, and Sandy Boardman ’61 gathered 222 points in an 18–5 best-ever season to become the highest scoring line in the history of U.S. collegiate hockey. The following winter, the Mules took an 18–1–1 record against U.S. opponents into the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) tournament, losing to Clarkson in the semifinals. Victims included Boston University, Boston College, Northeastern, and Providence. Ryan led the nation’s scorers (104 points), and he and theatrical goalkeeper Frank Stephenson ’62 were All-Americans. Kelley, 34, was NCAA U.S. Coach of the Year, and promptly got lured away by his alma mater, Boston University. Charlie Holt, Kelley’s teammate on the U.S. team in the 1949 World Championships, took his place and the Mule train rumbled on, winning both the NCAA and ECAC Division II championships in 1965–66, and entering postseason play every year to the end of the decade.

Basketball victories were harder to find. It began well enough, with a 1962 crown in the nine-game State Series. The brightest light was Ken Stone ’64 who went on to score a College and state record of 1,500 career points. In 1965, Coach Lee Williams was given his leave to become executive director of the Basketball Hall of Fame at its new home in Springfield, Massachusetts. In nineteen seasons he had won a dozen state titles, including nine in a row. Verne Ullom, a Christian Scientist who read from Mary Baker Eddy in the locker room, followed Williams. His squad won the Maine Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) in 1966 and again in 1967 before he was succeeded by Ed Burke ’60 whose teams struggled for two years until walk-on Doug Reinhardt ’71 netted 469 points as a sophomore, on his way to breaking Stone’s career record.

When spring came, John Winkin’s baseball teams were the customary State Series winners, having taken five titles in six years by 1961. The following year he added the role of athletic director, and his teams continued to win. “Wink,” who prayed with his players before each game (and cursed a bit during them), took his 1965 squad (15–5) into the regional NCAA tourney in Yankee Stadium; the following year the National Association of Baseball Coaches made him Coach of the Year. In ten years, his Colby teams amassed a record of 153–81–7. The 1966 squad was the most successful in the ninety-nine-year history of the sport at Colby, finally losing in the NCAA District One playoffs in Boston’s Fenway Park. Eddie Phillips ’66 threw a no-hitter at UMO that year;

30. At BU Kelley won six Beanpots and two NCAA championships before moving on to coach and then manage the professional Hartford Whalers. He ended his career as president of the Pittsburgh Penguins of the NHL.
Jim Thomas ’67 was the nation’s RBI champ (forty runs, twenty games), and
captain Sal Manforte ’66 was a first-team All-American.

The fate of football seemed to shift in an instant. In 1961 Bruce Kingdon ’62
was an All-American, but by season’s end coach Bob Clifford had only twenty-
three players, and eight freshmen had to be brought up to play the final game.
Clifford resigned that winter to coach at the University of Vermont, which
soon abandoned the sport altogether. John Simpson, later a coach at Boston
University, stepped in and the player shortage continued. Bowdoin and Bates
took the giant University of Maine off their football schedules after 1964.
Colby hung on for two more years before throwing in the towel and joining a
new Colby, Bates, Bowdoin (CBB) rivalry. Even in the decline, there were mo-
ments to celebrate. Quarterback Bill Loveday ’67 completed sixteen passes
against Bates in 1965, setting a national collegiate record, and Steve Freyer ’68
caught forty-four season passes for a new Colby high. In 1967 Dick McGee
came from nearby Lawrence High in Fairfield where he was Maine high school
coach of the year, and replaced Simpson. Through the end of the decade,
McGee’s tiny squads were devoted to him, but regularly got less than they
gave, losing every game in the 1968 season.

Some blamed Strider for the nosedive, but he was following a course set by
Bixler and a faculty bent on broadening and enriching the student academic
profile. The College was beginning to attract new strains of students, and for
many of them, athletics was not at the top of the list. At the same time, the
shrinking pool of student athletes was being further diluted by new sports
options.

Men’s soccer, varsity since 1959, was among those sports that began to steal
a share of those who might have played football. UMO fielded a soccer team
in 1963, and a State Series competition began the following year. With Winkin
as coach, Colby took the first title. A lacrosse club, formed in 1965 with Jim
Wilson ’67 as volunteer coach, grew to varsity status in 1972. As a club, the golf
team (later to be coed) won the MIAA championship in 1960 and 1961, and
was on its way to becoming a varsity team in 1965. Men’s tennis began in 1965;
women’s, in 1969; and even before, as clubs, both were accustomed to winning
state titles. Other clubs were emerging in squash, swimming, and cross-coun-
try, all soon to become varsity as well.

Skiing was resurrected in 1963 when Mildred Vigue gave Colby the old up-
and-down ski slope at Mountain Farm in memory of her brother Charles, the
man who had welcomed the GI skiers years before. The College resurrected
the area for a third time. A rope tow provided intermittent skiing until 1964
when a small lodge, a 1,280-foot T-bar, lighting, and snowmaking equipment
were added. It was rededicated as a community recreation area, and alumni used it on the first of many annual Winter Weekends in 1965. Season tickets were sold to the public ($30 for adults, $15 for students). Despite the hard work, with shortages of both snow and customers, it was a struggle to keep the slope running. Unlike Thompson’s Hillside dorms, the slope faced the winter sun. There was rarely enough snow on the two south-facing trails, or on the outrun of the ancient 32-meter jump. Ansel Grindall, Norman Poulin, and their crews tinkered with a half-dozen new-fangled “snow guns” through endless cold nights. Even with plenty of snow, the 1,200-foot main slope was a steep menace for recreational skiers, and too short for the ski team. Sugarloaf Mountain had been operating ski trails since 1951, and by 1960 Alpine and Nordic skiing were gaining increased recreational popularity. Silas Dunklee signed on as the first paid skimeister in 1965, and in 1967 the men’s club joined Sugarloaf as hosts to the NCAA national ski championships. A year later, the club won Colby’s first Maine championship.

The slow expansion of recreational opportunities for those who were not athletes at all jumped several notches in 1967 with the opening of a 103,000-square-foot athletic complex, paid for in part by yet another grant from the Dana Foundation. The Wadsworth Field House became a permanent gymnasium with a varsity floor and room for three intramural courts. A new fieldhouse boasted a state-of-the-art eight-lap artificial surface track, and a new swimming pool (175 × 75 feet) was advertised as “Olympic size.” The Dunaway Charitable Foundation of Ogunquit gave money for squash courts, and there were new men’s lockers and showers. A physical therapy center (for men only) in the new facility honored the late Mike Loebs. Carl Nelson, on board since 1959 as the College’s first athletic trainer, presided. The popular Nelson was much in demand, covering practices and competitions by himself, while assuming Loebs’s place as director of the Roberts Union infirmary.

The new fieldhouse brought resurgence in the ancient sport of track and field. Ken Weinbel came to coach in 1964, and two years later Colby got its first win over Bowdoin in forty years. A young Ethiopian runner, Sebsibe Mamo ’70, provided the edge. Mamo ran a 3:45.8 1,500 meters for Ethiopia in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, and Peace Corps volunteer Joseph Woods persuaded

31. The new gym worked fine for athletics, but was dismal as a place for musical performances. In 1977 a portable music shell was acquired to improve the acoustics, and was named in honor of Alma Morrissette McPartland ’07, a generous lifelong contributor who in 1903 had helped to found “the ladies glee club.”

THE 1960s
him to enroll at Colby. In 1966 he broke the ECAC freshman cross-country record, and the following year he won six college meets. In the spring (1968), Colby won the MIAA track championship for the first time in the association’s sixty-nine-year history. Earlier that spring Weinbel staged a fieldhouse grand opening invitational meet. More than three hundred competitors came from throughout New England and a crowd of some 1,500 spectators packed every corner. Mamo beat archival Amby Burfoot of Wesleyan in the two-mile race, destroying the College record with a time of 8:48.3.32

The last event of the night was the high jump, and the final two competitors were Colby’s Bob Aisner ’68 and John Thomas of Boston University, a national hero who held both world and Olympic trials records. The popular Aisner, a two-sport, same-season, track and basketball standout, matched Thomas at 6'-7'', and the bar went up an inch. Thomas, who as a freshman set a world mark of 7'-3 3/4'' in the Olympic trials, cleared easily. Aisner waited at the head of the runway as Thomas approached him to offer encouragement and advice. The two shook hands, and when Aisner cleared the 6'-8'' jump, the crowd exploded. No Maine collegian had ever jumped that high. Thomas and Aisner, in shared elation, embraced each other for a long moment in the pit. With the bar at 6'-9'', Aisner missed. Thomas skimmed over the top.

Cobbling together the many parts of the new complex had been an architectural challenge. There were weak points. On February 2, 1969, a snowstorm piled six-foot drifts onto the flat roof connecting the Alfond Arena to the gymnasium. The roof collapsed at 4:30 in the morning, showering the south stands of the arena in debris and creating an implosion that broke glass bricks at the far end of the rink. The storm had forced cancellation of a game with Bowdoin the night before. Engineers said the uproar of the game almost certainly would have brought the roof down on the crowd. Bowdoin offered its rink for the remaining two games of the season.

32. The indoor track was surfaced with Tartan, all the rage in a time when artificial surfaces were new. The “healing” nature of the material allowed runners to use short spikes. If it was a marvel, in fact the surface was too hard, and the corners of the short track were not banked. The combination spawned an epidemic of shin splints, and by the 1980s the track began to be used mostly for practice, rarely for competitive events.
The central lobby of the new athletic facility was adorned with a stainless steel sculpture by Maine artist Clark Fitzgerald. Its title, *The Whole Man*, spoke volumes about the status of women in athletics. For now, they were consigned to continue operating their reduced athletic program on the other end of campus, with locker rooms and meager facilities in Runnals Union. Marjorie Bither took Janet Marchant’s place as director of women’s physical education in 1965. The *Alumnus* announced the change, and said that going forward it would “find some way to include the athletic doings of coeds.” It didn’t. Two years later, the editor apologized again. With the College by then officially co-educational, a column headed “The Girls” again promised to do better. Bither began to improve things, if the magazine didn’t. The decade saw the addition of four new women’s sports. Making golf coeducational when a varsity team was created in 1965 was not gratuitous. The first full women’s team, basketball, came in 1968. Field hockey began the same year, and in 1969 the venerable tennis club went varsity as well. All students had a physical education requirement, and although the men’s list was longer, the program had twenty-five activities for women including dancing, swimming, and a semester’s worth of individual sports elected from a menu including fencing, judo, track and field, squash, hiking, and gymnastics. The new pool brought the addition of synchronized swimming. The magazine managed to boast that Cynthia Paquet ’67 had represented the College in two national intercollegiate golf tournaments, and that Mary Walker ’69 was the mideastern champion in badminton.

**RIGHTS AND RULES**

*The sexual revolution was under way and students were well pleased to be a part of it. At Colby the revolt came on the same tide with the residential mixing of the sexes and true coeducation. Students eagerly took up arms against institutional regulations that no longer reflected their social attitudes—or their behavior. The itch should not have surprised anyone. Students were only mimicking their elders who, from the president’s office to the shared office of the newest instructor, were doing a good bit of tinkering with the old order of things themselves. Indeed, when the time came to tackle a general revision of the Student Handbook, members of the faculty gleefully joined in. It was never a question of whether new freedoms were needed. There was some agreement on that. The questions were about where to draw the lines.*

Many single-sex institutions were talking about coeducation. It took another decade, but when they made the shift they did it in the safety of numbers. Women entered Williams and Wesleyan in 1970; Bowdoin, 1971; Dartmouth,
1972; Amherst, 1974. Men broke into Connecticut College in 1968 and Vassar, a year later. Harvard had been engaged to women since 1943 when Radcliffe women first came to class. They were officially married in 1972. In the meantime, Harvard's president, Nathan Pusey, liked to say the old college was not coeducational at all, "except in fact." By the 1960s, women had been enrolled at Colby for nearly a century, but Colby was a little like Pusey's Harvard. Strider and others aimed to take the next steps, to eschew the strange system of coordination and make Colby coeducational—in law and in fact. At a place everyone already thought was coed, the switch was harder than it looked.

Except for the forces of culture in the self-selection of courses (fewer women in the sciences, fewer men in the humanities) classroom mixing was taken for granted. Outside of class, authorities worked hard to keep the sexes apart. Library stacks were closed at night to prevent necking. Women's dormitories were locked at 10:30 P.M. on weekdays and the residents were carefully counted. Student guards staffed entryways to women's dorms; bells and loudspeakers announced a "man on the floor!"33 Hoping for safety in numbers, officials designated a "coed room" (201 Runnals) as a place for couples to meet. Students called it a "mass necking room," but it never was. As quickly as a single couple commandeered one of the couches, others respectfully declined to enter. A good deal of the overflow "making out" went on in automobiles. Watching the movies was a secondary matter at the Augusta Road Drive-In Theater, and parkers regularly lined bumper-to-bumper along the road by Johnson Pond.

High schoolers and other local lovers caught on fast, competing for pondside parking spaces. Boys from town would sometimes stalk the parkers at night, beaming flashlights into the darkened, fogged-up cars for eye-popping glimpses of what was going on inside.

Even as students looked for rules to delete, someone was always adding more. When fraternities began adopting canine mascots, Dean of Men George Nickerson banished dogs. After a rash of accidents, Strider declared the campus off-limits to motorcycles. Student apartment renters in town were given

33. The barriers were not impenetrable. Since the beginning of the new campus, men had avoided the bell desks by crawling through first-floor windows and climbing the exterior fire escapes.
the same rules for visitations as the dormitory dwellers. The faculty limited class cuts to two per semester, and imposed a $25 fine for missing the last class before a vacation.

Those who argued the College could not move to true coeducation without plenty of rules, or thought students should not write them, did not lack supporting evidence. When the Class of 1964 arrived, Henry “Hank” Gemery, assistant director of admissions, announced that the women came from the top 10 percent of their high school classes; the men, from the top 20 percent. Despite an edge in the classroom, the “girls” on the south end of campus were still having a fine time hazing new classmates, getting them out of bed at odd hours, making them sing the alma mater. (The men had about given up the hazing of freshmen. Their hands were full with fraternity pledges.) And even as the Echo complained of a “paternalistic” administration and a “Victorian” social code, it advertised a 1961 protest favoring Johnson Day as a “panty raid.” The event in fact featured loud chanting: “We want Johnson Day!” and (although it was unclear what they intended to do with him) “We want Strider!”

Despite occasional lapses, men and women students were changing their views of each other. The Kinsey reports on what was going on in human sexuality had been well digested. By the mid-1960s, William Masters and Virginia Johnson were detailing the how, and Betty Friedan gave light to the question of why women were victims of a system of false values subjugating them in their various roles in the workplace and at home. Friedan’s book The Feminine Mystique was already a best seller when students (mostly women) jammed Averill Auditorium to hear her warn that the insecurity of young women made them vulnerable to brainwashing. Her message set a buzz. Panty raids were nearly finished.

The first brush with near anarchy was yet to come, but lines of authority were getting fuzzy. Who was in charge? Students yelled for the power to make instant changes, and shifting factions of the faculty were always willing to join them. Trustees distanced themselves, their reputations soiled by their initial refusal to put teeth into the Nunez Proposal. Strider seized his best weapons—education and the written word—to see if he could put things straight. From 1965 to 1966 he wrote a series of four articles on the roles of various constituencies in the governance of the College. The trustees, he said, knew it was not their function to “run the college” but instead “to see that the college is

34. Gemery, a newcomer in the economics department, was persuaded to take a tour as an admissions officer in order to give some counterweight to director Bryan’s bent toward prep schools and athletes.
properly run.” His piece on the faculty and administration underscored the paramount role of the faculty in setting the academic direction, and the place of the administration in supporting them. In his essay on alumni roles, he cited their importance in development and in helping to identify new students. He knew from his mailbox many alumni were grumpy about change, and he had already given them a good deal to be grumpy about. He wrote that the most helpful alumni were those “who recognize the inevitability of change and are receptive to it,” adding, for emphasis, “if, as I understand, it is occasionally true in some institutions, the alumni regard themselves as apostles of a past that is no longer viable in a changing world, their contribution is necessarily limited. The ancient war cry, Come weal, come woe, / my status is quo, is inappropriate.”

In the last and longest piece, Strider gave his view on of the role of students who, he said, had quite enough to do without trying to run the place. Even so, he acknowledged students “not only have something important to say but are also uncommonly anxious to say it.” Their voice, he said, “might make some of their elders uneasy, but we had better give them a chance to speak.” He said he very much favored student participation in governance “although ultimate decision on far-reaching matters of policy should not be theirs.”

Students first sat with rule-makers in January 1965, when members of Blue Key and Cap and Gown joined a daylong “conversation” to discuss the plan to mix up the dorms. The administration wanted to put men and women in separate wings of Mary Low-Louise Coburn and Foss-Woodman, and let women into Averill and East Quad, on the men’s side of campus. Students weren’t much interested, and in April, Strider announced the plan would not go forward. Instead, the administration would press on the possibility of coed dining. Merely mixing the sexes in the dining halls or by adjacent dormitories wasn’t what students really wanted. The system of room selection that gave students choices of what they considered the best dorms would continue to plague proposals for housing changes for the next twenty-five years, until the dorms were systematically renovated to create more parity in overall quality and space.35 Students’ real passion was for the chance to get out of the parked cars, and for men to be able to visit women in the cozy confines of the dorms. American institutions couched the debate in the eloquence of ancient Latin, passed on through the European universities. “Parietal hours” was the label for relaxed visitation rules in the women’s dorms (never the other way around),

35. Nothing, of course, could change location. Cold winters would always make proximity to the library a prize.
and “in loco parentis” described an institution’s behavior as surrogate parents. Students wanted parietal hours; they did not want the College in loco parentis.

Clifford Osborne retired as chaplain in the spring. Frederick Hudson replaced him. Hudson was a Baptist reformer. The cellar of Lorimer Chapel soon became a coffeehouse; the annual religious convocation was discontinued, and one of his first sermons was titled “The Death of God.” In his valedictory Osborne blamed his own “grandfather generation” for failing the current students. These “victims of two generations of ‘lostness,’” he said, “are for very good reason an enigma to their elders—who don’t know what to do with them.” He said the culture was delayed in its development, perhaps not ready for a sexual revolution, and warned, “Until the American male gives up his attitude toward sex as an exploitation of the female, promiscuity is likely to increase.” Many who feared allowing parietal hours would send the pregnancy rate over the blue light in the library tower shared his views. It didn’t turn out that way at all.

Coed dining began in the fall of 1965. Women who wanted to eat in Roberts (few did), and men who wanted to eat in Mary Low or Foss (many did) needed to sign up in the Spa a week ahead of time. The *Echo* warned, “Men students eating on the girls’ side will be responsible for learning the individual rules for their respective dining halls and will be required to adhere to them.”

Strider took a well-earned leave that winter, and he and his family made a four-month trip around the world. He returned with “a clearer recognition on my own part of where Colby stands and what Colby might do to make itself an even better institution.” His reflections convinced him that, despite a growing awareness of the world beyond the Hill (including concern in the struggle for civil rights), the College remained far too insulated. Part of the difficulty, Strider felt, was a failure to integrate the social and intellectual lives of students. He began to frame solutions in a document, “Certain Proposals,” issued that fall, and sent in draft to board chairman Ellerton Jette. “I have taken the position that just shuffling people around on the campus coeducationally is not enough,” Strider wrote, explaining his proposals were “pointed toward an alteration of the social structure, without which mere increase of coed opportunities doesn’t add up to much.”

Jette knew something about students. He was the first chairman in mem-

36. At the opening fall assembly in 1966, he reminisced about his trip. He told students that being away made him see the often-celebrated campus issues as rather trivial. He said it was “illuminating to read, as I did one bright afternoon in Athens, a copy of the Colby *Echo* in the shadow of the Acropolis.”

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ory to join students on their own turf when, in the midst of the debate over parietal hours, he accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of Student Government. It wasn’t long before he was calling for another of his “dreaming sessions” with fellow trustees. In preparation, he offered his own views of the future. He saw needs for an ever-stronger faculty, more classrooms, and a better library. Not surprisingly, he dreamed of a true art and culture center. “I am not sure about [the need for] a student union,” he wrote to Strider, and neither was he sure of the need for an athletic complex “as I have an idea that in 10 or 15 years colleges like Colby will not be playing intercollegiate athletics.”

“Certain Proposals” called for a mixing of living accommodations, complete coeducational dining, and the discontinuance of the men’s and women’s divisions in all of their manifestations. All of these things soon came to pass. He further proposed a division and reorganization of the living system itself, suggesting the College be organized into four or five residential units, each with fewer than five hundred students, and each with its own academic focus, faculty affiliates, and social governing body. Strider’s proposals were the focus of a campuswide “congress,” held in mid-November. Students were already in a bad mood, and in the middle of it all, Strider turned down a request for a trial run of parietal hours because, he said, it lacked an honor system. In fact, the parietal hours plan proffered by students was not entirely without creative controls. It was suggested a woman’s door be left open a crack when she had a visitor, and the man signal his presence by hanging a necktie on the doorknob. The safeguards presumed too much (not the least of which was that the men owned neckties), and although there was general student crabiness over the rejection, Strider was heartened by the reaction of some. He wrote Jette to report quite a few students had told him that “they applaud this firmness of purpose on the part of the administration, and they are relieved to be able to get back to work and forget about the entreaties of the fire-eaters.”

The congress was a flop. Averill Gymnasium was packed for a faculty/student panel discussion that was drowned out by a three-hour free forum of complaints. The biggest problem with Strider’s proposals seemed to be that he had made them. By and large they were criticized, ignored, or summarily dismissed. A frustrated faculty panelist, Tom Easton (biology), called the blase attitude of students “creeping coolth.”

In the aftermath, the Campus Affairs Committee (CAC) and Student Gov-

37. Twenty years later, with the abandonment of fraternities and sororities, the Commons system would strikingly resemble Strider’s reorganization plan. For now, it was too much, too soon.
ernment set up subcommittees to come up with recommendations on a number of issues, including an honor system, coed living, and student-faculty relations. The CAC, with Strider’s assistant Howard Koonce as chairman, held open hearings in the spring. Many students used the hearings to complain of an administrative failure to communicate. Koonce fumed. “It is,” he said, “nothing short of astonishing to hear college students clamor for ‘communication.’ After all, they have as much of their day free from any real necessity of mind-boggling labor as they wish to make free; they have as much contact with articulate instructors as they wish to use; and they are asked to attend sessions at which every one of us charged with the responsibility of teaching them damn well wishes most of them would do their work and would start communicating meaningfully and intelligently.”

In January 1967, trustees declared Colby coeducational, de facto and de jure, and by spring the plan for mixing the dormitories got sorted out. Freshman dormitories were abolished; women moved into Averill Hall, men into Coburn,38 and an elaborate system for selecting rooms, seniors first, was put in place. That fall, students on their own abandoned the ancient hazing practice of requiring freshmen to wear beanies and signs around their necks.

Chaplain Osborne’s fears about the sexual attitudes of males were made manifest in April. Just as the CAC was sorting out the final plan for coeducational living, twenty-six members of Tau Delta Phi fraternity and eight others were accused of sexual misconduct with a local young woman in a downtown apartment. Dean Nickerson sent the messy affair to the Inter-Fraternity Council, which imposed sanctions on the fraternity: a fine, probation, and public service. Strider said it wasn’t enough. Members involved could not hide behind the fraternity; they must be disciplined as well. Hundreds of students marched around the Eustis Building, protesting Strider’s decision and threatening to strike classes and hold sit-ins. Strider agreed to convene an independent committee and reopen disciplinary proceedings, and Stu-G and the IFC called off further demonstrations to await the outcome. In the end, there were sanctions for both the fraternity and the individuals involved.

38. When the first male residents moved into Louise Coburn Hall, they climbed above the entry doorway and pried the “e” off Louise.

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In June, a joint committee of the American Association of University Professors, the National Student Association, the Association of American Colleges, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and the National Association of Women Deans and counselors gathered in Washington, D.C., and wrote a Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students. The comprehensive document set forth new standards for the protection of student rights in the classroom, in the keeping of student records, in student affairs, and in off-campus activities. It also established procedural standards for disciplinary proceedings. The Colby faculty adopted the statement in November 1970. It remains the definitive document on student rights.

The move to full coeducation was more than mere ceremony. There were structural changes as well. The divisions of men and women disappeared, a single-student judicial system was created, and various student records and lists were blended. The offices of dean of men and dean of women were abolished. Dean of Men Nickerson retired and Dean of Women Frances Seaman became the first dean of students and served a year. When Strider assistant Jonas Rosenthal became dean in the fall of 1968, he had two associate deans and a new office of student activities.

A trained sociologist, Rosenthal was open to new ideas in residential life and to extending the new rights and freedoms, but he was caught in a time warp. Students often saw him as being too conservative; some of his colleagues, above and below in the pecking order, thought he was too liberal—and soft on crime. Others, like Gene Peters (philosophy), thought the administration should back off and let students decide things for themselves. Peters spoke from the left. He wrote that if the College felt obligated to provide for the social and moral cultivation of students [and it did], then it should satisfy this obligation "by yielding its authority and giving students the opportunity to cultivate themselves." Quite likely, he said, "The social habits and moral standards the students will adopt will not coincide with those the College would have struck upon. Why should they?" Rosenthal replied that it was not that simple. "Students should have plenty of responsibility for their own social and moral development," he wrote, but the College "should also accept the responsibility to pass on to students guidelines and models for methods of making decisions."

The new system was made manifest at Commencement 1968. Graduates marched to the platform to claim their degrees in a single line, alphabetically.

39. Peters left teaching to study medicine and later practiced as a respected Waterville obstetrician.
by surname. A woman, Jessie McGuire of Fanwood, New Jersey, led the parade as the first all-senior valedictorian and class marshal.

"STOP, CHILDREN, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?"

Rock 'n' roll became rock, and Buffalo Springfield warned to look around and see what was going down. Battle lines were being drawn. Once-docile baby boomers were becoming disillusioned, confused, and angry. The nation was building a nuclear ability to destroy the world ten times over, and there was a troubling and deepening war in Vietnam. In a seeming instant, many young people turned away from the established order and began to assert themselves in ways their elders did not comprehend: their music, their drugs, their hair, and the clothes they did and did not wear. Like so many others, they faced the inner conflict between patriotism and a war they found absurd. At the end of the day students forced their government to stop the fight. Along the way, they were often grim and quarrelsome.

Shortly after the ill-fated 1961 invasion of Cuba, President Kennedy sent three thousand military advisers to help the South Vietnamese in their long war against the Vietcong. At home, there was little notice or objection. Providing help for South Vietnam was nothing new. The United States had been sending advisers there since 1956 when the French, tired of the ten-year Indochina stalemate, simply went home.

The war did not come into national focus until August 1964, when the new president, Lyndon Johnson, claimed North Vietnamese PT boats had fired on U.S. destroyers while they patrolled in the Gulf of Tonkin. Within two days Congress gave the president authority to take "all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against forces of the United States." Whether the gulf attack actually occurred—most said later that it hadn't—the door was open to a larger war. In early 1965 two battalions of Marines went to protect the American air base at Da Nang, and almost overnight the country had eighty thousand troops at war. College students knew many of them. They were high school classmates who, by choice or circumstance, had not gone on to college.

At first there were only a few Colby antiwar activists, mere yeast in a bowl of uncertainty. Within five years their numbers swelled to a clamoring majority. U.N. Secretary-General U Thant of Burma was the commencement speaker in the spring of 1965. He told seniors there was a whole range of scientific, political, and economic activity "which cry out for youthful vigor and intelligence." They already knew it. Over that summer students were part of demonstrations in cities across the country. In August, Johnson signed a law...
criminalizing draft card burning; in November protesters encircled the White House and burned them just the same.

By Christmas, U.S. combat troops reached 385,000. Six thousand had been killed. More troops were needed, and when 1966 began, Johnson called for an end to deferments. Students would be measured by their academic standing; those with the lowest grades would be called first. The Portland Evening Express said the government was “playing God,” creating privilege for those who scored well and finding “cannon fodder” among the rest. The Colby faculty concurred. Dean of Faculty Parker Johnson wrote General Lewis Hershey, director of the Selective Service, to criticize any deferment for college students at all, and especially the new policy of protecting only those who tested well. All the while, the College supplied local draft boards with class standings. A year later (1967) the draft was reorganized again. This time the youngest would go first, chosen by lottery from among eligible eighteen-year-olds. Registrar George Coleman explained the new rules in the Echo, where editorials reflected the sullen mood of students and acknowledged there was no sign of the kind of patriotism that had ignited past generations in time of war. The war, the paper said, “seems to arouse a feeling that more closely resembles resentment than loyalty.”

Although few students were ever drafted, at the time their fate was uncertain, and they began to scramble for ways to avoid or delay being sent into combat: ROTC, the National Guard, graduate school, or even flight to Canada. The College staff soon included a part-time draft counselor.40

The war was coming home in more powerful ways than by the looming draft. In September 1967, sixteen months after his graduation, Marine lieutenant Philip McHale ’66 returned to campus to speak. The platoon leader had been wounded in combat a few months before. Ten of his men were killed. He told his former schoolmates the war could not be won. A month later, two dozen students and faculty joined 100,000 antiwar demonstrators at the Pentagon. David Dillinger and Jerry Rubin organized the Washington rally where 10,000 students gave up their draft cards. On the campus, a silent vigil was held around the war memorial flagpole near the library. Jerry Boren and Tom

40. The best-known resistor and antihero was the world heavyweight boxing champion, Cassius Clay, who became a Muslim, changed his name to Muhammad Ali, and declared the war violated his religious principles. Denied status as a conscientious objector, he refused induction into the army and was imprisoned. The World Boxing Association stripped him of his title. Ali had a strong Maine following. Two years before he had fought in Lewiston, knocking out Sonny Liston in defense of his title. Maine governor John Reed now said he should be “held in utter contempt by every patriotic American.”
Jenkins, 1969 classmates, reported back to Colby, saying the Washington crowd represented a cross-section of young America, and they were not, as reporters described them, all “hippies” and “wild-eyed extremists.”

The stomping around was not always about war. The year before a group calling itself CORA (Colby Organization for Roses in America) marched on behalf of Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith’s campaign to make the rose the national flower. Smith, who wore a rose every day, was at the moment doing battle with Everett Dirkson, the gravelly-voiced Illinois senator who wanted the marigold. (Twenty years later, President Ronald Reagan signed a resolution making the rose the “national floral emblem.”) A group of some one hundred, led by sophomore class and CORA president Philip Merrill ’68, marched to the Blaine House in Augusta, rang the doorbell, and tried to present a red rose to Cora, the wife of Governor John Reed. She wouldn’t let them in, and so they crossed the road to the governor’s office where security guards agreed to admit only one, Thomas Rippon ’68, who presented Reed a small bouquet. Abbott Meader (art) chastised organizers for making light of the serious and effective tool of protest. Robert Hughes ’68, one of the CORA conveners and soon to be Navy serviceman aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid, later noted the “spoof” was mounted just before students began to realize the horror of Vietnam.

Robert Reuman (philosophy) knew more than a little about civil disobedience. He had declared his status as a conscientious objector during World War II, and while he strongly opposed the Vietnam War, he thought the students were unfocused, and their causes, undefined. Resentment, frustration, and hostility, he told an Echo reporter, were leading them to pick the wrong targets and express themselves in the wrong ways. He said local authority figures, including Strider, were merely “accidental targets.” Reuman blamed the unrest on the war, Kennedy’s death, and disappointment in Johnson’s leadership. He also blamed television, noting that the first TV college generation was accustomed to being entertained, expected instant dramatics, and needed to experiment in vivid ways.41

41. Television had more than a sociological impact; it was the principal purveyor of a growing sense of the horror of war as well. Just as Vietnam began getting bigger pieces of the evening news, a satellite transmitted the first transatlantic television signal. On
War opinion on the campus was still sharply divided. In November 1967 half the Colby faculty and administrative staff (seventy-one) signed a statement in opposition to the war. A month later, a Stu-G poll showed only 27 percent of the students wanted “unequivocal withdrawal” of American troops. An equal number thought the United States should invoke a ceasefire for six months “to bring Hanoi to the peace table.” The local Sentinel construed the poll results to mean Colby students were more hawkish than the faculty. The antiwar faction added the student numbers together, claiming a majority opposed the war.

In January 1968, a small group carried protest signs outside the Eustis building, while inside students interviewed for jobs with Dow Chemical Company, makers of napalm; in March, student and faculty demonstrators held a sit-in at an army recruiting booth in the lobby of Roberts Union. Counterdemonstrators, many of them on their way to lunch on the ground floor, blocked the door to the union, chided the protestors, and dropped bars of soap on their heads. (A prevailing stereotype placed war protestors among the unwashed.) Deans worried not only about what the dissidents had up their tie-dyed shirtsleeves, but also about their safety. Navy recruiters, slated for an information session the next day, said they feared violence and canceled.

The counterdemonstration was predictable. Some students wanted to inquire about signing up. Most others, including those who were adamantly against the war, agreed they had the right. Just as recruiters converged on the campus, student friends of Leslie Dickinson Jr. ’67 were mourning his death. The Patten, Maine, student left college in the middle of his junior year to join the Marines, and on January 31, 1968, a day before his twenty-third birthday, he was mortally wounded near Quang Nam. He died three days later.

The spring brought more assassinations. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on April 4. Strider and student Stu-G president Henry Thompson ’69 spoke at memorial services in town and on the Hill. “Our hearts go out to those who have labored, black and white, for Dr. King’s cause,” Strider said. “This is America’s cause, and we are failing.” Strider led a campus-community drive to raise money for the United Negro College Fund in King’s memory. Some $16,000 came in, at the time the largest contribution of any educational institution. Students marched solemnly from the campus to the packed Opera

July 10, 1962, European viewers saw a picture of an American flag waving at Telstar’s U.S. earth station in Andover, Maine, and stations in England and France sent signals back. The war was soon seen live in American living rooms. If that wasn’t vivid enough, in 1965 the networks added color.
House service in town, where Thompson, the first black president of the student body, warned that while “advocacy of violence is a nullification of the identity of Dr. King,” the killing nonetheless would cause many “to cross over to the militant policies of violence.” He was right. A month later, Robert Kennedy, a front-runner for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, was killed as well. The two deaths and the war touched off a summer of urban riots, and in the fall, students returned to college itching for a fight.

Lyndon Johnson had withdrawn from the presidential race, and with Robert Kennedy gone, war opponents turned to Eugene McCarthy, and worked through the summer for his nomination. They felt betrayed when Democrats, slugging it out at a violence-filled convention in Chicago, narrowly chose Hubert Humphrey to oppose Richard Nixon in the fall. Peace activists had little use for Nixon or his vice presidential candidate, Spiro Agnew. Humphrey had been forced on the. and even in Maine the choice of the state’s junior senator, Ed Muskie, as his running mate made little difference. (Nor did it make much difference to students that in Maine, Democratic Party head George Mitchell made Strider the chair of the state’s party platform committee.)

On Election Day, with hordes of national reporters tagging along, the Muskies cast their votes at the old South Grammar School. Student protestors lined Silver Street, one hundred yards away, chanting “free elections now,” and “one, two, three, four, we won’t fight your dirty war.” Across the street, a smaller group of counterdemonstrators heckled the protestors and yelled at them to take baths. The past summer of demonstrations had proven that a police presence only made things worse. During the Election Day face-off in Waterville, Mayor Donald Marden kept the cops around the corner, out of sight. That winter he asked the city council to buy them riot gear.

On the Hill, authorities were worried. Dean of Students Rosenthal assembled a group to puzzle ways of dealing with trouble that was sure to come. He circulated a confidential discussion paper describing protest scenarios, and outlining rules for response: avoid violence at all costs, listen carefully to the protestors, call in outside authorities only as a last resort, offer no amnesty, and leave all public comment to the president’s office. The guidelines were needed. The uprisings were unpredictable. Whenever demonstrators headed to the Eustis building, secretaries in the ground-floor business office lowered and locked the steel curtains at the service counter and hid. Protestors knew there was nothing to fear, but the hysterical reaction was pleasing just the same.

In late October, some suspected antiwar sabotage in the burning of the makeshift Little Theater, one of two remaining wooden buildings on the Hill.
The blaze was discovered during a Powder & Wig play rehearsal, and it raged on as firemen from four local departments searched in the dark for the hydrant (foolishly painted dark green so as not to offend the landscape). The fire started in an attached shed, housing a 1966 Ford station wagon belonging to the Air Force ROTC.42

Through the winter American forces reached a war-high peak of 350,000. Casualties and war resistance mounted at the same time. In April, a new English instructor, David Stratman, encouraged the formation of a Colby chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a national counterculture organization formed ten years before. Its manifesto, written mostly by the University of Michigan student newspaper editor, Tom Hayden, called for a fully participatory democracy, and initially focused on the fight for civil rights and the battle for free speech. By 1966 it had become more radical, mounting antiwar demonstrations on nearly one hundred campuses across the country. The Weather Underground, a SDS splinter group, was formed that year, preaching the violent overthrow of the government. The Colby SDS chapter did not flourish. While its leaders were often at the center of local demonstrations, the events themselves were not centered on SDS.

When their offspring acted up, many parents kept their own counsel, but there were others who were unafraid to move into the fray and set things straight. In January 1969, some seventy-five black students took over the communications center at Brandeis, making “non-negotiable” demands, including that the university hire more black teachers. As the standoff entered the second day, the mother of one of the protestors came out of the crowd, walked through the front door into the building, and returned with her son in tow. At Colby, the president of the new SDS chapter appeared one day in the dean’s office, slumped in a chair, and said he was going to quit his SDS post and needed some advice. He wanted to know how to break the news of his resignation to fellow radicals. He worried they would laugh when he said his mother made him do it.

42. The worst Colby tragedy of the year occurred in February 1969. Two students were examining a pistol in their room on the second floor of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house when the gun accidentally fired. Across the room their roommate, sophomore Robert Crowell, was killed instantly. A grand jury ruled the death accidental.
In the fall of 1969, faculty joined students in a nationwide October 15 "Vietnam moratorium," aimed at compelling Nixon to end U.S. involvement in the war. Students from Colby, Thomas College, and Waterville High School held meetings on the Hill and in town, where some one thousand people attended an afternoon rally in Coburn Park. Students marched from the Hill, carrying a flag-draped simulated casket. Ken Eisen '73 and Joan Katz '70 read from the list of war dead. The moratorium was followed by yet another "march on Washington" a month later. Students and townspeople gathered in the chapel for a "sympathy vigil," sponsored by the Colby moratorium committee and local churches. Organizers were intent on protest until the war came to an end.

**REBELLION AND CON CON**

"The trouble with revolutions," Roland Thorwaldsen said, "is that you don’t get enough sleep." Religion instructor and head resident of Louise Coburn Hall, "Thor" was right about a lot of things; Strider would soon make him College chaplain. The sleepless second half of the academic year 1968–69 began with a testimonial to the boundless creativity of the Jan Plan as students found faculty advisers for a project focused on unionizing the cafeteria workers. In February, a small demonstration was held at the bookstore to complain about the cost of books (the average price of a college textbook had risen to $9.86). Later that month, the student government submitted to Strider a list of nine proposals. It led to a minor rebellion and from there to a constitutional convention that gave students seats in the boardroom.

None of the nine proposals had anything to do with war. Six were about College rules. They asked that dorms be permitted to govern themselves; that upper-class students be allowed to live and eat off campus if they wanted to; and that students living in town be free from campus authority. They addressed complaints of scholarship students who were prohibited from having cars on campus and required to maintain higher grade point averages than their nonscholarship counterparts. They called for the creation of a rules committee, with student membership to match the number of faculty and administrators. Finally, they insisted night security officers be given radios, that the switchboard remain open twenty-four-hours, and that the College provide clinics on birth control, drugs, and mental health.

The proposals came through as demands and with the assertion that previous attempts to effect changes through the usual channels had been "futile." Strider was not inclined to deal with demands. Neither did he think recent
initiatives for change had been futile. He said Colby prided itself on rational process and respect for orderliness—"a tradition and spirit to which the peremptory tone of your letter is alien"—and took his time in responding. Days later he sent word the proposals would be parcelled out to special committees and warned he would reject and resubmit any recommendations the committee reached "without adequate discussion, with significant dissent, or with a significantly narrow quorum." It was the procedural caveats that caused the trouble.

Student Government seemed willing to talk, but glaring in from the outside were students who felt the administration was slow and unresponsive and that Stu-G was incapable of speeding things up. They formed "the Chapel group," a shifting small crowd of dissidents that wrote its own proposals and planned a vigil in the chapel to force their adoption.43

On March 12, some three hundred students attended an early evening meeting of Student Government in Given Auditorium where Stu-G president Thompson urged students to attend the upcoming committee meetings and work on the original proposals. John Sobel '70 spoke for the dissidents, and announced the unveiling of the new proposals at a mass "celebration for a new Colby" later that night. When the Stu-G meeting ended, about fifty students walked across campus to Lovejoy Auditorium, hoping to attend the faculty meeting. After two inconclusive voice votes, on a show of hands the faculty voted not to let them in. In the midst of it, a dog wandered through the auditorium and a professor remarked loudly that apparently a student had gotten in anyway. Behind closed doors, the faculty endorsed Strider's handling of the nine proposals, but an attempt to introduce the newest proposals for debate was summarily declared out of order.

43. The Chapel group had plenty of examples of the effectiveness of building sit-ins. By that time there had been building occupations at more than a dozen campuses elsewhere. They began at Columbia University the year before, when several buildings were taken over in separate protests, resulting in the rejection of ROTC and the end of construction of a disputed gymnasium. At the University of California at Berkeley, a fifty-day student strike on behalf of minority studies resulted in the occupation of campus land that was turned into a "peoples' park." Students at the University of Chicago held an unsuccessful sit-in demanding the reinstatement of a radical sociology professor who had been fired. The National Guard was called to squelch a ten-day demonstration for an Afro-American studies department at the University of Wisconsin, and at Swarthmore a ten-day sit-in at the administration building resulted in an agreement to increase the enrollment of black students. In the midst of it, Swarthmore's president and Strider's friend, Courtney Smith, suffered a fatal heart attack in his office.
Some faculty members carried the news of the faculty meeting—including the unfortunate aside comparing students to dogs—to a late-night student meeting in Roberts Union where the angry pot boiled. At midnight, more than one hundred students took over the chapel, lit candles, and danced for the “new Colby.” The next morning other students awoke to find copies of the “new Colby” proposals slid under their doors, the chapel under siege, and a letter from Strider in their mailboxes, inviting them to sign up for service on the committees that would work on the original nine proposals. Again, the president reiterated his right to veto any committee recommendations, and again the bottom line did not sit well.

That afternoon, chapel occupants sent a delegation to the president’s house, inviting him to meet that night with a few dozen students and clear things up. He agreed. When he arrived shortly after 10 p.m., more than six hundred howling students were jammed in the sanctuary, throbbing to the music of the Motor City Five. It was an ambush. Strider stood on the steps in front of the altar and began by addressing the battle cry for a new Colby. “The College,” he said, “is renewed every year.” Someone in the balcony yelled “bullshit.” Strider said he wasn’t interested in having a conversation at that level. Someone on the main floor apologized.

They were not all revolutionaries. The place was divided between those who supported the more deliberate committee approach and did not much care for the dissidents, and the noisier protesters, bent on rebellion. When Thompson pressed the president on whether he would in fact reject any committee recommendation on procedural grounds, Strider stuck to his guns and went on to explain the roles of president and trustees. Students began to walk out. Thompson said he felt betrayed, and resigned as Stu-G president. Two student leaders of the new committees quit on the spot as well. Dismayed, Strider left by the side door and walked to his car.

The confrontation left him deeply hurt. After that night, to the end of his presidency, he was never the same, often keeping the door to his office closed, and avoiding unscripted meetings with students. (In times of trouble, a plain-clothes local policeman sat in the parking lot of the administration building, watching the windows of the president’s office. A drawn shade meant trouble, to come at once.)

The chapel vigil continued for sixteen days, with occupiers ebbing and flowing, all the while conducting negotiations between hard- and soft-liners and having an occasional party in between. Elsewhere, the new committees worked to churn out recommendations on the proposals. Some of them—a twenty-four-hour switchboard and radios for the campus watchmen—were
easy, but other issues dragged on through the spring. With the exception of the proposal that students be allowed to live off campus willy-nilly, all of the others, in one form or another, were eventually adopted.

Spring recess came, and the vigil-keepers abandoned the chapel and headed down the hill. When they left, the dean’s office collected their belongings, and Dean Rosenthal wrote them letters, explaining their possessions could be retrieved at the buildings and grounds office. “We have decided,” he said, “it is time for the Colby College chapel to be restored to its proper functions.” Rosenthal offered to set aside a lounge if they wanted to continue discussions after vacation, but there were no takers. When they returned, there were better things to do. In April it was time to defend faculty members whose contracts were not being renewed. (To some students, the short list seemed lop-sided with faculty dissidents.) In May, the 1969 yearbook came out, replete with counterculture art and precious little else. As students headed off to the summer of a moon landing and Woodstock, some 150 seniors stopped long enough to build a bonfire on the front steps of the library and, in a smoky protest against the protestors, burned their Oracles. It was that kind of year.

Trustees watched the smoldering from afar; and as the ad hoc committees struggled with the various proposals, the board assembled a few administrators, faculty, and students for a rump meeting in Boston, where trustee Eugene Struckhoff ’44 suggested mounting a communitywide constitutional convention. Jette and Strider agreed. The convention’s purpose would be “to scrutinize the existing organizational structure and its inter-relationships, with a view toward possible restructuring of the divisions of authority, representation in the decision-making process, and the process of decision-making itself.” Jan Hogendorf (economics) and Jeff Silverstein ’70 worked through the summer to make arrangements.

There were many skeptics, on campus and off, who saw the convention as simply a device to head off further troubles. Avoiding more trouble was reason enough, but the convention was by no means a sop. Strider and others were hopeful the fractured lines of communication could be improved. Acknowledging “a minority of dissident students and some faculty whose purpose may not be entirely constructive,” Strider said that, nonetheless, “the best protection is the establishment of a realistic governmental structure.”

The planned convention roused many faculty members who were again bitter at not being consulted. At a special faculty meeting in mid-September they rose up against what one of them called the board’s “arbitrary use of power.” They were also jittery about possible tinkering with their authority in
matters of academic policy. After the fuming, at their regular meeting in September, the faculty passed a resolution giving an after-the-fact blessing to what was by then called Con Con, and followed it with a second resolution making it clear all recommendations would have to be approved by both the Faculty Meeting and the student body before being passed along to trustees. With that settled, the six constituencies of the College set about to choose 108 convention delegates who were assembled in Averill Auditorium on Friday, October 3. They chose the new professor of human development, Leonard Mayo '22, one of only a few on the broad scene who enjoyed full confidence and respect across all constituencies, as chairman. More than once over the next three days, his wisdom and unfailing good humor kept the proceedings from falling apart. Strider greeted the delegates and promptly checked himself into nearby Thayer Hospital, suffering a physical ailment his doctor said (to no one's great surprise) was brought about by stress. Silverstein ferried bulletins and messages to him.

Early on, delegates dismissed the idea of creating a faculty-student senate, a governing mechanism gaining favor on campuses elsewhere. A proposal introduced by Professors Koenix, Mavrinac, and Koons titled “Principles of Governance and Accountability” occupied much of the discussion, and semblances of it found their way into the final report. The train nearly went off the track at the very end when students moved a “corporate override” resolution that would have given final authority in nonacademic matters to an all-campus referendum. At the brink of collapse, the motion was withdrawn. After two days of debate and faced with the hopelessness of finding word-for-word agreement on final recommendations, the several issues on which there was general consensus were sent to an overnight drafting committee. On Sunday, October 5, with only a smattering of dissenting votes, the convention approved a sketch of the final report that got brushed up over the next month and given a final blessing when Con Con reconvened in November.

When the dust had settled, the clear headline among the many approved recommendations was that students could elect two of their own to the board of trustees. The faculty had been given two nonvoting seats in 1955, and the convention asked for voting privileges for both faculty and the new student members. Ultimately, the board agreed to seat two students, but neither faculty nor students were given votes. At the same time, students, like faculty, would have seats and votes on most committees of the board.

Faculty-student tensions that had become full-blown during the spring contretemps were addressed with the agreement that Stu-G would send the seven members to the faculty meeting without vote, and in turn, the faculty
would choose two of its members to attend meetings of Student Government. (The faculty did not press for more seats. It would be hard enough to dragoon two members to attend Stu-G meetings, which often exceeded the Faculty Meeting in the matter of rambling.) In addition, students would have voting seats on the standing College committees, including a new committee on student affairs. Where sensitive personal student matters were discussed (e.g., financial aid, academic standing, and later, admissions) student members could participate and vote on policy matters but would be excluded from the discussion of individual cases. Thereafter, both students and faculty would approve changes in the committee system and the two bodies would share committee minutes.

Although it would provide a long-continuing source of debate and controversy, it was also agreed students could participate in academic department planning and in the evaluation of courses and instruction. To catch what was left, the convention created the short-lived position of College ombudsman, who was supposed to resolve nonjudicial complaints; and a faculty-student conference and review board, designed to give oversight to administrative policies. In December, both the faculty meeting and a student referendum voted by a two-to-one margin to send the recommendations on to the board where, in January, they were adopted.44

Strider was heartened by the friendly spirit of the convention, and said he could not have been more pleased with the outcome. Ben Kravitz ’70, Stu-G president and a convention leader, said Con Con had brought “significant changes” and was not, as some had feared, an act of mere “tokenism.” For a blissful moment that winter, the campus greeted the new decade with a note of harmony. By spring, however, the music had again gotten badly out of tune.

44. Colby was not alone in heeding student demands for a greater voice in campus decision-making. That same year, Harvard formed a committee on governance analogous to Con Con, and students joined committees and governing boards at other colleges, including Stanford, Wesleyan, and Oberlin. At Yale, president Kingman Brewster said he was not convinced that more representation was the key to university improvement; he warned, “If it is carried too far it could lead to disaster.”
The baby boomers became the Now Generation, a loose tag for an age that defied description. College students were divided among themselves, not just over politics and views of the war, but also over matters of lifestyle and values. If they had a unifying label, it was only because they shared an impatience with the world they were poised to inherit, and a frustration with “the establishment” that, from top to bottom, was painfully slow in making things right. By 1970 a growing college counterculture was engaging power centers in fierce debate, building fires against them, and often taking matters into their own hands. The dominant focus of conflict was the escalating war in Vietnam, but prominently on the edges were other issues begging for settlement as well. The long assault on the nation’s environment had taken a frightening toll, and the young were determined to reverse the destruction. The new status of women lacked definition and acceptance, and a growing feminist movement was making the old order uncomfortable. And there was the enduring struggle for minority rights, with the nation’s students again marching at the front, pulling and tugging others to follow. Colby students were engaged along all of the revolutionary fronts, and the noise was sometimes deafening. In early March, before the winter snow had melted, eighteen of the College’s tiny black population found a way to be heard above the din.

On Monday evening, March 2, President Strider drove to Bangor to appear on a WABI television interview program on student protests. It was a topic on which he was reluctantly becoming something of an expert. Later that night he returned to Waterville to find student dean Jonas Rosenthal on the front steps of the president’s house with news that a group calling itself the Student Organization for Black Unity (SOBU) had gone into Lorimer Chapel, tying
the doors shut behind them. The protesters—ten men and eight women—issued a two-page mimeographed statement reciting five “demands” that they said must be met before they would come out.

After the chapel occupation of the previous spring, officials from Strider on down resolved to put down future illegal disruptions with dispatch. Moreover, Strider’s position on dealing with “demands” from any quarter was well known. He would have none of it. Proposals for change must be dealt with through the committee process, established by the recent constitutional convention. But advance crisis planning had not anticipated the current dilemma. Even the appearance of heavy-handedness in dealing with SOBU, representing most of the College’s twenty-five black students, was bound to smack of racism. For the moment, there was little to do but talk.¹

The SOBU demands called for one hundred enrolled minority students by the fall, and a 10 percent black enrollment in freshman classes going forward; a special orientation program (sub-freshman week) for new black students; a black studies program taught by a black professor; and the elimination of the C+ grade point average (GPA) standard for receiving financial aid. All five issues were already under discussion in various committees, but in the short campus lives of students the committee process always seems to drag, and in the case of the Chapel 18, the dragging had gone on too long.

Colby began its concentrated minority recruiting efforts in 1965. Two years later twenty-three minority students, including thirteen black students, were enrolled. This year (1969–70) there were forty-two minorities, twenty of them black. Admissions dean Harry Carroll and his staff had already recruited seventy-eight black applicants, the largest number ever, for the class set to enter that fall. Even so, it was evident that the actual count of final enrollees would be a far cry from one hundred, and from the chapel SOBU revised its demand down to fifty. The future target of 10 percent minority enrollment was ambitious but not out of line with the College’s own aspirations, and the Student Affairs Committee was even then mulling over the idea of a preorientation program for minority students.

The demand to eliminate the GPA guidelines for receiving financial aid fed two unfortunate stereotypes: that black students were less well prepared than their white counterparts, and that all minority students were in need of finan-

¹ The Ethiopian track star Sebsibe Mamo ’70 was one of the Chapel 18. Otherwise, the small number of black Africans eschewed the protest. They came from entirely different cultures, where they were among the majority (and where dissent was often not tolerated), and many of them did not understand what the fuss was all about.
cial aid. Neither was true. Further, the demand annoyed many, on and off campus, who complained that the chapel occupiers were squandering their financial aid, even though they were no different from white classmates who were regularly skipping classes to protest. The Academic Affairs Committee had recently addressed the controversial financial aid rule and, with the concurrence of the faculty and trustees, upheld the C+ standard, but allowed for exceptions. Exceptions were routinely being granted in cases where students, black and white, were making demonstrable efforts to achieve. (Registrar Coleman said if there was any discrimination at all, it was only against “the motivationally disadvantaged.”)

The demand for a black studies program with a black professor reflected the rarely stated but deeply felt frustrations of being black at an almost-all-white college. There were no ranking black faculty members. During his temporary appointment, Jack Foner had made small inroads in developing black studies—the catalogue listed two courses in Afro-American history—and he had agreed to stay on and continue the work. A five-course black studies program was set to begin that fall.

The general climate that spring was bleak for black college students across the country. The assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy had left them disheartened, and the war had shoved civil rights activism into a distant second place. President Richard Nixon was pressing private employers to hire minorities, but his “southern strategy” catered to whites by slowing school desegregation. Court-ordered busing was still a year away. At Colby, black students faced even greater challenges. Although they were generally well accepted on the campus, it was always less comfortable in the all-white environs of town, and they avoided Waterville streets and businesses. Shops did not offer many of the products they were accustomed to; local barbers and hairdressers did not know how to serve them. Most local children had never met a black person, and they stared. On the campus, even in classrooms, blacks were often asked to express the black view on various issues, as if there were single views and as if they knew them. While at first they were patient and willing to explain, they quickly grew weary of the silly questions,

2. The first black faculty member was Gladys Forde, who taught English from 1960 to 1962. Marie-Ange Cassol was an instructor in modern languages in 1970–71; Marion Brown was a visiting professor of music in fall term 1973; and Kenneth McClone, a Cornell graduate student, taught English in 1974–75. Wayne Brown (De Ponton D’Amé-court) ’73 worked as an assistant in admissions for more than a year following his mid-year graduation.
even from well-intentioned classmates. They griped that they had come to get
an education, not to give one.3

The leader of the Chapel was Charles Terrell ’70, a history major. Strident
and outspoken, he was also articulate and unfailingly polite. He met well with
students and faculty across the campus and now with a rising tide of reporters
who began to call the chapel telephone for interviews. On Tuesday, with the
occupation one day old, Strider sent a warning that the students were illegally
trespassing. Terrell and the others replied, “The matter of illegal trespass is pitifully
irrelevant when compared to the matter of man’s illegal trespass against
human dignity.” They would not move. Instead, they called for the support of
a general class boycott the following day. It fizzled and a spokesman from the
chapel called the inaction “essentially racist.”

Many empathized with the black students and agreed with their demands.
The Echo said the demands were reasonable and that rather than “violating
the treasured channels of Con Con,” the protest merely “dramatized the need
for rapid action on black problems.” White students smuggled food into the
chapel and the owner of a local restaurant (taking pains to remain anonymous)
sent in hamburgers and milkshakes. On the afternoon of the failed class boy­
cott, some 350 people gathered to show support at a rally on the slushy lawns
in front of the Chapel. With soul music blaring from loudspeakers in the
tower, students carried signs and cheered as several demonstrators spoke from
the front porch. That night, after a heated four-hour discussion, Student Gov­
ernment passed a resolution embracing the sit-in and calling for the adminis­
tration to reevaluate its priorities. It allocated one hundred dollars to cover the
cost of campuswide circulation of the messages from SOBU, and Stu-G Pres­
ident Kravitz rented the occupiers a film, The Battle of Algiers. Kravitz, who
worked to negotiate a peaceful end to the protest, was a leader in establishing
a “disadvantaged fund,” later called “Project Open Door,” which quickly raised
$13,560 in gifts and pledges for minority student scholarship funds.

At the same time, others were suggesting that the administration cut off the
chapel phones, barricade the building, and “starve them out.” Many students
signed a letter to Strider saying they did not agree with the Stu-G resolution.

General reaction off the campus was harshly critical of the sit-in. The pub­

3. Black students at Bowdoin and Bates had similar complaints. The Colby blacks
were in close touch with their fellow students at Bowdoin where confrontation was
avoided when President Roger Howell met with black students and agreed to a demand
for thirty minority students in the upcoming freshman class. It was a goal Bowdoin could
not meet. Bates, the Maine leader in minority enrollment, had twenty black students.
lic had little enough patience with any student protests, much less with the current uprising. The Sentinel accurately observed there was “more sympathy for and understanding of their (the protestors’) frustrations among the people they are fighting than among the public at large.” Although a bluntly racist letter to the Sentinel editor drew a flurry of scolding replies, much of the local grumbling had uncomfortable racial overtones. Not all of the criticism was pointed at the protestors. The Portland Sunday Telegram saved its strongest rebuke for the College leadership, declaring “If the administration surrenders to this nonsensical revolt, then it won’t be able to complain at whatever demands, from whites or Negroes, are made in the future. . . . All over the country colleges are in trouble, but those most troubled are institutions whose officials abdicate their responsibility.” So too, many alumni were seething.

On Wednesday, as angry letters and phone calls piled up, Strider called protest leaders to a morning conference in his office. By noon the negotiators moved to the chapel, where nobody blinked. The sit-in continued. Throughout the week the only disruption of the building schedule was the College-run basement nursery school for children of employees. A handful of mothers who showed up with their tots on the first morning of the occupation were politely turned away. As the weekend approached, Chaplain Thorwaldsen announced that his usual Protestant service, Father Leopold Nicknair’s Catholic Mass, and Rabbi Phillip Goodman’s Friday Jewish Sabbath observance would be combined in a single Sunday service in Given Auditorium. While worshipers prayed for the swift reclamation of the chapel, Strider again drew the weapon with which he was most comfortable. He wrote and distributed a six-page document detailing the College’s minority recruiting efforts and its position on each of the demands.

On Monday morning, March 10, local attorney Robert A. Marden, a trustee and legal counsel for the College, led a small delegation of senior administrators to the Chapel door and delivered a message from Strider. Protestors had until 12:30 P.M. to vacate the building or face legal action. At 12:15, Terrell gave their reply: “We will not get out until we are taken out.”

In the seat of authority and elsewhere, time and patience had run out. Marden had already set the wheels in motion for a temporary restraining order, and in Augusta Superior Court Justice James L. Reid quickly agreed, saying he had “adequate reason to believe a riot of serious proportions might result” if the building occupation was allowed to continue. He was wrong about that, but the College had the clout it needed to end the stalemate. The order, addressed to the students by individual name, gave them until 10:30 P.M. to leave or be held in contempt of court. It fell to acting Kennebec County Sheriff
Horace Drummond to deliver the order, and with visible trepidation, he took it to the side door of the chapel shortly after 6 p.m. Rosenthal was with him. Some three hundred students gawked from the nearby lawn, and several state troopers waited in Lovejoy Hall. Terrell greeted the frightened sheriff politely, shook his hand, thanked him, and evaporated into the building, locking the door behind him. The crowd, expecting a confrontation that never came, slowly drifted away. By 9:30 only a few onlookers were left when the side door of the chapel opened again and the students emerged silently and in single file, tossed their sleeping bags and other belongings into a nearby station wagon, and dispersed across the campus. The seven-day occupation was over.

Strider knew the last resort use of law would not sit well with the protesters or their sympathizers, and he quickly issued a statement saying the decision to seek a court order had been difficult: “The ultimate objectives of the students in many ways were resonant with College policies and goals,” he said. “But the decision became inevitable as it appeared more and more likely the occupation of the chapel, with its attendant dangers, could be ended in no other way. The task of the College now is to press rapidly for appropriate action in the areas that reflect these concerns.” He took the moment to clearly warn against any future building occupations. Any such actions, he said, “will bring legal action as quickly as it can be arranged, whether the objectives—immediate or ultimate—are noble or otherwise.”

The following day, SOBU issued its own statement, decrying the use of the courts. That afternoon Strider met with the black students in his office. He said he understood their resentment and explained the choice of seeking a restraining order, which carried civil penalties, was “vastly preferable” to seeking a warrant for criminal trespass. He reiterated that procedures established by Con Con must be followed and pledged that he would “encourage discussions and do my best to expedite them” and work to “eliminate the divisiveness” of the past week. As the meeting wore on, some two hundred SOBU sympathizers milled in the hallways of the three-floor building and 150 more picketed at the President’s House. For an hour or so it looked as though Strider’s freshly issued promise of swift legal action against protestors was going to be tested. Deans and others stepped gingerly among the bodies and backpacks, reminding students of the new edict, and when the offices closed at 5 p.m., the students quietly walked out.

The president was caught squarely between those who felt he had been hasty in calling in the cops and others who wished he had allowed the peaceful occupation to drift on. Both the Echo and Student Government railed against the legal action. The management of WABI-TV, which earlier in the
month had called Strider to comment as an expert on student protests, now scolded him for coddling the protestors, saying he “reacted badly” in the crisis by not moving quickly enough to put it down.

On March 21, as various committees began working on minority issues with renewed vigor, the junior class sponsored a lecture by Muhammad Ali. The gymnasium was overfilled, and those turned away lined the walkways outside and listened over loudspeakers. Ali, stripped of his heavyweight boxing title and free on bail after being convicted of draft evasion, did not expound on the recent local crisis. Instead, he preached against racially mixed marriage: “No white person in his right mind and no black person in his black right mind wants integration to the extent of intermarriage,” he said. “Every man wants a son who looks just like him. You folks don’t even know yet what people on other planets look like,” he scolded, “but you’ve already decided that Miss Universe is going to be white.”

Later that month the executive committee of the board met in special session at the Union Club in Boston, endorsed Strider’s handling of the crisis, and directed a new trustee committee on equal opportunity and the relevant College committees to address the issues raised by SOBU and report to the board in June. On the campus, Dean Johnson implored the faculty to allow the protestors to make up their missed classes and called a special faculty meeting where, after nearly four hours of discussion, a resolution embracing the board’s charge was adopted. As students headed into the last weeks of classes before final exams, the mood on campus was sullen and tense. Although the end of the school year was only days away, the tumultuous spring of 1970 had only barely begun.

4. Colby accepted forty-five minority students for admission in the fall following the chapel occupation. Only three, two of them black students, enrolled. A sub-freshman orientation program began that fall, and under a new exchange program with predominantly black Saint Augustine’s College (Raleigh, North Carolina) eight students from St. A’s visited Colby for a week in March 1971. The ad hoc committee reported in June, calling for renewed minority recruiting efforts to create a “viable” black community within the College (estimated at fifty). For two academic years, 1972–74, the number reached sixty-six, including thirty-eight blacks, then declined again.
As the war droned on and the death toll mounted, the antiwar movement began to collect converts hand over fist. By the spring of 1970, most Americans wanted out, no matter what. President Nixon wanted to end it too, but only if there could be “peace with honor” and the communists left first. The year before, barely a month after his inauguration, he ordered secret bombings of Vietcong and North Vietnamese sanctuaries in Cambodia. Taking the war to a neutral country was illegal, and the move broadened the war he had promised to end. Campuses roiled in protest. Ignoring the dissidents and emboldened by the “silent majority,” on April 30 the president announced ground troops were being sent to protect the new pro-American Cambodian government. Student protests mushroomed. Nixon called them “bums.” In one of hundreds of outbursts across the country, students at Kent State University in Ohio buried a copy of the U.S. Constitution, claiming Nixon had “murdered” it. In four days of upheaval, students pelted police cruisers with bottles and fires were set in the streets of Kent. On the campus, students cut fire hoses and an abandoned ROTC building was burned to the ground. The governor sent the National Guard with orders to prevent any assembly. On Monday, May 4, some 1,500 demonstrators gathered on the campus commons. Guardsmen, armed with tear gas and loaded M-1 bayoneted rifles, dispersed them. When the commons were cleared, the guard fell back and watched as the most militant of the protestors jeered from a nearby parking lot. Many students thought the confrontation had ended and began walking back to classes. Suddenly, inexplicably, guardsmen turned and fired into the crowd. Within seconds, four students lay dead. A dozen more were wounded. The news brought instant revulsion across the country.

Campus elections are held every spring, with the new government taking office in the fall. In 1970, Ben Kravitz relinquished the Stu-G presidency after the April voting. His role during the chapel occupation had taken a toll on his studies, and graduation was looming. His replacement came from the left. Stephen Orlov ’71 was a new activist. The son of working-class parents, he came from mainstream America: played football as a freshman, joined Kappa Delta Rho fraternity, and made plans for summer training as an ROTC officer. His early Colby experience changed him. As a sophomore he read Alex Haley’s *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. He took a seminar on pacifism from the

5. In the first two weeks of May, more than two dozen ROTC buildings were burned nationwide.
philosopher Reuman, and a course on political change from a young China expert, Yun-Tong Pan. Years later he could still recall the “sheer excitement” of attending their classes. Before the summer came Orlov abandoned his ROTC plans and let his hair grow long. His election as Student Government president reflected the rapidly shifting political mood of the student body and made him an anomaly in the long line of otherwise conservative, buttoned-down presidents.

When Nixon announced the Cambodian incursion, the National Student Association (NSA) sent a letter calling for a student strike; it arrived in the Colby Stu-G office on the same day as the killings at Kent State. It urged mobilization of local and national support for three causes: to force the U.S. government to “end its systematic repression of political dissenters and release all prisoners, such as Bobby Seale and other members of the Black Panther Party”; to cease the expansion of the Vietnam War into Laos and Cambodia and “unilaterally and immediately withdraw all forces from Southeast Asia”; and to make universities “end their complicity with the US war machine by an immediate end to defense research, ROTC, counter-insurgency research and all other such programs.”

That night some five hundred students jammed an emergency meeting of Stu-G and cheered at an agreement to call a “peaceful and nonviolent” shutdown. “It is not our intention at this time to strike against the college,” it said; “this is a strike by the college.” The resolve made no mention of saving Bobby Seale6 or of an end to ROTC, but it did ask the student body and the faculty to approve a strike. The next morning Orlov telephoned student government heads of ten Maine colleges and the six campuses of the University of Maine, collecting endorsements of a telegram to Maine Senators Edmund Muskie and Margaret Chase Smith insinuating they “return home and address yourself to the people whom you represent.” The telegram left little room to wiggle. “Give the students of Maine the opportunity to confront you,” it said. The meeting was set for Sunday afternoon, May 10, at Colby.

Orlov and two of his friends, Echo editor Robert Parry '71 and Kenneth Eisen '73, set out to engineer the command senatorial performance, forming the nucleus of a small band of radicals committed to nonviolent civil disobe-

6. Seale was a founder of the Black Panther Party, formed in 1966 to guard against police brutality in black communities. It quickly became militant. Seale was in jail in 1969, charged as one of the Chicago Eight with initiating the riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The charges were later dropped and his subsequent trial for the murder of fellow Panther Alex Rackley ended in a hung jury.
dience and bent on hauling both the student body and the faculty into action. At a noontime rally in front of the library the flag was lowered to half-staff in memory of the dead Kent State students. Four faculty members spoke. Reuman and Eugene Peters (philosophy) talked of a shared sense of sadness and frustration. George Elison (history) decried Nixon’s description of the college dissenters. (“You have been called ‘bums’ by the highest authority in the land,” he said, “and I suspect you feel it right down to your toes.”) The radical David Stratman (English) said Colby itself was part of the problem, “owned and controlled by representatives of big business.” Stratman was not widely popular, even among the dissidents, but as faculty head of SDS his participation was obligatory. He invoked the issue of ROTC, and called for its elimination.

After the rally more than three hundred students began a “march against death,” carrying four mock coffins, one draped with the U.S. flag, into town. Police chief John Macintyre had issued the parade permit and arranged for police cars to bracket the marching protestors. The crowd gathered a number of local supporters as it wound its way down Mayflower Hill to Post Office Square, down Main Street to Silver Street, and back up Elm Street to the post office where someone lowered the U.S. flag. It was raised again when postal workers objected, and the marchers wandered away, leaving the coffins on the lawn.

Strider called a special faculty meeting for Wednesday night. Dean Johnson circulated the notice, explaining the need to discuss the position of the College “vis-a-vis what appears to be an escalation in violence and confrontation.” There was certainly no violence, but even as faculty members plucked meeting notices from their Lovejoy Hall mailboxes, protestors were sitting in at the ROTC offices on the ground floor. The students knew better than to shut down a federal installation, and despite the milling protestors, Lt. Col. Don Harris and his three-member staff were left alone to do their work.

The student strike vote came at a mass gathering in Wadsworth Gymnasium that night. The margin was a whopping 1040 to 117. Concurrently, at the

7. Orlov, Parry, and Eisen joined Washington, D.C., antiwar demonstrations that summer and the next. The three were among some 1,500 arrested outside the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., during the 1971 May Day demonstrations aimed at shutting down the government. Throughout the capital, some 13,000 were arrested in four days of angry protests.

8. Macintyre had some experience with college protestors in town. A month before, on April 15, a dozen or more students had peacefully picketed the Internal Revenue Office on College Avenue, opposing the use of tax money to finance the war.

9. Students’ strike votes passed by slimmer margins at Bowdoin and Bates. Bowdoin’s youthful president, Roger Howell Jr., spoke at a prevote rally and urged the college to
faculty meeting in Lovejoy, a strike resolution introduced by Robert Pullen (economics)—a far cry from a radical—passed 71 to 21 with ten abstaining. Classes were canceled until Sunday night, when the faculty would meet again. A second, four-part motion introduced by Stratman called for the end of ROTC, and the secret ballot vote ended in a tie (50 to 50). By rule, Strider cast the deciding vote and the motion failed. A further resolution from Robert Jacobs (government) said the College should not punish the students occupying the ROTC offices. Strider said student discipline was none of the faculty’s business, and the motion was defeated.

By Thursday, the campus radio station WMHB—still on 610 NHZ—was hooked into national strike headquarters at Brandeis University, broadcasting around the clock. Muskie wired Orlov accepting the Sunday invitation and commenting hopefully on the students’ “determination to proceed with a positive dialogue aimed at developing a constructive course of action.” Senator Smith dithered. As a lonely supporter of the Nixon administration, she knew it would not be a pleasant occasion, nor was Colby her favorite destination.

Never mind that Colby’s president was a liberal Democrat; Smith’s annoyance with Colby had begun many years before. In 1943, three years after she was elected to fill her late husband’s seat in the House of Representatives, Colby was the first college to award her an honorary degree. She had no earned college degree and, as was custom, she got the short-sleeved master’s. Over time she collected a closet full of honorary degrees (ninety-five in all), and all but this one were doctorates. It stuck out like a sore thumb on her résumé, and her colleagues never failed to remind Colby of the slight. The College made it right in 1991. Four years before her death at age ninety-seven, Colby awarded her a doctor of laws.

A series of strike events began Friday with a memorial service for the students at Kent State. Much energy went into the hasty development of a “counter curriculum” of workshops, led by faculty and others, on an array of pressing topics including militarism, racism, feminism, the military-industrial

“put pressure on President Nixon so that he knows the sentiments of the country.” During a strike event at Bates, president Thomas Reynolds, who held a truck driver’s license, got behind the wheel of a dump truck and led a clean-up caravan along the streets of Lewiston.
complex, and the cold war. Students flocked to support a blood drive; Tau Delta Phi held a benefit band concert; SDS presented Salt of the Earth, a film story of striking zinc miners in New Mexico; and Sunday Cinema showed I Love You, Alice B. Toklas (tickets 75¢, profits to support the strike).

On Friday night, with Strider and the deans sending strong signals they were about to send in the sheriff, protestors left the ROTC offices, still asserting the legitimacy of their action but claiming the threatened legal action "could only result in a loss of time." A second all-campus meeting that night provided an update on Sunday's rally, including news of Senator Smith's late acceptance. Strider spoke to the overflowing crowd in the gym and complimented strike leaders for "the constructive tone and high level of exchange of views." For the first time in public he revealed his view of the war. He called the recent expansion into Cambodia "depressing," and said the Nixon administration "has failed to take into account the deadening impact the war is having on young people and especially on college students." At the end, he could not resist sharing his anxiety about all those missed classes. He said he hoped the College could soon "get back to more orthodox forms of study."

Sunday, May 10, was a bright, spring day, and Colby was, for the moment, the center of Maine's antiwar universe. It was Orlov's twenty-first birthday and he had inadvertently arranged a whopping party. By early afternoon the central mall—from the Eustis Building to the science buildings and from the library to Mayflower Hill Drive—teemed with some three thousand people, most of them students. From a distance the scene resembled a county fair. Up close the mood was somber.

At 2:30, Muskie walked out the front doors of the library to a podium on the steps. The crowd cheered when Orlov introduced him. Muskie was already touted as a Democratic presidential candidate for the 1972 election (he announced in December of that year), and his opposition to Nixon's conduct of the war was well known. He spoke from an eight-page text and used the friendly forum to announce his intention to introduce a Senate resolution requiring the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Cambodia. He said the purpose of the war had been to buy time for the people of Vietnam to build a country, and it was not worth it "if the price is the destruction of fundamental values and relationships in our own country."

Some of the crowd had drifted away before Smith appeared at four. She was tiny and frail, and her gray head could barely be seen above the podium. Orlov

10. In January 1971, Orlov served as a student intern in Muskie's Washington office.
loomed over her like a giant bodyguard. She had no prepared speech and immediately invited questions. She would have fared better had she read something. Asked about Cambodia, she defended Nixon’s decision, adding she was confident he would keep his promise to withdraw troops by June. Students howled. Someone asked if the nation’s youth had been consulted in the making of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. She said the question should be directed to former President Johnson. Asked to comment on the treatment of the Black Panthers, she said she didn’t like the Black Panthers or the Minutemen. A black student responded: “I don’t like you, or Nixon, or any of you, but I have to deal with you because you are the establishment.”

The most stunning moment came when Smith was asked if there were American troops in Cambodia’s neighbor country Laos. She turned to her aide, General William Lewis, and in a voice all could hear, repeated the question. He said no, and she turned back to the microphone and said she was not aware that there were any U.S. troops in Laos. Several in the crowd cursed, and some could be seen encouraging a young man as he made his way to the podium. He stood beside the senator, introduced himself as Brownie Carson, a Marine infantry platoon commander, and said he had recently been wounded in Laos. Turning to the senator, he asked how the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee could not know that Americans were fighting in Laos, “and if you do know,” he said, “how could you lie to us?” That was enough for Smith. As the screaming got louder, she turned abruptly and skulked back into the library, the dutiful general close behind.

Carson was a twenty-two-year-old Bowdoin graduate. Two years after chastising Smith on the Colby stage, he made an unsuccessful bid to unseat Maine Congressman Peter Kyros (1967–75) in the Democratic primary. He became one of the state’s leading environmentalists and executive director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. On the day of the Colby strike rally, another Bowdoin graduate, G. Calvin Mackenzie, twenty-five, was with the U.S. First Cavalry as it invaded Cambodia. Parts of the division had been in that neutral country months before, and Mackenzie and his comrades were irritated to learn politicians back home were saying it wasn’t so. Mackenzie subscribed to the Maine Times, and a week later when he received the issue carrying the story of the Colby rally, he read the account of the confrontation with Senator Smith to members of his platoon. They cheered for Brownie Carson.
Mackenzie went on to earn a Harvard Ph.D. and joined the Colby faculty in 1978. He became a nationally recognized expert on the transition of power following U.S. presidential elections.

Aside from hurt feelings, little had gone wrong. Fears of confrontation and violence proved unfounded. The anti-antiwar people stayed away, and a cadre of some one hundred arm-banded volunteer student marshals kept order and cleaned up afterward. A “M*A*S*H” tent set up on the mall by the student health center (the sign said “Carl Nelson, Chief Cutter”) had no customers. There were lots of beer cans smuggled in backpacks, and the smell of pot wafted in the spring air, but there were no arrests. An impending drug bust was narrowly averted when a local undercover cop, comically dressed as a hippie (bandanna, tie-dyed shirt, torn jeans, and sandals), was “outed” by a young Colby staff member who knew him and greeted him loudly as “sergeant.” The officer glared in dismay, and the already popping pupils in the eyes of the pot smokers grew larger as they scurried into the milling crowd.

When all the visitors had gone, students gathered again in the gym and voted to continue the strike “to display our shock and disapproval of the further expansion of the war.” The resolution asked the faculty to modify its requirements for term-ending papers and exams. From the beginning of the strike an ad hoc committee of faculty, administrators, and students had been puzzling over procedures for dealing with missed classes and, in particular, with how the Class of 1970 was going to meet its graduation requirements.

At a special meeting Sunday night, the faculty voted to resume classes the next day but left an odd escape for students who wanted to continue striking. A bare majority ruled they could simply stop going to class and take either a pass or fail grade, based upon their status in a course when the strike first began. They were given until Friday, May 15, to make up their minds. Strider seethed. Bad enough that course requirements were compromised, but he knew having students hanging around with little to do for the remainder of that angry spring was bound to be an administrative nightmare.

In fact, the worst was over. The final brush with disaster did not come until two weeks later. Early on Saturday morning, May 24, a night watchman investigating a broken window in the Lovejoy building discovered the unexploded remains of a Molotov cocktail inside the ROTC offices. A wine bottle filled with kerosene had been thrown through the window (it was a poorly made bomb; the contents ought to have been the customary oil and gas) and the
burned wick, apparently cut off as it passed through the glass, merely charred the sill. Fuel from the smashed bottle spread through the office but did not ignite. Still, it was a federal crime, and the FBI investigated. Six months later, with fingerprints taken from the reassembled bottle, George Cameron '68 was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to prison.\textsuperscript{11}

The engagement of the FBI was pro forma, as the ROTC offices were federal property. At the same time Nixon was asking Congress for one thousand additional federal agents to investigate any kind of violence on campuses receiving federal aid. Following the spring protests, student activists around the country were pressing to interrupt academic calendars with “political recesses” to allow students to campaign for peace candidates in the fall midterm elections. At Colby and elsewhere faculties squelched the idea when the Internal Revenue Service warned that electioneering could risk loss of an institution’s tax-exempt status. And in Congress, Democrats blocked a bill that would have increased federal support for higher education out of fear that it would be used as vehicle for amendments aimed at curbing campus violence.

Commencement finally came. The principal speaker was South Dakota Senator George McGovern, already the darling of the antiwar movement. His message resonated with many students who carried protest signs and eschewed traditional caps and gowns, donating the rental fees to war relief. McGovern, soon to be thrust upon the national scene as the ill-fated 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, called for “a second American revolution—not a revolution of violence, but a quiet determination to square the nation’s policies and priorities with the ideals of our founding documents.”

Steven Cline, class president, arranged war discussion events around the customary program, and Gregory Carbone, class speaker, spoke for many of his classmates when he admitted he felt “lost” as he viewed an American society where “dishonesty is sanctioned” and “lies are an accepted part of advertising, and politics is treated openly as the art of public deception.” He said he despaired of finding ways to effect change.

Everyone was exhausted, none more than Strider who clung to an annoyance that academic standards had been compromised to accommodate a prolonged strike. On that score, he did not mince his words, and when he spoke at the baccalaureate service, he threw a bomb of his own: “This year, unhappily,

\textsuperscript{11} Thirty years later, in 2001, the felon sought a pardon for his crime. The process required the forgiveness of his victim: Colby. President William Adams, a Vietnam Army veteran, agreed.
even though it was occasioned for the most part by forces beyond the control of any of us, the Colby degree for some members of this class is not as good a degree as this board and this faculty have always wanted it to be.” His scorn was pointed not so much at the students, but at the faculty who had let it happen. He agreed students were free to attend class or not, but faculty members were obliged to meet their contractual obligations. Some students, he said, “have received credit in courses in which the instructors have not lived up to the obligations they accepted when they agreed to be appointed.” Whatever else the president said to the graduates that morning was soon forgotten, but his assertion that their degrees were sullied rang harshly in their ears for years to come.

CEASEFIRE

There were a few new faces on the upper floors of the administration building when the College opened in the fall of 1970, and in the faculty a handful of the more rebellious members had evaporated into the mists of academe. Strider was calling for a new look at what the College was to become and for brighter lines in defining how far it would go. While no one could imagine greater upheaval than that of the spring just past, tension lingered over the ongoing war in Vietnam. Strider called for a local ceasefire, but it would be another sixteen months before the final volley was fired.

The exodus of leadership began at the top. Ellerton Jette (who must have marveled at the differences between running a shirt company and a College under siege) stepped down as chairman of the board. Albert Palmer ’30, a vice president of New England Telephone & Telegraph Company, succeeded him. Jette and Strider had gotten along well; Palmer and Strider would not.

Parker Johnson, dean of faculty for a decade, returned to teaching. A beleaguered Jonas Rosenthal, who had trod the fine line between firmness and flexibility in dealing with the new breed of students, relinquished his dean’s post and went back to the classroom as well. There wasn’t time for a full search for either post, and Strider coaxed two of the most broadly respected faculty members to stand in. Mark Benbow (English) became dean of faculty; Albert Mavrinac (government), dean of students. Within a year, both jobs were filled. Paul Jenson, a psychologist like Johnson, vice president at Temple Buell College in Denver, became dean of faculty. Willard “Bill” Wyman ’56, who knew something of student unrest from a tour as special assistant to the president at Stanford, returned as associate professor of English and dean of students.
Administrative vice president Roney Williams went on a year’s leave and Robert Pullen ’41, chair of economics, took his place. The move presaged Pullen’s eventual permanent appointment in 1973 when, after a year as acting president during Strider’s own sabbatical, Williams retired. Pullen was a veteran teacher. He earned his doctorate at MIT, where he taught for a time before joining the Colby faculty in 1945. Like his alumni predecessors, he was a fiscal conservative. Unlike either of them, he was liberal in his politics and longer on patience with an ever more demanding faculty.

Across the campus, the most prominent division was over ROTC, a favored target of antiwar protestors. Nationwide enrollment in the military training programs had plummeted even though college students were eligible for the draft. Many who might have enrolled as a means of finishing college were put off by peer pressure. At Colby, the number of new cadets fell into the teens. If the question had been left to students alone, ROTC would have been abandoned. In the heat of the spring of 1970, Student Government represented a majority opinion in voting for its abolition. In the midst of it, Jan Hogendorn (economics) squared off with the philosopher Reuman on the question, “Should Colby Discontinue ROTC?” Hogendorn took the negative, asserting that if the United States was to have an intelligent and sensible military, there ought to be some Colby officers alongside those from Texas A&M and the Citadel. The audience was clearly not on his side. Strider had used the same argument—“military officers ought to have read some poetry”—to convince a narrow majority of the faculty to retain the program. Under the rules of Con Con, the disagreement between the two bodies had to be settled by the newly constituted Conference and Review Board (CRB).

The CRB recommendation was to go to the trustee Educational Policy Committee on the way to the full board; as it waited for the CRB to report, the EPC met in Boston to have its own discussion. One question was going to be whether credit for ROTC courses should be counted in the number required for a student’s graduation (reduced from 120 to 105 hours two years before). Pat Brancaccio (English) argued against the Strider-Hogendorn position, questioning whether the ROTC courses were truly free of distortion and asserting that the instruction might not be liberalizing the military at all. Tony Maramarco ’71 (who within a few years returned as Strider’s administrative assistant) said the military courses did not fit the College’s overall academic program at all. Anne O’Hanian ’72 (later a trustee) said removing the credit would merely “condemn ROTC to a slow death.”

The CRB, with Paul Perez (psychology) and Charles Hogan ’73 as cochairs, took its time, and at its fourth marathon meeting in December, agreed to rec-
ommend that ROTC courses become an extracurricular activity with academic rank withdrawn from ROTC personnel.\textsuperscript{12} The EPC signed on and the board approved in April 1971. That fall Bill Rouhana '72 (also later a trustee) resurrected the ROTC issue before Student Government, arguing that students should have the option of choosing ROTC in order to complete college before being drafted. Stu-G agreed and reversed its 1970 vote.\textsuperscript{13} For those who opposed the training program on moral grounds, the new Stu-G support was irrelevant. By 1971, Nixon was bringing home ground troops and at the same time stepping up the air war in hopes of forcing a peace. In protest of the increased bombings, Hanoi negotiators walked out of peace talks in Paris and prepared for an invasion of the south. The National Student Association again summoned the campuses to action.\textsuperscript{14}

After lunch on Friday, April 21, 1972, more than a dozen students marched into the ROTC offices (relocated the year before from Lovejoy to Averill Hall) and said they would not leave “until ROTC is evicted from Colby or until we are arrested.” A protestors told a crowd gathered outside that the office was a “center of death,” prolonging the war by producing fliers who “commit murder” from the sky. Wyman, fresh in his post as dean, was decidedly against the war, and he sympathized with the determined students.\textsuperscript{15} With Strider, he led a parade of officials who visited the protestors, reminding them of the consequences of civil disobedience and breaking the law. They wouldn’t budge.

The next move was the dean’s, and it was not made, as most had expected, in the civil jurisdiction. Instead, Wyman gave the students until 5 P.M. to vacate the premises or face charges before the Student Judicial Board. They did not leave, and later that evening Chief Justice Swift Tarbell '72 convened the

\textsuperscript{12} In fact federal law required that the assigned instructors be accorded faculty rank in aerospace studies.

\textsuperscript{13} The softening view of Student Government was made further evident that year when it overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to reorganize a local chapter of SDS. The Stu-G president was by then again a moderate, William Mayaka ’73. As a government minister in his native Kenya during the 1990s, Mayaka became the highest-ranking government official in the Colby alumni body.

\textsuperscript{14} No Maine colleges went on strike. Classes were made optional at Bowdoin, and at the University of Maine at Portland, Maine Representative William Hathaway (Dem.) refused to accept a petition signed by some three hundred students calling for the impeachment of President Nixon.

\textsuperscript{15} Wyman’s father, Willard Sr., was a four-star army general and on D-Day in 1944 was the first general on the Normandy beaches. While attending his son’s Colby graduation in 1956, he officiated at the annual spring commissioning of ROTC officers.
board that obligingly cited protestors for violating the civil rights of Harris and his two-man ROTC staff. In the hope that the students could be jawboned out of the offices over the weekend, the order gave them until 7 a.m. on Monday morning. If they weren't gone by then, they would be suspended. The order was ignored. Instead, protestors issued a statement calling for support. On Thursday more than three hundred filled the auditorium in Runnals Union, where representatives of Vietnam Veterans Against the War spoke and showed a film of war veterans discarding Vietnam medals at a Washington protest. Stu-G met on Saturday and voted 10 to 3 not to support the sit-in.

At seven on Monday morning Wyman delivered a notice to the seventeen students still in the offices. If they did not leave by 7:30 a.m. they would be suspended, at least until September 11, 1972. The number of protestors dwindled to ten, nine men and one woman. C. Patrick Lynch '74 had become their leader. He kept his promise of a "dignified and non-violent" protest, but it was evident that the holdouts wanted to assume a classic civil disobedience stance and be arrested. By this time the College was ready to oblige. At eight o'clock Wyman verbally issued the suspensions, and seven Waterville police officers, accompanied by Chief Ronald LaLiberte and Assistant Kennebec County Attorney Marden, entered the building and arrested the students for "refusal to vacate," a misdemeanor under Maine's new, untried "sit-in law." A small crowd of some 150 students and faculty watched as the students raised their fists on their short escorted walk to a nearby school bus. At their booking in City Hall they discovered that sympathetic faculty members had already passed the hat and raised bail money of one hundred dollars for each. Later that day, in light of "the dignity and concern" with which the protest had been conducted, Wyman shortened the suspensions and gave the students a chance to finish the semester. He said they could come back on May 8.

The concession did not sit well off the campus. Waterville's colorful and outspoken mayor, Richard Carey, felt duped. He and others had quietly agreed that in return for the lengthier suspension the trespassing students would be cited for a misdemeanor rather than a felony (criminal trespass). Carey called Wyman's reprieve a "wrist-slap" and a "hoax," and said that next time the College could call Oakland. He said he would send the College a bill for three hundred dollars to cover the cost of supplying the officers. The next day, as

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16. While waiting for the cops, the protestors did some tidying up. Before the deadline, newspapers and sandwich wrappers were thrown out, and the office rugs were vacuumed.

17. Carey was, nevertheless, a vocal opponent of the war. Later that day he wrote a
College and city officials met to smooth the town-gown waters, some two hundred students milled throughout the Eustis administration building, protesting the war and complaining about the “double jeopardy” of the students who had been both arrested and suspended. In early May District Court Judge Roland Poulin fined each of the students one hundred dollars and sentenced them to ten days in the Kennebec County Jail. He suspended the jail sentence, but warned that it was “no joking matter” and that he would put them away for ninety days if they broke the law again.

It was the ceasefire Strider had long been looking for. The protests wound down, at Colby and elsewhere, not because the colleges had found a way to quiet the angriest students, but because the war was ending. Three months later, in August 1972, even as Nixon tried to force a peace with increased bombings, the last U.S. ground forces withdrew. The following January national security advisor Henry Kissinger proclaimed, “Peace is at hand,” and the air bombing stopped as well. As the last U.S. troops left Saigon in 1975, the communists swept down from the north. Neither the Congress nor the country itself had the stomach to weigh in again and stop them. Saigon became Ho Chi Minh City and the long war ended almost where it had begun.

Colby ROTC enjoyed a brief resurgence after the 1972 sit-in, but the program was never again as large as it had been before the war. With only two seniors enrolled, fourteen freshmen signed on the fall of 1972, including the first three women cadets. The following year, Thomas College made a joint venture with Colby and began a companion AFROTC program on its new (1971) West River Road campus. The struggle of Strider and others to keep the military training program at Colby was made moot in February 1974 when General F. M. Rogers, commander of the Air University in Alabama, wrote to say that the postwar zero draft had taken its toll, that the program at Colby could not be sustained, and that it would be discontinued after commencement. The general thanked Strider and Colby for the many fine officers the College had sent to the air force over the past quarter-century.

In 1987, a dozen years after the war, the populist Boston Globe columnist Mike Barnicle gave the commencement address and called for graduates to be on guard against politics and privilege. The politics of the Vietnam War were
“obscene,” he said, and privilege played its own role with the “fighting and dying being handled by kids whose fathers came out of firehouses or Local 114 or the MBTA” and whose mothers worked as “waitresses, if they worked at all.” He said he had called the College to ask how many graduates died in the war, and was not surprised when he was told there were none. The answer was incomplete. Robert Lloyd ’68, a Vietnam veteran, helped set the College straight. Four Colby men, three of them undergraduates, were killed in the war: Specialist David T. Barnes ’68, Capt. James H. Shotwell ’62, Lt. Leslie A. Dickinson Jr. ’67, and Lt. Robert C. “Mike” Ransom Jr. ’66.

Their names were inscribed on a tablet placed near the other war memorials on the central campus mall, and dedicated June 11, 1988. These four had made the supreme sacrifice, but there were many other students and graduates whose lives were unalterably changed because of their service. And on the battlefields at home there were patriots of a different sort, often scorned and despised, who never wanted to diminish the sacrifices of their brothers and sisters in arms, but who used the tools of a democracy—peaceful dissent and protest—to turn the heads of an entire nation toward believing that this war, despite the virtues of stemming communism, was not worth its cost in lost and ruined lives.

QUIETER REvolutions

The nation was more culturally divided and disillusioned than it had been since the Civil War. The young, emboldened by their own voices, rejected entrenched middle-class values and sought new lifestyles of their own. Their elders clung to an unrecoverable past and could not close the generation gap. As always, changes began on the campuses. Students no longer received their education as suppliants and were eager to shape the rules of how they lived and what they studied. Sometimes administrators went along for the ride; more often they fought to stay the old course, dodging potholes and applying the brakes wherever they could.

Conflict and change was evident in Waterville as well. The new highway had divided the city into smaller parts and old neighborhoods were breaking down. Crime was on the rise. In the years Colby and Waterville had shared the same few acres, borders of the campus blended into neighborhood streets, and students were very much a part of town. Now, the old ties were stretched. Some were broken forever. Never was the long mile from the Post Office to the Hill more staggeringly apparent than in November 1971.

Katherine Murphy, a freshman, only eighteen, was reported missing by her
roommate on the night of November 2. College officials went looking in the early morning hours, calling her name through the rain, checking with her newfound friends. They could not find her. At dawn a jogger discovered her body in a ravine at the bottom of the hill, some thirty feet from the road. That same day a twenty-two-year-old Waterville man, Alan Pelletier, walked into the police station with his father and said that as he drove his pickup truck up Mayflower Hill Drive the night before, he had seen a man beating on a women at the edge of campus. He said he went to the top of the hill, left his truck in the parking lot opposite Mary Low Hall, and walked back to the scene of the fight. The man was gone, he said, but he found the woman and she was dead. He said he rolled the body over before running back to his vehicle, vomiting along the way.

Pelletier was known to police as one of several local men who often gave rides to Colby women, up and down the Hill. He also followed fire alarms and was rarely far from local incidents when police were called. Whatever local officials thought of his story, Assistant County Attorney Donald Marden said the death would be investigated as a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident. Two days later, pathologist Irving I. Goodof said Murphy had been murdered. Responsibility for the investigation shifted to the state attorney general, and only then was the crime scene roped off and scoured for evidence. It was too late.

State police detectives set up an office in Roberts Union. Women students came forward and identified license plate numbers and sometimes the names of a dozen local men who had accosted them during rides to and from the campus. After twenty years of gathering at the iron rail fence at Sacred Heart Church to hitch rides to the campus, "Colby Corner" was closed. The director of student activities, John Zacamy '71 (later a trustee), resurrected the Blue Beetle in the form of a nine-passenger Volkswagen bus, and the new "Jitney" ran up and down the Hill, taking passengers for ten cents a ride. The murder went unsolved, and the mystery was frightening. For a long time, students would not go out of doors alone. If there was any innocence left among them, it was fast disappearing.

The homicide investigation remained active for fifteen years, largely because of the obsession of Waterville Police Detective Norman Quirion. He was familiar with the local underworld and he believed its people knew a lot more than they were giving up. In November 1980, nine years after the murder, Assistant attorney general Pat Perrino ordered an in-
vestigative grand jury. After the proceedings he criticized the work of the investigators, and concluded there wasn't enough evidence to seek an indictment. In March 1983, Sentinel reporter Bill Nemitz wrote a prizewinning account of the case, and for the first time revealed the prevailing rumors of a police cover-up, a sadly botched investigation, and the mysterious deaths of two men closely tied to it. Three years later, in March 1986, an indictment was brought against Pelletier, the man who said he had seen the murder. In January 1987 the case went to a jury trial before Superior Court Justice Morton A. Brody. Assistant attorney general Michael Wescott led the prosecution, but the trail was cold, memories of key investigators had faded, and evidence (including blood samples, Waterville police arrest and investigation records for 1971, and the 1980 grand jury transcript) had gone missing. After a twelve-day trial, the jury deliberated for two days and returned a “not guilty” verdict.

Students’ views of the world changed in other ways as well. The 1969 constitutional convention had decreed a second “Con Con” in 1972 when 108 delegates met for a three-day session in April, charged with “continuing, modifying, or abandoning” the changes resulting from Con Con I. Two agenda items were easy. The office of ombudsman had been established as a safeguard against heavy-handedness on the part of the administration, and to cut through red tape that might get wound around the new governance structure. Strider assigned the role to professor emeritus Alfred “Chappie” Chapman, one year retired and living nearby. Before long Chappie was advocating the abolition of his own job. Other than dealing with students unhappy with the outcome of disciplinary matters, he had seen little business. Second, the Conference and Review Board (CRB) had proven unwieldy. It had reviewed only three academic departments, and then only because each volunteered. Moreover, it wasn’t clear what to do with the departmental reviews once they were finished. Con Con II quickly scratched the ombudsman and the CRB.

To hammer out details of its new creations, the convention established a Committee on Committees and Governance. Its first charge was to unravel the spool of twenty-two accumulated College committees, nearly half of which were redundant or moribund, or both. Streamlining the lumbering committees was without controversy. It was in dealing with a new system of governance that the enclave nearly collapsed. Charles Hogan ’73 had spent the fall working with Professor Sandy Maisel (government) preparing a convention
proposal for establishing an all-powerful College senate. The senate idea had been part of Hogan's campaign platform (under the ambitiously titled Save America party) for his successful bid for election as Stu-G president, and it had support, even among some old guard faculty. The only problem was a clause that would have allowed the senate to override, with a two-thirds vote, any decision of the administration or the trustees. As Con Con II wore into the second day, a motion by Professor John Dudley (physics) to scrub the offending clause altogether passed 55 to 43, whereupon twenty-three of the student delegates declared the whole thing a farce and walked out.

Remaining delegates hung on through the end of the third day, when alumni representative Charles Barnes '54 brought an amendment saying a new senate could do as it pleased as long as it did not interfere with the bylaws of the corporation. The debate had come full circle, and the stalemate was broken. Con Con II adjourned leaving a full plate for the CRB: consolidate the committees, design a College senate, and develop a philosophy for shared responsibility in governance. On its own, Con Con II called for voting privileges for student and faculty representatives to the board (trustees said no); revise the bylaws to make the ancient and once-powerful Academic Council an advisory board (trustees said yes); and open the College budget to the inspection of any member of the community (trustees said no, but a summary budget could go to the new Financial Priorities Committee).

A year later trustees approved the new committees, creating a scheme of shared governance that had driven the idea of a College senate. The structure of the Educational Policy Committee preserved the primacy of the Faculty Meeting, but also included student voices. The same was true for the Student Affairs Committee, charged with guided proposals for major student life changes from the grassroots to the boardroom. With that done, the idea of a senate seemed an extra layer of decisionmaking, and it died of its own weight.

Much of the student interest in making policy was in the lingering debate

19. Ten committees were eliminated (Architectural, AFROTC, Campus Natural Environment, Commencement, Examinations and Schedules, Foreign Study and Student Exchange, Freshman Week, Honorary Degrees, Professional Preparation, and Safety), nine were continued (Administrative, Admissions, Athletics, Bookstore, Educational Policy, Financial Aid, Library, Senior Scholars, and Academic Standing), and three were added (Financial Priorities, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Special Programs). Students were given seats on all but Admissions, Financial Aid, and Academic Standing.

20. It would be another decade before the system for reviewing academic departments got figured out. In the meantime, the Con Con II recommendation that departments have an annual sit-down with graduating seniors was adopted as a general rule.
over coeducational living. The 1967 integration of the sexes into proximate buildings was old and uninteresting. Now students were pushing for real coed living: men and women housed by separate corridors, if you please (or by adjacent rooms, thank you very much.) The College had experimented with coeducational living in Roberts Union for two years before the new College Student Affairs Committee entertained a proposal from the Center for Coordinated Studies to make the largest dormitory, Dana, coed by corridor. The new committee wasn’t interested, but by June 1970 was willing to recommend students be given the right to make some of their own rules for residence hall living. (The term “dormitory autonomy” was misleading because of its sweeping inference, but it stuck as a worthy battle cry.) Trustees weren’t about to surrender full management of dormitories to students, but did agree to delegate some authority to each unit “for the purpose of establishing and enforcing its own hours, visiting privileges, and the conditions under which these may occur.”

As for coed living, the board endorsed the committee’s negative recommendation:

We do not think this is an appropriate or desirable mode of living . . . nor do we wish the college to project the type of image which such housing arrangements would create . . . we feel the risks to psychological, emotional and physical health are sufficient to deter us.

In the face of the board decision, acting dean Mavrinac ordered the much-abused fire doors between Foss (women) and Woodman (men) halls firmly shut, and a student wag put up posters announcing the only coed dorm would be on Runnals Hill: “bring your sleeping bags.” Within eighteen months trustees reversed themselves, their minds changed not so much by students as by the new dean, Bill Wyman. In the fall of his arrival in 1971, Wyman accepted the invitation of the board Student Affairs Committee to make a comprehensive study and recommendation on coed living. His fifty-page report addressed the points that had been made on both sides of the two-year debate. It contained findings of a survey of eight Colby-like colleges (including Bowdoin and Bates) that already had coed living and didn’t regret it, and results of a Colby poll showing a whopping 88 percent of students in favor.

In denying the initial request, trustees had been frank about their concern

21. When college opened in the fall of 1970, all seventeen dormitories (eight women’s, nine men’s) and all eight fraternity houses voted for “24 parietal hours.” Only two dormitories set “quiet hours.” The rest agreed to an ill-defined practice of “mutual consideration.”
for the College’s image. Admissions dean Harry Carroll wrote for the report that with twenty-four-hour dormitory visiting privileges already in effect, the move to coed dorms couldn’t do any harm. Fundraising steward Ed Turner said that while some alumni would be “deeply disturbed” and might withhold support, he thought if the College made its case most would continue to give. Although the polar arguments were often couched in lofty terms, underlying the opposition was a fear of bacchanalia and unbridled sex. Wyman said no, that adolescent behavior would decline and male/female relationships would be dominated less by sexual interests. “More and more young people today accept the idea of premarital sex,” he wrote, “and there is no reason to believe this attitude would change one way or the other.”

Robert A. Marden ’50, chair of the board Student Affairs Committee, led the trustee cheering section on behalf of the report, and in January 1972 trustees made it official. The dean’s office was licensed to set up coed arrangements in the fall, subject to certain conditions: single-sex housing for all who wanted it, men and women separated by corridors, a guarantee of privacy for all, mixed classes in all dormitories, and, to the extent possible, an integration of faculty associates and house-taught courses. The Echo’s response was sour grapes: “The arguments and protestations of various student groups during the past two years have been of little avail, yet the dean’s office succeeded in moving the committee in only two months.”

In September, Foss-Woodman, Dana, Johnson, and Averill became coed. There wasn’t space to meet demand (50 percent of students requested it), but it was a start. The separate corridor arrangement worked without need of building renovations except in Dana, where a windowless swinging door was installed on the second floor to separate the only male/female split corridor.22 A freshman resident on the floor, Martha Dewey ’76, said the curiosity traffic made it seem “like living in a museum.” A mother, speaking up on Freshman Parents Weekend, said she hoped the place didn’t turn into a summer camp. The change never did bring the problems its detractors had predicted (the pregnancy rate did not increase), but the new system was not without surprises. With twenty-four-hour visiting privileges and the newly mixed dorms, the College despaired of keeping rooms clean and gave up providing maid service, and the new attraction of the dormitories created a vacuum in fraternity houses, where there were suddenly fifty empty beds.

22. The door got heavy use. After a number of black eyes and bloodynoses, a frosted glass pane was installed. Even so, the door was usually left propped open. After two years, it disappeared altogether.
To accommodate the dormitory overflow, the College rented rooms on the old Thomas College Silver Street campus, then under lease to the fledgling Maine State Police Academy. Colby students shared Parks Hall with police cadets who were trying to sleep at night when students partied, and were up for calisthenics at 5 A.M. when students were sleeping. Head Resident Bruce Cummings '73 (director of student activities the following year) struggled to keep the disparate groups from coming to blows. Coeducational living also dramatically changed the noise level. Adherence to the rule of "mutual consideration" was in the ears of the listener, and it wasn't long before students clamored for a quiet place to live. (The request was problematic. If all that wanted quiet moved into one place, wouldn't the other places get noisier?)

Still, associate dean for housing Doris Downing '69 found a place, and in the fall of 1974 Averill Hall, near the hushed library, became the first "quiet dorm."

Coed living was merely a product of a greater awareness of the need to dispel antiquated practices and old myths that applied to women. In the fall of 1972, just as the College was thinking it had balanced the scales between the sexes, Bernice Sandler came to speak. The executive associate of the Association of American Colleges said there was still much work to do in achieving sexual equality. She urged women to denounce stereotypes about their sex, at home and in the workplace, and asserted, "The hand that rocks the cradle can indeed rock the boat." That fall the catalogue included its first course in women's studies, "Social Roles of Women," developed through the initiative of Rebecca Ross '71, who had spent a Jan Plan at Wesleyan University's pioneer women's studies department. Dean Jenson and Charles Bassett (English) managed the course, centered on a series of guest speakers. A year later Bassett coordinated the team-taught course "Women in American Society." More than eighty students enrolled; a full third were men.

The Colby Women's Group was organized in 1973, the same year the student body elected Martha Bernard '74 the first woman president of Student Government. That spring the group sponsored a Women's Festival Week, aimed at "educating the women of Colby to the problems and issues of the Women's Movement." It was a quiet reminder, a group leader said, "that we are here and we are not going to go away."

23. Students were good at smashing stereotypes themselves. In 1970 they elected William "Tim" Glidden '74 as the first male Homecoming "queen." The old fall tradition never recovered.

24. The formation of the Women's Group emboldened Colby's gay and lesbian students to establish an open-to-all organization of their own. In February 1974, seniors
The group soon began agitating for improved and expanded campus health care for women. Among other things, it wanted the infirmary to dispense the birth control pill. Ten million American women were already using the pill, but the College hierarchy was hesitant. Alumni and others hadn’t fully digested the idea of coed living, and it was too soon to ask them to swallow the Pill. After a flutter of meetings and petitions, in 1976 Strider approved increased physician coverage and a new sex education program. He sent the remaining issues to a task force (no more new committees), led by the respected young faculty member Arthur Champlin (biology). In 1977, about the time Miss became Ms., the growing number of feminists had their own headquarters in Roberts Union. Led by a determined and popular new assistant professor of English, Phyllis Mannocchi, they continued to press for a full-fledged women’s studies program.

Yet another revolution was aimed at rescuing the environment, a cause in which students found plenty of allies and role models, from the nation’s capital to the full breadth of the campus, all the way to the President’s House. The best national example of environmental leadership was in their own backyard. As the conservation champion of the U.S. Senate, Waterville’s Edmund Muskie had earned the sobriquet Mr. Clean after writing the Water Quality Act (1965) and the Clean Air Act (1970), bedrocks of the nation’s air and water quality legislation. During his ill-fated run for the Democratic nomination for the presidency in 1972, he continued his environmental leadership by writing the companion Clean Water Act, adopted that same year.

Donaldson Koons, chair of the geology department and Maine’s powerful Environmental Improvement Commission (later the Department of Environmental Protection), spoke at a campus rally on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. He warned students “the environmental bank is already calling its note” and said the regulations promulgated by his department could only treat the symptoms, not the disease. “The disease,” he said, “is people.” A small number of students had begun to take an environmental stand even in the din of larger protests. During preparations for the 1970 Smith-Muskie antiwar rally they passed out leaflets with a comprehensive list of drinks in “returnable, refundable, two-way bottles,” and of the local stores that carried them.

Under the aegis of the venerable Outing Club, that fall Joel Ossoff ’73, Nat Woodruff ’71, and others formed the Environmental Council, an affiliate of —

Barbara Badger and Nancy Snow formed The Bridge, a group with tentative beginnings that slowly grew in numbers and campuswide acceptance.
the Natural Resources Council of Maine. It had its own newsletter, the Colby Eco, and was soon handing out birth control handbooks and a call for trustees to limit the College's tuition benefit to two children per family. It got snowmobiles banned from the campus. It urged students to refuse junk mail and begged them to conserve fuel, electricity, and water: "take short showers, use as little soap as possible."

The council did more than preach. Members collected tons of newspapers and sold them for recycling to Keyes Fibre Company. From the President's House, Helen Strider, a founding member of the Waterville Conservation Commission, partnered with Mayor Carey to arrange a regular citywide newspaper collection program. Proceeds, matched by the state, were used to buy trees to replace the city's dying elms. Students conducted a study for the Keep Maine Scenic Committee in the winning effort to ban billboards, and they lobbied for the successful passage of the state's returnable bottle bill. Stephen Palmer '75 led volunteers who collected trash along sections of Maine highways and presented the legislature a scientific estimate that unless the law was passed, there would be "a foot high wall of litter" along all of the state's roads by the year 2000.

In 1972, before bottles and cans were returnable, the Maine Liquor Commission worried young people were drinking too much from kegs—mainly because they could not bear to leave a single drop—and banned the sale of beer kegs. A bill requiring the commission to reverse its stand was introduced into the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee. Colby juniors Kenneth Gorman, Robert Diamond, and Stephen Higgins appeared at the legislative hearing carrying trash bags filled with empty cans equivalent to the volume of a single keg. Committee members laughed as hundreds of empty beer cans rattled over the hearing room floor. The liquor commission backed down.

The College launched its Environmental Studies Program in the fall of 1971–72, cobbling together courses in five disciplines in the natural and social sciences to create a major offering led by biologist William Gilbert. It was the first program emphasizing hands-on outreach projects, and it soon had a major impact on local and state conservation efforts. (Within four years it would have nearly sixty majors.) That fall students conducted a well-received survey of lakes near Readfield. The following summer "Homecoming Queen"
Glidden and Carol Majdalany '75 surveyed the shores of several of the nearby Belgrade chain of lakes. Property owners welcomed them, but town officials in the lake-bordering town of Oakland were less than enthusiastic. Glidden later recalled that town fathers thought all the talk about the need for zoning was “vaguely communistic.”

The students’ recommendation of grassroots citizen involvement was the impetus for the formation of the many formal lake associations. Two faculty newcomers, David Fimage (1975) and Russell Cole (1977) paired to develop the special study area, and it quickly grew to become the College’s most prominent service learning program.

Nothing gave the environmental movement more momentum than the “energy crisis” that began in mid-October 1973. Egypt and Syria invaded Israel (the Yom Kippur War), and as punishment for supporting Israel, the new Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) stopped the flow of oil to the United States and its Western European allies. Spoiled by cheap energy and stunned by the sudden embargo, Americans waited in long lines for gasoline that within a few months rose from 38¢ to 55¢ a gallon. The highway speed limit was lowered to 55 mph and the sound of chain saws filled neighborhoods as residents cut firewood for winter.

Members of the Environmental Council held dozens of meetings, puzzling out ways to conserve. Most Northeast colleges responded by shortening their calendars. Bowdoin ended its first semester a month ahead of schedule. Colby adjusted its Jan Plan from January 3–31 to January 15–February 7. The customary interval between the end of Jan Plan and the beginning of the second semester was eliminated.

The tight schedule helped only a bit. Spring Brook Ice & Fuel, suppliers of the fuel for Colby’s aged furnaces, said it could promise deliveries only through February. Thermostats were set below 70 degrees and students, accustomed to opening windows to release the sweltering heat of unregulated boilers, closed them, put on sweaters, and took short showers. Office work schedules were

25. Glidden served as deputy director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and then as director of the Land for Maine’s Future Program. Majdalany (Williams) worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, and later was a director of the Litchfield, Connecticut, Inland Wetlands Commission. Other preservation leaders of the era included Earle Shettleworth ’70, director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and later Maine State Historian; and Kent Wommack ’77, director of the Nature Conservancy of Maine.

26. When the crisis ended, many northeastern colleges continued the shortened calendar. Colby did not.
adjusted to match daylight hours. Every other light bulb along the building corridors was unscrewed from its socket, and in a symbolic gesture the “blue light” in the library tower was extinguished.

SHAKE YOUR BOOTY

The vacuous tune by KC and the Sunshine Band was but a mild reminder of the ever-widening generation gulf in the social sphere. Like kids in the back seat on a long ride, students annoyed and needled their elders. In the 1970s, it was about sex, drugs, and disco. Drugs were worrisome, and “sensound” music could cause permanent hearing loss. Sexual exhibitions were harmless enough but shocking all the same. At the beginning of the decade the Echo briefly imitated Playboy magazine, and it wasn’t long before students began taking off their clothes and streaking around buck-naked.

Throughout the coed dorm debate, the Echo had taken the side of change. An October 9, 1970, edition had an article by former dean Jonas Rosenthal explaining the trustee opposition to mixed dorms. Next to it was a piece by Ken Eisen ’73 in which he claimed that as there were virtually no rules being enforced in the dorms anyway, nothing much would change if men and women lived together. Illustrating the articles was a large photograph of the rear ends of a nude couple, sauntering down a dormitory corridor.

The callipygian view did little to bolster the case of those who claimed students should be able to live close together. While most eyes fixed on the nude photo, in the same edition could be seen a report on the Student Government election successes of a coalition named F.U.C.K., an acronym reflecting the group’s intentions for “Camp Kolby.” (In later defense, the Echo said it was only reporting the news and had nothing whatever to do with the naming of the group.) The “f” word was by then crawling out of dark places, together with crude names for previously unmentioned body parts and functions being thrown into the bright light of a world that wasn’t ready. Strider observed there were no fewer than seventeen “f” words in a single recent edition of the Echo. He had counted them, and opined that whatever dubious shock value the word held, it surely lost any useful literary purpose by repeating it so many times.

Strider had for some time been fretting about the newspaper’s “deterioration of taste and tone.” In that same hurly-burly spring he had addressed alumni on the limits of freedom along the full range of College endeavors, including the newspaper, and asked rhetorically: “Is the uncontrolled barbarism,
with its obscenities, libel, and innuendo, of the campus press, no concern of ours?” College of Elijah Lovejoy or not, Strider answered his own question. He wanted no part of censorship, but he was not about to abide what he called “a deplorable continuation of the downward spiral” of the newspaper’s taste and tone. He wrote editor Robert Parry to say delicately the time had come to explore steps that could lead to institutional disassociation from the Echo. In the meantime he asked them to “cease immediately” using Colby’s name.

The newspaper printed Strider’s letter on page one of the next edition under the customary Colby Echo masthead (which now included a curious caveat stating that the opinions contained therein were not necessarily those of the College or, for that matter, even the student body). An accompanying editorial, illustrated with somber images of Lovejoy, countered: “While our editorial policy emerges as not always ‘objective,’ we do strive to be fair.” As for the nude photograph, editors observed that readers could find the same sort of thing in Time, Newsweek, Look, or Life.

At the October meeting of the board, trustees affirmed Strider’s action but declined to yank Colby’s name or its support from the newspaper. Instead, they appointed a study committee headed by Dwight Sargent ’39, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard. (Other trustee members included Jean Gannett, president of the Guy Gannett Publishing Company, and Thomas J. Watson Jr., CEO of IBM.) Meanwhile, in an effort to calm angry alumni, secretary Sid Farr sent Strider’s letter to regular donors. In a cover note he apologized for the Echo’s transgression, and—overoptimistically—thanked them in advance for continuing “loyalty, support, and understanding.”

By spring 1971 the newspaper had changed editors (Michael Havey and Timothy Carey ’72). Promises were made to behave, and the howling stopped. Sargent’s committee said the Echo could keep the College name (it never gave it up) and recommended the formation of an editorial board to stand in on behalf of the College, the true publisher. The editors agreed.

It was not by any means the Echo’s first trial. By 1971, the paper was already ninety-four years old. Its first issue was published in March 1877. Joseph Files, later editorial writer for the Portland Press, was editor. It was a monthly pub-

27. Benjamin Bubar, superintendent of the Maine Christian Civic League, got one of Farr’s letters and fired back: “Where has been the concern for other Echo’s?” he asked. “Why just this one?” Bubar, six years later on the ballot in nine states as the National Prohibition Party’s presidential candidate, called Strider’s letter “sick.” He said it reflected “the administration’s inability to cope with some deep-seated moral-social problems.”
lication until 1886, when it began appearing twice a month. It became a weekly in 1898. For six years (1913–17) Professor Fred Fassett taught journalism. Beginning in 1920, editors were given credit for an advanced course in English composition. The faculty supervised the selection of editors until 1925, when the Echo chose their own, without consultation. In that year an English professor spoke at a faculty meeting and said he had found the new editor “completely incompetent and ignorant of the most elementary essentials for conduct of such a publication.” The practice of granting academic credit was withdrawn. No woman ran the paper until Vivian Maxwell ’44 took the job during World War II. In the hope of improved training, after the flap over the nude photo the practice of granting academic credit (English) to Echo staffers was resumed, and continued until the late 1980s when it was discontinued again.

The Echo might have planted the germ, but the paper was not responsible for the streaking craze that began on the warm campuses of Florida and California four years later. The pioneers were in fact political protestors. Students at the University of Washington held a streak for the impeachment of Richard Nixon (to “bare the truth” on Watergate), and in Hawaii a student romped through the state legislative chamber, claiming to be “streaker of the house.” New sexual freedoms had uncorked a consuming fascination with the naked body. Miniskirts, having reached their peak in the 1960s, had come and gone, but there was still more to reveal: while most fads were slow to move up the turnpike, in the matter of streaking Colby was ahead of the curve. Risking frostbite, students were soon streaking over the cold and snow of the library quadrangle, at athletic contests, and through an occasional classroom.

The exhibitionist sport was not limited to men, or for that matter even to students. A seasoned secretary in the Eustis building quit her job when no one would make her young coworker wear a bra. A woman student immersed herself in a tub of green dye and streaked through You Know Whose Pub on Saint Patrick’s Day.28 At a disco dance in the Runnals Union gymnasium, a couple took off their clothes and danced in the nude. In the heat of the moment the display became infectious, and other couples joined in. A horrified and perplexed housemother chaperone fled to her tiny apartment, closed the door,

28. Located in the basement of the defunct and once elegant Emery Brown Department Store, the pub had its own titillating history. Owner Norton Webber had wanted to name it Emery Brown’s Bottom. When Emery and Brown heirs objected, he named it simply You Know Whose.
and called for a dean who arrived simultaneously with the return of sanity. The lights went up, the music went down, and the clothes went on.

Sociologists were intrigued by what it all meant. Writing for Change magazine, Dean Wyman marveled at how much student culture had changed, and contemplated “the chasm that has grown between these solitary bursts of freedom and the kind so many of us marched for” a few years before.

Student use of drugs, both legal and illegal, was by no means a passing fad, nor was it amusing or always harmless. The legal drinking age in Maine had dropped from twenty-one to twenty in 1969, and in 1972 it fell to eighteen.29 Two years later the College got a liquor license for its new Spa in Roberts Union. Even with most students able to purchase and consume alcohol in the open, the recreational use of marijuana was increasing. For a generation bent on experimentation, it was another thing to test. Their parents used and often abused alcohol and tobacco, they argued, and pot was no different—except in the eyes of the law.30 College students bore the brunt of criticism for using drugs, but it was in fact a national phenomenon among the young. By the end of the decade, more than half of all students acknowledged that they had used illicit drugs before they entered college. The debate began in the late 1960s when students went back and forth on the merits of the hallucinogen LSD. In a 1967 Colby student poll, 64 percent wanted marijuana decriminalized and for its abuse to be treated, like alcohol, as a health problem.

The first local “bust” was in 1968. The student culprit claimed he had smoked the stuff to relieve his asthma. The Sentinel report said he was “owl eyed” at the time of his arrest. The College responded by issuing a statement in which officials tentatively expressed concern “over apparent use of marijuana by a limited number of students.” Limited indeed: by the 1970s, use of pot was widespread. Students knew who used it and where to find it, and certain sections of the dorms and fraternity houses reeked of the familiar smell, especially on weekends. Marijuana plants grew on windowsills and under grow lights in closets. At the ATO house, brothers asked the maid if she would kindly water their cannabis while they were on spring break. A pot plant left on the fire escape at Woodman Hall caught the attention of passing police and thirty more plants were confiscated in the ensuing raid. Brownies laced with marijuana (from the Alice B. Toklas Cookbook) were sold to raise money for

29. The legal drinking age was raised to 20 in 1978, and back to 21 in 1985.

30. Although it had small favor, the use of marijuana had been legal in the United States until 1937.

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