

# Colby



Colby Magazine

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Volume 96  
Issue 2 *Fall 2007*

Article 3

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October 2007

## Letters

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### Recommended Citation

(2007) "Letters," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 96 : Iss. 2 , Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol96/iss2/3>

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### Reminder for the “Fortunate Few”

Regarding the essay by Alison Jones Webb '81 (“Kindness of Strangers is Not a Healthy Policy,” spring 2007 *Colby*) [this] is a poignant reminder of how the fortunate few like us have an obligation to help those less fortunate, especially in our own backyard.

*Mark Gallo '80*

Santa Barbara, California

### Talking Back to God

I read with interest Professor Carleen Mandolfo's statement in your feature (“Scripture Has It,” spring 2007 *Colby*) that “You don't talk against God, God's position is always right.” This could hardly be true of the old Hebrew Bible: from Noah to Abraham to Job, the old adage of “two Jews, three opinions” holds up quite well, even when God is part of the argument, as he or she often is. In *Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye upholds this long-standing Jewish tradition of arguing with God in quite a biblical way.

Did I miss something in my reading?

*Gadi Liebowitz*

Scottsdale, Arizona

### Remember the Waterville Library?

The most recent issue of *Colby* features several town gown issues (“Good Neighbors?” spring 2007 *Colby*). We thought this would be an opportunity to highlight another very positive connection many students had with downtown Waterville.

Colby graduates may remember the big red brick building in downtown Waterville that houses the Waterville Public Library. A historic Carnegie library, the Waterville Library is a local landmark. It has also been a wonderful resource for Colby students throughout the years, as those who have taken courses in children's literature, mystery and detective fiction, and some of the early women's history and literature classes may remember.

The library's contributions to the Waterville community have continued to grow. It has seen a marked increase in users in recent years, as more people take advantage of interlibrary loans, Internet access, and the availability of DVDs, videos, and audio books.

### Letters Welcome

*Colby* welcomes your letters. Send them to Gerry Boyle, editor; *Colby* magazine; Office of Communications; 4350 Mayflower Hill; Waterville, ME 04901, or by e-mail to mag@colby.edu. Length should be limited to 300 words. *Colby* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

A capital campaign is now underway to raise funds to improve the Waterville Public Library's infrastructure and to increase the services it offers, including free computer instruction, a wireless laptop computer laboratory, additional programs to assist children with their homework, and a teen room that will offer materials and activities that are of particular interest to teenagers. An especially exciting part of the renovations will be a new main entrance that will face out onto the downtown concourse. With this orientation, the library will anchor an increasingly vibrant and revitalized downtown.

As part of the many activities surrounding the campaign, we are asking people to write into the library's Web site with their personal reminiscences about the library and what it has meant to them. Because of the interest so many Colby students have shown in the life of the local community, we would especially like to hear from Colby alumni.

Please send your e-mail to Librarian Sara Sugden (ssugden@waterville.lib.me.us). To visit the library Web site go to www.waterville.lib.me.us. If you would like information about the library's capital campaign, please contact Suanne Muehler, campaign co-chair, at swmuehln@colby.edu or the Waterville Public Library Capital Campaign, P.O. Box 2060, Waterville, ME, 04903.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Jay Violette '81*

*David Bernier '79*

Waterville, Maine

### Sustainability and iPods

Regarding the essay “Teaching the Teachers,” by Jake Hanin '07 (spring 2007 *Colby*), this seems to be the first step towards real “world understanding.” Keep it up Colby—and Jake, you are the wiser.

As far as the Kalimpong kids are concerned, our Himalayan hill civil society

is trying its best to maintain that peaceful, sustainable simplicity for them to aspire for iPods, mobikes and achieve Gross National Product (read: Happiness).

*Bharat Mani Pradhan*

Kalimpong, India

### GOP goes way back

Brandy Shafter Chapman '93 was incorrect in her assertion that the first Colby Republicans originated in 1993 (letter to the editor, spring 2007 *Colby*). My classmate and friend J. Field Reichardt '71 founded a chapter of the Colby Republicans at the outset of our freshman year in 1967. I acted as president of the club in 1969-70, and, to my credit, have seen the light since that time; I am now an avid, card-carrying member of the ACLU and the Democrat Party.

*Martha Smith Mickles '71*

Cape Elizabeth, Maine

### Unaware of Sit-In Issues

I'd like to thank the writers of the letter, “Smith's Reference Belittles Sit-in” (winter 2007 *Colby*) for setting the record straight. I can't believe I was working at Colby when all this was happening and was completely unaware of it. I clicked on the link and read the story of the 1999 sit-in and the full text of Mayra Diaz's letter. Then I checked the Colby directory and saw that Mayra's supporters mostly no longer work at Colby, while many of those who disrespected her and blocked justice the most are still here. That made me sick. I sincerely hope that the atmosphere around racial issues on this campus has improved since then, and Mayra, if you read this, I want to thank you sincerely for sharing your story publicly.

*Julie Stowe*

College Relations

Colby College

Waterville, Maine