

# Colby



## Colby Magazine

---

Volume 92  
Issue 4 Fall 2003

Article 3

---

October 2003

## Dispatches

Gerry Boyle  
*Colby College*

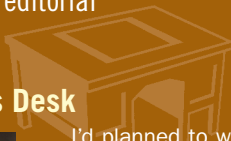
Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine>

---

### Recommended Citation

Boyle, Gerry (2003) "Dispatches," *Colby Magazine*: Vol. 92 : Iss. 4 , Article 3.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/colbymagazine/vol92/iss4/3>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the College Archives: Colbiana Collection at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Magazine by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact [mfkelly@colby.edu](mailto:mfkelly@colby.edu).



From the Editor's Desk



I'd planned to write about the rebirth of "Ground Zero" in New York City, where I spent time because I stayed (by chance) in a hotel overlooking the site while reporting the cover story in this issue of *Colby*. But then the harshest of realities intervened. Dawn Rossignol '04 was abducted and murdered near the Colby campus Sept. 16. The attacks of September 11, a tragedy that had become part of the new reality of our time, had been augmented by one that, in the community that emanates from Mayflower Hill, still is beyond comprehension.

This is not supposed to happen, not to a young woman full of promise, whose life had been marked by achievement in academics and kindness to others. It is not supposed to happen at Colby, where the pastoral setting and collegiate atmosphere combine to create what seems like some sort of academic idyll.

But there is no barrier—geographic or otherwise—that is completely impervious to the world's ugliness. In this case, the worst the world has to offer intruded in a horrible way.

Of course, the tragedy visited upon Dawn and her family is unknowable to most of us. The changes in our lives caused by this attack pale in comparison to the loss Dawn's family has experienced and will always feel. No nighttime escort, no security guards or police, no punishment for the perpetrator of this act will make them whole.

In a lesser way, the same is true of the Colby community. The week between Dawn's abduction and death and the arrest of the man allegedly responsible was marked by disbelief, sadness and worry. Messages from President William "Bro" Adams and other administrators were about security and safety, police and the press, anguish and anxiety. The week culminated in a press conference outside the trophy room in the Harold Alford Athletic Center. The case had been solved, police said. The man responsible, a career criminal recently released from a Utah prison, was in jail. "This is a random act of violence," said State Police Lt. Timothy Doyle.

At the press conference, Adams said additional security precautions taken after Dawn's disappearance would remain in place for the foreseeable future. Students were urged to avoid unnecessary risks. And then Adams said something that applied to these shocking days of September, and September of two years ago, when our world was violently and irrevocably reordered.

"A great deal has changed for this place in the last week," Adams said somberly.

And like any loss of innocence, there is no going back. As I write this, I see an e-mail from the president to the Colby community. In the subject line is a single word: coping.

At this point, it seems that's all any of us can do.

Gerry Boyle '78  
Managing Editor

Colby

volume 92 • number 4

Staff

Gerry Boyle '78  
managing editor

Brian Speer  
art director

Robert Gillespie  
alumni at large editor

Stephen Collins '74  
executive editor

Leo Pando  
illustrator

Alicia Nemiccolo MacLeay '97  
media editor

Joanne Lafreniere  
production coordinator

Karen Oh '93  
contributing online designer

Brian Speer, Fred Field, Andrew Lichtenstein,  
Alicia Nemiccolo MacLeay '97, Greg Helgeson  
contributing photographers

John Roderick '36, Sara Blask '03, Neha Sud '05,  
Matt Apuzzo '00, Kate Bolick '95, Anne Marie Sears '03,  
Anthony F. Cristan, Braxton Williams '99  
contributing writers

Administration

William D. Adams, president; Sally Baker, executive assistant to the president; Margaret Felton Viens '77, director of alumni relations

Alumni Council Executive Committee

Frank A. Wilson '73, chair;

Hope Palmer Bramhall '56, vice chair;

Boyd Allen III '75, G. Arthur Brennan '68, A. Francis Finizio '66,

Todd W. Halloran '84, Peter Merrill '57, Barry S. Potter '60,

Linda Mitchell Potter '66, Susan Maxwell Reiser '86,

Eric F. Rolfson '73, Rebecca Birrell Smith '92, Philip C. Wyszor '70

Colby is published four times yearly.

To contact Colby:

Managing Editor, Colby

4181 Mayflower Hill

Waterville, ME 04901-8841

e-mail to: mag@colby.edu

207-872-3226

visit us on the internet: [www.colby.edu/colby.mag](http://www.colby.edu/colby.mag)

To contact the Alumni Office:  
207-872-3190

Contributors



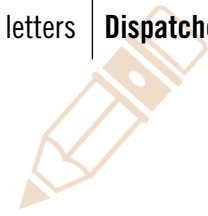
**Anthony F. Cristan** (Real Politik, p. 56) has worked as a newspaper reporter, editor and columnist in Wisconsin, Illinois, Washington, D.C., and, most recently, at the *Morning Sentinel* in Waterville, where he writes frequently about city politics. He lives in Waterville.

**John Roderick '36**, (Taking Refuge in Japan, p. 64,) a Waterville native, joined the Associated Press in 1937 and has never worked for another news organization. An editor, correspondent and special correspondent, he covered China firsthand and interviewed Mao Zedong. He covered the fall of French Indochina, the creation of Israel and other historic events. Roderick lives part of the year in Hawaii and part of the year in a 1734 "minka" farmhouse in Kamakura, Japan.

**Matt Apuzzo '00** (The Growth of the Gap, p. 29) is a reporter for The Associated Press in Hartford, Conn. Prior to joining the AP, he covered organized crime and the drug trade at the New Bedford (Mass.) *Standard-Times*.



**Sara Blask '03** (Knowing the Drill, p. 48) has written for the *Houston Chronicle* and *The Burlington (Vt.) Free Press*. A self-described nomad, she spent the past summer working for Outward Bound on Hurricane Island in Maine. Blask intends to pursue a career in environmental journalism and/or travel writing.



## Letters

### On “Pride and Prejudice”

I found your article on the struggles of Colby’s GLBT students (“Pride and Prejudice,” summer 2003 *Colby*) very interesting. As a current junior at Colby, I’ve seen how big an issue this is for students on campus. I have read much of the Queer Task Force report and all of the heated “Digest” debates, seen the protests, attended the annual drag show and had many discussions with close friends on the topic. However, I am a bit wary considering there are many other groups of students that seek visibility on campus that don’t receive the attention the GLBT student population has recently.

What about the Black, Jewish, Muslim or Christian students? It is my hope that Colby won’t forget about these often-silenced, valuable voices amidst its quest for queer visibility and inclusion, especially since these students seek the very same thing.

*Jennifer Andrews ’05*  
Wayzata, Minn.

As a Colby alumnus, I felt I must for the first time comment on one of your articles, “Pride and Prejudice” (summer 2003 *Colby*).

I am offended that the task force in your article has been re-named the “queer” task force. To see perhaps the deeper meaning/implication, I searched the Merriam Webster dictionary online and found that the word has the following meanings:

As an adjective:

1. Worthless, counterfeit
2. Questionable, suspicious
3. Eccentric, unconventional
4. Touched (mildly insane)
5. Obsessed
6. Homosexual (notice this doesn’t cover bisexual or transgendered)

As a verb:

1. To spoil the effect or success of (as in to “queer” one’s plans)
2. To put or get into an embarrassing or disadvantageous situation

As a noun:

One that is queer; especially usually disparaging

There are people who might consider straight people queer as well.

Why not again re-name the task force in honor of someone who has really endured the results of living life as a “queer” such as Oscar Wilde or Quentin Crisp of *The Naked Civil Servant*, whose lives have been well documented.

Perhaps you have “queered” the task force by naming it as such—you may have spoiled the effect or success of the force. I don’t see how a pejorative term can ever be used in a positive context.

*Paul Bennett ’71*  
Chicago, Ill.

In the spring of 1963, at the dawn of the civil-rights era, Colby students and faculty participated in the movement by raising money for an organization called EPIC, an acronym for Emergency Public Integration Committee. We worked at various odd jobs like polishing silver in faculty members’ homes, washing cars and collecting change in the Spa, which I did on one occasion. I was later told that it was not appropriate for me, one of the five black students on campus, to be soliciting direct contributions lest I make someone uncomfortable who might not agree with the goal of the drive. Too confrontational for the times! Forty years later we find homophobia to be the last refuge of the racist.

*Camilo Marquez ’63*  
Phoenicia, N.Y.

As editor-in-chief and managing editor of *The Colby Echo*, we were disappointed by the reference to the *Echo* in the article by R.J. Grubb titled “Pride and Prejudice” (summer 2003 *Colby*).

Grubb’s statement that “As an advocate for homosexual issues, [former SGA President Gretchen] Groggel was criticized in the *Echo* and was reproached by the Colby Christian Fellowship” directly affiliated the *Echo* with homophobic sentiments. This is an untrue assertion. As a staff, we are saddened by this misrepresentation.

The *Echo* admits to criticizing Groggel

for failing to meet the pledges set forth by her platform. However, at no time did we condemn her efforts to further the acceptance of the queer community on campus. For example, in the March 6, 2003, issue of the *Echo*, Suzanne Skinner ’03, former managing editor, cited Groggel’s advocacy for the queer community multiple times.

As the only weekly campus publication, the *Echo* seeks to represent all members of the Colby community. We hope that in the future you will more carefully consider your criticisms.

*Kaitlin McCafferty ’04 and Liz Bomze ’04*  
Editor-in-chief and managing editor  
*The Colby Echo*

*Editor’s note: Neither Colby nor writer R.J. Grubb intended to say or imply that The Colby Echo editorial positions were or are homophobic. In the article, Grubb writes that Student Government Association President Gretchen Groggel ’03, an advocate for gay rights at Colby, was criticized in, not by, the Echo. The sentence was intended to illustrate Groggel’s willingness to withstand public criticism while advocating for gay students, not to assert the newspaper’s bias. We regret that the sentence was misinterpreted.*

### Collection Correction

I was thoroughly enjoying the article in your summer issue on the Colby Museum of Art by Lynne Perricelli until I came to the line about the “Payson Collection of American Art” coming to Colby. I do hope that Ms. Perricelli’s research on other facts was more painstaking, as of course the major thrust of the Joan Whitney Payson Collection is European art, especially French Impressionism.

*John W. Payson*  
Hobe Sound, Fla.

*Editor’s note: An editing error resulted in the insertion of an incorrect reference to the Joan Whitney Payson Collection in the article “Museum on the Move” (summer 2003, Colby). We regret the error.*



Gleaned from the campus newsletter, FYI

**Now Entering the Studio . . .**

“Fifteen of the country’s brightest collegians are about to face one of their most challenging ‘exams,’” according to a press release from the television show *Jeopardy!*, and **Lauren Henderson ’04** of Oneida, N.Y., is one of the 15. Laura was headed to New Haven, Conn., for taping in early October for *Jeopardy!*’s annual College Championship, scheduled to air nationally November 11. Having passed a screening exam of *Jeopardy!* questions, she was ready to compete for a new car and her share in at least \$50,000 in cash. Whatever the outcome, Colby’s a winner with Laura as a representative.

**Who Knew?**

Colby’s Gould Music Shell was, in an earlier incarnation, the Greater Portland War Memorial Music Shell. **Julie Macksood** (college relations) found a piece in the *Portland Press Herald* July 10 reporting that the shell was erected in 1947 at South Portland High School (now Mahoney Middle School) by the Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post. It was used for concerts only about 10 times in 13 years, so the decision was made to demolish it for scrap metal. In 1960 a then-anonymous patron bought it and donated it to Colby, paying to have it reassembled here in 1965. When the benefactor was identified as **Ralph T. Gould** of Cape Elizabeth, the owner of an equipment company, the structure was named the Gould Music Shell.

**Seeing the U.S. of A.?**

Colby showed up in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* in July when **Justin Dubois ’05** and **Kevin Selby ’05**, both from Canada, and **Mark Chap-**



**It’s Not Brain Surgery**

Last summer four docs who flew to Maine for a Colby medical course, rented a van and realized when they saw the “Welcome to New Brunswick” sign that they had wanted I-95 South from Bangor. This year an orthopedic surgeon from western Canada flew into Boston with driving directions, provided by his travel agent, to “Colby, Maine.” Who knew there’s a neighborhood in New Sweden called Colby? (Special Programs’ **Jacques Moore** did; he’s from The County and helped track the wayward orthopod.) After locals pointed him south, our determined doc drove past Waterville to Gorham, since he was somewhat familiar with that town. There he finally got the directions he needed. At 3:30 a.m., after driving more than 20 hours and 700 miles, he arrived on Mayflower Hill.

**man ’05** from Zimbabwe spent a week there en route from Waterville to New Orleans on bikes. “This trip has given us a sense of how big the U.S. is . . . especially every state south of New England,” Chapman told reporter Susan Price. The trio was making about 70 miles a day. “People have been really generous and kind. I think we wouldn’t have been able to get this far without help from strangers,” Chapman said. Count these three Davis-UWC scholars among the Good Samaritans on America’s highways—they worked for Habitat for Human-

ity and an urban youth center before leaving Chattanooga.

**Rank Rankings**

There was much ado in the media again this fall as college rankings were announced. The Princeton Review’s offbeat lists (“party schools,” “dorms like dungeons,” “reefer madness,” etc.) were released just in time to scoop *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, and at the end of September *The Wall Street Journal* used the headline “Want to Go to Harvard Law School?” to rank top “feeder schools.” Though Colby shows

up in all of the above, you won’t find out how Colby fared in our own publicity or admissions materials. Why? Because, as President William Adams wrote in the *L.A. Times* last spring, America needs “to abandon the notion that the qualities of a particular institution can be summed up and translated into a prestige rating.” For details, see Adams’s op-ed online at [www.colby.edu/president/articles/latimes041303.html](http://www.colby.edu/president/articles/latimes041303.html).

**Women Comics on Radio**

On August 15 **Margaret McFadden** (American studies) was featured on an hour-long *Odyssey* program on WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio. The topic: “Women and Comedy.” Margaret and Lynn Spigel of Northwestern talked about Lucy, Roseanne, Margaret Cho, Lily Tomlin and other female comedians who have played important roles in entertainment. They addressed questions like “What kind of a range exists for women comics?” “What are the limits?” “How do clever comics get around them?” The whole show is audible online at [www.chicagopublicradio.org/audio\\_library/od\\_raaug03.asp#15](http://www.chicagopublicradio.org/audio_library/od_raaug03.asp#15). And worth hearing.

**Hall of Famer**

Women’s basketball head coach **Patricia O’Brien** and the whole 1986 Salem State College national championship women’s basketball team on which she played were inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame September 19 at the University of Rhode Island. Trish won the Unsung Hero Award for the only NCAA Division III women’s basketball team from New England to win a national title. At off guard and small forward, she scored 1,280 points in four seasons at Salem

and is already in the Salem State Athletic Hall of Fame. Twice she was the team's MVP, and she was a District I Regional All-American. Trish is beginning her ninth year as head coach here.

### **Rooted in the Palestine**

**Raji Sourani** is a human rights lawyer on the front lines of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who defends victims of human rights abuses in Palestinian and Israeli courts. He is the 2003 Oak Human Rights Fellow, but he has not received a visa to fulfill the fellowship. **Eliza Denoeux** (Oak Institute) reports that as a matter of principle he refuses to sign a document authorizing the release of his court records or police file by the Israeli government to the U.S. government. He objects to the third-party role of Israel in the transaction. In addition, Israel refused a formal request by the U.S. embassy to provide the documents directly, a hand-off to which Sourani apparently doesn't object. Denoeux is working with Maine's congressional delegation, but now a month into the fellowship, the outcome is not clear.

### **Colby Green**

What's "green" about drilling rigs and bulldozers on campus? The Colby Green—the most ambitious campus expansion since Colby moved to Mayflower Hill more than 50 years ago. Drilling trucks spent several weeks drilling geothermal wells that will be used for eco-friendly heating and cooling in the new alumni center. The new building will face Colby Green, an oval lawn that is the focal point for a whole new campus district. Colby's ambitious expansion plans call for two new academic buildings to join the alumni center and the existing admissions building in the

new district, which is designed around a classic New England village green. For information see [www.colby.edu/colby.mag/issues/sum03/colbygreen](http://www.colby.edu/colby.mag/issues/sum03/colbygreen).

### **Admissions Final**

The box score on the Class of 2007 is complete since that illustrious group of 479 first-year students arrived on Aug. 26. With 4,126 applicants, the acceptance rate was 34 percent this year. Quick facts about the Class of 2007 are up to date and online at [www.colby.edu/admissions/quick/facts/](http://www.colby.edu/admissions/quick/facts/). The annual COOT orientation trips saw 474 new students (first-year, transfers, language assistants) head for all corners of Maine with almost nary a hitch; one COOTer broke an arm in a biking accident. As regrettable as that injury is, it's not a bad record overall, when you have 600 (including trip leaders) hither and yon.

### **Through-hiker Through**

Speaking of COOT, a report from Gordon Warnica, who completed a through-hike of the Appalachian Trail came back to Colby reporting on students he encountered along the way. "I wanted to tell someone that they were the best kids I have ever had the occasion to meet," he e-mailed the College. One group was 50 yards from his lean-to and so quiet he didn't realize they were there. He shared a site with a friendly COOT group and passed a couple of other courteous Colby groups on the trail. "If that is a good cross section of your student base, then Colby and wherever they end up in life are going to be all the better. I thank you for helping restore my faith in the youth of today," he wrote. More about Colby's outdoor orientation trips can be found at [www.colby.edu/coot](http://www.colby.edu/coot).

### **Health Center Hours Adjusted**

Colby's inability to hire qualified nurses for all shifts at the Health Center precipitated an 11th-hour decision in August to begin the year with a reduced Health Center schedule. The College had been studying the possibility of reducing the 24-hour, seven-days-a-week schedule. But the nursing shortage necessitated action a year before implementation of a final decision was expected, according to Dean of Students Janice Kassman.

The decision was made shortly before students arrived back on campus, and alternate services and protocols for handling health emergencies were being developed and refined as the school year began. Early in the year a number of cases in which intoxicated students needed medical treatment sharpened the debate surrounding the decision and highlighted the need for a clear understanding of what to do to get emergency health services when the Health Center is not open.

School opened with the Health Center operating from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. A professional nursing service accessible by telephone was engaged by the College to cover hours when the campus Health Center is closed.

Though the decision was supposed to have waited for completion of a review by a working group of trustees, some studies of health services conducted in recent years had recommended scaling back hours of operations, administrators said. Ninety percent of American colleges do not have round-the-clock health center hours, according to Melanie Thompson, M.D., Colby's medical director, and among the NESCAAC colleges, four have round-the-clock health center hours while seven don't.

### **Lovejoy Laureates Named**

Two *Chicago Tribune* reporters, Steve Mills and Maurice Possley, received the 51st Lovejoy Award in a ceremony on October 15. Investigative stories by Possley and Mills have been instrumental in the release of wrongly convicted death row inmates, and former Illinois Gov. George Ryan credited the reporters' work with influencing his decision to impose a moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois.

Ryan said Mills and Possley had achieved "one of the highest callings in journalism" when they saved the lives of innocent men awaiting execution for crimes the men didn't commit.

The Lovejoy Selection Committee named the pair as co-recipients of the 2003 award for their courageous journalism, which in the tradition of Elijah Parish Lovejoy sought justice for innocent, voiceless members of our society. Lovejoy, valedictorian of Colby's Class of 1826, became a martyr to the cause of emancipation and America's first martyr to press freedom when a St. Louis mob killed him for his crusading anti-slavery editorials. The Lovejoy Award has been given annually at Colby since 1952.