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Dispatches

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Colby College

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From the Editor's Desk



The “news hook” was the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the Korean War in July 1953. Unfortunately, the story of life at Colby during wartime a half-century ago was made even more timely by imminent war in Iraq and ominous rumblings in North Korea.

Fifty years from now will another editor here explore life during the U.S.-Iraq war of 2003? Or will it be an anniversary of a second Korean War that will prompt *Colby* to look back a half-century? If those stories—and conflicts—come to pass, how different will they be from the Colby war years chronicled in this issue?

Very different, most likely, because the College in 1953 was of a drastically different time.

Few Colby students today (and even students of my generation) can fathom mandatory marching in uniform and lockstep on the lawn in front of Miller Library. They can only imagine what it would be like to sit in the steeple of Lorimer Chapel all night, searching the night sky for aircraft that might be headed to attack some city to our south. And while final exams might be stressful today, consider the stress of being drafted into war right out of your exam chair.

These are some of the experiences related by Korean War-era alumni in this issue. They recall a time when the American people were less quick to question the actions and motives of their leaders and felt it was every American's duty to serve his or her country in some way. It was a time when Americans went to war despite having recent and vivid memories of the horrors and privations of combat.

A mere dozen years later, the mood on college campuses had changed markedly. Reserve Officer Training Corps had dwindled to a handful of candidates at Colby and marches were more likely to be protests than parades in Air Force blue.

Today, as war looms, we are marching neither in mass protest at Colby nor in uniform. If war begins in coming weeks it will be a high-tech sort of affair, fought by professionals with arms and equipment of mind-boggling sophistication. It's unlikely that it will be fought by many Colby students, though some will be on the ground, in the cockpit, at the computer screens (see the letter from Ethan Platt '96 in this issue). That would stand in contrast to the Korean War experience, which one veteran described as “trying to do it with patchwork. . . . At least today our army is professional,” he said.

Still, there is something to be said for a citizen army and lessons to be learned from the Colby alumni who served a half-century ago. They tell their stories with grace and humility; it's important that we listen.

Gerry Boyle '78,
Managing Editor

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Rebecca Green (“Radio-heads,” p. 6, and “Care Package,” p. 22) is a musicologist, writer and editor who lives in Waterville with her husband, Associate Professor of Mathematics Leo Livshits,

and their two children, Simone and Adam. She currently teaches music history at the University of Maine at Farmington, and her radio show, *Crosswaves*, can be heard on WMHB during the summer season.



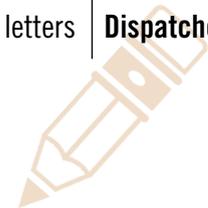
Neha Sud '05 (“In Defense of Humanity,” p. 14, and Fred Valone '72, p. 48) is an international studies and French studies major from New Delhi, India. Her previous contributions to *Colby*

include profiles of Hannah Karp Laipson '46, David Donnelly '91 and Emma James '05. Sud plans to study in Paris next year.



Yvonne Siu '03 (Frances Vitaglione '63, p. 42) is an international studies major from San Luis Obispo, Calif. Her previous contributions to *Colby* include “A Children's Crusade,” about Oak Fellow

Ushari Mahmud's human rights work in Sudan, and “Colby Protestors Join Anti-War Ranks.” Siu has applied to graduate programs in international and economic development.



Letters

Cost of a Messy War

I was honored to read the name of David Thomas Barnes '68 at the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day weekend, 2002. As was done when the Memorial was dedicated and at its 10th anniversary, each casualty was read in the order that they died. This time, each reader had about 30 names and a two-minute interval. In 1982, when the Memorial was not as popular as it is now, we had two-person teams read for an hour each. I chose Barnes's name from among 17 I know on the Wall—high school and college friends or acquaintances, fellow travelers in Army training, and members of my outfit in Vietnam. I wanted to read all 17 but they are spread across the calendars on different dates from April 17, 1967, to August 25, 1969. The sensible procedure adopted by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to stay in order of casualty forced a choice. So why Dave Barnes? Perhaps because the memory of him as a bright, but admittedly naive, young man who got caught up in a war that somebody else started probably comes closest to home. His memory and those of the others trouble me most as our national sabres rattle on the belts of many who managed to miss that messy war but who seem to think that we can have antiseptic ones now.

Dave Barnes was killed on April 28, 1968, in combat against North Vietnamese regulars in the A Shau Valley near the Laotian border and the Demilitarized Zone in what was then northern South Vietnam. He served with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). For the actions that resulted in his death, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Purple Heart. Previously, he had been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. He had served 62 days in Vietnam and he was 21 years old when he was killed. He, Les Dickinson '67, Mike Ransom '66 and Hunter Shotwell '62 are the last Colby alumni to die in a war. I hope that statement remains true and that we continue to remember them.

Robert M. Lloyd '68
Greenville, S.C.

Colby Graduates Excel in Military

My admiration and thanks to Chris Gieszl '93 for following his heart by serving his country, and kudos to *Colby* magazine for drawing attention to a career path rarely pursued by the typical liberal arts graduate. Although Colby's philosophy and a military career may appear to be mutually exclusive, recent history proves otherwise. Two of my closest Colby friends, Brian Emme '97J and Adrian Calder '96, both fly F/A-18 Hornets in the Navy while Josh Smith '95, John Ginn '97 and Josh Foster '00 are all Marine aviators. Lieutenant "Boa" Calder flew missions in Afghanistan and will be attending the Navy's prestigious Fighter Weapons School ("Top Gun") in March. Lieutenant "Stickit" Emme is currently on the leading edge of the Middle East conflict while on deployment in the Mediterranean aboard the *Harry S. Truman*.

Colby strives to educate individuals who possess the determination and skills to pursue the career of their choice yet the ability to appreciate the numerous sides to life's issues. It's interesting, yet not surprising, that there exists such a cluster of recent Colby graduates serving in extremely elite military positions. Today's global environment taxes many of our beliefs (myself included) in the role that the United States should play in a peaceful world. Yet it's unfortunate that when Brian returned to visit Colby several years ago, he was forced to defend his career in the face of idealistic undergrads who viewed him as a killer. Whether or not you support prevailing U.S. foreign policy, in these times of international unrest and domestic uncertainty, I'm personally glad to know that there are a few Mules out there holding the line.

Ethan Platt '96
Falls Church, Va.

The Way to "Real" Diversity

I am writing in response to your article "Refuge or Regression?" (winter '03 *Colby*), which examined the recent debate concerning special "multi-cultural housing."

According to the article, groups of "queer" students and students of "color" have communicated a desire for their own separate student housing because of the threats posed

by the "straight white majority" population of students. The fact that such sentiments exist demonstrates that coerced association engenders ill will and animosity among individuals. The fact that these "minority" groups consider themselves "educational tools" for white students further reveals that the very same minorities within the Colby student body who should benefit the most from increased "diversity" end up being hurt the most. In general, I agree that all individuals and groups should be able to freely associate (live) wherever and with whomever they choose. I must add, however, that consideration of such proposals to create "multi-cultural" housing is both hypocritical and contradictory since similar groups of individuals were prohibited from freely associating when fraternities were banned in the early '80s.

It was inappropriate for the college to abolish fraternities two decades ago and it is similarly improper to deny individual students of any persuasion the right to freely assemble and associate today. If gays, students of "color," or any other student, for that matter, feel more comfortable living together on the same floor or in the same building, they should have that right, just as those who live in "chemical-free" housing are currently permitted to do.

There is an important lesson here for the administrators and Board of Trustees. While it makes for nice PR, real diversity cannot be achieved by compelling individuals with different skin pigments or sexual orientations to live together. When individuals' ability to freely associate (live) is in any way restricted or violated feelings of resentment and even hostility usually result. To promote real diversity the college should consider ways to enhance diversity of thoughts, opinions, values and beliefs on campus.

If the "powers that be" are genuine in their desire to promote more diversity on campus they should drop the failed social engineering policies and prescriptions of the past and consider ways to balance the preponderance of the liberal-left bias that permeates just about every facet of Colby life. If college is supposed to be about critical thinking, analysis and debate, let's have the guts to expose the student body to alternative values, ideas and beliefs. The vast majorities of Americans are

to the political right on most issues and vote that way as well. At Colby, in sharp contrast, the vast majority of the faculty members, classes, guest speakers and college policies have a significant liberal-left bent.

Want to achieve real diversity on campus? Let all students decide with whom and amongst whom they want to live. Focus less on the politically correct failed policies of the past (“multi-cultural centers,” “diversity training,” the “commons systems”) and expand and enhance the diversity of ideas on campus by hiring more conservative faculty members, offering more conservative areas of study and hiring more guest speakers from the political “right.” If you were to conduct a survey of students (past and present) I would guess that the general consensus would be that the lack of diversity at Colby has less to do with too few “multicultural” programs and institutions and more to do with a one-sided liberal-left view of the world.

Gregg Jackson '90
Charlotte, N.C.

A Coincidence in Cambodia

When the winter issue of *Colby* arrived, my partner called me at work to tell me there was an article in it about a doctor in Phnom Penh. As parents of two daughters adopted from Cambodia, we are always on the lookout for information about their birth country. When she told me who it was, I said, “Oh, Dr. Jim!”

I was in Cambodia in August of 2001 picking up my second daughter and we were treated by “Dr. Jim” Cousins at the SOS clinic. We received great medical care, and the entire staff at the clinic was wonderful. Given the relatively small size of Colby classes, what are the chances of my running into another Colby grad halfway around the world? If I had discovered then that Dr. Jim and I shared a common Colby past, I’m sure I would have passed right out!

Deb Schwartz '79
Natick, Mass.

Remember Graduate School Careers

Congratulations on your fine article (“The Business of Liberal Arts,” winter ’03 *Colby*). One additional aspect is those of us who entered the world of graduate school education. Note your recent article on the new dean at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Ted Snyder.

Letters Welcome

Colby welcomes your letters. Send them to Gerry Boyle, editor; *Colby* magazine; Office of Communications; 4181 Mayflower Hill; Waterville, ME 04901, or by e-mail to mag@colby.edu. Length should be limited to 300 words or less. *Colby* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

It would also be interesting to know how many Colby grads are teaching in higher education. Clearly my best students are those with liberal arts educations.

Charles Morrissey '56, Ph.D.
Graziadio School of Business
and Management
Pepperdine University
Malibu, Calif.

Article Should Raise Awareness

You and your staff are to be commended for the inclusion of the interesting article by Alicia MacLeay on depression (winter ’03 *Colby*). I enjoyed reading it and feel that it is a topic long overdue for discussion.

The article arrived as I continue work on researching and writing the story of a popular Colby student with everything going for her—an important job, a loving family and an interesting life—who lost her battle against major depression. I’m struck by how little those around her knew or were able to find out from medical professionals treating the disease as to the very real peril they faced. The devastation left behind following her suicide and the continuing impact on her family have been tremendous. Hopefully Ms. MacLeay’s article will help raise awareness and erode some of the stigma attached to issues regarding mental health. Again, thanks for bringing the issue to the table.

Jeff P. Russell '87
Hampden, Maine

Opening Doors

I was disturbed by the letter (winter ’03 *Colby*) “Degree Not Opening Doors.” While his classroom successes, which resulted in honor society memberships, are impressive, I believe the writer never grasped some important aspects of his Colby education. It is *not* the Colby diploma that will “yield all the keys to the world.” It is the Colby experience in “a community of scholars” (a favorite phrase of Dr. Strider) that should provide a graduate with those keys to open the doors.

A check of the Alumni at Large pages for the Class of 2002 shows over 100 respondents

from his class outlining interesting and exciting pursuits. As their classmate, he already has all the keys needed to unlock the door.

James M. Bither '66
Kennebunk, Maine

In reply to David Hauser’s letter (winter ’03 *Colby*), [he should] go in the military, preferably an officers training program, and get some leadership experience. A couple of years will help him decide professional interests and maybe lead to graduate school—with money saved.

Ralph E. Davis '54
Dallas, Texas

Magazine Offers Greater Balance

I was mightily impressed with the last issue (winter ’03 *Colby*). I particularly liked the greater balance of information placed on national and local social and ethical issues in which our Colby family is involved. Such emphasis makes me proud of my alma mater! Thanks!

David Choate '48
Denver, Colo.

Good for Adams and Colby

On a day when the President of the United States announces his opposition to the University of Michigan’s affirmative action position, I am gratified and proud to read of President Adams’s support of it. May Colby remain dedicated to the pluralism and diversity that affirmative action was created to promote.

Herb Adams '54
Center Lovell, Maine

On Terence and Financial Accounting

It is a funny coincidence that David Hauser’s letter (winter ’03 *Colby*) appears a few pages in front of the inspiring article, “A Liberal Arts Résumé.” I concur with the article in that the fantastic Colby education leaves one far better prepared in the long run, possessing much more versatility than someone with a more

Continued on page 35



Gleaned from the campus newsletter, FYI

NESCAC Says Nix to News

Last fall when *U.S. News & World Report* asked colleges and universities for information to rank athletics programs, **Bro Adams** and other presidents of the New England Small College Athletic Conference schools said “Whoa.” In February NESCAC issued a statement in which the presidents raised concerns with regard “both to the validity of such rankings and to their effect in influencing our own priorities.” The statement says: “We are strongly opposed to such an undertaking.” The presidents unanimously agreed not to provide the information about athletics to *U.S. News* and asked not to be included in the magazine’s assessment. The full statement is available at www.nescac.com.

Caring About Caring

George Mani '06 and **Claire Jimenez '06** were pictured and quoted in the Feb. 9 *Morning Sentinel* representing 220 student volunteers who venture out to spend a couple of hours each week mentoring youngsters at the Alford Youth Center and 11 other sites in the area. A single mother whose two kids benefit from time with George and Claire told reporter Colin Hickey that the program and the volunteers have enhanced the lives of her children, “and that brings a smile to her face.”

Students Making News

Tennessee Watson '03, a Jan Plan intern at Maine Public Radio, had a substantial story on *Maine Things Considered* Jan. 13. She reported that some laid-off workers in Maine can’t afford state retraining programs because those programs last longer than federal unemployment benefits. The story is online at [www.mainepublicradio.org/search; search for “Tennessee.”](http://www.mainepublicradio.org/search;search%20for%20%22Tennessee.22%22)

... The December issue of *Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener* has a cover story on the program “Cultivating Community,” which combines agriculture, education and service to promote organic living. The author is **Alice Torbert '06**, and the writer’s credit says she grew up on a small farm in Whitefield, Maine.

Green Intentions

One of four new buildings proposed in the strategic, long-range “Plan for Colby” is an Alumni and Development Center that would give alumni a more central spot on campus and would create new administrative offices to free up room for faculty offices on the academic quadrangle. Currently in design, the center is the first higher education building in Maine registered for the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program. The LEED program sets rigorous standards for energy efficiency and

environmentally responsible design and aims to combat “greenwashing”—false or exaggerated claims about how environmentally friendly a building is. Buildings earn LEED points for things like recycled building materials, a changing room and shower for bike riders, energy efficiency and waste reduction. For information about the program and a list of registered projects visit www.usgbc.org.

Price Was Right

Anyone see **Peter Newberry '03** of Woodland, Minn., clean up on “The Price is Right Million Dollar Spectacular” Feb. 12? You wouldn’t have known he’s a Colby senior because, though he wore a Colby shirt to the first day’s taping, Bob Barker and Peter’s opponents were probably happy that he wasn’t still wearing it two days later, when he got to be a contestant. He won \$74,787 worth of stuff—a travel trailer and then the showcase, which included two motorcycles and a

motorboat. The Baker Scholar, economics and mathematical sciences double major was wearing a Colby sweatshirt when WABI-TV, the CBS affiliate in Bangor, ran an interview with him after his big win.

“Let Her Be”

That’s the conclusion of **Natalie Harris** (English) in an essay she published in the Feb. 14 *Chronicle of Higher Education*. “Let her be.” Three simple words spell out a path so difficult for parents like me to follow, parents who commit the common error of overinvolvement,” she writes, relating the advice to teaching, too.

“Obscure U”?

The Feb. 16 Sunday *Boston Globe* carried a long sports feature that asked whether an “undersized linebacker” from “Obscure U.” could “make it in the NFL.” **Eric DeCosta '93** was the linebacker, Colby is the institution and the answer was “yes”—insofar as DeCosta is the youngest director of college scouting in the National Football League. Seven years into his NFL career as a scout, DeCosta was named director of college scouting for the Baltimore Ravens this winter, giving him just three months to get ready for the April 28 NFL draft.

Two Trustees Re-Upped

Two familiar names were read when the Board of Trustees Nominating Committee made its report in January. **Robert Diamond '73** and **Douglas Schair '67** both were elected to four-year terms on the board beginning at Commencement 2003. Diamond, who comes to meetings from London, spent nine years as a trustee before the mandatory year of rest last year; Schair, who comes from Falmouth, Maine, spent eight years before his break.

Four Feet Below Zero

It’s a rare day when you can’t coax a smile out of **Tony Marin** (PPD), but Feb. 12 was one. Record cold broke a water main; the evidence was a skating pond in Lunder parking lot. A week’s worth of probing and pumping in unprecedented cold weather unearthed a broken T-joint up near East and West quads, with water flowing downhill through an electrical conduit that also contained a 12,470-volt cable. Once the breach was identified, on Feb. 20, it took the crew 14 more hours—till 1 a.m.—to make the repair and test water service to more than a half dozen affected buildings. Crew chief **Gus Libby** credited **John McCutcheon, Dale DeBlois, Ralph Corbin, George Lizzotte, Carl Russo, Harvey Fredette,** Tony, and a crew from Donald J. Gurney Inc. with the save. No resting on laurels for these guys—the next week Gus and the crew were back at it digging up a water main in front of the PPD offices.

