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Dispatches

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Colby College

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From the Editor's Desk



First the classmate appears in my office door on the fourth floor of Eustis. Older, maybe grayer, but the same smile, the same voice that once rang out in Averill or Delta Upsilon or the downtown apartment our senior year.

And then there's a movement out in the hall. The friend turns and beckons and a son or daughter appears. Soon the kid is gamely answering questions from Dad's old friend: So what is it you're interested in? What other schools do you plan to look at? Are you applying early decision to Colby?

This is one of the benefits I never expected from this job: seeing old friends—and their children. Meeting the children who are at the age their parents and I were when we first met. Watching the two generations side

by side, the children about to embark on the same stage of life that we once negotiated in this very same place.

Seeing how we've changed—and how we haven't.

The last time I had one of these encounters, I chatted in Eustis with a friend and his college-touring high school-senior daughter, and then we went to lunch at Roberts.

The dining hall has evolved a bit since the days when we lined up with our Saturday-lunch steak tickets, but there still was a sense of culinary déjà vu. We got our trays, helped ourselves from the smorgasbord (yes, the food is better) and sat. When we tried to explain the 1970s steak-ticket thing to our young companion (one thin steak per student every Saturday, unless, of course, you wolfed steak number one and trotted quickly to another dining hall for steak number two), she shook her head and rolled her eyes. Oh, Dad.

Like most of these kids—Colby, the next generation—she seemed awfully smart, fairly savvy. I found myself listening to her talk about colleges—big vs. small, city vs. country—and trying to recall my own state of mind at that time. She seemed relatively sophisticated in her thinking, discerning in her observations. I wondered whether the world has changed that much in 25 years, whether, in this age of cable and the Internet, *The Sopranos* and CNN.com, kids are growing up faster or even better.

It may be the haze of hindsight (who says it's 20-20?) but it seemed to me that as we hit college we were naïve by comparison. Or maybe, just maybe, we seemed to exude the same certainty as we explained our college plans to parents. Perhaps naïveté, like irony, sometimes becomes apparent over time.

Reporting from a stop on the Colby tour . . .



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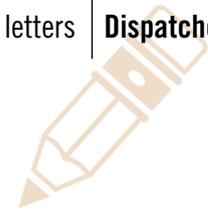
Frank Bures (Peace in Phnom Penh, p. 10) is a writer currently based in Thailand. To report the feature on Jim Cousins '75 in this issue, Bures and his wife traveled from Bangkok to Phnom Penh by bus, which cost \$2 each but took 17 hours and involved 10 different vehicles. He writes for *Mother Jones*, *Poets & Writers* and other publications.

Kate Bolick '95 (8 Mile High, p. 16), formerly a new media editor at *The Atlantic Monthly*, is a freelance writer in New York. Her essays and book reviews have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Newsday*, *The New York Observer*, *Salon* and *Vogue*. This past spring she received her master's degree in cultural reporting and criticism from New York University.



Matt Apuzzo '00 (Brewing Up a Storm, p. 36) covers the police beat for *The Standard-Times* in New Bedford, Mass. His recent series on the city's heroin trade is a finalist for this year's New England Press Association award for investigative journalism. He first worked for the *Waterville Morning Sentinel*.





Letters

Davis's Critical Contribution

I just read the fall *Colby* and was thoroughly impressed when I read the article "A Global Forum" about the Davis-United World College program.

The diversity that Colby students are now being exposed to has always been so critical for intellectual and personal growth but is even more important as the world becomes more complex and interactive. I also believe the opportunity for students from other countries to learn about Americans is at least as, if not more, important. Additionally, the excerpt from President William D. Adams's orientation address for the Class of 2006 addressed, at least in part, the criticality of this diversity. How else can we learn "a respect and tolerance for individuals not simply in the way in which they are like us but most especially in the ways they are not like us"?

For the last 20 years I have been an Army officer and have served in numerous places in the U.S. and overseas, including the Balkans and Southwest Asia. My service has allowed me an opportunity to meet and work with people from about two dozen countries. These were great learning experiences for me and, I believe, for those with whom I interacted. These are the types of experiences that Colby students can now take advantage of before they "go out into the world." I think that is absolutely fantastic. It is just one more reason I am proud to say that I am a Colby grad.

Paul C. Veilleux '82
Storrs, Conn.

Don't Overlook Hedman, Colbiana

We appreciate your willingness to include in the fall 2002 issue our article on John Hedman (Class of 1895). However, it appears that in the final editing process two key points were omitted from the text. We'd like to state them here. First, the article is based largely on primary source materials located in the College archives, and, in part, we sought through this publication to demonstrate the richness of the Colbiana collection as a research resource. Special Collections contains many fascinat-

ing, untold stories for students, staff and faculty to explore.

An important non-Colby source of information for the article was John Hedman of the Washburn/New Sweden area, descendant of John Hedman '95. The second key point is that our archival research and conclusions were greatly enhanced by Mr. Hedman's contributions of family history and personal memories. We are dismayed that our acknowledgment of his contributions was deleted and we wish here to thank him publicly for his help.

Pat Burdick
Special Collections Librarian

Luis Millones-Figueroa
Assistant Professor of Spanish

Degree Not Opening Doors

Having graduated in the spring of 2002, I am writing to you firsthand about life after Colby, something I hope would be of extreme interest to the college community. After examining Colby's latest Strategic Plan, I am not convinced that the initiatives are focused clearly enough on what Colby needs to make its educational experience more effective. I feel strongly that the principal gap in my education was the lack of mental and practical preparation for the ineluctable job market following graduation. While at Colby, I earned the honors of summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, yet I have spent the last five months in an unemployed smog of conflicting ideologies.

Colby gives its students the coveted privilege of studying academics in great depth, for the pure wonder and challenge of the subject. Professors at Colby have the ability to engage students with such a passion that the here-and-now of the classroom can very much become a student's reality. The comprehensive design is such that the student must embrace this passion in *many diverse subject areas*. This premium placed on diversity of ideas and perspectives is one of the most important lessons learned at Colby. The view of the world as limitless, creative and beautiful is our liberal arts view. I know that the exquisiteness of humanity

and the marvel of the world will continue to enrich my life eternally.

While I strongly believe the ideas espoused in the previous paragraph, its lofty intellectualism is a clear example of the ideological smog mentioned earlier. My Colby education was so here-and-now, so intellectualized, that I gave no consideration to what will happen when I am no longer a student. Obviously, much of the lack of preparation must be attributed solely to me and my failure to recognize the world beyond Colby. However, if Colby's ultimate goal is for a total, rounded education of its students, then it seems that a major piece of the puzzle is missing.

As a student, I was led to believe that by graduating from such a prestigious institution, my diploma alone would yield all the keys to the world. Sadly, just as I graduated, the world changed the locks on its doors. . . . Such a notion seems naïve and absurd to anyone in "the real world." Yes, but I really felt that way, and so did many of my Colby colleagues. Therefore, I believe Colby's education could be strengthened immensely by devoting more attention to students' preparation for life after Colby. Professors are so wrapped up in what they're teaching that few have the insight to ask what you, the student, plan to do with your newly acquired knowledge. Do you have plans at all? Do you know that by not studying certain things you are limiting yourself in the job market? Do you know that there is a job market? Do you know that in a market there is competition?

This is clear to me now. But at Colby, I was simply not asked to consider any of it as reality. Perhaps students could meet with some kind of career counselor or mentor, early on (like first week, freshman year) and often. Someone who is an opposing force, if you will, to the professors who are stuck forever in academic, intellectual Colby land; someone to even things out and force the student to start thinking about how they're going to put food on the table when it's not slapped on your plate by the guy at Dana. In other words, for \$37,200 plus travel expenses, I expect my alma mater to devote more resources toward making sure its



Gleaned from the campus newsletter, FYI

Letters Continued

students know that Colby is a tiny world, a preparation for the big world. Silly meetings with career services during junior and senior year are not enough. Professors and career counselors would do their customers a great favor by making an effort to acknowledge that Colby ends after four years, and accordingly train students for the impending, inevitable job market they will have to face.

David C. Hauser '02
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Campaign Funding Not the Problem

Your profile of David Donnelly '91 (*Colby*, summer 2002) demonstrates two things: his unwavering commitment to campaign finance reform and his lack of political acumen. Congressman Tom Andrews did not, as Donnelly believes, lose his Senate bid because of a lack of campaign funds. He lost because a Republican tidal wave developed in 1994, his support for gun control alienated voters in Maine's 2nd District, and moderate Republican Congresswoman Olympia Snowe's views fit the state better than did Andrews's unbridled liberalism. Why is this important? Because if Donnelly understood the political process a bit better, he might have a more sensible view of campaign finance.

Stuart Rothenberg '70
Editor/Publisher,
The Rothenberg Political Report
Washington, D.C.

A Plug for Greenlaw's Chronicles

I am always delighted to receive my copy of *Colby* because it is interesting and keeps me connected to my alma mater.

In the latest issue was a review of Linda Greenlaw's *The Lobster Chronicles*. I recommend highly to everyone the *Chronicles* as well as her book *The Hungry Ocean*. I saw Linda interviewed on C-Span, which inspired me to get her books.

Keep up the good work with the magazine.

Connie Daviau Bollinger '45
Cincinnati, Ohio



He Got the Boot

Director of Admissions **Steve Thomas** often gets interviewed about college application do's and don't's, and one of his anecdotes made the lead of a *Portland Press Herald* story November 18. He recalled receiving a *papier mâché* boot. "It was life-size, with her application inside it," he said. The story revealed Steve's mixed feelings about such showmanship. A grand gesture may be attention-grabbing, but it can plant a seed of doubt about the rest of the application, Thomas told the reporter. "If you're trying hard to come up with something that has no application to a talent that would be helpful in college, then it really doesn't make any sense to send it," he advised would-be applicants.

The Supreme Scoop

Eighteen months ago President **Bro Adams** wrote in *Colby* magazine, "The increasingly noisy public debate over the role of affirmative action in higher education took a decisive turn this year [2001] in two separate court cases involving the University of Michigan. In light of the nature of those cases and the opinions they produced, it now seems almost certain that the U.S. Supreme Court will once again address the matter." He was right. The Supreme Court announced in December that it would take up two cases involving the use of race-conscious admissions policies at Michigan's law school and chief undergraduate college. See Bro's analysis online (www.colby.edu/colby.mag/issues/sum01/president/).

Off The Hill and Off Broadway

Dick Sewell (theater and dance) is gathering no moss since his retirement send-off at Strider last year. His adaptation of the old German classic *Nathan The Wise* played Oct. 15 through Nov. 24 at the Pearl Theater in New York City. Sewell's version of the Gotthold Lessing play "is made tragically

relevant by current politics," as it features "Muslims, Christians and Jews struggling for tolerance and understanding in a Jerusalem under siege," he says.

Habitat for Humanity

Scott Guay (biology) is the new president of the Waterville Area Habitat for Humanity affiliate, and the organization is getting some traction of late. With a house lot lined up in Waterville, the group is in fundraising mode before hammers can swing. Student volunteers **Elyssa Ford '03** and **Traci Speed '03** were pictured in a recent *Sentinel* photo with Scott. Traci is on the local affiliate's board of directors as are **Tim Christensen** (biology), **Jim Webb** (history) and **David Jones** (admissions). In fact, Traci's seat is reserved for a Colby student, recognizing students' contributions in the past and going forward.

Electsplanations

Government faculty stayed busy during this fall with election commentary in newspapers and electronic media across the country and beyond. **Sandy Maisel** (government)

gets the global reach award, broadcasting from London, where he's teaching at the CBB-London Center. He did BBC World News and a live interview on CNN World with **Jim Clancy** asking questions from Atlanta. In the latter he put in plugs for political analysts **Amy Walter '91** and **Stu Rothenberg '70**. **Tony Corrado** (government) gets the stamina award. Through Election Day he had done 77 media interviews in this election cycle. He was on the radio again the next morning and, now that soft-money rules have changed, has handled a spate of calls including one from *USA Today* (search for "Corrado" at www.usatoday.com).

Chicago Ink

A feature story in the Dec. 2 *Chicago Tribune* titled "Northeast colleges foster global flavor" prominently featured Colby

and philanthropist **Shelby M.C. Davis**, benefactor of the Davis-UWC Scholars program. Referring to increases in the numbers of international students at colleges and Davis's financial support for them, President **William Adams** told *The Trib*: "This really is a sea change for first-tier liberal arts colleges." Davis, who currently is spending \$7 million a year on the scholarships, said: "I think we are at a crossroads in history, and I can't think of a better way to spend money." Read more about the Davis-UWC scholars in the fall *Colby* magazine, online (www.colby.edu/colby.mag/issues/fall02/uwc/).

Big Feet, Big Story

The last Mayflower Hill sighting of **Eric Hansen '97** was at the tail end of his senior year, when he was camped out by the flagpole with a manifesto he had written on ways

to improve Colby. Hansen is still writing. The November *Outside* magazine included his autobiographical (though not always first-person) account of a picaresque quest to be the first person to descend Mt. Kilimanjaro on Kneissl "Big Foot" ski boards. The author's credit on the piece says he is "a former associate editor of *Outside*." Our online alumni directory has him as a Boulder, Colo., resident who lists his occupation as "surfer."

Fools If You Missed This

The audience ate up Power and Wig's dinner theater staging of Neil Simon's delightfully inane comedy *Fools* November 16 in Page Commons. Equally deserving of a big hand for their presentations Sunday night were the Colby Eight (all 12 of them) for their renditions of Beach Boys' songs and "Paper Doll" and Dining Services for the

edible fare. (Vegetarians extolled the smoked mozzarella ravioli with tomato basil sauce.) Bravo, folks. This is a menu for success. Theater and dance major **Holly Brown '04** directed the play and foresees more dinner theater to come here on the hill.

The Other Senior Seminar

In November 60 to 70 students got to mingle with 28 members of the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute's Senior Seminar group. **Cal Mackenzie** (government) talked to the group about the government's ethics policies and asked in exchange that members of the group talk to classes and meet with students to offer career advice. The group included **James Moore '76**, recently the State Department's public affairs officer in Quito, four rising ambassadors and five members of the armed forces who will soon move up to general or admiral.

Colby Update: Frank Malinoski

In some ways, Frank Malinoski '76, M.D., would like to be able to file away his experience as a bioweapons inspector. But as U.N. weapons inspectors traversed Iraq late last fall and war loomed, Malinoski's past continued to be relevant to the present.

Malinoski helps develop new drugs for Wyeth, the global pharmaceutical company. Since he appeared in a feature here ("The Hot Zone and the Cold War," winter '01 *Colby*), he has been promoted to vice president of the Global Medical Affairs Group for Wyeth, based in suburban Philadelphia. His group advises colleagues on medical issues related to its licensed products, doing everything from post-licensing clinical trials to reviewing advertising for medical accuracy.

Trained as both a medical researcher and physician, Malinoski has been involved in development of new drugs that could change our lives. One is a safe blood replacement for hemophiliacs. Another is applied directly to stents and other surgical instruments to locally suppress the immune response of transplant recipients. One vaccine, Prevnar, in use since 2000, prevents pneumococcal infections in children, a major health problem in developing countries. Wyeth also has developed a flu vaccine in the form of a nasal mist.

It's medical progress on a massive scale. "If the product gets to licensure, you can be treating or preventing disease in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of patients a day," Malinoski said. "That's what is exciting to me."

Juxtaposed with his current efforts to combat natural threats to

human health are the years he spent working to protect Americans from more diabolical threats. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Malinoski was a clinical investigator with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. His job was to help develop vaccines for Americans who might be victims of germ warfare. That expertise made Malinoski a valuable member of teams that inspected suspected bioweapons plants in the former Soviet Union—and in Iraq.

In a case of bioweapons déjà vu, war loomed and inspection teams had just arrived in Baghdad when we spoke to Malinoski in November. He said he knows many of the players in bioweapons detection and, after reading news reports, speaks to some to find out "what is really going on."

Malinoski said the effectiveness of the new inspections depends on what intelligence has been gathered and what the Iraqi military has been able to do since the last time inspectors were allowed. "It's a big country," Malinoski said. "It's full of caves, a barren place."

And he noted that in the case of bioweapons, inspectors may be searching an entire country for a facility the size of a microbrewery. Ultimately, the world may never know what has been missed, he said.

That was Malinoski the ex-bioweapons hunter talking. The pharmaceutical doctor had another observation. "We have too many natural threats to our health," he said, "to be sitting around throwing diseases at each other." —Gerry Boyle '78