

Colby



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Readers Write

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Sorry, Mate

I was very interested in the article by Charles Bassett, and only wanted to correct him on a point which would be more than one of detail, I am sure, to Peter Carey. Bassett states that the historian (Edmund) Morris had never heard of Peter Carey, "a contemporary British novelist of some reputation in the English literary establishment." Carey is in fact an Australian, albeit presently living in New York.

Susan Mersky Fooks '67
Melbourne, Australia

Beanie Blues

I arrived on Mayflower Hill in the fall of 1967 to the unspeakable horror of being told that I had to wear a blue beanie at all times, and I was instilled with the abject fear of an upperclassman accosting me because I was some lower form of being. Our class obediently wore the beanies and bore the signs around our necks only until Homecoming; I never did (thankfully!) suffer the indignity of upperclass harassment.

I believe the custom stopped with our class. When we became the sophomore overlords, late '60s rejection of tradition (and drug- and alcohol-induced apathy, I would add) had infected our class as a whole; we made sure that Colby newcomers did not have to undergo the indignity of stupid and fascistic behaviors (like panty raids and underclass hazing!).

The singling out of any individual or group for the purpose of lowering their status runs counter to all that I learned at Colby. I would hope that reintroduction of freshman beanies, those horrid signs, and vulnerability to harassment would be banned for all time at the institution that gave us Elijah Parish Lovejoy.

Martha Smith Mickles '71
Cape Elizabeth, Maine

The Rest of the Story

Your profile on Geoff Bennett '98 (spring '98) was fascinating and heartening, especially about his work on Edwards Dam. The news has even trickled down here. Ellen Goodman wrote in *The Washington Post*, "for the first time ever, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [has] refused to relicense a hydroelectric dam," noting that Steve Brooke of the Kennebec Coalition "offers the old political adage as a new environmental prophecy: 'As Maine goes, so goes the nation.'"

But I hope you'll allow me my pride in pointing out that Bennett, though the most visible, was not the only Colby student who had a hand in dismantling Edwards. My wife, Karyl Brewster '93, worked for the North Kennebec Regional Planning Commission during her senior-year Jan Plan, where she researched and wrote a thesis that concluded that Edwards Dam had, in essence, little reason for existence—four years before the FERC reached that conclusion.

There may have been other Colby folk who also helped along the way as well. The Colby community should be proud that when Edwards falls and the fishery is restored, at least two and probably more Colby people made it happen.

Zachary Brewster-Geisz '94
Greenbelt, Md.

In fact, Ellen Goodman H'98 (who did her column about Edwards Dam well before she received Colby's Lovejoy award last fall) wrote that she was guided on her tour of the Kennebec by Tim Glidden '74, deputy director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine (and Colby's first male homecoming queen in 1970). And, as Brewster-Geisz suggests, there are likely other Colby connections in this story.

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Address correspondence to:

Managing Editor, Colby
4181 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, ME 04901-8841

or e-mail to:
mag@colby.edu

on the internet:
<http://www.colby.edu/colby.mag/>

Alumni Office
207-872-3190