

# Colby



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## Periscope

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By Earl Smith

**Machlin on Waller**

Seventeen transcriptions by Paul Machlin (music) of Fats Waller's organ, piano and vocal performances will be published later this year in the American Musicological Society's *Music of the United States of America* series. An article in the March issue of *Atlantic Monthly* magazine highlights Paul's remarks on the significance of Waller and the time-consuming transcribing process. "Machlin was motivated to try it," says the article, "in part because he was frustrated at how often Waller's work has been misunderstood by critics and historians who simply do not appreciate his formidable keyboard technique and his inventive genius."

**Brian and Dolly**

Brian Neligan '80 recently appeared as the dobro player in Dolly Parton's bluegrass band, which included such other bluegrass luminaries as Sam Bush, Jim Mills, Stuart Duncan, Byron House and Bryan Sutton. The band, with Brian, appeared on the David Letterman show and with Regis and Kathy Lee, playing the tune "Silver Dagger" from Dolly's album *The Grass Is Blue*.

**Bang Center**

The Weston Geophysical Laboratory's seismometer in the Colby vault, located underground between Keyes and Arey, is one of three in the Northeast used by the U.S. Geological Survey to pinpoint earthquake epicenters in the area. The other two are at the Weston labs at Boston College and at Dartmouth. The three meters give real-time seismological data, allowing scientists to locate and measure 'quakes within minutes. Credit, among others, emeritus geo professor Don Koons, who designed the original Colby vault; the late vice president Ralph "Roney" Williams, who found the money; and Professor Bob Nelson (geology), who keeps the place going.

**YNO2K Bug**

Thanks to Ray Phillips (ITS) and Colby's Y2K Task Force, the millennium bug was as D.O.A. here as anywhere. "It was a complete dud," Ray said. There were several inconveniences: Beginning January 1 the Class of 1998's Web page announced that members would have to wait "-17091 years" for their fifth-year reunion. People running older versions of Netscape had to upgrade before they could use secure Web sites. And though the vendor insisted it was not a Y2K glitch but would have happened "in any leap year," software that manages the dial-in modem pool went down December 31 and remained out of commission over the weekend.

**Have Books, Will Travel**

A recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* story reported a 15 percent increase in the number of American college students abroad and placed Colby eighth among bachelor's-degree granting colleges with the highest raw number of students overseas. The figures (from 1997-98) showed that 351 Colby students went abroad. NESCAC schools in the list included Middlebury (second with 445) and Bates (17th with 253), though Colby had the highest percentage in NESCAC.

**Moosecellaneous**

David Brancaccio, star of Public Radio International's acclaimed show *Marketplace* and son of our own Pat (English) and Ruth, has written a book, *Squandering Aimlessly: My Adventure in the American Marketplace* (Simon & Schuster), certain to be a great read. . . . Mark Schneider, director of the Peace Corps, has written President Bill Cotter to say that Colby ranks 10th on the list of smaller colleges and universities with graduates serving in the Corps. . . . there are 14 Colby grads serving around the developing world. . . . Priscilla Doel (Spanish) was among those nominated for a 1999 President's Service Award; she was not chosen but received a congratulatory message from President Clinton, thanking her for "serving as a beacon of light to many, addressing our country's social ills." . . . Jane Brox '78 has been nominated for this year's National Book Critics Circle Award in general nonfiction for *Five Thousand Days Like This One*. . . . Members of the Boston Colby Club, led by Chip Gavin '90 and Diana Christensen Frothingham '93, overwhelmed the well-known Crittenton Hastings House in Boston with nearly 70 donated toys for needy children during the holiday season. Gavin and Frothingham work at the house, which provides services for women, children and families in the Boston area. . . . More than 65 percent of all the gifts distributed by the Maine Children's Home in Waterville were donated by Colby students, faculty and staff. . . . Colby was 187 years old on February 27. . . . happy birthday, Colby. . . . We see that James Finney Boylan's novel *Getting In* has been chosen as an alternate selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. . . . At least 11 leading universities declined to participate this year in *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine's popular survey of campus technology, citing flaws in the survey and fundamental objections to its ranking system.

**Carrying Water and Webs**

Credit English Professor Linda Tatelbaum (she whom you might expect to eschew modern contrivances) with being the first faculty member in the history of Colby to file course grades using the

Internet. Registrar George Coleman, who leads us

to the modern age with such things, put out a call for grade entry via the Web at 5:25 p.m. on December 15. Within minutes, off-the-grid Linda had beaten all others, including computer geeks.

**Two New Directors**

Patricia Murphy, a professional engineer who has led the physical plant department at Bates College since 1996, has been appointed director of PPD at Colby and began February 7. Before taking the Bates post, she served three years as director of PPD at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. Varun Avasthi, a veteran food services manager, began work as the new director of dining services in January. A graduate of Johnson & Wales, Varun has degrees in hotel restaurant management and in human relations.

