

# Colby



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## Letters

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## Letters

### Where's Other Side of Diallo Story?

What in the world is going on at college?

That, I believe is what my revered and highly regarded professor of history would have asked. As I recall, Professor Paul Fullam emphasized to his students in the 1940s that there always are two sides to every issue . . . and the truth most times is somewhere in the middle! Apparently that is not so today at Colby.

Case in point. The appearance on campus and your coverage of Kadiatou Diallo's allegation that her son, Amadou, was shot to death by New York police because "he was a black man."

Following Professor Fullam's admonition, let me provide another perspective on the tragic death of Mr. Diallo. I quote from *The Washington Post*, May 28, 2001. "The four policemen who fatally shot unarmed Amadou Diallo will not be punished, but will not be allowed to carry guns immediately," Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik said yesterday. ". . . Kerik accepted the recommendations of two police investigative panels, concluding that the officers acted within departmental guidelines. The panel said the officers believed their lives were in danger because they thought Diallo had a gun . . ."

"The officers were acquitted of criminal charges last year, and the Justice Department declined to pursue a civil rights case against them."

So, you see, Professor Fullam was right. His concept of teaching his students "to think" . . . not "how to think" . . . has stood me in good stead as an honored and respected newspaperman and documentary motion picture and television producer.

Too bad it no longer is fashionable in the new millennium of Mayflower Hill.

*Cloyd G. Aarseth '46*  
Sterling, Va.

**Editor's note:** *The writer is referring to an excerpt from Kadiatou Diallo's speech at Colby that was printed in Colby magazine (spring 2001).*



**Two White Mules** Alice Wong '98 with a white mule she encountered in the Dominican Republic, where she serves as a Peace Corps volunteer. The mule lives in the village of Alto de Cedro in the northernmost mountain range of the Dominican Republic, a three-hour hike from Wong's village. She had heard reports of another white mule farther north in the mountains but the White Mule alumna had yet to track that one down.

### Kudos for Education Stories

Congratulations on [the] feature articles in the spring 2001 issue of *Colby*. They were unfailingly interesting, moving and important. You gave us a look at what improving education really means.

*Brad Greeley '60*  
Devon, Pa.

### Remembering Ben

We would like to thank Professor Sandy Maisel for the beautiful article he wrote about our dear friend Ben Ling, a 1998 Colby graduate who passed away in March ("Ben Ling's Life," spring 2001 *Colby*). Since that time, Ben's friends and family have worked to establish a memorial scholarship fund to support a Colby student internship in Washington, D.C. In June, several of us ran as part of the Ben Ling Team in the National Race for the Cure

and followed that with the First Annual Ben Ling Memorial BBQ. These efforts raised over \$1,000 toward the scholarship, and we would like to do even more. Contributions can be made to Colby College (Attention: Ben Ling Memorial Fund) and sent to the Development Office, Waterville, ME 04901. We feel it's a fitting tribute to Ben, a devoted student who was passionate about government and public policy. Ben would take great pride in helping fellow Colby students work in Washington.

*Lizzie Ivory '98 and Chris Coakley '98*  
Washington, D.C.

### Interesting Issue

Just a note to tell you that I think that this issue of *Colby* (spring 2001) is the most interesting one that I have read.

*Jean O'Brien Perkins '46*  
Phippsburg, Maine

**Correction:** An editing error resulted in a misstatement of the population of Hartford, Conn., in the story about Robert Furek '64 in the spring 2001 *Colby*. The population of Hartford, where Furek helped turn around the city's public school system, is about 120,000.