

Lech Walesa speaks to packed house

BY PATRICK J. BERNAL
Staff Writer

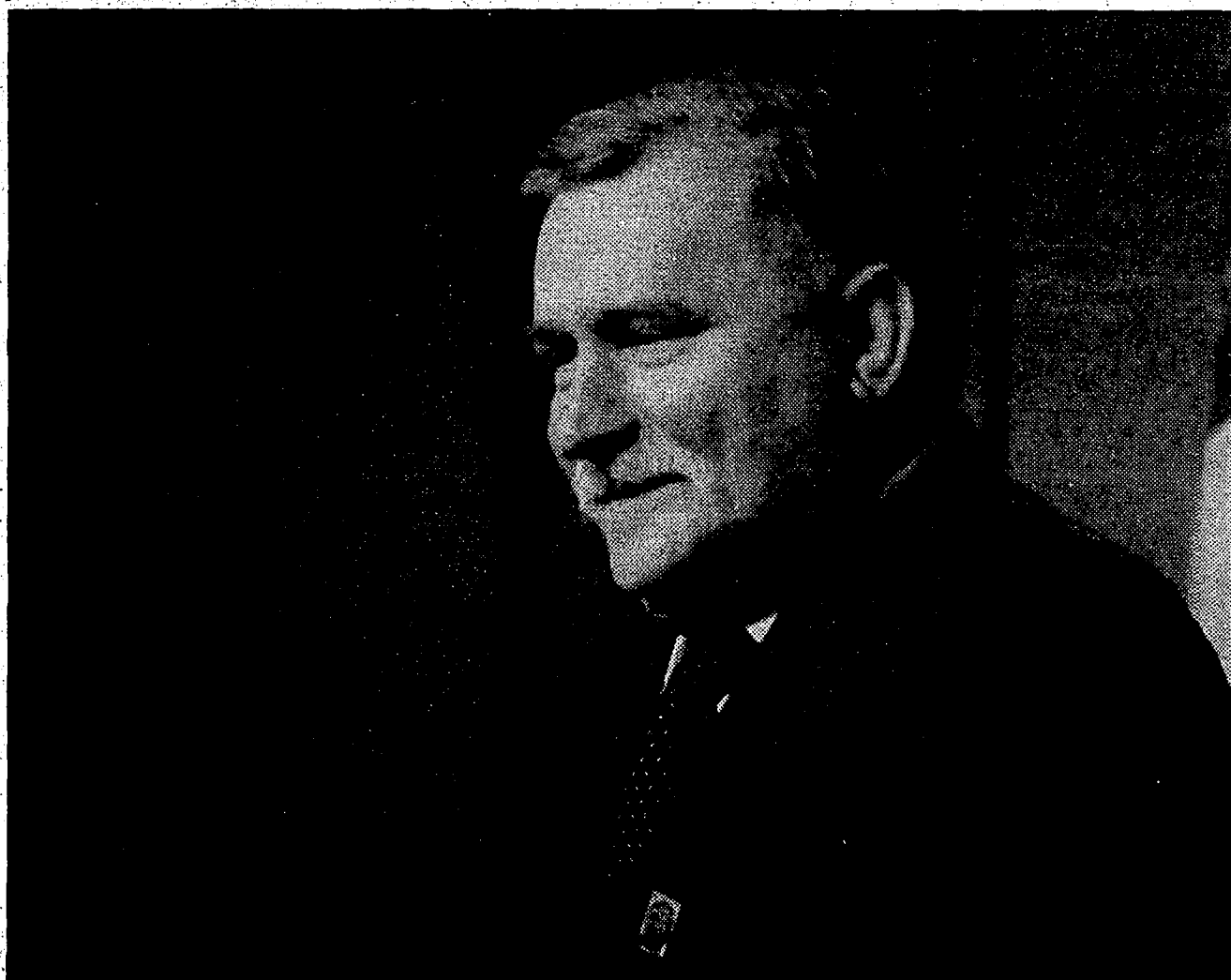
In the largest lecture given at Colby in recent memory, Lech Walesa, the first democratically-elected president of Poland, anti-Communist revolutionary and Nobel laureate, spoke to a capacity crowd in the Page Commons Room, Monday. The speech was also seen by students, faculty and community members watching over a live-feed broadcast on televisions in the Fish-bowl, the Spa and in classrooms in Lovejoy.

Speaking through an interpreter, Walesa addressed the future of democracy in Eastern Europe while reminding the more than 800 listeners that Americans have a tremendous role to play in shaping the future of Poland. Frequently moving from the serious to the humorous, Walesa solicited the help of "the American generals, especially General Motors and General Electric," a pun intended to stress the importance of American companies' continued investment in Poland.

Walesa maintained that one goal in lecturing is to encourage people to conduct business with his native country and thus strengthen its position in the global economy.

Walesa first became known in 1980 when he climbed on top of a bulldozer at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, and rallied the dispirited workers. Under Walesa's leadership, anti-Communist uprisings spread throughout Poland and eventually throughout Eastern Europe.

Walesa discussed how centuries are marked by events and not dates. He described the previous century—in which he led an underground resistance organization, was jailed for anti-government activity, won the Nobel Peace Prize, and contributed significantly to the collapse of communism—as one marked by "hostility, crime,



Echo photo by Fyodor Schumilov

Lech Walesa addresses Colby students, faculty and community members.

hatred" and suggested that the next century would be "one of solidarity."

Calling for all people "to replace their individual perspective with a global one," Walesa emphasized that this shift in values must occur on all levels, not just on a political one. He asserted that "most politicians are unconcerned with issues that do not directly affect their constituency or will not come into place until after their term in office is over."

Walesa also spoke of the corruption prevalent in modern politics and expressed hope that

the next generation would be better.

Questions to the leader following the speech addressed the future of Eastern Europe, the Russian democratic transition and the qualities it takes to be a good leader.

Today, Walesa heads the Lech Walesa Institute, whose aim is to advance the ideals of democracy and free market reform throughout Eastern Europe and the rest of the world. Time Magazine recently named him one of the 20 most influential leaders and revolutionaries of the 20th century. □

Leader's speech puts Colby in spotlight

BY PATRICK J. BERNAL
Staff Writer

"The whole idea of bringing guest lecturers in is really important, particularly to a school that's off the beaten path... a speaker of (former president of Poland, Lech) Walesa's stature really adds to the social and intellectual life of the College," said Director of Communications Stephen Collins. Collins' sentiments spoke for much of the Colby community, voicing astonishment and delight that Colby was able to attract Walesa.

Student Government Association President Ben Langille '99 commented that "it was great that we could draw such prominent and world figures to Colby" and that Walesa's coming here would "help attract other 'big-name' speakers to Colby."

Much praise was given to SGA Cultural Chair Walter Wang '99, who was largely responsible for bringing Walesa to Colby. President William R. Cotter said that "it couldn't have happened without Walter."

Wang said that getting Walesa "was a stroke of luck, and a matter of fortunate timing... he had a day off in his busy schedule, his agent called six colleges and we were able to come in with the earliest bid." Although he declined to quote figures, Wang insisted that Walesa's fee was reasonable, but that "it wouldn't have been possible without the help of the Oak Institute."

All involved agreed that hosting Walesa was a great honor and that his presence on campus was monumental. □

Ryan Hambleton pleads not guilty

BY MATT APUZZO
News Editor

Ryan Hambleton '99 pled not guilty in Waterville's District Court, Dec. 2, to charges that he furnished a place for a minor to consume alcohol.

Hambleton, 22, of Hampton Falls, N.H., was not present in the courtroom, but a lawyer representing him entered the plea on his behalf. Hambleton has remained free on personal recognizance since his arrest following the injury of Rosamond "Lindsey" Huntoon '01.

Huntoon, 19, fell from the third floor of Dana Residence Hall on Oct. 15 after allegedly consuming alcohol at Hambleton's off-campus apartment. After suffering head, wrist, pelvis, leg and internal injuries from the fall, Huntoon remains unconscious at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston. □

Polkinghorn earns Rhodes Scholar honors

BY BETSY LOYD
Asst. News Editor

Will Polkinghorn '99 is the first Colby student to win a Rhodes Scholarship since 1976 and the sixth Colby recipient ever. The Rhodes Scholarship is annually given to 32 students nationally and 95 students internationally to study at Oxford University in England.

Polkinghorn, a chemistry and religious studies major, will use his two-year scholarship at Oxford, worth approximately \$25,000 per year, to study the mind from different disciplines and get a second combined bachelor's degree in psychology, philosophy and physiology. He then plans to attend an M.D./Ph.D. program to study neuroscience.

"Rhodes is probably the most recognized scholarship or fellowship that exists," said Jim McIntyre, chair of the department of German and Russian and the scholarship/fellowship coordinator for Colby.

"It was pretty remarkable... I just couldn't believe it," said Polkinghorn of his award.

The Rhodes Scholarship works on a "healthy mind, healthy body" principle, according to McIntyre. Its web page describes the criteria as being "high academic achievement, integrity of character, a spirit of unselfishness, respect

for others, potential for leadership, and physical vigor."

It is the oldest of the international study awards available to American students, founded in 1902 by the will of Cecil Rhodes, British philanthropist and colonial pioneer.

Polkinghorn and Jennie Oberzan '99 were the two selected from Maine after formal and cocktail party interviews at Bates. The two headed to the Division 1 finals in Boston, Friday.

Polkinghorn, who applied for other scholarships this fall but lost in the finals, was not overly optimistic.

"After all those losses, ... I wasn't down in the dumps but I felt like a dog that was hit by a car three times and heard the car coming around the corner. Going to Boston—it was just going to be another beating," he said.

The Division 1 selection committee included numerous other Rhodes scholars and was chaired by Ellen Goodman, the 1998 Lovejoy Award winner.

Of 11 finalists, four were chosen as Rhodes Scholars. Polkinghorn, as well as students from Yale University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Drew University were selected.

"We have students of the highest caliber, so well trained and accomplished that they could become, as Will did, a Rhodes Scholar," said McIntyre. "To have two go (to the finals) in the same year, I was absolutely dumb-struck." □

Ahmed released for 90 days

BY MATT APUZZO
News Editor

After months of waiting, Pakistani journalist Zafaryab Ahmed was granted a 90-day release from his home country to accept a fellowship at Colby. Ahmed, who was placed on the country's Exit Control List because of sedition and treason charges, was granted the reprieve due in part to Iowa Senator Tom Harkin.

Harkin reportedly helped Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's brother get off of the Exit Control List years ago and reminded Sharif of this fact during Sharif's visit to Washington last week.

Several organizations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, Amnesty International, and the Journalist Resource Center in Lahore, Pakistan, combined their efforts to help Ahmed in recent months. Maine Senators Olympia Snow and Susan Collins also helped in the fight.

But it was Harkin and Special Assistant to the President David Leavy '92, who provided the effort's final blows. Leavy pushed the matter onto the White House agenda on Oct. 2, and Harkin's personal ties provided the rest.

An unforeseen clause in the agreement, however, stipulated that Ahmed's release began on Dec. 2, meaning that he could be at Colby only during January and February. If he leaves now, he is bound by that agreement. Ahmed is expected, though, to stay in Pakistan to fight this ruling. If he does come to the United States, he could ask for asylum from the U.S. government and remain in the country. □

Classroom constructed near observatory

BY KELLY FIELD
Staff Writer

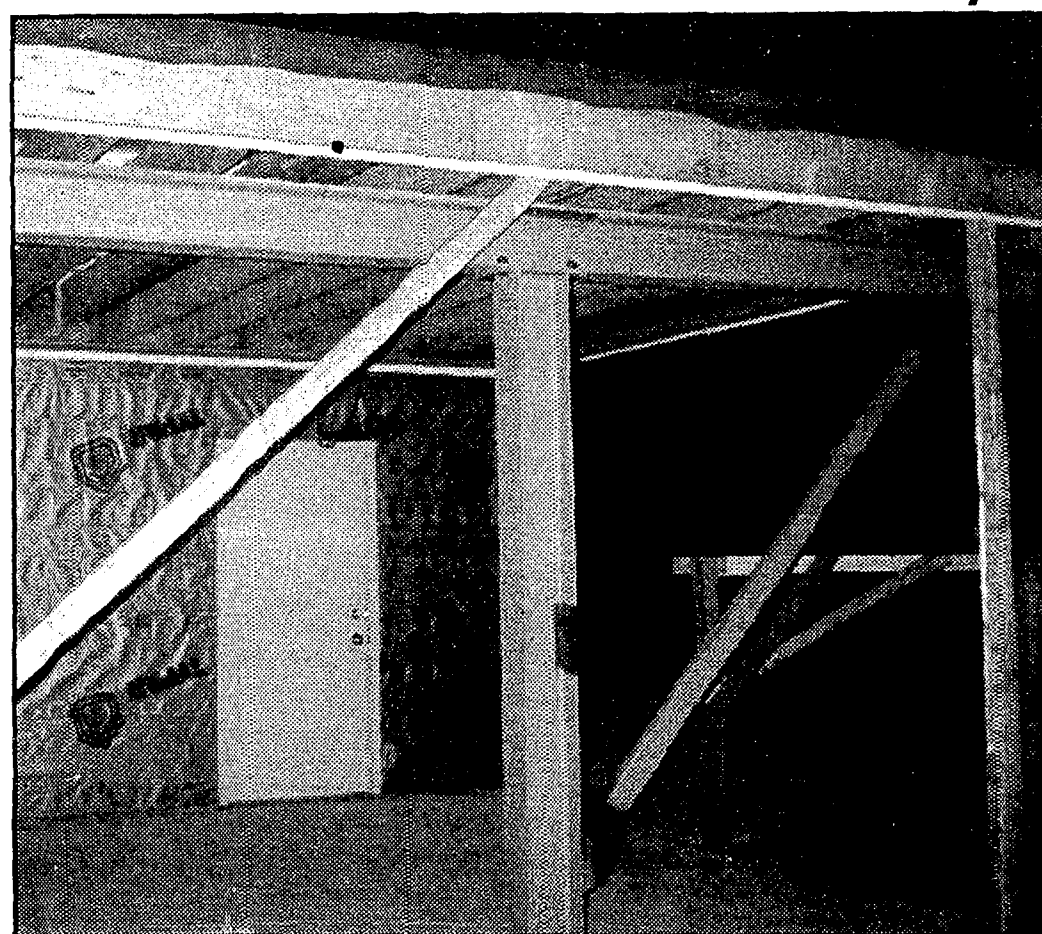
Beginning this January, students in Stars and Stellar Systems and Introduction to Astrophysics classes will no longer have to study in the cold, thanks to the efforts of the Physical Plant Department, the Astronomy Department and the Colby administration. According to Mike Ramstrom, assistant professor of physics, construction is almost complete on a new heated classroom to be located adjacent to the observatory.

"We plan to move the computers in mid-December," he said Friday. "PPD and campus architect Joe Feeley have been working on it since late September or early October."

According to Ramstrom, plans for the classroom began last year when, he said, "it became obvious that we needed a permanent structure." At that time astronomy students were doing most of their planning and data analysis in a temporary trailer facility, not an ideal locale, according to Ramstrom.

"The observatory has to be kept very cold so the instruments function properly," he said. "You can imagine spending four hours outside at nighttime in January. Nobody wanted to do it."

Ramstrom predicts that the new facility, heated and equipped with removable desks around the periphery, will allow astronomy students



Echo photo by John Hughes

The astronomy classroom will provide shelter from the cold.

to "think, plan and cogitate a little better." He added that the classroom's four computers, to be used for the viewing and analysis of data received by the three observatory telescopes and their associated cameras, will also be an advancement for the program.

While the astronomy department currently only offers these two classes, Ramstrom sees the addition of an astronomy classroom as a symbol of growth within the department as a whole. He cited the receipt of a National Science Founda-

tion AIRE Grant and the use of sophisticated equipment by students as evidence of the program's progressiveness.

"The tools students are using in (Introduction to Astrophysics) are the same as those used by researchers in astronomy worldwide," he said, adding that the NSF recently named the program a "model program."

At present, the department is working on a system that will allow students to begin research as early as their sophomore year, and is even considering expanding their offerings to create a minor.

"There's been some thinking over the years on building up courses so we could potentially offer a minor," said Ramstrom.

Should the minor be incorporated, the new classroom may be extended to include more computers and even an additional observatory dome.

"We've planned it so classroom can extend a bit," said Ramstrom. "We're currently looking for a donor." □

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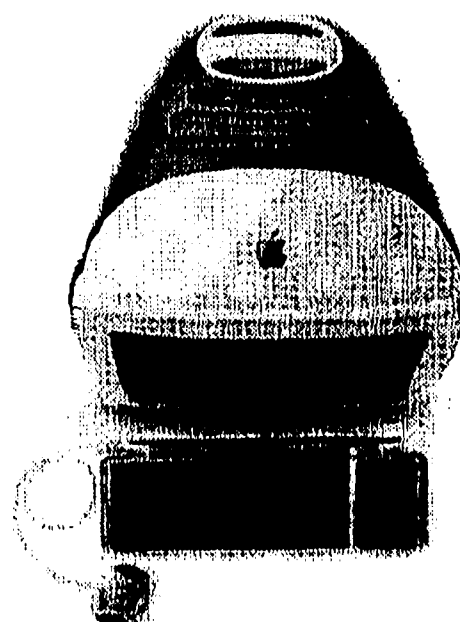
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THE BIG PICTURE

Prof. James Meehan on the Implications of the Exxon-Mobil Merger

BY MATT APUZZO
News Editor

The Nov. 30 announcement that oil giants Exxon and Mobil would be merging to form the third largest corporation in the world has left many people wondering where the government draws the line between monopoly and fair trade.

The size of the new company is enough to spur serious debate on the issue. Together, the new company will boast the possession of nearly 21 billion barrels of oil and gas reserve, reportedly enough to satisfy the world's entire energy needs for more than a year. The merger also places Exxon-Mobil behind only Saudi Arabia and Iran in terms of oil output.

Colby's Herbert E. Wadsworth Professor of Economics James Meehan sat down for lunch with the *Echo* on Tuesday and said that, while the size of Exxon-Mobil is daunting, it must be considered relative to the industry as a whole.

"The company is big in absolute sense, but the oil industry itself is big," he said. "These two companies only control 15 to 20 percent of refining, in that neighborhood."

Meehan specializes in anti-trust policy and the economics of industry and just returned from a weekend conference in Washington D.C. on anti-trust economics.

Both Exxon and Mobil were spun off from John Rockefeller's Standard Oil empire when the government broke up the oil behemoth in 1911. Meehan cautioned, however, that the creation of the Exxon-Mobil corporation would not even begin to revert back to the time Standard Oil.

"There's no dispute that Standard Oil certainly had control of a dominant part of the market and were charging monopoly prices," he said. "You'd have to have a lot of oil mergers to get back to that level."

While the combination of Exxon and Mobil would have more than 50,000 gas stations around the world, Meehan doesn't foresee the merger giving the new company an unfair advantage. He does, however, expect it to have to sell off some of its stations in regions where the company has an advantage over its competitors. One such region is the Northeast.

With U.S. consumers enjoying the lowest oil prices in 12 years, many people worry that the merger of the two companies will be followed by a hike in oil prices. Unlikely, say most analysts. The decrease in cost can mainly be attributed to, they say, the overproduction of crude oil by oil-producing countries.

Years down the road, however, if oil supplies begin to dwindle, Exxon-Mobil could have an unfair advantage if they have access to a majority of the remaining oil reserves. Meehan expects that the Justice Department will take this into consideration before giving the merger the OK.

"It's easier to stop a merger from going through," said Meehan. "It's much harder to go back and unscramble the eggs after they've been scrambled." □

The Big Picture will be a weekly feature in the Echo next semester.

Each week, the Echo will discuss an issue of local, national, or global concern with a Colby professor specializing in a related field.

Credit requirement change still in the works

BY KAREN VITALI
Staff Writer

Since its proposal during the 1997-98 school year, the motion to raise graduation requirements at Colby from 120 to 128 credits has generated significant attention. While the proposition would help keep Colby's academics comparable with those of similar institutions, many wonder if the added course load and potential difficulty in fulfilling the requirement would benefit students.

"(The issue) is still being looked at by the Academic Affairs Committee," said Associate Dean of Students for Academic Affairs Mark Serdjenian.

The Committee, which is composed of administrators, faculty and students, was asked last spring by the faculty to continue gathering data about both the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed change before making any decisions. It plans to do this by looking into not only the number of three- and four-credit courses in the course book, but also by evaluating each course individually and deciding how many credits each should actually be given. For example, a course currently worth only three credits that is found to demand the workload of a four-credit class would be changed accordingly.

"For now, we have decided to put off the credit limit issue. We need to reevaluate the entire credit system before we can reevaluate the 128-credit proposal," said Committee member Drew Hall '01.

In 1998, nearly 57 percent of the graduating class completed their study on Mayflower Hill with more than 128 credits. The average number of credits graduated with in that year was 131.

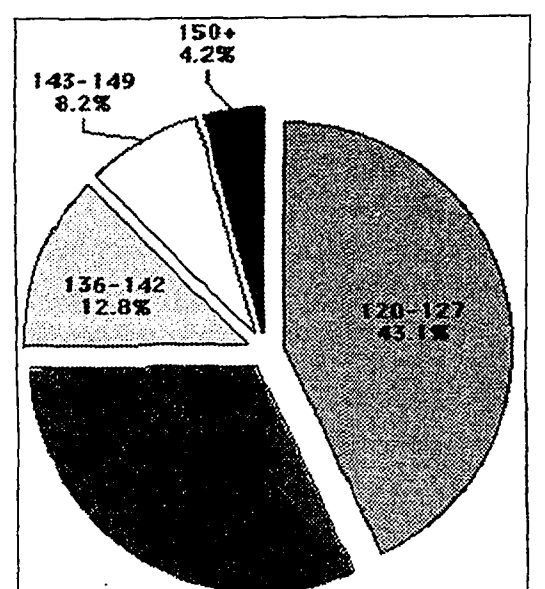
The Committee is especially concerned with how the new policy will potentially affect Jan Plan internships, for which students currently receive no credit. For each of the past two

years, approximately 360 students participated in internships during the month of January, according to the Registrar's office.

It is also considering the advantage gained by some students from Advanced Placement credits, and motions have been made to limit the number of AP credits a student can receive.

"It's still up in the air. (The Committee's) next meeting is in February, so (the issue) is on hold right now," said Serdjenian.

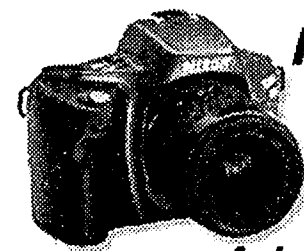
The Committee will review the proposal next semester after class registration data has been evaluated for the fall semester. Further decisions are expected to be made at that time. □



Percent of student body graduating within credit ranges (Class of '98).

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FEATURES

Colby's 1984 fraternity system ban called into question

BY BETSY LOYD
Asst. News Editor

Colby abolished its fraternity system in January 1984, but this action has recently been questioned by David Easlick, Jr., national executive director of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Easlick says that Colby violates students' constitutional rights of association, especially after a non-binding "sense of the Congress" resolution was recently sponsored by incoming Speaker of the House Bob Livingston, Republican from Louisiana and honorary president of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Livingston said that the resolution would, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education, "put Congress on record defending the rights of students who face expulsion and other severe consequences by daring to enjoy their most basic constitutional freedoms of speech and association, often off campus and on their own time."

Easlick wrote letters to the presidents of Bowdoin, Colby and Middlebury Colleges in early November. In response, President William R. Cotter wrote that he wanted to assure Easlick that "Colby will continue, as it always has, to obey the law. The law has clearly been interpreted to uphold Colby's own associational rights."

The resolution "has no legal force whatsoever," said Cot-

ter in an interview.

A "Report of the Trustee Commission on Campus Life," released in December 1983, proposed that fraternities be abolished and a Commons system instituted. At its peak, 90 percent of Colby men belonged to nine fraternities.

Besides money and housing problems, the Commission cited that fraternities "facilitate alcohol abuse," that membership "impedes academic performance" and that both male and female students "report that they feel 'uncomfortable' walking down fraternity row." It also commented that fraternity row was the only place on campus from which women were excluded.

Fifteen years after the report was released, Dean of the College Earl Smith said, "It's the absolute best thing we ever did."

Many students at the time did not feel that it really was the best decision. The Commission report said that three-quarters of the student body had voted to maintain fraternities. In response, students threw fraternity house property out of windows and had a bonfire on fraternity row. Many fraternities went "underground."

While a vocal minority of alumni remains upset by the decision, Smith said that alumni giving went up after fraternities were abolished. He said that now, "most people are back in the fold."

In 1985, applications for admission also went up and have

gone up every year since.

"One reason (many students) chose Colby was because they didn't have Greek societies. Today we have lots of students who prefer not to have exclusive organizations," said Smith.

The College Handbook calls for a minimum of a one-year suspension for anyone engaging in activities related to fraternities.

Associate Dean of Students for Academic Affairs Mark Serdjenian, who oversees the Judicial Board said that there have been no cases of fraternity activity since 1990.

Stu Gittleman, executive director of Delta Phi, has said that he has a "gut feeling" that plenty of Williams College students would join fraternities if given the option, according to The Chronicle.

Walter Wang '99, Student Government Association Cultural Chair, feels differently.

"I don't think people would join frats if we just opened it up. Frats are too exclusive," he said. "Frats do things that some may deem inclusive and others may deem exclusive. With the Commons system, while we do have some things that are Commons-exclusive, most are campus-wide events... If we had frats, it wouldn't be that way," said Wang.

Fifteen years later, the College and students seem happy with the abolition of fraternities and have no intention of reneging on their decision, despite what Easlick reports. □

Consider your future with a Roth IRA

BY JEN DAKIN
Staff Writer

If the idea of a college student saving for his or her retirement makes you laugh, think again. Many financial consultants want students to consider the future and start investing.

"It is never too early to begin a retirement plan," said Colby graduate Bert Languet '88, a financial consultant at Golden Pond Financial in Belgrade Lakes, Maine. Languet recommends that college students consider the Roth IRA (Individual Retirement Account) as an alternative to the traditional IRA. The Roth IRA, named after Delaware Senator William Roth, a leading supporter of expanded IRAs, was a product of the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act and just became available this year.

The Roth IRA is a sensible decision for students. Many students are in a low tax-bracket and would therefore not have a high tax payment on their contributions. After an initial tax payment, investments are never again subjected to federal taxes because all withdrawals are tax-free. This tax benefit is the major advantage of the Roth IRA. Don't be tricked just because the traditional IRA is initially tax-deductible; you may save a couple hundred dol-

lars, but when you retire, you will owe the government tens of thousands of dollars because withdrawals are taxed. According to Steven Magyar '71, financial consultant, if a twenty-year-old deposits \$1,000 per year into a Roth IRA for ten years and then waits for the account to grow until age 65 at an average rate of 9%, the account will be worth \$310,148. The tax consequences of this sum would be substantial if the investor had used a regular IRA instead of a Roth IRA.

The disadvantage of any IRA is that the money is accessible only with a penalty prior to age 59 and a half, with only a few exceptions. Roths thrive on long-term compounding; it literally pays to start young.

Languet emphasizes the importance of starting young with this simple question: Would you rather

contribute \$2,000 per year for nine years between the ages of 21 and 30 or contribute \$2,000 per year between the ages of 30-65? Surprisingly, either way you will wind up with the same amount of money when you are 66.

If you already have a traditional IRA, it is possible to painlessly convert to the Roth IRA, especially for people under age 45. You will have to foot the tax bill for your investment thus far, but then your account will grow tax-free. As an added bonus, if the conversion is made during 1998 the investor is allowed to spread the tax payment out over four years. If you earn a minimum of \$2,000 per annum you could be eligible to open a Roth.

So what are you waiting for? Start preparing for your golden years by looking into the Roth IRA. □



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Sirens emerge as high-energy women's a cappella group

BY BRAXTON WILLIAMS
AND OLIVER GRISWOLD
Staff Writers

In Homer's "The Odyssey," Ulysses ties himself to the mast of his ship in order to avoid the Sirens, a clan of women who lure sailors onto their island with their beautiful voices in order to capture and later destroy them. For two intrepid journalists, such foresight was nowhere to be found. In fact, these two young men flung themselves off the USS Mary Low, threw caution to the wind and doggy paddled willy-nilly toward the intoxicating harmonies emanating from the modern-day Sirens, Colby's newest a cappella group.

When we arrived at the Bixler practice room, the Sirens were already in full voice. We took our seats to the energetic notes of Dar Williams' "As Cool as I Am," and found ourselves enchanted by their simple, effective harmonies as well as by a noticeable lack of percussion. We began moving our feet to a cavalcade of doos and wahs. As we glanced from face to face it became apparent that there was probably nothing else in the world that these young women would rather be doing.

When the song came to an end, the Sirens introduced themselves as Trish Akins '00, president of the group, Caroline Rosch '01, Stacy Erickson '00, Becca Leslie '99, Jessica Stitt '00, Becky Sharp '02, Mairead Carney '02 and

Olivia Robbie '02. Another member, Karen Macke '00, is currently studying abroad.

The Sirens' high-energy conversation moved from teasing, to harmonizing sections of songs, to previewing ideas for new repertoire, specifically The Artist Formerly Known as Prince's "When Doves Cry."

From the sea of this stormy conversation erupted the isle of an explanation about where they came from and how the group started. Evidently, several of the future members of "team Sirens" were on the Colby Choral trip to England last spring. One night as they were walking down the street on their way to perform, Akins began an impromptu version of "Tom's Diner" by Suzanne Vega. When several of the other women joined in perfect harmony, the chanteuses knew they were on to something. They drew up the plans for an a cappella group

when they got back to campus: stay small (a maximum of eight people) and be totally unre-

constructive attitude. They have a few more things in common as well. "None of us have hair lips, and none of us live on frat row," they said.

The Sirens have performed twice in front of an audience.

"Student response has been extremely positive," Rosch said. The group agreed, and added that the four other Colby a cappella groups have been very supportive.

The Sirens differ from the existing singing groups in many important and unusual ways. For instance, there is the aforementioned lack of percussion, which pares the songs down into pure vocal harmony and places a greater emphasis on chords than on rhythm. They also seem to be more comfortable with dissonance than are many collegiate a cappella groups. In addition to taking Colby a cappella in a new musical direction, members of the Sirens are enthusiastic about new female representation in campus singing groups. The advent of a new all-female group means that the opportunities

for women to get involved in a cappella on campus are now equal to those of men.

Members of the Sirens emphasize that the formation of their group did not arise from a discontentment with pre-existing a cappella groups. The group found its origins in a general love and enthusiasm for music.



Photo Courtesy of the Sirens

The Sirens are Colby's newest a cappella group.

stricted in terms of repertoire. Indeed, they have explored everything from Enya to Metallica.

In September, the Sirens recruited a few new voices and became an official club. It turned out that half of the group was able to arrange music. Each brought different musical influences but the same



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EDITORIALS

Juniors abroad in spring should earn JanPlan credit

When returning from Winter Break two weeks after Christmas, we Colby students are fortunate not to be relegated immediately into another hardcore studying semester. JanPlan offers wonderful opportunities to expand our academic and community horizons beyond the confines of a standard lecture hall or even beyond Mayflower Hill. Students entering Colby as first-year students must receive credit for three JanPlans in order to graduate. Students who study at Colby for less than six semesters, transfer students for example, must complete two JanPlans. But how students fulfill these requirements needs to be reevaluated.

As it stands, students who choose to study abroad during the spring semester do not receive JanPlan credit despite the fact that most programs start in early January. Instead, they are forced to earn JanPlan credit as seniors when many would choose to take the month off from academics in order to search for employment and plan their imminent futures. In effect, students who study abroad in the spring never have the opportunity to miss a JanPlan, an opportunity open to those who are away in the fall. This is wrong. It contradicts the original intent of JanPlan. Students who leave the country are broadening the horizons in inexplicable ways — much more than taking a pottery class. They are perfecting a new language, examining a Costa Rican ecosystem or living with a Nepalese family. These students are enriching their lives and in so doing, enriching the Colby community.

Level out the playing field and reward juniors who have enough initiative and ambition to experience a culture completely different from their own.

Please, rule with compassion

Saturday evening, Security busted a registered party in the lounge of AMS. The excuse involved alcoholic punch which wasn't covered by the party contract. The party host stood on a table and announced to the hundred-some students, all in formal wear, that the party was moving off campus, and that everyone should regroup there. We don't propose to raise issues with rules regarding alcohol consumption. But Security's job is to keep Colby students safe, and encouraging students who have been drinking to leave campus to continue partying is counter-productive.

Rules need to be tempered with reason. Yes, this party was technically in violation of the rules, but wasn't it the lesser of two evils? It was a respectable gathering attended by responsible students — most of whom were over 21. The guests planned to spend their entire evening safely on campus. By ending this party with the full awareness that students were moving into town, Security officers increased the likelihood that someone could be seriously hurt.

The party was scheduled to begin at 9 p.m.; Security had busted it well before 10:00 p.m. Whatever the reason, the consequences of Security's action were potentially far more dangerous than had they done nothing. We can only be thankful that no one was hurt, and saddened that we should even have this to discuss. In the future, Colby students who wish to party responsibly should be allowed to. Security shouldn't turn safe students into unsafe ones.

Please submit your letters and comments to:

echo@colby.edu
echo@colby.edu

THE COLBY ECHO

founded in 1877

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THE COLBY ECHO is a weekly newspaper published by the students of Colby College on Thursday of each week the College is in session.

THE ECHO encourages letters from its readers, especially those within the immediate community. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must pertain to a current issue or topic at Colby. Letters are due by Sunday at midnight for publication the same week. Letters should be typed and must be signed and include an address or phone number. If possible, please also submit letters on a 3.5 inch Macintosh disk in Microsoft Word format. You may also submit letters via e-mail to "echo@colby.edu".

THE ECHO reserves the right to edit all submissions.

The Editorials, above, are the official opinion of the paper. Opinions expressed in individual columns, advertising and features are those of the author, not the ECHO.

THE ECHO will make every effort possible to prevent inaccuracy, but will not be held responsible for errors in advertisements or articles.

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LETTERS

To allies of the gay community

How many of you have ever had a time when you heard an incident of violence directed towards the gay community and felt hopeless, helpless or confused as to what to do? How many of you have ever responded in a less than effective way towards comments that you heard that were homophobic? How many when hearing of the brutal murder of Matthew Shephard thought there is nothing that we can do to stop this kind of violence? I welcome each of us to claim a bit more of the belief that we can TRULY DO something about this.

As allies, we can do NOTHING less than continue to battle homophobia. These times demand that! It will no longer suffice to just be good people. These times require us to look at all the ways the gay community is on a daily basis hurt, killed, oppressed, demeaned and not welcomed into our community. The lives of our gay brothers and sisters, past, present and future, demand us to look at this.

We want you to consider a program that would give us a hand in this. This program would address the PARTICULAR means that homophobia manifests itself on in our lives and to the PARTICULAR means that heterosexism shows up in how we live our lives. Both of

these are some of the insidious and deadly ways that homophobia and heterosexism get in the way of us being the most effective allies to the gay community.

This program would support us in being the most effective allies to the gay community. This program would help us un-numb and look at the reality of safety and privilege

As allies, we can do NOTHING less than continue to battle homophobia.

that we, as heterosexuals, have. This program would also give us the most accurate information about homophobia and heterosexism AND would give us a way to look at what stops us from always responding to acts of violence towards the gay community immediately and with courage. No response that includes helplessness, hopelessness, confusion or anything that stops us from

acting is useful. This program would look at other more effective ways to respond. This program would have us embrace and proclaim our right to make a difference as allies to the gay community.

This program would be institutionalized into this academic community. What this means is that for this program to be most effective, it would have us look at our policies, our behaviors and our programming and how these either support the celebration of the gay community or not. This program would also incorporate this understanding of how to be allies to the gay community by applying this understanding to all members of all groups in this community.

This program would be called Project Ally.

If you are interested in knowing more about Project Ally and of joining the process as we look at how to be the most powerful allies to the gay community, please contact Julia McDonald at x4293, Tarja Raaga at x3083 or June Thornton-Marsh at x3441.

Julia McDonald '99
June Thornton-Marsh, NCBI
Team Leader
Tarja Raaga, Professor of Psychology

American Studies not in jeopardy

I am writing in response to the article in *The Colby Echo* of November 12, 1998, in which Brooke Fitzsimmons described a hypothetical scenario pertaining to staffing in American Studies in '99-'00. I can assure you that the staffing plan for next year obviates the writer's bleak scenario. The Administration will recommend to the Trustees in January that we replace Professor McFadden (American Studies), and that funding be made available to cover additional courses that Prof. Stubbs (English) and Professor Thoma

(American Studies and Women's Studies) contribute to the program. The staffing plan takes into account the specific core requirements in the American Studies major, as well as the wide-ranging nature of American Studies electives, which include courses from many different faculty in a variety of departments and not just those taught by Professors McFadden, Stubbs, and Thoma.

In short, the *Echo* article presents a series of hypotheticals which, if true, would merit serious concern. However, the staffing situation for American Studies is being ad-

dressed in concrete ways that reflect the structure of the program, and majors will not be in jeopardy.

I regret not having the opportunity to speak with Ms. Fitzsimmons before she published her article; a certain amount of distress among students and parents could have been avoided. I must add that although Ms. Fitzsimmons describes me as unavailable for comment, neither I nor my office staff know of any attempt to contact me prior to publication.

Ed Yeterian
Dean of Faculty

Worries about the future of Women's Studies

We are very concerned about the future of Women's Studies at Colby. The primary reason for this is because Pamela Thoma, one of the only two appointed Women's Studies professors at Colby, will be on her scheduled pre-tenure sabbatical next year and it is by no means clear that the College will replace her position. One of the many problems with this situation is that Pamela Thoma teaches a required seminar (WS 311) for both Women's Studies minors and majors and one of the four required introductory classes (WS 221) for the minor and the major. (It is important to note that another one of these four classes, WS 275, will also not be offered because Margaret McFadden, an American Studies professor who teaches Women's Studies courses also will be on sabbatical.) Similarly, many professors who teach Women's Studies courses will also be on half-year or full-year sabbatical next year. These Professors include: Katherine Stubbs, Cedric Bryant and Cheryl Gilkes, and possibly others, and although

there is some College commitment to replacing some of these individuals at least partially, it is not clear what courses these faculty's replacements could teach. In addition, Andrea Volpe, who is filling a sabbatical replacement and teaches a Women's Studies course in the Integrated Semester Program and as part of the history department, will leave at the end of this year. It is very difficult to plan an interdisciplinary major when the courses that are offered are so uncertain.

Pamela Thoma will not only leave a large void in Women's Studies, she is also the only professor who currently focuses on Asian American Studies at Colby. In keeping with Colby's commitment to "diversity," it is very problematic that any professor who teaches about gender, race and class go on sabbatical with no replacement allocated to fill that person's crucial role here at Colby.

Our largest concern is that half-way through the year we have not yet been granted a replacement for Pamela Thoma's position next year.

nor have we received any signs that if we receive a replacement that person will fulfill both the needs of Women's Studies and of Asian American Studies. Of course, to initiate a search mid-year to hire someone to teach two courses in central Maine has its own problems.

Women's Studies is a key part of the Colby curriculum. It encourages students to think critically about issues of gender as well as race, class, and sexuality while applying theory to practice. Women's Studies also contributes activism, "diversity" and enhances culture on campus. By not showing clear signs of commitment to and support of Women's Studies, the College appears to not understand nor appreciate the importance of Women's Studies to Colby.

We, the undersigned, implore the College to examine next year's staffing for Women's Studies and thereby support this integral part of academic and cultural life at Colby.

Sarah Andell '00 and other concerned women's studies students

OPINIONS

From Cabbage Patch Kids to Pentium Furbys

BY EZRA DYER
Opinions Editor

This Christmas, I have a lot to be thankful for. And I'm most thankful that I'm not a parent (hey, that DNA test was RIGGED!) Actually, I'm always thankful that I'm not a parent, but at Christmastime especially. Because parents, unlike me, are not free to just tune the radio to The River's "Very Kenny G Christmas Special" and relax with some hot nog. That's right, I said "hot nog." No, parents are bound by law to roam the earth until they find the toy that is causing temper tantrums around the country for this particular holiday season. There are some notable alumni in this group, including last year's "Tickle-Me Elmo" doll and his various spin-offs, such as "Stick-Your-Finger-Down-My-Throat Bulimic Cookie Monster" and "Stab-Me OJ." Oh, and then there was the Hugh Grant doll-but never mind.

The toy manufacturers make it hard on the parents. I'm not sure if they still do this, but when I was in prime toy-demanding age each popular toy had a cartoon every Saturday that went with it. These shows basically amounted to half-hour commercials. GI Joe and He-Man (whose name was a last-minute compromise between Testosterone Ball-Ra and Erwin) were two of the worst offenders. A typical dialogue in one of these shows would go something like this:

He-Man: Skeletor, you must die!
Skeletor: No, He-Man, you must die!

He-Man: Ah, but I have my Death Catapult, available now for \$13.95 in most major stores!

Skeletor: Your Death Catapult cannot harm me! My Diabolical Castle of Doom is impervious to such puny weapons! This is a lot of protection for only \$29.95, He- (add

appropriate insult to replace "Man," such as "Slime," or "Wuss").

One of these shows introduced the GI Joe aircraft carrier to my cousin Josh, and using sophisticated mind-control techniques he managed to get his parents to buy it. The GI Joe aircraft carrier was the ultimate

The toy manufacturers keep raising the stakes, and toys keep becoming better and better. This makes me shudder to think of what toys will be like by the time I'm of toy-buying age.

mate action figure accessory available. It was about half the size of a real aircraft carrier, and I believe he actually lived aboard it for several weeks before realizing that since he had an aircraft carrier he was going to need some aircraft, thus necessitating another trip to K-Mart. Anyway, the GI Joe aircraft carrier is just an example of how far parents will go to buy a little peace and quiet. The toy marketers know what they're doing, and so around Christmas there is always the Toy That Kids Must Have And Parents Will Kill Each Other To Get.

This year that toy is... Tiger's "Furbys." Furbys are stuffed-animal sorts of things filled with various electronics and motors that allow them to learn your habits and adapt their behavior to please you. They also have a vocabulary of over 1000 phrases, and they talk back. It sounds to me like Furbys were developed not for kids but as companions for their geeky computer-nerd designers, who have no friends. I'll bet they have a special prototype "Furby" at the lab that just happens to look like Cameron Diaz and doesn't have the word "no" in its vocabulary. Tiger PR manager Lana

Simon told *Wired* magazine that a Furby is "the closest you can get to a living creature." To me, a Furby sounds like the closest you can get to "Chucky," the insane homicidal doll from the "Child's Play" movies.

The toy manufacturers keep raising the stakes, and toys keep becoming better and better. This makes me shudder to think of what toys will be like by the time I'm of toy-buying age. I think it's been about 13 years since the Cabbage Patch Kid craze, and look at what's happened. Cabbage Patch Kids didn't talk! They didn't learn anything! They just sat there with a glazed expression of vague expectation, and that was

enough to transcend traditional gender roles and get boys to want dolls. I remember the height of the lunacy in second grade, when my class (the girls, anyway) decided to buy mean old Mrs. O'Donnell a Cabbage Patch Kid for her 174th birthday. I hated Mrs. O'Donnell and Cabbage Patch Kids, and so refused to contribute my dollar to the collection. I was a conscientious objector to her birthday party. I just didn't see the point in buying a doll for a mean old lady, and I demonstrated my disapproval by going out in the hallway and crying. Today I feel bad about how I acted towards Mrs. O'Donnell, because soon after that birthday party a house fell on her. But the point remains: Girls, boys and even old ladies wanted a Cabbage Patch Kid, which was nothing more than a bit of cloth and stuffing attached to a potentially dangerous hard plastic head. By the time I'm one of those deranged-looking people lunging through the aisles of Toys 'R Us around Christmas (read: a parent) I'll probably be looking for the 800 dollar Pentium Furby upgrade which allows it to play with the kids while doing your taxes. On second thought, maybe progress isn't so bad. □

Let's foil the liquor inspector

BY PATRICK J. BERNAL
Staff Writer

Colby students, let's admit it, the liquor inspector has got us running scared. No upperclassmen want to host parties, nobody wants to carry an open container with them around campus and kegs at campus events are becoming rarer and rarer.

The time has come for decisive action. Partying on the weekends has become too obvious. Let's party on weeknights and spend the weekends recuperating and in the library. The liquor inspectors will begin to see us as a campus of anti-social tools and will let us be. Let the hapless sods at Bates and Bowdoin experience the wrath of head liquor inspector Bob "Napoleon Complex" LaGuardia on Friday and Saturday nights while we're safely tucked away in the confines of our library carrels and dorm rooms. And then when Bob and his cronies are taking the week off we can spend Monday through Thursday in a drunken stupor, wandering around Colby with open containers, destroying property and being intoxicated in public.

I remember the days when I could walk from my room in Dana to the Spa, spilling beer from my very open, very visible cup, worrying only about a possible encounter with Security who would tell me to dispose of my time having to cup seemed se-punishment compared with that Security to you if you're

Partying on the weekends has become too obvious.

an open container. That fine was implemented purely out of fear for the liquor inspector. I will not live in fear of a 5'5" man any longer. LaGuardia's reign of terror must be brought to an end, and drinking on weekdays is the only way to end it.

Somebody recently brought up a valid complaint about my plan. Pat, they said, I have classes during the week, I can't drink then. Wrong, I said. Just drink excessively on Monday night, then you'll pass out, sleep soundly and be ready to do it all over again on Tuesday. Some people really don't think things over very carefully.

Someone else mentioned that they had always drank on the weekends and doing anything else wouldn't seem right. This is the type of fear that we're going to have to overcome if we want to regain our right to party. Being a slave to tradition will get you nowhere.

Overcoming our fears and giving up Wednesday night studying sessions is the only way that we're ever going to get anything done. If Bob had it his way, we'd all be chem-free, we'd all want to live in Averill and we'd all want to spend our time hunting and fishing. This is not acceptable.

Coming to a tentative agreement as a campus to not drink on weekends is not enough. I think that we need to institutionalize my plan.

If a security officer catches a student with an open container on a weekend night they should immediately slap the student with a \$5,000 fine and force them into solitary confinement in a chem-free single. If, however, a security officer catches a student with an open container on a weeknight, the security officer should merely smile meekly, tip their hat and say God bless.

There are those who already drink on weeknights. We should thank these selfless pioneers, award them with cheers and kisses and place them on the Dean's List regardless of their current academic standings.

To some my plan might seem extreme. Why alter our drinking routine for a couple of power hungry thugs? To those people I quote a very famous dead man when I say that desperate times call for desperate measures. Drinking and worrying will no longer do. As students we should, and we will, demand better. □

ub9.ydloc@orb9echo@colby.edu

Students on the Street: What's on your holiday wish list?



"Money!"

—Brad Selig '99

"Sex and Furbys."

—Mike Wood '00 and Mark Edgar '00

"A car."

—Sarah Dressler '02

"Christmas decorations from the freshmen football players."

—James Scribner '99

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BMR returns with a vengeance

BY CHRISSY BARNETT
Contributing Writer

After a one-year hiatus, Broadway Musical Review came back this fall semester better than ever. BMR was sorely missed last year, but if you were able to catch a glimpse of last weekend's great performance, chances are you left wanting to be a member of the cast.

Directed by Melissa Trachtenberg '99, Zoe Damplo '99 and Heather Miles '99, BMR featured songs from several popular Broadway musicals, including "Rent," "Hair" and "City of Angels." Although many of the cast members were new faces, each shone on stage with energy and possessed animated stage presence. The cast's hard work paid off, as BMR was far from lacking talent.

The numbers were fun to watch and cleverly choreographed, adding to either the comic relief or seriousness of each particular song. The opening musical number, "I Hope I Get It" from the musical "A Chorus Line," featured careful choreography and witty humor. It grabbed the audience from the beginning and from then on, the cast of BMR had no problem getting the attention of the crowd.

From the audience's reaction, the cast of BMR seemed to gain more energy with each number. Another



Echo photo by Jennie Record

BMR actors show off their feline side.

crowd favorite was "Over the Moon" from the musical "Rent." In this somewhat bizarre performance art song, Miles showed her ability to be wild and creative in a solo performance.

Another crowd favorite was "Take Me or Leave Me" from "Rent," performed by Trachtenberg and Damplo. The two were perfect for this song about two women dealing with a failing relationship. "Easy to be Hard" from "Hair," featured Monty Hobson '02, and Mark

Buschenfeldt '02 who were hilarious as two melodramatic men worried about the trials of life.

Whether the songs featured comic relief or provided somber seriousness, the cast of BMR brought life into their musical numbers and gave the audience a great show.

If you missed the opportunity to see BMR, don't make the same mistake twice. With this performance as a precedent, next semester's BMR may be sold out before you know it.

"Oresteia" brings Ancient Greece to Strider Theatre

BY RYAN DAVIS
Contributing Writer

Viewing an ancient Greek drama can seem like an imposing task. When the characters have names like Thyestes, Aegisthus and Clytemnestra and the stories follow feuds that span countless decades, how can it not be?

Performing Arts at Colby overcame the restrictions caused by such complex material to stage a fascinating production of "The Oresteia" by Aeschylus Dec. 4-5. Everyone involved deserves praise for making a 2400-year-old play accessible to a modern audience.

The play begins at the end of the Trojan War. Agamemnon (Jason Ri '00), the victorious king of Greece, returns to his homeland and is greeted by the town elders and his wife Clytemnestra (Heather Hilton '99). He has brought with him an arrogant attitude and a concubine, Cassandra (Anne Wulschlager '01), neither of which sit well

commits it.

The intriguing question of whether avenging the death of one's father befits the murder of the mother defines the rest of the play, as Orestes is hounded by the Furies and put on trial before the gods for his crime.

A high level of energy marked nearly all the performances, and

A high level of energy marked nearly all the performances.

many lines were shouted, screamed or chanted. The chanting was generally done in unison by the chorus, which at various times consisted of the town elders, palace slaves and the Furies. Though unfamiliar to many of today's viewers, this proved to be a surprisingly effective way of conveying information not shown on stage.

As for the actors, each of them was strong and convincing, with Hilton's performance as perhaps

REVIEW

the most inspired. She cut a commanding, powerful figure as Clytemnestra. The audience had no trouble believing that her queen was the type of person who could slaughter her husband and exile her young son with hardly a moment's thought. Ri made a great, self-important king, dismissing all those who opposed his will with a disdainful flick of the wrist. Miner's heartfelt performance made Orestes' terrible dilemma palpable. The emotional torment he suffered following commission of his crime was particularly effective. And bathed in bright white light, Jill Huntsberger '99 and Jeff Libby '00 made authoritative, somewhat sarcastic gods.

Though the stage was bare save for a few boxes and Agamemnon's chariot, "The Oresteia" was more than successful in transporting its audience to a time and place that most were probably wholly unfamiliar.

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Colby takes a trip to the tropics

BY MARIBETH SALEEM
Contributing Writer

As the lights came up on Friday night's performance of "Caribbean Nights," the audience in the Pugh Center was transported from the chilly Maine evening to a sunny Caribbean carnival. The surrealistic background of turquoise, ocean blue, yellow, and orange quickly filled with dancers in sparkling masks and colorful apparel, while two large painted palm trees leaned in from either side of the stage. The small crowded room filled with the sound of rhythmic island drums pouring in from the speakers on the floor as the audience got a taste of the Caribbean experience.

"Caribbean Nights" is a theater piece made up of "works of drama and poetry," according to the program. The entire piece, which consisted of two songs, two dances and two scenes from different plays about the Caribbean, as well as an opening and an interlude, was tied together by the carnival theme.

The performance opened with the cast portraying the traditional Caribbean folk festival of carnival, during which the entire cast - shouting, clapping, and dancing the conga - reveled on stage in carnival costumes. The mood soon turned more placid as Laurel Genetti '00 was left alone on stage to deliver a soft but pleasant song, "This Beautiful Island," that described the natural wonders of Trinidad. Next came the Colby Dancers, in bright leotards and swirling skirts, doing a lively dance called "Convolvoh" that ended in a kicking, posing finish.

This sequence set up the first play excerpt, a scene from "Playboy of the West Indies," by Mustafa Matura. The scene was a little confusing, as the plot is a complicated tangle of love and advice centered on a "romantic stranger," Ken (Philbert Wilson '01), who is rumored to have murdered his father Mac (Jon Gray '00). Hiding out in a shop owned by Peggy (Jessica Torres '00), Ken becomes an object of interest to three local women: Alice (Nicole Bedell '99), Ivy (Michelle Dominguez '00) and Mama Benin (Matra Brathwaite '01). The performer's enthusiasm and talent made the scene enjoyable, although not entirely easy to follow. The program contained a glossary of Caribbean slang to help the audience follow the dialogue.

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Echo photo by Tim Persinko

"Caribbean Nights" turns the Pugh Center tropical.

Following this scene was a "Carnival Interlude" and the Colby Dancers' second number, "Caribbean Sundance," which they performed while the cast clapped and yelled bullantly in the background.

The next scene, "The Tables Turn," taken from "Pantomime," by Derek Walcott, was the highlight of the evening. The scene explored power relations between white British colonists and native peoples through an exchange between British hotel manager Harry Trewe (Mike Farrell '00) and his waiter, Jackson Phillip (Tyrone Boucaud '00). Harry's desire to involve Jackson in a play based on "Robinson Crusoe" involves them in an allegorical confrontation about subjugation. The scene was intense, alternately disquieting and hilarious, with incredible performances by both Farrell and Boucaud. Its message was punctuated by the final number, "A Modern Slave Song" performed by the entire company, with the haunting refrain entreating the audience to "remember I exist."

As the cast returned to the stage to take their bows, they recreated

the jubilant carnival mood, pulling audience members on to the stage to join in the dancing.

"Caribbean Nights" was produced by Social Action Theater and Performing Arts at Colby, and was directed by Performing Arts Guest Director Ruth Brancaccio. Brancaccio chose the collection of pieces over a single play in an attempt to give the audience a sense of the Caribbean experience.

"The Caribbean is so huge and many faceted," she said. "There are so many different histories... where do you even begin? It was difficult to pin it down with one play," she said, for doing so would have narrowed the impression of the Caribbean that the audience received. She said that she wanted a performance that was "political, smart, and would add to people's knowledge."

Audience member Trent Cunningham '01 supported Brancaccio's belief. He found the performance "excellent," and thought that the blending of trenchant social commentary with comedy was more effective than a lecture. □

"Celebration" an unhappy film

BY MEG BELANGER
Staff Writer

There is nothing happy about the celebration in the film "Celebration." Nothing. To cut this review down to its simplest form, if you want to be deeply emotionally disturbed, go see this movie. If you'd like to be able to eat and laugh afterwards, stay home.

"Celebration" is a very dark movie that is easy to get caught up in. The plot is everyone's worst family nightmare, in every aspect. Director and co-writer Thomas Vinterberg skillfully

put together a movie that you aren't going to forget too quickly. Apparently this movie appeals to some people, though; it won the Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

The plot is pretty simple. Patriarch Helge Klingensfeldt is celebrating his 60th birthday in style and his friends and relatives have gathered to help. His three adult children show up, one with his wife and three kids, and his daughter brings her American boyfriend. The third child, Christian, however, comes alone. If this story is anyone's, it is Christian's. His twin sister committed suicide only a couple months before and that is still fresh in everyone's minds.

It is apparent that Christian's family is one of practical jokers, so when Christian rises to toast his father, he has two speeches in his hands and that his father can choose from. Afterwards, he probably wished he had chosen the other hand. What he has to say breaks the silence and the peace and comfort at this family birthday party. Nobody there will leave unaffected by what transpires. You won't, either.

The cinematography in this movie is amazing. The camera

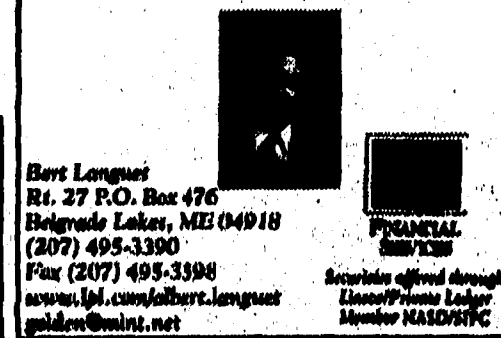
movement is dizzying and effective. It is accurate and emotional, simultaneously. Vinterberg belongs to a cinematic movement called Dogme 95 which follows a specific code of movie making rules, one that our Hollywood directors probably couldn't manage. Movies must be filmed on location (no sound stages) without any additional props, although they are allowed to use anything that was already at the location. They can record only natural sound and use only natural light. They must

REVIEW

film using 35-mm color film and hand-held cameras. No special effects are allowed, eliminating murder. Also, no genre works are allowed and the director can not take credit. That's a pretty difficult list of rules to follow, but the end result ends up being very effective. The camera work is definitely something you can't miss in the film and it makes the plot all that much more powerful.

The acting is extremely good and the actors have great chemistry, partially resulting from the fact most of them have worked together before. Due to the lack of "action" in the movie, the actors are forced to rely on pure acting ability and that risk pays off. The stars of the movie, mainly Ulrich Thomsen (Christian) and Henning Moritzen (Helge), really drive the emotion home. You end up feeling sympathetic towards both characters. The film and its cast and crew deserves the recognition they receive. It's hard for me to recommend a film like this one, but I do. It's playing at Railroad Square Cinema. If you don't go to find out what deep dark secret Christian reveals, go for the cinematic aspects. It will be worth your trip. □

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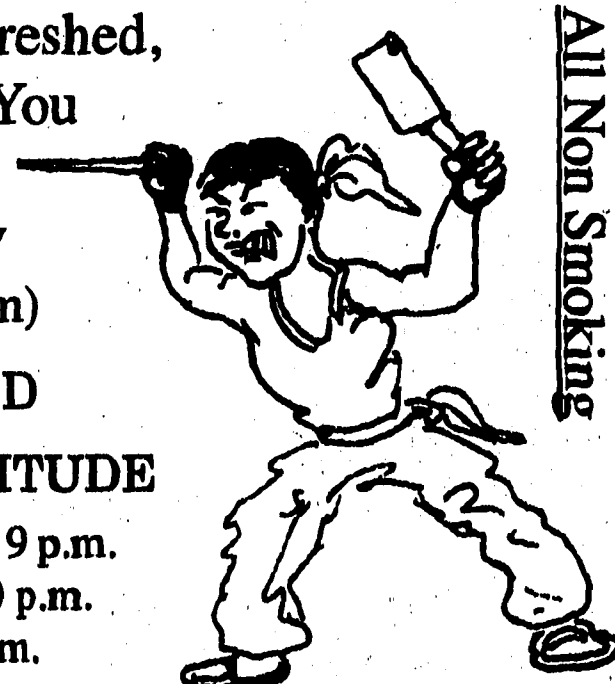
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DEVASTATOR

of the week



Echo photo by Melanie Guryansky

Fraser Ross '02

With an impressive must-win victory, the first-year women's squash player provided Colby with some much needed momentum at the Wesleyan Invitational. After losing their first two matches of the tournament, the White Mules fought with Smith College to a 4-4 tie. Despite quickly falling behind 0-2, number three Ross battled back to win the deciding match, giving Colby the 5-4 victory. The team defeated its next two opponents, Wellesley and Haverford. Ross went undefeated for the weekend.

Mules dive into the season

BY CAITLIN COYLE
Staff Writer

Colby's swimming and diving teams are back. With a background of strong finishes in recent years, Colby's swimming program will enjoy the contributions of several returning record holders and nationally ranked swimmers, as well as the addition of many talented freshmen.

At the season-opening meet against Trinity, Jessica Knight '02 broke the pool record for 50-meter freestyle.

Colby has a "small but strong team that will do extremely well at championship meets," said coach Sura DuBow, who guides both the men's and women's Mule teams.

The 1998-99 season also looks positive for the men's team. Last year, the Mules broke 15 school records and finished the season placing eighth out of 26 schools at the New England Championships and 14th at Nationals. Although the men's team graduated many seniors, Andy Brown '99 and Jeff McCloskey '00 return from last year's national relay team while freshman Cameron Simoes-Correia is expected to be a significant addition to the team.

On Nov. 20, Colby opened the season against Trinity. The women came away with a decisive victory, winning 164 to 127. The men were

defeated by 39 points in the 164 to 125 loss.

Still, 10 swimmers qualified for the New England Championships: Jessica Knight '02, Blake Crowley '02, Blake Hamill '02, Mary Snyder '00, Emily Dowd '99, Chris Skrzycki '99, Andy Brown '99, Rocki Kurtz '99, and co-captains Kristen North '99 and Laura Feraco '99.

"The talented new freshmen are pushing the entire team to excel," said North. "The freshmen are definitely pushing me to work even harder."

The men's diving team is not without their record-holders either. Last season, Steve Feldman '01 broke three records. And at this year's meet against Trinity, Feldman also qualified for New England's in the 1-meter diving event.

Newcomer Ben Liston '99 competed in the 1-meter and 3-meter diving categories against Trinity and according to North, "did an excellent job at his first diving meet ever."

At New England Championships last season, the Lady Mule divers placed 12th out of 37 competing schools. Colby's representative at Nationals, Kathryn Johnson '00, holds four diving records and will return this year to lead the team. Several freshman swimmers, including Alyssa Severn '02, Hamill and Knight are expected to add bounce to the diving competitions as well.

The Division II and Division III

schools that will compete at New England's have begun to compile rankings of the top times. Several Colby swimmers have earned a spot on that list after only two meets.

Knight placed 7th in the 50-meter freestyle and 9th in the 100-meter freestyle, while Feraco placed 11th in the 50-meter backstroke and Severn placed 13th in the 100-meter backstroke. Hamill earned 2nd place in the 100 IM category and North placed 6th in the 1000-meter freestyle.

"I have never been as excited for swimming and I have high hopes for this year," said North.

The swimmers will spend much of January in the pool. And they hope to be making waves. □

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Women's hockey keeps their heads up

BY JESSIE DAVIS
Staff Writer

The women's ice hockey team is determined to keep working hard. This attitude in itself is praise worthy, considering that in each game the young team continues to face seasoned opponents. This past weekend was no exception as the Mules matched up with Harvard on Saturday and Northeastern on Sunday.

Saturday's game was especially tough for the team, ending in a 15-0 Crimson victory. Colby started out slowly but gained both speed and intensity as each period went by. By the end of the first, the Mules were down by seven goals. Harvard added another eight in the second period. But in the third and final period of the game both teams went scoreless. Colby put a stop to all of its opponent's offensive efforts.

The team is not dwelling on the final score. Instead, it remains positive about playing tough and playing together.

"Looking at the score, it was impressive that everyone came off the ice smiling," said co-captain Juliana Bontecou '99. "We had our heads up."

The bout with Northeastern on Sunday was another tough match-up for Colby, resulting in a 9-0 loss. Again there were highlights which will likely bode well for the young team's future. The Mules looked



Echo photo by Jenny O'Donnell

Reagon Carey '01 skates the puck into the offensive zone.

feisty and aggressive, not letting themselves be intimidated by their skilled opponents. Bontecou stressed that her team "didn't start playing cheap or lose their composure."

"Everyone played well," she said.

And just as they did on Saturday, the Mules' defensive stance became more and more convincing as the game continued. The Mules allowed only two goals in the third period.

Colby's defense is anchored by sophomore goalies Josephine Chapman and Katie Mangan. Both have proved to be tough against consistent offensive pressure by their opponents. The Mules have

also been sparked by the strong performances of Emi Domoto-Reilly '01 and Carrie Swiderski '02, two players who pick up the pace when things on the ice slow down.

With only one senior and one junior on the Colby squad, the Mules are keeping perspective on this year's season. Although the desire to win is strong, Bontecou said that her team also recognizes the importance of having fun and improving in every game. They will keep working hard in practices to force closer games against talented teams.

Colby's next game takes place on Saturday at 2:00 p.m., when the Mules meet up with the University of New Hampshire, a tough team ranked first in the nation. □

Skiers hit the slopes

BY STEPHANIE
GREENLEAF
Staff Writer

Captains Emily Etchells '99 and Melissa Maguire '99 of the women's alpine ski team are prepared to spend their last winter at Colby swishing down the slopes and proving exactly why Colby skiing is a Division I sport.

After intense months of training, Etchells is confident this year will be a success.

"Any one of us can beat anyone on any given weekend," she said.

Last year the men's alpine team placed eighth out of 13 teams consistently at each carnival. The women's best finish was fifth, and they hope to continue and improve on this tradition.

The Division I league in which the Mules play is a strong one, containing such powerhouses as St. Lawrence, Middlebury, the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire, Dartmouth, Bates, Bowdoin, St. Michaels and Williams. Both the nordic and alpine teams feel they are up to the challenge.

The women's nordic team senses the loss of last year's captain Jenny Lane '98 who, for the first time in Colby skiing history, went to the National Collegiate Athletic Conference championship tournament. Likewise, the men's nordic team will miss the leadership of Joshua Walton '98. However, some promising freshmen are expected to make significant contributions.

Women's nordic captain Darcy Cornell '99 has faith in second year coach Tracey Theyerl and is optimistic about the seasons.

"I expect us to do really well," she said. "Our freshmen and returning skiers look strong."

Nordic skier Timothy Berthram '00, who placed in the top 20 at the Championship Carnival last year, returns to captain the men's team. With six freshmen out of 10 skiers, the Mules

are seeing many new faces.

"We are incredibly strong with a lot of young talent we can build on," said Berthram.

With last year's top NCAA Nordic ski champion from the University of Vermont, one of the Mules' key competitors, Colby will take on some proven skiers.

"It's a tough league, but we're a tough team, so hopefully things will come together for us," said Berthram.

Captain Davis Riss '01 led last year's alpine team with consistent performances. This year he aspires to qualify for Nationals. Other key returnees are captain Craig Bowden '99, Doug

Otte '01 and Darren Gelormino '00, who returns after sitting out last year with a knee injury.

Promising freshman Carl Balit is also expected to contribute.

Despite the recent lack of snow here on Mayflower Hill, the women's alpine team is extremely excited for the competition season to begin. The veteran-laden team has only one freshman, Nicole Boulanger '02.

Etchells said her team is "very experienced. They know what college racing is all about." Maguire agreed.

"This year's team is focused and dedicated," she said.

Top returnees are Christina Schleicher '99, Amanda Rutherford '00, Beth Festa '01, and Stephanie Graber '01, who was an Academic All-American last year.

According to Maguire, Festa has made the transition from a junior program to college racing and is "looking for a season with stellar results."

As with the other Colby ski teams, the women's alpine team is looking to do great things.

"Middlebury, Dartmouth and UVM have traditionally been forces in the past, but we feel we're capable and prepared to contend with such competition," said Etchells.

Their first carnival will be held at Sunday River on Jan. 23-24. □

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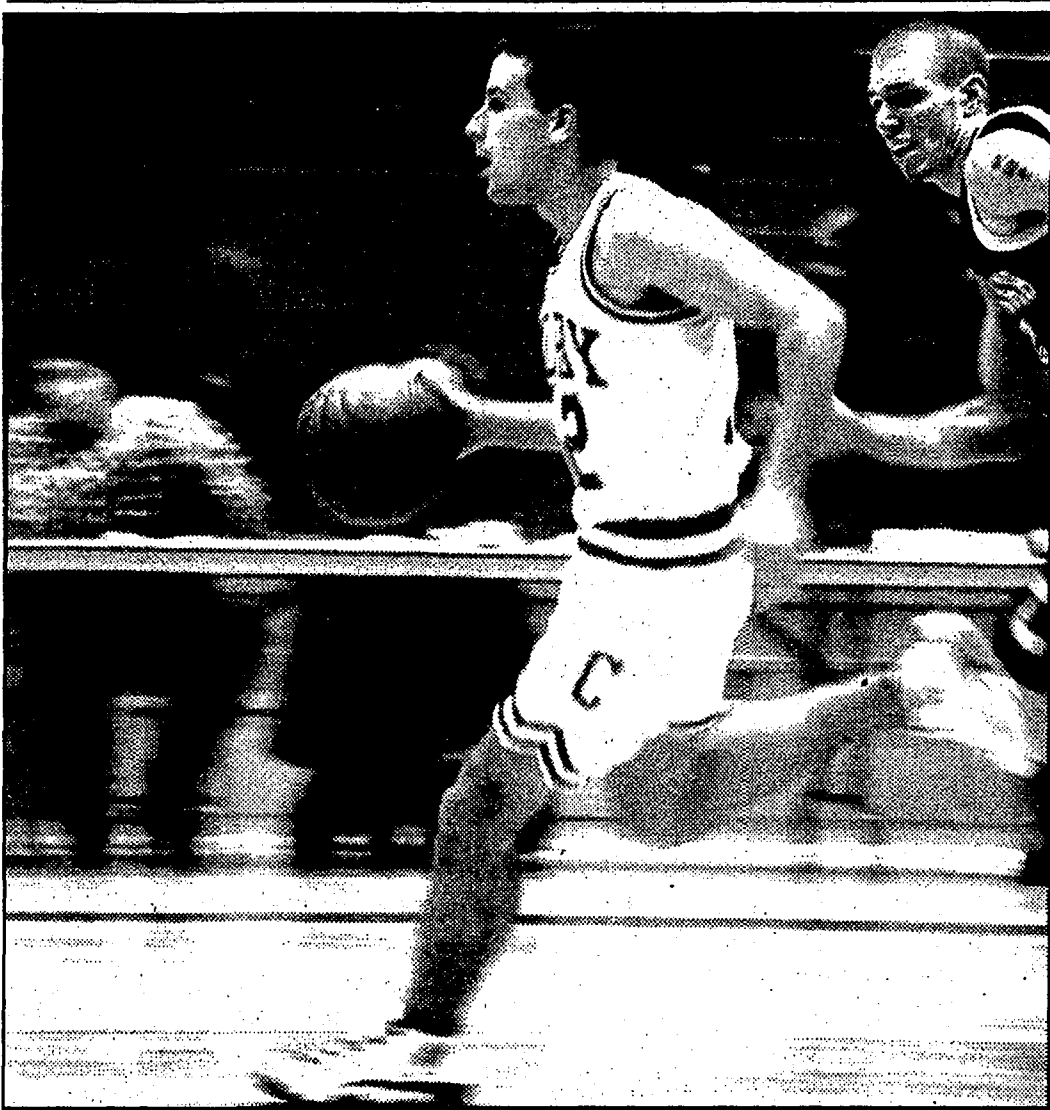
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Echo photo by Fyodor Shumilov

A Colby basketball player dribbles down the court. Cold shooting by men's basketball leads to loss

BY BECKY POLLARD
Sports Editor

Sometimes you're hot. Sometimes you're not. It was only two weeks ago that the Mules exploded for 115 points against Pomona-Pitzer. On Saturday, Colby managed only 58 points against the Savannah College of Art and Design, as cold shooting determined the Mules' 63-58 loss.

Momentum changes dominated scoring in the first half. Ken Allen '00 and tri-captain Nahum Meisner '99 fueled the Mules with their jumpshots, while the Bees' sophomore guard Corey Campbell was the offensive weapon for Savannah.

Six minutes into the game, with the score tied at 12-12, Colby went on a 9-2 run in the next four minutes to put the Mules up 21-14. Four first-half defensive blocks by Sam Clark '01 and Allen, along with two steals by Pat Gallagher '00, held Savannah during the run.

But the Bees came buzzing back with a run of their own to go up 25-24 with five minutes left. With 31 seconds remaining in the half, Savannah had a chance for a three-point play when first-year forward Marcus Ross was fouled as he drove through the lane. Ross couldn't sink the free throw, so Colby's Clark tied the score at 31-31 just seconds before the break. When the Mules headed to the locker room Allen had 11 points in the first half and Meisner had added eight.

The Mules came out cold in the

second half, shooting just 16.7 percent from the field. Colby shot 33 percent on the day and 21 percent from behind the three-point line.

Junior guard Brian Hansen, who led all scorers with 16 points, kept the Mules in the game. He opened the second half with a smooth drive through the lane and a soft finish. Colby sophomore Dave Forsyth came into the game to sink a three-pointer that put the Mules up 38-37. The Bees answered with a three-pointer of their own.

Back and forth play continued as tri-captain James Spidle '99 came alive with a three-pointer. A left hook shot by Hansen narrowed the Bees' lead to 57-54 with 1:47 left in the game.

Hansen then nailed a three-pointer with 24.7 seconds left. Clark was fouled on a three-point attempt but made just one of his free throws as he intentionally missed the third. The attempt to put back the rebound failed and the Mules fell to the tough Savannah squad.

Campbell, who led the Bees with 13 points, said their intensity after halftime won them the game.

"Our second half defense was basically what did it," he said.

For Colby, Hansen led the way with 16 points, while Allen came off his most recent 42-point performance for only 11 points against Savannah. Meisner added 12 and Spidle scored eight.

On Monday, Colby hoped to bounce back as they traveled to the University of Maine at Farmington to take on the Beavers, who also lost a close game to Savannah. □

Mules put Bowdoin on ice Colby bounces back from loss to Connecticut College

BY ALEX PARRILLO & MATT APUZZO
Staff Writer & News Editor

After suffering a tough loss to Connecticut College on Sunday, the Mule hockey team took out its aggression on in-state rival Bowdoin, Tuesday. The team pounded the Polar Bears 4-1 in a blowout in Brunswick.

Goaltender Jason Cherella '99 continued his strong play, allowing only one goal amid a barrage of challenges and held off a potential second quarter Polar Bear comeback.

Fred Perowne '01 netted two goals for the Mules, who improved to a 4-1 record heading into the holiday break. Scott Richardson '00 and Paul Nahigian '02 added the remaining goal support.

Nearly 100 Colby supporters, including students and alumni crowded the visitor's side of Dayton Arena to support the squad that was recently ranked ninth in the country.

Last year's meeting between the rivals at Colby's Alford Arena was highlighted by both a Mule victory and the ejection of the entire Polar Bear fan base. Colby and Bowdoin students engaged in a fight and Colby Security and Waterville Police cleared the stands.

Once again, the action was complemented by the fans' intense cheering, which was exceptionally loud considering the venue. Colby fans worked in a new chant as the evening came to a close, adding insult to injury as they screamed "we've got a Rhodes Scholar."

Justice was not rooting for the squad last weekend, however, when the Mules played two games in the Constitution state.

The Mules went to work quickly on the Wesleyan Cardinals, holding them scoreless through the first two periods and winning the contest 7-3.

All-American captain Rob Koh '99 fired up Colby's offensive efforts, scoring the first goal of the game and another in the opening minutes of the third period. Colby built on its lead in the second with three uncontested goals. However, repeated penalties in the third left the door open for the Cardinals.

Wesleyan first-year player Bob Gordon turned in a heroic effort in the third period, scoring a hat trick on

three consecutive power plays. Still, Gordon's efforts ultimately proved inconsequential, as the 7-3 deficit was too much for the Cardinals to overcome.

The Mules won in commanding fashion despite a few momentary instances of incongruous play. On Sunday, though, they would not be so lucky. Connecticut College reestablished themselves as a worthy adversary by defeating Colby for the first time since Feb. 19, 1993. The Camels squeaked past Colby's defense, scoring three third period goals in the span of 1:45 to win by a score of 5-4. Untimely penalties for Colby led to the tarnishing of their previously undefeated record.

Steve Cunningham '01 and Fred Perowne '01 each notched a goal in the first period. The Cam-

els headed to their locker room down two goals, but rebounded in the second with two goals of their own.

The opponents continued to perform their magic, as Connecticut's junior forward Parker Sides recorded his first career hat trick with game winning back-to-back goals in the third period.

Colby's defense struggled during power play minutes, allowing six short-handed goals in the two games.

"We're disappointed with our loss to Conn," said Koh. "But it was a tough weekend on the road, being the first for a number of guys. We battled hard and look forward to Bowdoin."

Fred Perowne '01 continued his offensive tear, scoring three goals on the weekend and increasing his scoring streak to four games.

The Mule season continues the weekend of Jan. 2 when the squad travels to Plattsburgh, N.Y. for the Plattsburgh Invitational. Colby opens the first round of the tournament with a game against Rochester Institute of Technology.

From there, Colby enjoys a five-game homestand, in which they face Plattsburgh State, Bentley, Williams, New England College, and St. Anselm College.

Bowdoin and Colby will meet on the ice two more times during the regular season. On Jan. 25, the teams will face off at Boston University. The Polar Bears will visit Alford Arena as the Mules start to wrap up the season Feb. 10. □

Men's Hockey

Colby
Bowdoin

4
1

Women's basketball soars by Emmanuel

BY STEPHANIE
GREENLEAF
Staff Writer

Four Colby women scored in double-digits to demolish the Emmanuel College Saints by a score of 82-58 and extend the women's basketball record to 3-2 on Sunday.

Erin Cole-Karagory '00 and Amanda Cochran '01 were the high scorers for the Mules, each netting 15 points. Melanie Morin '01 and Jenn Freese '00 each added to the final score with 13 and 11 points respectively.

More than two minutes into the first half, Cole-Karagory netted her first two points of the

night. This early lead remained, but the Saints refused to give in easily.

Consistent driving to the basket found the Mules on the free throw line frequently. Colby went 7 for 13 from the line while Emmanuel only took six foul shots, going 4 for 6.

Freese and Jen Hallee '01 led the way in the first half with 8 and 7 points respectively. The scoreboard read 35-26 with twenty minutes left to play.

Entering the second half with only a nine-point lead, the Mules knew they had to step it up in order to capture the win. And they did.

"We made better defensive decisions and adjustments to con-

tain their scores and did a better job of getting the ball to the block, which opened up the game," said head coach Patricia O'Brien, in her fourth year for Colby.

According to O'Brien, defensive rebounding was the key.

"We only expanded our lead when defensive rebounding was there," she said.

Cole-Karagory scored 11 points in the second half to secure the Mules' victory. Two of these came from an Emmanuel technical foul with 5:53 to go in the game.

The Mules played the University of Southern Maine last night and will resume games on Jan. 4 at Clark University. □