

The Colby Echo

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CBB Diversity Conference at Bates draws small crowd



LIZ BOMZE/THE COLBY ECHO

Keynote speaker Betsy Sweet address issues of hate speech in the second annual CBB Diversity Conference at Bates this weekend.

By LIZ BOMZE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Only two Colby students were in attendance at the opening of the second annual CBB Diversity conference and both students were there covering the event for the *Echo*.

When asked why she was not in attendance, SGA President Jennifer Coughlin '02 explained the she had an exam to study for, and "my exams come before SGA."

Coughlin, however, was not not the only SGA member to skip the conference; SGA allotted money to East Quad President Jay Trainor '04 to rent a car to transport students to Bates, but the car was never rented.

Because of poor publicity, few students were aware of the event.

At last weekend's CBB Diversity Conference held at Bates keynote speaker Betsy Sweet explained the origin of the word faggot. She explained that a faggot is a bundle of sticks. She further explained that this word has become a homophobic slur because when accused witches were burned at the stake gay men were used as bundles of sticks to ignite the fire.

The panel discussions consisted of approximately eight people per group, and two of the panel discussions—"Hate Speech" and "Race Relations"—were combined into one due to the minimal

turnout. Compared to last year's conference, attendance was tiny.

Last year, former SGA President Justin Ehrenwerth '01 told a crowd of about 900 people who packed the Page Commons room to hear actor and activist Danny Glover. "We put together a conference that we can be proud of for the rest of our lives." And despite, an early-March snowstorm, hundreds of CBB students showed up for the 13 workshops—what Ehrenwerth called "the true substance of this conference"—with topics that included "A Panel Discussion on Sexual Preference," "Racial Stratification," "Experience of Religious Students on a Largely Secular Campus," "Origins of Hip-Hop," and "The Challenges of Enrolling Diverse Students."

When asked what he thought of the turnout, Bates students and conference co-organizer Jeff Levinson '04 said, "I would have liked it to be a little better, but, at the same time, small groups work well."

"The Conference began last year when a group of Colby students thought that a dialogue about diversity needed to be sustained among the three campuses," said Bates student Katie Burke '03. "This year, we wanted an approach that included not only our campuses but the communities in which we live, and that looked more at

ourselves and the world around us than at diversity as an object or some intangible idea."

This year's kick-off performance was a drag show on Friday night produced by the Bates advocacy group OUTFront, followed by a gathering for poems and songs, sponsored by the Bates literary journal SEED. Activities continued on Saturday morning, beginning with Sweet's lecture.

Sweet discussed the etymologies of many slang terms and slurs, as well as a handful of topically related definitions during her opening lecture on hate speech. With the small group of 25 students in attendance, she was able to conduct two exercises.

For the first, she distributed a few cards to each person, each card bearing a word. Then everyone was asked to trade any cards that made him or her uncomfortable, the object being to then discuss the reason behind such uneasiness, or lack thereof. Most responses for the former cited racial, sexual, and ethnic slurs, as well as personal naïveté; people were generally apprehensive about keeping cards with unfamiliar words. For the latter, one student said, "it was easier to hold onto a racist remark that didn't apply to me."

The second exercise involved scenarios. Students were split into small groups and given a scenario of an

uncomfortable situation, most of which involved one person making a racist, sexist, homophobic, or anti-Semitic remark and then asking how the other members of the group would respond.

Opinions accorded here; most groups said that speaking up is specific to each situation. A Jewish girl, for example, said that she finds most Jewish jokes really funny and rarely takes offense; however, everyone agreed that someone on the receiving end of a racial joke may not find it humorous, but may be too afraid to speak up. Sweet noted, "If you don't stop the person, you're giving them permission to say it."

The rest of the Conference consisted of two rounds of panel discussions, a presidents' luncheon, second keynote speaker active environmentalist Butch Phillips, Professor Charles Nero's performance of "Billy Turner's Got a Secret," and open-mic performances in the Bates coffeehouse.

Panel discussion topics included sexuality on campus, the impact of college on students' religious beliefs, race relations in schools, town-gown relations, the effects of Sept. 11 on people of Muslim belief or Middle Eastern background, and Somali culture in Lewiston.

Bates lacrosse captain murdered in Lewiston

By RYAN DAVIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Morgan McDuffee, a 22-year-old senior at Bates, was killed early Sunday morning in a fight with several Lewiston residents.

McDuffee and a group of ten friends were walking near McDuffee's off-campus house on Main Street at 2:30 a.m. when they encountered ten local youths. A fight broke out and McDuffee, an economics major from Newburyport, MA, was stabbed in the stomach. He was pronounced dead at Central Maine Medical Center, a short distance from the incident.

Brandon Thongsavanh, 21, of Lewiston, was arrested and charged with murder early Monday morning, police told the Lewiston Sun-Journal.

The investigation has focused on questioning everyone involved and determining the cause of the incident.

"We don't know how or why the two groups met," Lewiston Police Spokesman Sgt. Michael McGonagle told the Sun-Journal. "At this point, it seems to have been coincidental."

McDuffee was the captain of the Bates lacrosse team. He had been hosting a party at his home to celebrate the team's Saturday afternoon victory over New England College when the fight broke out. The team had been scheduled to play an exhibition game against Colby on March 6.

"Morgan's friends, team members, student colleagues, his faculty

and all of us who knew him and his accomplishments share our condolences and grief," Bates President Donald W. Harward said in a statement posted on the College's website. "Our attention now is with Morgan's family and friends. We are deeply saddened and grieve at this terrible loss of a member of the College community." It was reportedly the first murder in the history of the College.

McDuffee was "the kindest, most sincere, big-hearted man I have ever known," Bates lacrosse coach Peter Lasagna told the Sun-Journal.

Grief counselors, chaplains, and members of the Dean of Students Office were on campus Sunday and Monday to help students cope with McDuffee's death. A memorial service at Bates Sunday night drew hundreds of people to the College chapel.

Sunday night, a student from Lexington High School in Massachusetts was killed in a car crash shortly after he had visited with McDuffee's family, which had gathered in Peterboro, N.H. to mourn his death.

David Germaine, 17, a junior, died about 5:45 p.m. following the crash on Route 101 in Temple, N.H., when the car he was riding in with two other Lexington teens skidded out of control into a telephone pole and a tree, New Hampshire State Police told outmaine.com. The other two Lexington High students in the car escaped with minor injuries.

Only rehearsal space for campus bands closed down

By JON SILBERSTEIN-LOEB
NEWS EDITOR

The Musicians' Alliance (MA), the principal club for on-campus bands, has been kicked out of their practice and storage space. The club now has no viable space in which to practice and store their instruments.

Associate Dean of Students Lisa Hallen, in conjunction with Dean of Students Janice Kassman and other members of the administration, made the decision to remove the

the issues at hand."

"It's an awful situation," said Hallen. "There ought to be a place for College bands to practice, but the place had to be pulled."

Unstoppable leaks coming from the pool above drip down the walls, saturating the rug and causing mold to form both on the floor and along the walls. The leaks caused Hallen and company to deem the space health hazard.

In a memo to the Alliance, Hallen explained, "given that electricity is

"It's an awful situation. There ought to be a place for college bands to practice, but the place had to be pulled."

Lisa Plume Hallen
Associate Dean of Students

needed for MA rehearsals, it has been deemed that the space is unfit for students use, and it should be returned to its previous purpose, as a storage area for PPD materials." There is also a substantial sewer drainage pipe

that runs beneath the space.

Hallen also cited misuse by MA members as another reason for ousting the club. An overstuffed garbage can outside the entrance door is full of garbage and beer cans. Inside, several bottles are scattered throughout the room including five beer cans.

Previously, PPD placed tape outlining an area that needed to remain accessible for employees to carry goods to and from a storage area.

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continued on page 2

Colby plans largest ever fundraising campaign

By KIRA VASSAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Colby's strategic planning budget model has laid the framework for a new fundraising campaign projected to begin in fiscal year 2003 and extend over the next seven to 10 years. Despite the immense success of the last campaign led by former President William R. Cotter, Colby remains under-endowed compared to other NESCAC schools.

Peyton R. Helm, Vice President for College Relations, said that costs from the college's relocation from downtown Waterville to Mayflower hill during the 1930s to 1960s drained Colby's endowment.

Additionally, Colby's emergence as a co-educational institution in 1871 preceded most other NESCAC schools by almost 100 years. The his-

torically unequal distribution of wealth among males and females

DESPITE THE IMMENSE SUCCESS OF THE LAST CAMPAIGN LED BY FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. COTTER, COLBY REMAINS UNDER-ENDOWED COMPARED TO OTHER NESCAC SCHOOLS.

decreased potential alumni giving, since half of graduates were females,

in contrast to other all-male New England neighbors.

Thus, the upcoming comprehensive campaign seeks to "raise significant new funds in support of endowment, new facilities, and annual support for operations, and to strengthen Colby's culture of philanthropy." A report by the President's Planning Group (PPG) available online states a "goal of at least \$200 million."

However, Helm, who directs this fundraising campaign, claims that \$200 million is merely a figure used by the treasurer for all gifts that may come in and the number may be re-evaluated at any time.

The final draft of Colby's Strategic Plan awaits approval in April 2002 and the fundraising campaign, which Helm described as its

"cousin," hopes to achieve goals listed in the Strategic Plan. These goals include, but are not limited to, the augmentation of student body diversity through scholarship financing, maintenance of a competitive compensation package (salary and benefits) for faculty, strengthening the college's endowment, renovation of residence hall and dining facilities (Averill, Johnson, "Trat Row", Heights, "Bob's"), modernization of classrooms, and the addition of theatrical and music performance areas, spaces for administrative offices, and social student gathering areas.

Colby realizes that the success of

See **FUNDRAISING**
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What's Inside

SUMMER:

Not quite summer... Instead, find out what students are doing for spring break.



GIRLS:

The Sirens Invitational lauded by Hannah Emery.



ABERCROMBIE & FITCH:

Ryan Davis trashes the trendy mall store.



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The Colby Echo

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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.

LETTERS

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. The Echo will not, under any circumstances, print an unsigned letter.

If possible, please submit letters in Microsoft Word or text format either on 3.5" disk or via e-mail at echo@colby.edu. The Echo reserves the right to edit all submissions.

EDITORIALS

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

CONTACT US

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FUNDRAISING: new capital campaign planned

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a fundraising campaign necessitates "the support, financial and otherwise, of the alumni of the College" according to the PPG report. Relationships with alumni and donors at large are fundamentally important and constitute one of the major components of a successful campaign.

Former President Cotter utilized his 12-year history of developed relationships to encourage giving during the last campaign, which raised \$150 million, a total one-third higher than anticipated.

Helm affirmed that the campaign "reflects not only where the institution wants to go, but what supporters find compelling." Therefore,

fundraising must "address the complexities of donor motivation" by appealing to the individual interests of donors and matching these with the needs of the college.

Despite the innumerable details and meticulous planning necessary for any fundraising campaign, let alone the most ambitious in Colby history, Helm seems assured that it will be "the most successful campaign Colby's ever had."

Citing the passion and loyalty alumni demonstrate toward Colby and their history of generous financial giving, Helm said that Colby alumni have never let the school down, he is confident this fundraising campaign will be no exception.

REHEARSAL: Musicians' Alliance closed

continued from page 1

The tape has been removed and equipment placed in the way.

Because band members create so much noise when rehearsing, they cannot do so in most campus buildings and need to be relatively isolated. Hallen has suggested MA members reserve space in the Page Commons room to practice, but members are prohibited from storing their equipment there. The MA would also have to compete to reserve the space with many other clubs, events and organizations, prohibiting bands from establishing a consistent practice schedule. MA members are also concerned that the Commons room is too public a place to practice.

Hallen suggested the Rose Chapel basement as a possible rehearsal space, but students would not be able to store their equipment there either, and the high volume inherent in practice does not jive well with the religious and meditative services that occupy the main hall of the Chapel above.

"I understand that no one wants to cart around a drum set," said Hallen. "But what if a student got hurt practicing in (the old space) on a Saturday night? He might not be found for days."

With no place to practice, Merryman said that "campus bands are pretty much shit out of luck."

Merryman and other members of the Alliance are concerned that without a viable practice space and place to store their equipment, campus bands may disappear from campus. "My band wouldn't be in existence without that room—I think it's really tragic," Merryman said.

In a letter to President William D. Adams, Merryman and his bandmate Chris Multari '02 explained, "essentially what this means is that campus bands will no longer have any place to practice. We believe that this will effectively destroy the small music community that Colby has."



BRAD SEYMOUR/THE COLBY ECHO
The Musicians' Alliance room, located beneath the swimming pool in the Athletic Center, is no longer available as a practice space.

According to their letter, Arising "owns over a thousand pounds of equipment including drums, PA system, loudspeakers, etc. It is not possible for us to practice in a space where we are denied storage."

Arising is currently recording in

a label studio in New York City and has signed a distribution deal. According to Merryman, "Taking away our rehearsal space would sweep the rug out from under our feet right when we're trying to get started as a professional band. This is about our livelihood."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Presidents' Council passes two motions

On Monday night, Presidents' Council approved two motions. The first, written by Chris Surprenant '05 of Mary Low, moved that "the Presidents' Council advise the administration to extend chem-free policies to areas around all doorways and windows of chem-free buildings. The second, written by Junior Class Rep. Leda Chang, moved that "an additional system of punishment be instituted in order to curb the recent rise in vandalism across campus. This system would consist of 50 points being added to the violator's room dram number for a first offense, 100 points for a second, and being moved to the end of the list if the violator has committed three or more acts of vandalism." Both motions carried almost unanimously.

Potential SGA candidates pick up forms

Students planning on running in the March 18 SGA elections picked up preliminary forms last week. If the potential candidates get enough signatures, they will officially file their candidacy today. Next week's issue of the Echo will feature in-depth statements from each of the candidates running for executive offices and commons leaders. The students who picked up forms were as follows.

SGA President / Vice President:

- * Garrett Kephart '03 and Connor Cooper '03
- * Jessica Martin '03 and Peter Brush '03
- * Erin Hanrahan '03 and Mac Cathles '03
- * Sounun Tek '03 and Josh Garfein '03
- * Gretchen Groggel '03 and Jill Kuntekunst '03

SGA Treasurer:

- * Aaron Henkler '03
- * Pete Loverso '03
- * Justin Hedge '03

Social Chair:

- * Brandon Binder '05
- * Tamika Gambrell '03
- * Thomas Jackson '03

Cultural Chair:

- * Nathan Shinagawa '05
- * LeAndrew Rankin '03
- * Javanease Hailey '03

President Adams to hold open forum

At 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, President Adams will hold an open forum for all members of the Colby community to discuss the Strategic Planning Document. Issues to be discussed include future building plans, changes to academic programs and requirements, and attempts to increase diversity at Colby.

Third Annual Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium

Colby received the National Science Foundation Award for the Integration of Research and Education (NSF-AIRE) grant, a student research symposium was organized by the Dean of Faculty. The first annual session was held in Apr. 2000.

One of Colby's goals is to engage as many Colby students as possible in significant research projects that lead to presentation of results before their peers, at professional meetings, and in refereed publications. Dean of Faculty, Edward Vetterli inhaled the symposium to further the goal. The symposium's intent is not to supersede existing departmental programs but to strengthen them by providing a larger forum for students to share their research experiences, to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary research presentations, and to draw external attention to Colby's experience in providing undergraduate research opportunities. The Third Annual Colby Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held in May.

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Retirement plan for future and current employees changed

By EMILY HONIG
STAFF WRITER

In recent weeks, the Colby Strategic Plan has been a topic for discussion concerning the ways in which it will affect current students. In its current permutation, the Strategic Plan proposes various building renovations and changes to financial aid and other College programs, all of which affect the daily lives of students.

However, the Strategic Plan also affects another group of people who are closely tied into the lives of students: the employees of the college.

Many provisions of the planning document focus on ways to change and improve the relationship the College has with its employees, who are so vital to the life of the campus. Among the proposals are several that suggest ways to contain costs so that money can be funneled to financial aid, renovations, and other projects.

One of the sections of the Strategic Plan discusses the retirement plan that the College provides for its employees, suggesting that the College should not provide post-retirement health care for new employees and that current employees should have to share the costs.

According to Director of Personnel Douglas Terp, "Colby's retirement plan covers employees working at least half-time after two years of service—faculty, staff, and administrators all have the same plan. (We used to have a separate plan for support staff, but we merged everyone into the same program in 1993). The college currently contributes five percent of salary up to the social security wage base (\$84,900 in 2002) and ten percent on

salary above the wage base. (The wage base, set by the federal government, increases each year.) Employees are required to contribute five percent of salary to the plan." This program is also used by a number of other colleges, meaning that if employees move from one college to another, they can keep their retirement benefits.

Terp notes three key changes to the retirement plan: "increasing Colby's contribution from five to eight percent up to the \$84,900, freezing the breakpoint on the increase to ten percent at the current wage base (thus increasing College contributions over time), (and) reducing the employee contribution from five percent to two percent."

Colby employees are pleased with the benefits they currently receive, and would not welcome a reduction in benefits.

Additionally, Terp notes that "the changes are proposed for January 2003, but have not yet been approved. The final okay would likely come as part of the Board's overall approval of the full strategic plan."

According to Patricia Murphy, director of the Physical Plant Department, "The amount Colby puts in is less than what other colleges contribute, but when you look at the whole package, it balances out. It's a good plan with nice benefits, which is important."

In other words, eliminating or reducing the benefits would make the retirement program less competitive with what other colleges offer.

"The contributions are generous, and the plan is really fair," says Murphy. It remains to be seen how limiting these benefits will affect employees' views of the fairness of the plan.

Freeman Foundation promotes research on East Asia at Colby

By KAITLIN McCAFFERTY
FEATURES EDITOR

A Freeman Foundation grant, among other things, allows students to do internships and research on East Asia by helping to fund their efforts.

"The grants can be used for a very wide range of types of research," said Professor Peter Dittmanson of the History and East Asian Studies (EAS) programs at Colby.

Colby applied for the grant in order to enhance its EAS department.

"Colby has had a strong commitment to East Asian Studies that dates back to the 60s," said Dittmanson. "We applied for and received the grant to build upon that base. In particular, the grant was designed to focus on bringing more of contemporary East Asian culture and society into the Colby curriculum."

The grants are intended to provide research opportunities in a wide range of subjects.

"Our hope is to enhance the study and exploration of China, Japan and Korea at Colby not only through our range of EAS courses, but across the curriculum and through greater opportunities to travel and learn in East Asia," said Dittmanson.

The grants are not only given to those with EAS interests. "The grant program for student research and internships is particularly exciting because it opens a wide door of opportunities for students to explore interests and possibilities for travel and study in East Asia. This is true not only for students in East Asian Studies, but for students across campus in various disciplines who wish to broaden the dimension of their work to include East Asia," said Dittmanson.

There are a variety of reasons that a student could receive the grant. "We invite applications for projects in the humanities, social sciences and the sciences," Dittmanson said. "The central criterion here is that a significant portion of the research be conducted in East Asia. One student might apply for funds to travel to China, Japan or Korea specifically for a research project. Another might apply for money to

carry out a project while they are in East Asia with another academic program, a language study program, for example."

There are no specific internships or research positions that the grant must fund. "This grant opens a wide array of possibilities and we are looking forward to developing contacts and openings throughout East Asia," said Dittmanson.

As of now, Dittmanson is not sure how many students will be awarded grants. "We are not sure about the exact numbers here yet. Obviously we would like to help as many students as possible," he said.

The process will involve students applying for one of the two types of grants: research and internship. There will be a selection committee that goes through the applications.

"As with any grant, the committee will be concerned about the viability of the proposed research project or internship. Is this going to work? What language skills will be necessary? What other skills will be required?" said Dittmanson. "Another important factor here is the significance of the project. How is the project related to the student's own academic and professional goals?"

The application process will soon be underway.

"We will be posting application materials on the web in the next couple weeks," said Dittmanson. "Interested students should begin to explore potential projects and internships. Both the research and internship grants require a faculty sponsor, so it would be good to talk over your plans with someone with whom you hope to work," said Dittmanson.

"The goal here is to give students greater opportunities to get over to China, Japan and Korea to pursue their internships, research projects and to explore these cultures. We are hoping to get a wide range of proposals for interesting projects," said Dittmanson.

For more information on the Freeman Foundation and Colby check out last week's issue online at www.colby.edu/echo.

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Arts & Entertainment

Arts and Entertainment Editor: Kate Russo

March 7, 2002

Page 4

Improv funny, but veers into bad taste



Colby Improv performs "It's a Hard Knock Life" last Friday in the Spa.

By HANNAH EMERY
STAFF WRITER

Friday night was a busy one for the Spa, not only was the audience treated to the talents of three a cappella groups, but immediately after the concert finished Colby Improv took the stage.

Anyone who has been around Colby knows that getting a seat for Improv shows requires getting there 45 minutes early, and there's good reason for that. The Improv performers are very talented, and an hour spent with them is guaranteed to result in some good belly laughs. Friday was no exception.

Overall, the show was very well done. The opening skit featuring the performers parodying the song "Hard Knock Life" from the musical "Annie," set things off on a positive note.

Other strong points were the Family Interrogation skit, which centered around efforts to discover

who's been murdered (the Hamburger), where (a Michael Jackson concert) and with what (a spork). The advice panel skit on blind dating that managed to mention Oedipus, llamas and forks through the eye within the course of a few minutes was also noteworthy. However, there was one major flaw that weakened Improv's entire performance.

As anyone who has seen Improv knows, a key part of the performance is taking suggestions from the audience, and this was part of the show on Friday night. But when the crowd from whom the suggestions are coming has already had its inhibitions lowered considerably (as is likely at any event at 11 p.m.

on a Friday night), the performers need to feel comfortable turning down inappropriate suggestions. It didn't seem as though Improv had that comfort level.

Over the course of an hour, the performers - at the request of the audience - used Stephen Hawking as a "party quirk" for one of the skits and did another which focused almost entirely on a partic-

ular bodily waste (let's keep the identity of the waste anonymous). It was clear from their reactions to the suggestions that the Improv team was uncomfortable using them, but they did so anyway.

There is no need for this. Improv can be funny with almost any material; we know it and so do they. I had hoped they would be more confident enough in their own sense of discretion to remember that there are plenty of ways to be funny without being offensive. Doing an impression of Kermit the Frog is one thing, reducing a multiple Ph.D. to "the guy who talks with the computer" is something else entirely.

The show left no doubt that the members of Colby Improv are a very talented group of people, and it is to be hoped that they were successful in raising enough funds to get to the Chicago Improv Festival.

However, one thing that they do need to learn is to use their veto power as performers. It's wonderful to be funny, but it can be done without getting into that nebulous zone that becomes poor taste.

DOING AN IMPRESSION OF KERMIT THE FROG IS ONE THING, REDUCING A PH.D. TO "THE GUY WHO TALKS WITH THE COMPUTER" IS SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.

Sirens create a welcoming environment for Bowdoin

By HANNAH EMERY
STAFF WRITER

Like most students, I spent a large percentage of my senior year of high school studying the college scene, trying to figure out which school was right for me. One thing that struck me as exceedingly odd during this period of observation was the relationship between colleges and a cappella groups. Nearly every school has them, and they're obviously extremely well loved.

Colby is no exception to either of these rules. As the packed house at the Spa on Saturday night showed, we love our a cappella groups as much as the next school. The spirit of a cappella adoration can even triumph over Colby's rivalry with Bowdoin.

First to step on-stage Saturday were the Blue Lights. The boys' two numbers did an excellent job of getting the crowd warmed up for the evening of entertainment ahead of them. In particular, Monty Hobson '02 stole the show with his animated style of vocal percussion.

After a plea to contribute when the Sirens passed a hat around to raise money for their new CD, the Blue Lights stepped down and BOCA (Bowdoin's Omnigatherum

Coed A Cappella) took the stage. I had never been to an event featuring performers from other schools, and remembering the warnings that always circulate during football season about treating students from the other schools with respect, I must confess I was a bit nervous.

However, my fears were quickly put to rest. The audience welcomed BOCA as if they were our own, and in exchange we got an excellent performance. The most notable BOCA number was their rendition of "Sweet Home Alabama," which really got the audience clapping along.

After about half an hour, the stage was given over to the Sirens. In typical fashion, they were dressed outrageously in cowboy hats and wild dresses. In contrast to the numbers done by the Blue Lights and BOCA, the Sirens chose compositions that were a little less mainstream. Only one of their four pieces, "Don't Let Go" by En Vogue, was familiar to me.

Overall, the evening was a success. A cappella may not be popular off college campuses, but anyone who scoffs at it as somehow less than the work done by a "real band" clearly doesn't know what they're talking about. The sheer talent in the Spa on Saturday night was phenom-



The Sirens perform to a packed Spa last Friday night.

enal. Whether it was the Blue Lights' version of George Harrison's "I Got My Mind Set on You," BOCA's ren-

dition of Alicia Keyes' "Fallin'" or the Sirens' "Don't Let Go," the vocalist sounded so much like the original artist that it was almost a bit unnerv-

ing. While a cappella might be a purely college phenomenon, it is one that is unlikely to flounder any time soon.

Be our guest! Disney abounds at Megalomaniacs Invitational



The Megalomaniacs bow down to Merlin, Evan McGee '03 at their spring invitational on Saturday.

By MICHAEL GREENBERG
STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday night, Lorimer Chapel bounced to the tunes of a bunch of singing Disney characters, as the Megalomaniacs promoted their newly released album, "Melts In Your Mouth," with an invitational based around the magical world of Disney.

Dressed as Peter Pan, Merlin, Captain Hook, and Winnie the Pooh to name a few, the Megs took the stage in rather unlikely fashion, walking in singing "Lean On Me" to a riff played on the piano and then miming comically to a recording of "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" from the Lion King. Returning after performances by two all-female a cappella groups from Dartmouth

and Tufts, the Megalomaniacs sang both old and new tunes to an appreciative but not packed house.

The visiting groups had similar styles, as both wore all black and included small amounts of choreography and humor in their routines. The Dartmouth-based group performed "That Don't Impress Me Much," humorously altered specifically for Colby, including lines like

"so your mascot is the mule" and culminating in the line "so you play a lot of die...that don't impress me much!" Similarly, the Tufts Jackson Jills brought students to giggles in their

THE DISNEY THEME PERSISTED THROUGHOUT THE SHOW, WITH A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO DISNEY WORLD, MERLIN OCCASIONALLY SPREADING HIS WIZARDRY WITH A BURST OF CONFETTI.

rendition of "Little Respect" by harassing Jory Raphael '02 in a kind of tug-of-war. Also, the group performed a rendition of Stone Temple Pilots' "Vasoline," not your typical a cappella tune.

The two groups, while full of energy and appreciative of the invitation, had the usual acoustic difficulties typical of a cappella in the Chapel. The soloists often blended into and were overshadowed by the backup harmonies, and the words became muffled and unclear. In the few cases where the soloist could be heard and understood, the vocal talent in both groups was fairly strong,

but unfortunately the limitations of the chapel made the sound reverberate too much, a problem rarely encountered in less open performance spaces, like the Spa and Given Auditorium.

The Megs opened their set with a favorite from family weekend, "These Precious Things," written by Tori Amos and sung by Terry Packard '02. The Disney theme persisted throughout the show, with a musical tribute to Disney World, Merlin occasionally spreading his wizardry with a burst of confetti, and a Captain Hook, who somehow had regained his hand, periodically taking off his hat and occasionally his wig during particularly intense numbers.

As usual, the Megalomaniacs visibly enjoyed singing with each other, and the numerous Meg alumni in attendance enjoyed seeing what their group had become. As one of the earliest Megs said, "it's nice to see that you guys sound and look better than we ever did...it's nice that something we started still exists."

The alums came to the stage at the end of the show to present a rather unusual, but apparently true story about an alumnus, a drunk, a chair, and a missing coat. To conclude, all Megalomaniacs current and old sang together in an enthusiastic performance of "Sweet Dreams" — a Megalomaniac standard.

This Week's EVENTS

- 3/7
Project Ally Video Series But I'm a Cheerleader (Questioning) - Keyes 105 7:00-10:00 p.m.
SGA Film "Harry Potter" - Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m.
3/8
Sprachfest - Page Commons and Stage Combo Cotter Union 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
International Coffee Hour - Mary Low Coffeehouse 4:30-6:00 p.m.
Newman Council Film and Discussion - Lovejoy 208 6:30-9:30 p.m.
SGA Film "Harry Potter" - Lovejoy 100 7:00-9:00 p.m.
more
Blue Lights Invitational - Lorimer Chapel 7:00 p.m.
Colby Dance Theater - Runnals Union Strider Theater 7:30 p.m.
SHOC AIDS Camival - Page Commons Room Cotter Union 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.
Arising: Rock Music with opening act Meek & Hauser - AMS Party Space (ANTH 020) Anthony 9:00 p.m.
SGA Film "Harry Potter" - Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m.
3/9
Winter Carnival PJ Brunch - Dana Lounge (002) 1:00-2:30 p.m.
SGA Film "Harry Potter" - Lovejoy 100 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Colby Dance Theater - Runnals Union Strider Theater 7:30 p.m.
Winter Carnival Fireworks - Johnson Pond-Picnic Area 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Cambodian Dance Troupe - Page Commons and Stage Combo Cotter Union 8:00 p.m.
Colby 8 Invitational - Lorimer Chapel 8:00 p.m.
Milt the Stilt - Mary Low Coffeehouse 9:00 p.m.
SGA Film "Harry Potter" - Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m.
Winter Carnival Dance Party with DJ - Page Commons and Stage Combo Cotter Union 11:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.
3/10
Nexus Workshop - 2:00 p.m.
CIRCLE Jane Raeburn: "Celtic Wicca" - Mary Low Coffeehouse 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Nexus Concert - Bixler 178 (Given Auditorium) 7:30-9:30 p.m.
3/12
Lecture by Painter Robert Birmellin - Olin 1 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Folk Music Gathering - Mary Low Coffeehouse 7:00-9:30 p.m.
AM271 Film Showing "Stagecoach" - Arey 005 7:00-9:30 p.m. more
3/13
AM398 Film Showing - Arey 005 7:00-9:30 p.m.
Project Ally Video Series Go Fish (Bisexual) - Lovejoy 100 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Film Society Movies - Keyes 105 7:30-10:00 p.m.
3/14
SGA Film "Spy Game" - Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m.
3/15
Social Action Theater - Pugh Center Cotter Union 4:00 a.m.
SGA Film "Spy Game" - Lovejoy 100 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Colby Dance Theater - Runnals Union Strider Theater 7:30 p.m.
SGA Film "Spy Game" - Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30

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Editorials

Poor showing at Diversity Conference embarrassing

Only a handful of students attended the second annual CBB Diversity Conference. While the poor attendance was disappointing, the absence of student leaders, particularly members of the SGA, including the SGA president and vice president, is deplorable. That the SGA and other Diversity Conference planners neglected this year's Conference indicates to the entire CBB community and others outside the three schools that Colby's leaders do not consider diversity and important issue when it is not convenient to attend.

Last year, the SGA and campus diversity leaders championed the Diversity Conference as a new era in Colby-Bates-Bowdoin diversity relations and student understanding. In their statement of candidacy last year, SGA President Jennifer Coughlin '02 and Vice President Alex Aldous '02 told the campus that events that "emphasize diversity...not only need to be continued, but further developed." Considering how important current student leaders believed the event was last year, they were curiously absent from the Conference this year.

It was the SGA's fault that the event was poorly publicized on campus and communication regarding the event amongst the three colleges was lacking because the students responsible for organizing the event went abroad first semester. The handful of flyers that did appear on campus a few days before the event pale in comparison with the weeks of build-up before the Conference last year. Whether this inadequacy stems from a loss of enthusiasm or from poor organization is moot; SGA's absence from the Conference reflects poorly on the school as a whole.

Poor planning and an embarrassing attendance at this year's CBB Diversity Conference threaten to undo the good done by last year's Conference. As this year's election for SGA president draws near, it behooves candidates to support diversity more seriously and show, according to the credo of last year's Conference, "What are you saying?"

Musicians' Alliance deserves a place to practice

Everyone has a difficult time understanding why the administration saw fit to abruptly close the only practice space available for campus bands. The administrators interviewed in this week's issue seem to agree that it is terrible for students to have no place to practice their music, yet offer no alternatives and appear to be dead set against allowing use of the old room in the athletic Center. We believe that campus bands should be able to use their room again, or, failing that, the School should make some kind of practice space available.

Apparently, there is not enough money in Colby's entertainment budget to bring well-known bands to campus, so the recent surge in activity by the College's few campus bands has been a welcome addition to the social scene. The benefits provided by campus bands are threatened by the loss of the Musicians' Alliance space. Meager as it was, it was all campus bands had access to, and now even that is gone.

Everyone can agree on one thing: the old practice space was a mess. While upgrading that space to a level the administration deems appropriate appears to be difficult and expensive, it seems nonsensical for the club to be kicked out of their space without being offered any alternative. Considering that some of the equipment in the old Musicians' Alliance space is owned by the College, the administration should be more mindful of how that equipment is used and stored.

We believe that Colby should look at other options regarding the lack of rehearsal space. While most of the options available on campus appear to be dead ends, perhaps a temporary space, such as the type of building used during on-site construction, could be rented so that campus bands could have a place to practice. Whatever steps are taken, Colby's student bands should not have to go for too long without a place to rehearse.

New Science Building Necessary

Your editorial of 2/28/02 suggested that "the student center be put ahead of a new science building on the strategic plan," based on the fact that "the science department inhabits four of the nine academic buildings on campus, the music department occupying not even half of one building." However, there is

no "science department" at Colby - there is a Natural Sciences Division, which is one of four academic divisions (Humanities, Social Sciences, and Interdisciplinary Studies being the other three).

The Division of Natural Sciences includes the departments of biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, and physics and astronomy. The two departments of

the natural sciences that would share the proposed new "science" building with the department of psychology are mathematics and computer science, which currently share Mudd with two other departments (an average of 0.25 buildings per department). Psychology currently occupies a single floor of Roberts Union, which would probably give it about an allocation of

"0.25 buildings" as well.

Sure, we would all like to have a convenient juice bar in the student center, but isn't it more important that the students and faculty in mathematics, computer science and psychology have sufficient space for teaching and research?

Julie T. Millard
Associate Professor of Chemistry

Letters

Opinions

CER doesn't get the respect it deserves



Uncommon Sense
Emma McCandless

Colby students, I sometimes think, thrive on righting wrongs and protesting injustices. We just couldn't get by in a perfect world--there wouldn't be anything for us to get riled up about. In light of this observation, I would like to call the campus' attention to a much-overlooked student group: Colby Emergency Response.

I'm not a member of CER, but I have a friend who is, and based on tales of her adventures and misadventures while on duty I've come to a rather surprising conclusion, which my friend herself put quite eloquently: "CER gets the shaft."

I think CER is a very noble endeavor. It's a great way to provide

quick and competent medical assistance to students, and the CER members themselves seem genuinely interested in their job and happy to help. They're on call to help everyone from injured Colby athletes to over-enthusiastic beer die participants. However, CER is very under-appreciated. This is a situation that could be easily remedied, I think, if the right people took the right action.

First of all, I think CER members should be paid. They render the College a great service, many times saving the expense of calling Waterville medical authorities to campus, and yet they go entirely unthanked. Much like head residents, CER members on duty give up their time for the benefit of their fellow students. HRs get paid; why shouldn't CER? At the very least, the directors of CER should get a paycheck--the leaders of other student organizations, such as the Colby

Volunteer Center, do.

Even if CER members don't start getting paychecks, they really should get something in return for what they offer the Colby community. CER members take an intense Jan Plan course to become certified EMTs and sacrifice quite a bit for the health and well-being of their fellow students. And what do they get in return? Not so much as a wellness credit.

Then there's the fact that people seem to afraid to call CER except as a last resort. I'm not sure I really understand why. Maybe people are afraid of getting "busted" for breaking Colby's alcohol policy. Maybe it's because they're too drunk to realize when they need help. Or maybe it's simply that people don't think of CER immediately when an emergency comes up.

I really have no idea. But if you get in trouble and don't call a very obvious and available source of

assistance, you have no right to complain about it later. (Of course, one fairly obvious solution to this problem would be for Colby students to start drinking more responsibly, but I highly doubt that's going to happen anytime soon.)

I'm not saying people should start calling CER at the drop of a hat. I'm merely pointing out that it's an overlooked, under-appreciated source of assistance that Colby students should really start paying more attention to.

So, next time CER comes to your rescue after a slightly-too-exciting Saturday night, take a minute (preferably once you're sober) to think about what your fellow students are really doing for you. Maybe even say, "Thank you."

I guarantee they'll appreciate it.

Emma McCandless is the Echo's Opinions Editor.

Dubya on 'The Simpsons'

By NATHAN SHINAGAWA
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps some credit should go to Mr. George Walker Bush. He has, after all, performed better than otherwise thought by many, many Americans. He has more or less led our nation through a time of crisis, making him confident and with few worries other than those about the pretzels he eats during sporting events. Even the pretzels, however, aren't a threat to his presidency. (Has Secret Service started chewing the pretzels beforehand like a mother bird does to a chick, or is that still pending in the Senate?)

For the necessities of convenience and respect, I'm going to refer to George W. Bush as "Dubya" for the rest of this article. The first time I saw the word "Dubya" was at the Republican National Convention when I was a press reporter in "enemy" territory. The word was everywhere, along with "Pepsi" and "Enron." I seriously thought it was the name of some energy corporation that was donating hundreds of thousands of dollars; little did I know it was the "W" in George W. Bush.

There are certain things that Americans should not forget: The Great Depression, the Civil War, the American Revolution, WWII, WWI, the Civil Rights Movement, Iran Contra, former President Bush vomiting on Japanese leaders, cigars, and most of all: Dubya before 9-11.

Not to start a spell of nostalgia from younger days, but let's look at Dubya when most young Americans first heard about him. The first time I saw Dubya was on an episode of "The Simpsons" when Homer tricked former President Bush into thinking that

his sons Dubya and Jeb were at the front door, using crude cardboard cutouts to represent them. That was great.

Seriously though, look back at your adolescence and think about when you first saw Dubya. I mean, unless you're from Texas, it had to have been that episode of "The Simpsons."

Really, it's okay. Eleven percent

of Americans thought the former President Bush was running for President again prior to the last presidential elections. I think that's far worse. I wonder about these people, though. Perhaps they are the same Americans that can't point to Canada on a map, or think Mexico is somewhere north of here. (This reminds me of a beautiful Britney Spears quote, "I go to lots of overseas places, like Canada!" I wonder whom Britney voted for?)

THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT AMERICANS SHOULD NOT FORGET: THE GREAT DEPRESSION, THE CIVIL WAR, THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, WWI, WWII, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, IRAN CONTRA, CIGARS, AND DUBYA BEFORE 9-11.

I would really like to study the lives of great thinkers such as Britney, Dubya, and hey, Dan Quayle. They are the epitome of an age, on the same wavelength, some-

how, with many Americans. This may be a good or bad thing; I'll remain without an opinion.

Before 9-11, Dubya really had nothing going for him. His entire presidency was questionable, from the elections to his actions in the White House. I hardly recognized the man as a leader.

His frequent visits to his ranch made for good dinner-time verbal bashings in my household, along with allegations of cocaine use and drunk driving, his failures in business, and his track record as the Texas Governor who signed for 152 executions. (In an interview in Talk magazine, writer Tucker Carlson described Bush mimicking the woman's final plea for her life: "Please, Bush whimpers, his lips pursed in mock desperation, 'don't kill me.'")

My family's dinner table discussions were like many in the country, making comic use of the supposed leader of our country. Now, even in my household, I think Bush is recognized as, at least, the President (but not as chief citizen, chief role-model, etc.) I guess some things are in the past and should be ignored, but then again, not everything.

But Bush has made some improvements, most notably, in his public speaking. Before 9-11, Dubya was not only a horrible public speaker in terms of delivery, but he said intensely questionable things, such as: "The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country," or "I am not part of the problem, I am a Republican." (Hal) Nowadays, he thinks before he speaks, which is an incredible improvement that I must commend him for. He's really growing up. I don't know if it's the confidence because of his approval rating, or the fact that many Americans aren't

picking up the Bush-isms anymore; either way, he's improving.

Despite any improvements in his public speaking, his policies, quite sadly, have not changed. That's really too bad. I want to like our Dubya, but he (and his administration) keeps on wanting to blow up stuff, or kill more environmental policy, or ignore human rights, without telling colleagues in Congress or even the American people.

It's a bummer because I'd like to respect him, not just recognize him as the guy that's leading our country. But when I wake up in the morning everyday and read the New York Times, I still shake my head in disagreement with almost every article pertaining to Bush. I really don't want to do this; I sincerely want to say, "Hey! He's my President and I'm proud!" But I can't bear to do it. It'd be like pledging my allegiance to another country.

Leading our nation through a time of crisis is hard, and noble actions are necessary. Dubya and his administration did well for a while, but now, the fog is fading, before our eyes and they must move more and more without the cover of crisis.

When I look in the newspaper and see discontent politicians, because Dubya hasn't consulted them before military action, or when I see Dubya and his administration blaming past presidents for current violence, I don't see a President with noble actions. I see a President repeating the values of his past.

Nathan Shinagawa is a weekly columnist for the Echo

Finding words in the face of rape



All Talk
Briana Wright

Two weeks ago someone very close to me was raped.

I got the news late at night, and when I woke up the next morning it was a gorgeous sunny day. It felt like spring. I walked around campus in a hazy haze, trying to get my mind around what had happened, trying to find the words to talk about it. The beauty outside was a shock. I felt like I couldn't stand the contrast between the perfect day and the ugly world that had hurt someone I love.

Rape is not about sex and, as I told my friend over and over again, what happened to her has nothing to do with sex. Rape is a crime of dominance, a destruction of personal power, and as a result it left everyone in her life feeling powerless. I couldn't stand knowing that I had done nothing, and worse that there was nothing I could have done. I couldn't stand being so far away.

So I went home last weekend to be with her. I didn't know what to say, so I offered the only thing I

could, my dumb presence. Sometimes it felt like too little too late, like I should have been there a week ago, or maybe years ago. We want to protect those we love, to hide them away from the world. Of course I wanted her to be able to have fun, to feel free, but not in a way that jeopardizes her safety.

And her safety shouldn't be jeopardized. Rape is a violation, not just of one person but of an entire social discourse. You should never have to think about the possibility of being raped.

There is a certain level of trust necessary for the operation of society--we trust the people who walk with us down the street, who talk to us in bars, who drive the cars we step into. We trust them even though we may not know their names, and at times we actually trust them with our lives. It is a trust so basic that its violation should be unthinkable. It is a trust that, when destroyed, makes you realize how vulnerable you really are, how dependent on everyone else.

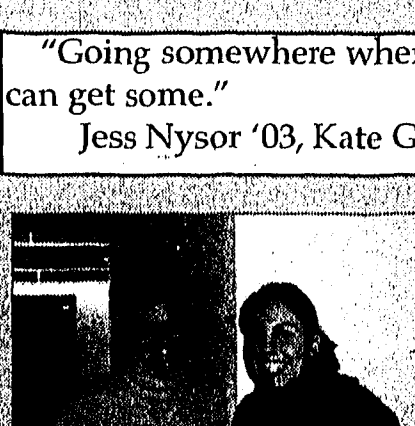
Deciding to fight the implication of vulnerability, my friend is going to press charges. Being the victim of

See RAPE continued on page 7

Students on the Street



"Going wherever there's no freshmen."
Jessica Rosenbloom '02, Chris Collopy '02, Jason Gimbel '02



"Going somewhere where we can get some."
Jess Nysor '03, Kate Ginty '03



"We're getting freaky with Mickey and Minnie."
Tim Smith '04, Lindsay Lanier '04

"I'm getting naked with the outing club."
Erich Eichler '03



What are you doing for spring break?

RAPE: Finding words to cope

continued from page 6

an assault does not make you a permanent victim. She is, by acting out, regaining some of her power.

It's been hard on her, and it's been hard on those around her. We live our lives tightly connected to one another, and a single violent act affects a broad circle of interconnected people. When we got the news all the people in her life came rushing to help, with support and with the few staggering words we could find.

Rape is a crime of isolation, a crime that separates the victim both from the rest of the world and from normal expressions of sexuality. With our struggling attempts to talk about what happened we tried to lessen the solitude, to dull the shock, to emphasize that the attack was exceptionally and brutally far from acceptable behavior.

I was amazed to find myself, when I was home, laughing with my friend. There were times when I would forget what had happened, when we would slip into old patterns of teasing and bickering.

After this, the idea of rape came up suddenly, like a pocket of cold water when you're swimming. She would mention the trial, or the attack, and I would grow quiet, remembering that the reasons I had for coming home were somber. It was as if the attack hung heavy

between us, looming so large that to talk of anything else was to trivialize or suppress what happened.

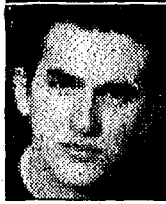
But she, I was surprised to see, did not grow quiet, and eventually I realized why. I didn't come home so that we could sit quietly together, recoiling in horror from the terrifying outside world. I came home so that we could tell jokes and laugh in the face of that harsh world. It felt like a rebellion, like we were screaming defiance at what happened. Despite the rape, despite everything that's happened to the two of us, we still laugh at the same stupid jokes, we still share the same history and bond.

What happened to my friend is so awful that it turns my stomach to think about, but I can't find the words to make her pain stop. I can't go back in time, two weeks or two years, to prevent what has already happened.

In the end, all I can do is be there with my friend, hug her and laugh with her, and stand together in the dawning of the morning after, in the shockingly beautiful world where, overnight, everything has changed and everything remains the same.

Briana Wright is a weekly columnist for the Echo.

Bonnie's Diner is Maine treasure



Lexicon Devils

Noah Charney

Have you ever wanted to walk into a local restaurant and order "the usual," and actually have them know what you mean? Search no further than Bonnie's Diner. Bonnie's is everything that is wonderful about small town Maine. It is an absolutely unique breakfast restaurant in which you'll instantly feel at home.

Founded in 1974, Bonnie's is a greasy-spoon diner with excellent breakfast food at excellent prices. It is a true local hangout. If you can get yourself out of bed early (Bonnie's opens at 5:30 a.m.), you can be assured of a meal surrounded by true Mainers, who will greet you with a "Good mahwnin'," and could not be friendlier. It is worth waking up that early to experience a meal outside of the Colby bubble.

One of the sweetest people on the planet is full-time cook and surrogate mother to all Colby student diners, Anna Anderson. She welcomes locals and Colbyers alike with open arms, and cooks some great food. She has been working at Bonnie's since early in its lifetime, and loves the balance of locals and Colby kids who come to eat.

The atmosphere of the restaurant is wholly without pretense. It feels as though you've been invited into your grandmother's living room for breakfast, with eclectic décor, from a photo of Elvis, to pictures of Anna's family, to the television, perpetually showing talk shows, children's cartoons, or Burt Reynolds movies.

Bonnie's is open Monday through Saturday from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2

p.m. It is located on Benton Avenue in Winslow, on the same road as Big G's. Bonnie's is a small brown house on the left side of the road, about one mile past Big G's. Full breakfasts range in price from \$2-6; come with a hearty appetite. Recommended dishes include their oversize pancakes (chocolate chip is especially good), French toast, and eggs.

The highlight of the Bonnie's menu are the specially named breakfast combos, such as the "Sunshine Special," with eggs, French toast, and home fries, "The Colby Special" (pancakes, eggs, home fries—more food than you could possibly finish), and my personal favorite, "The Noah and Lambie." Yes, I have a special named after me at Bonnie's, based on one Jan Plan when I ate breakfast there several times a week.

I asked what it took to get a special named after you, and have your name posted on the wall above the content of your special. I was told that it didn't take nuthin', and so I got to pick my special from an assortment of doubtless-bad-for-you-but-oh-so-good breakfast foods.

I always want to have a chocolate chip pancake (the size of an entire plate), but I love the eggs with cheese and sausage. So, I put it all together: two eggs any style, bacon or sausage, toast with melted cheese, and a giant chocolate chip pancake. As my arteries shook with fear, I decided to have all these things in one breakfast—all for \$4.

It's a great joy to me to be sitting at Bonnie's and here someone order "The Noah and Lambie." And it's a great pleasure to walk into a restaurant, ask for the usual, and have them know exactly what I mean.

Noah Charney is a weekly columnist for the Echo.

Abercrombie and Fitch can go straight to hell



The Vast Wasteland

Ryan Davis

I'd just like to say that the obsession with fashion and style-consciousness on this campus makes me want to vomit.

I've never understood why people seem to place such a premium on looking stylish, which I would define as "looking just like everybody else." Perhaps it's just because my family could never afford to dress me up in all the trendiest clothes. As a result, I learned at an early age that if for some reason I expressed a desire for a \$70 pair of jeans, my mom would laugh at me.

So throughout high school, I was confused by all my fellow students who seemed to think that the only way to have anyone like you was to own a wardrobe that would bankrupt a third-world nation. Needless to say, in my flannel shirts and often ill-fitting jeans, I was something of an outsider. However, I rationalized my status by thinking that if the price of being cool was obsessing about clothes I found to be rather ugly (who sold people on the idea that "bubble jackets" are attractive?), it wasn't really worth it.

Then I came to Colby, where interpersonal cleavages are less based on one's clothing style, but where individuals seem to arrange their lives around achieving a certain look to a degree that I have yet to be able to comprehend.

One company encapsulates this problem for me in three simple words: Abercrombie and Fitch. I don't think I'd ever heard of Abercrombie before I came to Colby, apart from noticing it on the odd T-shirt worn by summer tourists, which would cause me to wonder "who the heck is Abercrombie?" When I look around Colby, I often see little else.

My question is quite simple: why? What the heck is so great about Abercrombie? As far as I can see, every article of clothing from the company looks like any generic arti-

cle of clothing, except that it has the word "Abercrombie" on it. I'd love to hear an explanation of why one would choose to pay so much money for Abercrombie clothes. I won't except "they produce quality merchandise"—while that may be true, there is plenty of quality merchandise to choose from, and it seems like a lot of people choose Abercrombie.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but Abercrombie's popularity seems to be an example of corporate brainwashing succeeding on a grand scale. The only reason I can come up with for dressing in Abercrombie is that Abercrombie has managed to convince American youth that if you want to look cool, you have to dress in Abercrombie.

There is a complicated scheme going on here that most people are scarcely aware of. Abercrombie, you

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT ABERCROMBIE'S POPULARITY SEEMS TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF CORPORATE BRAIN-WASHING SUCCEEDING ON A GRAND SCALE.

may have noticed, doesn't advertise on TV, and subsists entirely on its image of coolness. This image is promoted by its racy catalogue (which in turn outrages parents' groups, netting the company plenty of free publicity when it is decried in the media...including college newspapers), its habit of hiring a workforce of "cool" (read: attractive) people, who get deep discounts and return to their high schools and colleges decked out in Abercrombie, tie-ins to whatever happens to be popular, and so on. I can't believe that "I like girls who wear Abercrombie and Fitch" song didn't violate some standard of ethical corporate conduct.

Underwear is another thing that gets me. For Christmas, my brother, a college freshman, just asked for a

lot of pairs of Tommy Hilfiger underwear. My mind was frankly boggled. Of all the things to be fashion-conscious about, underwear would be the thing I would least expect. Who's going to see your underwear? And once it does get to that point, what difference could your choice of underwear brand possibly make to the other person?

Perhaps its unfair to single out Abercrombie, when J. Crew, North Face, Ralph Lauren, Gap and the like are just as prevalent here. I have heard of a certain disturbing ritual that I have yet to ascertain the veracity of, though I fear its confirmation. Apparently, after fall break each year, a sizable portion of the freshman class will return to campus with an entirely new wardrobe.

This dramatic change is the result of students having compared their clothes to those of their classmates for seven weeks and stopping for an extended shopping trip to the trend merchants in Freeport so as to rectify any and all stylistic differences. This can't possibly be true. People at Colby aren't that insecure. Are they?

All in all, it would seem to me that the intelligent students at one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country would rank "looking like I stepped out of a magazine" near the bottom of their list of pressing concerns, somewhere around "completing my bottle cap collection" or "darning my (J. Crew) socks." As usual, I'm wrong.

Even people who seem to be aware of the unhealthy and harmful messages these companies put out to sell their products (eating disorders, anyone?) can't seem to break out of their addiction to the products. In a class discussion on this issue once, I proposed rejecting media-prescribed messages about fashion, style and material possessions and living your life in a way that makes you happy. The way I was shot down, one would be forgiven for thinking I'd suggested learning how to fly.

Don't get me wrong: I'm sure that if you've lived your entire life thinking that dressing in stylish clothes should be an important part of your existence, changing that conception and rearranging your life would be

extremely difficult. It is not, however, impossible.

I own not one article of clothing that turns me into a walking billboard by emblazoning a "hip" brand across my chest, and yet I still have friends. Amazing but true. The idea that shifting to a less consumer-centric life is essentially impossible has been created by the media, the same media that got you to buy the clothes in first place, whether you care to admit it or not.

Nor am I suggesting that you're a bad person because you wear trendy clothes. Though the fact that I've written a whole column on the subject might suggest otherwise, I really don't care what people wear. In fact, when I'm not observing people's clothing to write something like this, I would scarcely notice if you were wearing torn pajama pants or a \$200 North Face jacket. All I care about is that people think about why they wear what they wear, and analyze if the system they're buying into is really something they want to be part of.

I'm not perfect, of course. I own Nike sneakers (horrors!) and L.L. Bean shirts (gasp!). But I honestly can't remember the last time I went clothes shopping, or even thought about the possibility of going clothes shopping. I got the shoes I wear most of the time just before my COOT in 1998. Though it might sound to you like I belong in a mental ward, I've suffered no ill effects.

The next time you plunk down your dad's credit card for \$60 sweatshirt, do me a favor and consider for a moment why you feel the need to buy it. If you can't come up with a compelling reason, consider spending the money on something else. If you still feel like you have to have it, I probably can't change your mind. Go ahead and check out. I'm sure I probably won't notice one way or the other.

Ryan Davis is the editor in chief of the Echo. His friend Kristen made a shirt for herself consisting only of iron-on letters that read "I fit in." He wishes he'd thought of that.

SHOC Corner

Your health questions answered by Student Health On Campus

Q. Recently, a friend has lost a lot of weight, and I think it is due to an eating disorder. What should I do?

A. Though it is good that you are concerned about your friend's weight loss, there could be other reasons for a change in weight, such as a physical illness or depression. One of the ways to get a feel for whether your friend has an eating disorder is to question whether this is a disorder of eating that is affecting the quality of life for him or her. Is he or she obsessing about food or exercise so much that it is interfering with their happiness? If so, as a friend, you should consider trying to help him or her by encouraging them to see a professional.

One of the most important things to realize is that you should not try to take on your friends' problems or try to help them fix these problems. An eating disorder is dangerous, in part because most sufferers do not think they have a problem. The most important thing is to get your friend to a professional. Encourage the person to talk with either a medical practitioner or a counselor. Appointments for both the medical services and counseling services can be made by calling x 3394. Reassure your friend that their confidentiality will be respected. The services of a nutritionist are also available at the Health Center. There is also a confidential support/counseling group forming on campus for people with eating/body image concerns. Those interested can call Patti Newmen in Counseling Services at x. 3400 or by email at pnnewmen@colby.edu.

To submit your health questions, see the SHOC Corner question box in the student center.

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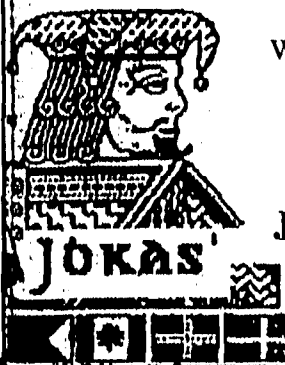
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Men's hockey loses heartbreaker to #1 team in the country

By MIKE MELOSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

The Colby men's hockey team entered Saturday's NESCAC Tournament semifinal tilt knowing that they would have to put together an almost flawless performance to upset the top-ranked Middlebury Panthers. The Mules did just that, but fell short as Middlebury was able to score the winning goal with under a minute remaining. The Panthers would add one more empty-net goal to make the final score 4-2.

During the first period, the Mules proved the game was going to be a battle. They controlled the puck early on, however shortly after the Mules first spurt, Middlebury was able to get control of the puck in their offensive zone and put a flurry of shots on the Mules goaltender Chris Ries '05. Ries would prove early on that he was up to the task, as he denied all of the Panthers' shots.

The Mules would get on the board first at the seven-minute mark of the first period. Nate Stanglein '04 pounced on a rebound from a Paul Nahigan '02 shot and put it past the Middlebury goaltender for a 1-0 lead.

Middlebury answered six minutes later when Middlebury forward Mike Kennedy '04 got behind the Colby defense and had a one-on-one situation with Ries. Kennedy went top shelf to tie the game at one. The first period was fast-paced and hard-hitting and would end with a score of 1-1.

The second period featured much of the same back-and-forth action. Colby had two early power plays but both were unsuccessful as the Panthers' goaltender prevented the Mules from taking the lead.

However, Middlebury would not be able to escape the third Mule power play of the period. Mike Dalton '02 took a rebound of a Nick Bayley '05 shot and stuffed it into the back of the net for 2-1 Colby lead.

Middlebury had two power play chances before the end of the second period. Each time, Ries was magnificent making several timely saves.

Captain Mike Higgins '02 said, "Without Ries the score could have been much worse, he kept us in the game and was the reason we were ahead 2-1 at the end of the second period. There was so much pressure in the game and on him, he handled it as well as anyone could."

Coach Jim Tortorella echoed his captain, "we counted on Chris doing his job and giving us a chance to win; he did that and made several key saves throughout the whole game."

With the lead going into the third period, the Mules knew Middlebury would come out and attack aggressively. The Panthers were on the power play just 20 seconds into period, but again Ries stopped everything that came his way and kept the Mules in the lead. Five minutes into the period, Middlebury would get lucky as a pass hit a skate and the redirection got by Ries to tie the game at two.

The rest of the third period would be a battle with neither team gaining a decided advantage. With only 2:52 remaining in the game, Colby made a mistake, taking a penalty and allowed the Panthers a power play opportunity. Middlebury was able to find the back of the net with just :53 seconds remaining and at the end of the power play took a one-goal lead. They added another the empty-net goal with just seven seconds to play to make it a 4-2 Colby loss.

The Mules had nothing to be



Colby's James LaLiberty '02 rips a slap shot from the point on a Colby power play; the Mules gave a valiant effort against Middlebury.

ECHO FILE PHOTO

ashamed of; they took the number-one team in the country to the last minute and were only the sixth seed entering the NESCAC tournament.

Higgins said "Overall there was a feeling of disappointment; we thought we played better than they did and were the better team on that day. We were proud of how we played." Much of the Mules' success was based on the game plan for attacking the Panthers.

Higgins explained "Middlebury's ice surface is much larger than ours; we realized we had to take what they gave us and play a style of play that goes against theirs. We controlled the neutral zone and didn't allow odd man rushes."

Tortorella was happy with the way his team executed. "We had a game plan in place and our kids executed at the highest level," he said. "We slowed them down and gave

ourselves opportunities to score."

This was the seniors' last game in a Colby uniform, and Higgins thought the mark the seniors left on the program was that no matter what was going on, if the team was able to stay close as a group and believe in each other, they can beat anyone.

"The seniors played significant roles in their final game and helped to give the underclassmen some

great experience," he said.

"Hopefully, these young kids will carry the torch the seniors have lit for the future" said Tortorella.

Making it to the final four of the NESCAC tournament was an improvement over last year's finish for the Mules, and Tortorella stressed that the Mules will continue to look to improve and get to the finals in the coming seasons.

Bonded men's swim team has strong showing at NESCACs

By SUZANNE SKINNER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

During the weekend of March 1-3, the Colby men's swim team swam what many consider to be their best meet in three years. Although they only placed eighth, the Mules demonstrated that they had talent and drive. If Colby's team were bigger, they would have placed much higher.

"The score was not a good representation of the results," said co-captain

"The men's swim team swam out of their gourd."

Clay Smith '03
co-captain

tain Jonathan Eck '03. The Mules have the talent to win the races; they just need more swimmers and divers to compete. For example, the team finished 13 points behind the Bowdoin Polar Bears; the difference of one diver.

Realizing their small size made it virtually impossible to win the meet, the Mules focused on more personal goals, such as coming together as a team and swimming personal bests. They accomplished these. "The men's team swam out of their gourd," said co-captain Clay Smith '03.

"Everyone swam above and beyond their potential," agreed Eck. "Every guy on the team accomplished something they were hoping to do."

By the end of the meet, the Mules had broken ten school records, four NESCAC records, and were sending two swimmers to Nationals. "I've never been so proud of our men's team," said coach Tom Burton.

Nick Walendziak '04 contributed greatly to Colby's strong showing. "He was just a dominant force," said Smith. He won both the 50-meter and the 100-meter freestyle races with times of 20.93 and 45.83. He set both school and NESCAC records and

qualified for NCAA's.

Eck will join Walendziak at the NCAA's. Eck swam the 10-meter breaststroke in 56.98; this is the third fastest time in the country and a NESCAC record. He set this record in the 200-meter breaststroke race, as well with a time of 2:06.04 — the eighth fastest time in the country. Eck set the school record in the 200-meter individual medley with a time of 1:54.56; the ninth fastest time in the country.

Justin DuBois '05 also made the record books; he set the school record in the 400-meter individual medley. "He performed just out of his mind. It was a real pleasant surprise for the team," said Eck.

The relay teams greatly contributed to the point total. The 200-meter freestyle relay consisting of Eck, Walendziak, Smith, and DuBois; the 400-meter medley relay swim by DuBois, Eck, Nick Battista '04, and Walendziak; and the 200-meter relay consisting of DuBois, Eck, Battista, and Walendziak, all set school records.

The Mules were able to perform so well because it was a team effort. According to Eck, this season, the Mules were a cohesive unit. "Everyone knew they had a role to play." The closeness of the team was on display at the NESCAC champi-

"The score was not a good representation of the results."

Jonathan Eck '03
co-captain

onship meet. "It was a full team effort; every man played a role," said Burton.

"It was obvious that we were a strong unit," said Smith. "It's the most bonded team that Colby swimming has seen in a while and it showed in the results."

Women's hockey effort not enough against Bowdoin squad

By MIKE MELOSKI
SPORTS EDITOR

The Colby women's hockey team came into this weekend's NESCAC semifinal match up against Bowdoin with a strong knowledge of their opponent. The Lady Mules faced the Polar Bears twice during the regular season. The first game ending in a 10-1 Bowdoin romp and the second saw an inspired Colby team play to a 2-2 draw.

This playoff game would be on neutral ice. The Lady Mules gave a valiant effort but were outmatched early on and had a difficult time playing comeback as Bowdoin

cruised to a 5-1 victory.

Bowdoin was aggressive from the first drop of the puck. The Polar Bears put pressure on the Mules right away and were able to capitalize at the five minute mark of the first period. Gillian McDonald '04 pounced on a rebound in front of the Colby net and found the back of it. McDonald would continue her personal onslaught against the Lady Mules as she scored two more goals within two minutes of each other to give the Polar Bears a 3-0 lead at the end of the first period.

Bowdoin would not take long to add to their lead in the second period. Two minutes in, they added a power play goal when a Bowdoin

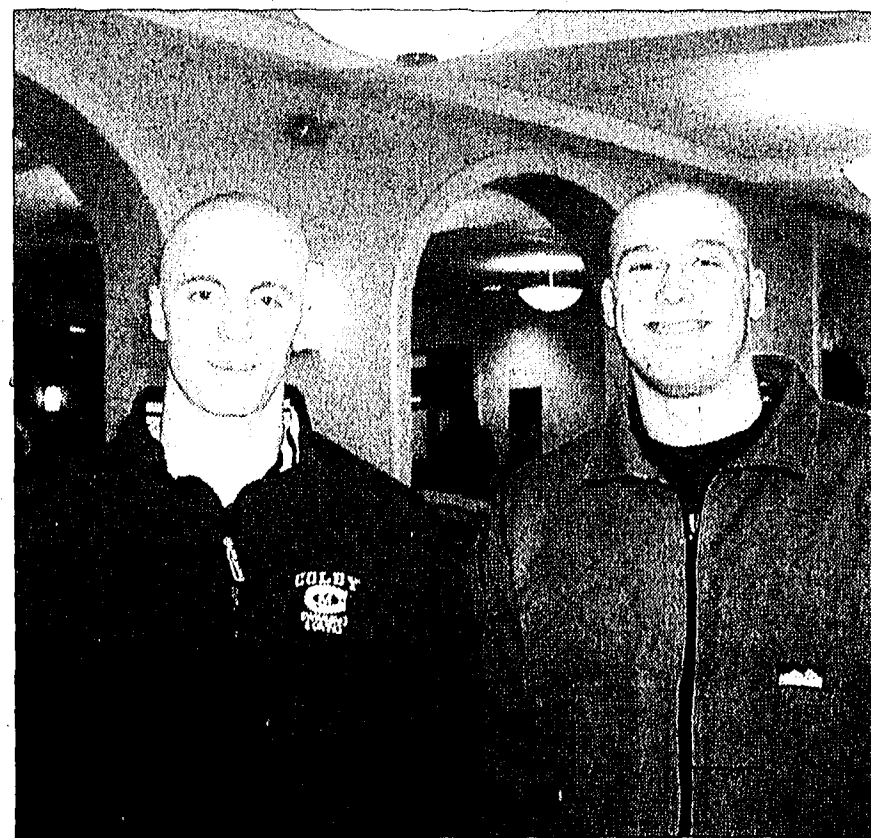
player walked in on Colby goaltender Lynn Hasday '05 and roofed a shot to give her team a comfortable lead. Colby was able to get on board and try to mount a comeback late in the third period. Defender Jill Young '03 snatched a pass out of the air and fed the puck to an open Heather DeVito '05 who deposited it in the back of the Bowdoin net. The second period ended with Bowdoin comfortably ahead 4-1.

The third period commenced with the Lady Mules on the attack. Forwards Carrie Swiderski '02 and Michelle Barnash '05 put in relentless work in front of the Bowdoin net, but came away with nothing. Bowdoin added a late third period

goal in a four on four situation and Colby was unable to mount any other offensive momentum. The game would end in a 5-1 Bowdoin victory.

Swiderski, Hasday, and Young all played superb games for the Lady Mules in a losing effort. The teams' effort as a whole could not be questioned. On Saturday, Bowdoin was simply the better team.

The season was a successful one for the Lady Mules as they posted their best record in several seasons and were ranked in the top 20 in Division III for the majority of the season.



DEVASTATORS OF THE WEEK Nick Walendziak '04 and Jonathan Eck '03

At this weekend's NESCAC Swimming Championships, this duo contributed 178 points to the Mules' score. Walendziak won the 50 and 100-meter freestyle and finished third in the 200-meter freestyle. He broke two school and NESCAC records. Eck won the 100-meter breaststroke, finished second in the 200-meter breaststroke, and third in the 200-meter individual medley. He is currently ranked third in the country in the 100-meter breaststroke.

BRAD SEYMOUR / THE COLBY ECHO

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