

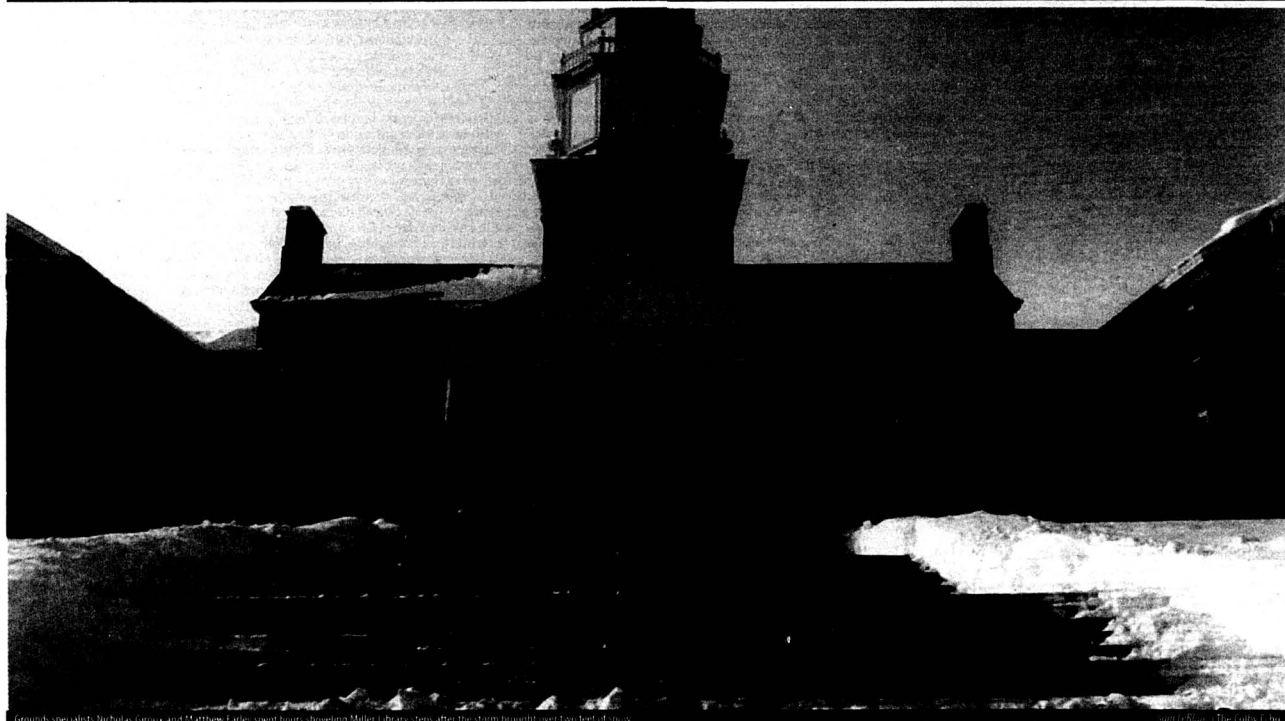


# THE COLBY ECHO

Volume CXXXVII, No. 13

Published by Colby Students since 1877

February 12, 2015



Grounds specialist Nicholas Groulx and Matthew Earley spent hours shoveling Mayflower Hill steps after the storm brought over two feet of snow.

Colby Echo photo by [unreadable]

## Class of '19 applications reach all-time high

By MEGAN LASHER  
News Editor

Since his arrival to Colby, President David A. Greene has stressed the importance of a strong Admissions Department. In one short semester, his efforts have already achieved unprecedented results.

According to official records, the number of applications for the Class of 2019 increased by 47 percent, from 5,148 to 7,591. A few months before this announcement, the admissions staff also reported a 22 percent increase in Early Decision applications.

The College's official website released an announcement on the matter, in which they claimed that "the applicant pool is the largest, the most highly qualified, and the most ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse in the College's 202-year history."

In admissions, large improvements tend to happen very gradually; previous fluctuations of the number of applicants between classes have been below 10 percent. These numbers indicate that Greene's admissions initiatives have been incredibly successful.

While many accredited this increase to the College's removal

of a supplement to its online application, there are more indicators that the prospective students were attracted to the College because of the recent re-vamping of the admissions outreach. The official announcement stated that there was a 70 percent increase in applications from the "Western, southern, and midwestern United States."

Apart from the drastic rise in geographic diversity, the application pool was also groundbreaking in its number of qualified students. Average test scores have increased, and the number of campus visitors is up, indicating that new applicants are not blindly applying, but are interested and qualified prospective students.

Admissions employees Aimee Polimeno '14 and Natalie Fischer '14, both in charge of the College's tours, thanked the tour guides in an email for their work at Lunder, stating: "The campus tour is a huge part of a visitor's experience and has a strong impact on their interest in this school."

Regardless of which admissions strategy has caused the unprecedented growth in interest, the new numbers will further improve Colby's rank and public image.

## Campus celebrates the first snow day since 1998

By PEG SCHREINER  
Asst. News Editor

Students rejoiced on Mayflower Hill after receiving an email from Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Jim Terhune announcing that classes and athletic practices would be cancelled Tuesday, January 27 due to a severe winter snowstorm.

The storm, deemed "Juno" by meteorologists, ended the College's 17-year streak of no class cancellations due to weather.

In light of safety concerns, all "non-essential" College facilities were closed and students were urged to stay inside and use caution when driving. The vital areas of dining services, the physical plant and security remained open thanks to the dedicated staff who were able to make a safe commute to campus.

Vice President for Administration Douglas Terp said in an email that the decision to "release as many employees as possible from having to work on Tuesday" came after authorities reported white-out conditions and discouraged driving. The College remains open during adverse weather "as a general rule," Terp said, but examines the need for closures on a case-by-case basis.

While some students stayed huddled in their dorm rooms with hot chocolate and Netflix for the day, others displayed courage and compassion by helping relief efforts on the Hill. Members of Colby Emergency Response shoveled paths,

Mayflower Hill was one of the few places that witnessed no power outages in a storm that left two-thirds of Maine in the dark for "periods ranging from hours to weeks." As a result, the campus served as an emergency shelter for hundreds of people well into the following week.

This year's snow day demonstrated weather conditions that were consistent with the three prior College closures—in 1952, 1960 and 1998. The monumental "Blizzard of 1952" was the first major storm that students experienced on the new Mayflower Hill campus and was responsible for two days of cancelled classes that February.

The legacy of students supplementing College workers in times of crises was likely born in that storm, when the *Echo* documented students "[donning] chef's apparel" who ensured "the [Roberts] cafeteria's smooth running under adverse conditions." Food shortages were mitigated when "bread was brought in by toboggans," with an essential ice cream order also in tow.

Though Juno was not nearly as extreme, it still had a large impact on campus. The 24 inches of snow, alongside the almost unheard of cancellation of classes, made for a lot of excitement

**Students displayed courage and compassion by helping relief efforts on the Hill.**

"working long hours and doing whatever is needed," as stated by the College's Facebook page.

Their willingness to brave the cold mirrored the events of the last snow day in 1998 (dubbed the "Great Ice Storm") when the College acted as a haven for faculty and townsfolk alike. According to the 1998 *Colby Maga-*

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Nick Isgero in his first month as mayor

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Are all soldiers America's heroes?

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Men's Track wins two state titles

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# Dartmouth College amends alcohol policy, cites Colby

By OLIVIA AINSWORTH  
News Staff

On March 30, Dartmouth College will begin to enforce a hard alcohol ban as a part of their "Moving Dartmouth Forward" plan. Dartmouth President Philip J. Hanlon included the ban as part of an initiative to decrease incidences of sexual assault, high-risk drinking and the exclusion of certain groups on campus. In adopting this policy, Dartmouth follows in the footsteps of many small colleges, such as Colby, Bowdoin and Bates.

This initiative comes on the heels of the release of the book "Confessions of an Ivy League Frat Boy," written by Dartmouth alum Andrew Lohse, which describes the hazing rituals of some fraternities on the Hanover, NH campus. Additionally, Dartmouth has recently faced criticisms from student groups and national publications for its handling of hazing, sexual assault and racism on campus.

Hanlon is working to recreate the social structure of Dartmouth to be a more positive space for all students. With this in mind, Hanlon is hoping to increase accountability for both individuals and student groups, stressing that any group not acting accountable will not be allowed on campus. Fraternities and sororities were specifically warned that their existence at Dartmouth might be called into question if they do not make major reforms.

Another factor of "Moving Dartmouth Forward" is the implementation of a mandatory four-year sexual violence prevention and education program for students, paired with extensive training for faculty and staff on sexual assault. While Dartmouth is not the only college to face these issues, its prominence

President Hanlon is working to recreate the social structure of Dartmouth to be a more positive space for all students.

has led to much scrutiny from the media.

Colby student Carl Vitzthum '16, who took part in the Dartmouth engineering program last semester, thinks that the ban will impact fraternities and sororities the most. Since fraternities

regularly register their on-campus parties, the administration will likely be more diligent about keeping tabs on these parties to ensure that there are no violations of the newly instated rules.

Oliver Schreiner, a Dartmouth senior, noted in an interview, "everyone is now wondering how the policy is going to be enforced and what the punishments are going to be."

Many news sources and Dartmouth officials have related the news to Colby's alcohol policy. An article from CBS News on Jan. 31, 2015 explained Colby's system in detail to exemplify the success that Dartmouth hopes to achieve.

Colby's hard alcohol ban, enacted in 2010, was deemed necessary after 14 students were hospitalized in one night, following the traditional senior celebration "Champagne Steps" in May 2008. Following this event, campus administrators decided to not only cancel the event but also to implement a hard alcohol ban to help combat excessive drinking on the Hill.

College officials reported that incidences of student hospitalization due to excessive drinking are down 20 percent since the ban has been in effect.

Though hospitalizations from excessive drinking do still occur on campuses possessing hard alcohol bans, there has been a clear decrease in the overall trend. Dartmouth's acknowledgment of this issue should be a step towards creating a safer campus for their students.

# College Trustees discuss leadership in Boston

By DAVID DiNICOLA  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

&  
By SAM LEBLANC  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

During its most recent meeting in Boston, the College's Board of Trustees considered three main themes: leadership, momentum and governance.

In terms of leadership, the primary focus was the value of human capital. In particular, this included fresh faces for the Administration—the newly appointed Vice President for Advancement Daniel G. Lugo, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Matthew T. Proto and Director of Athletics Tim Wheaton. In addition, the Trustees discussed the recently-announced tenure of six professors and, according to Assistant Vice President of Communications Ruth Jackson, "was an important outcome for the meeting."

This tenure was awarded at the recommendation of College President David A. Greene on the basis of excellence, scholarship and service. The professors awarded include Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies Chandra Bhimull, Assistant Professor of French Audrey Bureaux, Maple Razsa (Global Studies), Associate Professor of Art Tanya Sheehan, Christopher Soto (Psychology) and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Scott Taylor. "The quality of these faculty is out-

standing," Jackson said. "They're showing a commitment to Colby by wanting to be here."

Regarding the College's momentum, McGadney identified admissions and Colby's commitment to aid as the keys to continued success. "We're currently need-aware," McGadney said. The challenge is that it's an expensive proposition, and few [institutions] are actually need-blind." However, McGadney noted that this could be a part of larger conversations in the future.

Harvard Professor of Education, Emeritus Richard Chait attended the meeting, speaking on the subject of board governance and health. Vice President and Secretary of the College Andrew C. McGadney said that Chait noted the health of Colby's current board, as "one that can effectively address important items and operates at a strategic level versus an operational one." McGadney noted that Chait helps "healthy boards become healthier."

President David Greene was unavailable to meet before this article went to print, but his explanation of Colby's \$100 million bond issue and the College's doubled debt, according to Bloomberg, will appear in the Echo's next issue on Feb. 19.

# Campus Dining Services introduces "unlimited swipes"

By NORA MABIE  
News Staff

While the Spring semester brings with it many notable changes, the new "unlimited swipes" dining hall policy is likely to be the most lauded.

Sodexo, the food services company utilized in the campus dining halls, has revealed a system allowing for unlimited dining hall access to Colby. Starting on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at least one dining hall will be open between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., and students will be able to swipe in multiple times during each meal period.

Previously, the College operated on a 21-meal per week system, where students had to swipe their Colby ID to enter the dining halls and were only allotted one entrance per each meal time. This system was not conducive to a variety of meal schedule preferences, and students have long requested a revision to the meal plan.

Director of Dining Services at Sodexo Larry Llewellyn explained

that the main purpose of allowing unlimited swipes is to increase dining convenience and relieve stress for students. In an interview, Llewellyn said that the wider dining hall access will accommodate many types of students, from diabetic students to those who simply prefer to eat smaller meals multiple times a day.

Not only does the system promote healthy eating habits, but it is also designed to reduce stress on students: "No one should have to worry about loading up on food because they don't know when they will be able to eat again," Llewellyn said. "I see so many students who feel they need to have huge dinners at 5 p.m. because they are worried they won't be able to eat again until the next morning at 8 a.m. This kind of stress is unhealthy and unnecessary."

Because of these changes, the dining halls have implemented rules to limit the amount of consumption. Students are only allowed to take one item from the dining hall when they leave, meaning there's less of an abil-

ity to pack lunch or snacks to eat anywhere else on campus. In addition, many of the Sodexo workers at the card swiping desks have been asked to examine student IDs in order to ensure that students aren't giving their dining hall access to visitors; however, the College still allots each student five guest swipes per semester.

In addition to the benefits for students, Llewellyn also anticipates a reduction in food waste. "Since so many students would worry about loading up on food and not wasting their meal swipes, our old three-swipe system led to food hoarding," he said. "I used to see kids leave the dining hall with five apples at a time, and I know some of those apples would go bad before he or she got the chance to eat them."

Llewellyn said the he hopes Dining Services will continue "to be as flexible as possible for Colby students. I just can't wait for us to come up with the next great thing."

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# Security Incident Report Log

Date:	Time:
1/24/15	12:30 a.m.
1/24/15	12:30 a.m.
1/24/15	7:57 a.m.
1/24/15	10:23 p.m.
1/25/15	1:22 a.m.
1/25/15	9:03 a.m.
1/25/15	9:45 a.m.
2/5/15	8:32 p.m.
2/7/15	12:13 a.m.
2/7/15	2:48 a.m.
2/8/15	1:10 a.m.
2/8/15	1:18 a.m.
2/8/15	2:07 a.m.
2/8/15	12:40 a.m.

Nature:
Medical Call
Alcohol Violation
Medical Call
Vandalism
Medical Call
Vandalism
Theft
Safety Violation
Alcohol Violation
Medical Call
Medical Call
Medical Call
Medical Call
Vandalism

Location:
West Quad
West Quad
Dana Hall
Woodman Hall
Mary Low Hall
Alford Apartments
Foss Hall
Perkins-Wilson Hall
Outside Miller Library
Mary Low Hall
AMS Hall
East Quad
Drummond Hall
Williams Hall

Comments:
Alcohol
Illegal Possession, Furnishing
Injury
Broken Exit Sign
Alcohol
Stove damage, hole in wall, mess
Blue Burton snowboard stolen
Room name tags left on fire
Hard alcohol
No one around, room mess
Illness
Alcohol
Alcohol
Unregistered Party

## Colby acappella goes local

By CAROLINE FERGUSON  
Local News Editor

This past Friday, a group of Colby acappella groups stepped out into the local community to perform for Mesolonskee Middle School students. The Blue Lights, EVE, Sirens and Mayflower Chill, while a school-wide assembly, where each group sang a handful of selected songs followed by a question and answer session with the young students. The purpose of the performance, organized by the school guidance counselor, was to inspire students and motivate them to get involved with the arts and extracurriculars, as well as to highlight the importance of continuing education. "It was a fun event for everyone involved; both for the students but also for us older kids," explained William Ware '17, the head of Mayflower Chill. "After every song there was a big cheer. The kids loved it, and we all loved being there."

Singing popular songs that the kids were familiar with and sporting their traditional wacky outfits, the Colby singers found it easy to form a connection with the young students. "We all

were having a blast together," said Gemma Bready '17, a member of the Sirens. "They were quick to feel comfortable and relate to us, soon realizing that we were all just kids like them."

Presenting the importance of extracurriculars in a relatable and entertaining way to the students not only fostered an open atmosphere, but also provided more emphasis to the assembly's central focus. "Students were able to see something that they might be interested in doing," said Ware. "Whether it be music or other extracurriculars, we showed them just how fun getting involved outside of school can be."

Although the central focus of the visit was to inspire the young students, it also made a significantly positive impact on the older performers themselves. Moreover, it served to greatly strengthen the bridge Colby values with the local community. "It provided us with a great opportunity to personally connect with and perhaps influence the lives of younger Waterville residents," Ware said. "It was the first time Colby acappella had ever done something like that, and all of us are already looking forward to our next visit."

## Community warmed by Winter carnival

By SARAH NEAL  
News Staff

2.5 miles from campus there is a recreation area owned by the city of Waterville. There, you will find multi-use trails, designed by one of the world's leading Nordic trail designers and two-time Olympian, John Morton. The Quarry Road Recreation Area boasts a trail network of beauty and variety, including a world class cross country competition loop.

The town of Waterville gathers each year to celebrate the commencement of winter and raise money for the maintenance of the area. Sponsored by the Inland Hospital, the annual Winter Carnival brings people from all over town, no matter the weather (this year, the carnival on January 31 had temperatures in the teens). There were a variety of winter activities offered, including cross-country skiing, sledding, snowshoeing, winter bike demonstrations and dog sled races. The 230-acres were buzzing with volunteers and other attendees. Director of the Waterville

Public Works Department, Matt Skehan, told the *Kennebec Journal* that while this was the first year that organizers did not try to keep a formal head count of attendees, he estimates that somewhere between 800 and 1,000 people were present.

Volunteers proved their steady dedication by weathering the cold from as early as 7 a.m. Some even stayed to work past their shift, proving that Waterville civilians really are tough and devoted to giving back to their community. In an interview with the *Kennebec Journal*, Suzanne Uhl-Melanson said that because she and her husband use the trails at Quarry Road so often, volunteering at the Winter Carnival is their way of giving back.

For those who didn't make it to the carnival or who know little about the trails at Quarry Road Rec Area, they are considered by many to be some of the finest cross country ski trails in the Northeast. To maintain this superiority, the area is intensely managed by the Parks & Recreation Department.

There is also significant assistance provided by the Friends of Quarry

road, a nonprofit volunteer organization. Working collaboratively with the City of Waterville, Friends of Quarry Road raises money for the assistance in operations and upkeep of the highly valued trails.

Opening in the 1930s, the Quarry Road site closed during World War II, but was reopened by none other than the Colby Outing Club in the late 1940s. Until the early 1970s, it was operated by the College as a lighted ski area with limited snowmaking, but was then closed again and abandoned. It was not until 2007 that a group of volunteers revived the site, opening a year-round recreation area.

This generation of owners and users of the trails share a passion for the great outdoors and encourage people to take advantage of all that Waterville has to offer. Between providing free transportation to events held at the site (including the Winter Carnival) to ensuring the grounds are well maintained year round, the Quarry Road Rec Area is today a wonderful meeting place for people all across the area, and will remain so for years to come.

## Isgro's first month in office as mayor of Waterville

By SAVANNAH JUDGE  
News Staff

Nick Isgro has officially been Waterville's 53rd mayor for only a short month, but the future already looks promising. Isgro, a Republican, was inaugurated on Jan. 6. He came to the Colby Museum of Art on Saturday, Feb. 7 to talk with the *Echo* about his first month in office and the City's priorities going forward.

In the past few weeks, Isgro has met many people, including Colby College President David Greene. Not having served on City Council prior to his election, Isgro feels it is crucial for him to get to know the lay of the land early on in his tenure. "It's certainly not my style to come in and kind of barge in and start... taking the approach of a bull in a china shop," Isgro said. Instead, he plans to "figure out where we need to start [and] what projects are already in motion, and really take my time to make sure that it's a thoughtful process."

Although Isgro is new to city government, he is not new to the area, he grew up in Waterville and Oakland, and now lives in the home that his grandfather built after moving here from New York in 1960. In Waterville, which has both a mayor and a city manager, the mayoral position is part-time, and Isgro maintains his job as a controller at Skowhegan Savings Bank.

Isgro and Waterville's previous mayor, Karen Heck '74, have both identified economic development as a continued top priority in the coming term. He sees this as a unique time for Waterville: a time that presents a number of opportunities for increasing prosperity if the City chooses to capitalize on them. "I think what I'm learning is that right now there seems to be this critical mass of just amazing people and leaders... converging on Waterville all at one time."

Revitalization has not always been the lightning rod issue that it is today, Isgro said. "I can remember Waterville when I was a kid. It was just a booming town and it was all kinds of... small, locally owned boutique shops. There was not a lot of big chains everywhere." At that time, he said half the town was employed at Scott Paper Company and the Hathaway Shirt Factory. The decimation of the City's manufacturing sector in the 80s and 90s with the closure of these major employers hit the local economy hard, and it is still recovering.

Isgro said that coalitions such as Waterville Creates!, which are working to make Waterville a destination for the arts, are helping the City's economic comeback. He also noted the importance of focusing on "local entrepreneurs and [bringing] back jobs that pay people well, because ultimately that's what's going to be the lynchpin of making all these other things succeed, is if people have money in their pocket," Isgro said.

In addition to the industrial sector, Isgro observed how residential neighborhoods have experienced decay as well.

"When I was campaigning, it was amazing to me not only how many for sale signs there were but also... the foreclosures that you don't really see until you walk right up on them," Isgro said. Many city officials are in agreement over the need to reassess code enforcement and zoning in order to stop the current trend of single and two-family houses being divided into four and five-unit apartments. Such a shift would favor owner-occupied housing. "Those are the typical homeowners who are going to obviously spend a lot more time and attention to property maintenance and keeping up with their properties, which ultimately makes the neighborhoods more attractive for other people," Isgro said.

Isgro suspects that Trafton Realty, owners of the building that is home to Mid-State Machine on the corner of West River and Trafton Roads, may also play a role in the City's economic future. Mid-State Machine employs 78 people who make an average salary of \$46,000 per year, according to an article published in the *Morning Sentinel* last September. Isgro said Trafton already had plans for another 200,000-square-foot warehouse or manufacturing building, and that these types of jobs, combined with new apprenticeship programs being designed by the Central Maine Growth Council, are "the things that kind of need to line up in order to make one big success." The Trafton project did stir debate last year, when the company proposed building a new exit on Interstate 95 that many residents opposed.

However, creating new jobs is not the only piece of the puzzle, according to Isgro. "I think a lot of times you'll hear you know someone say, 'Oh we really just need to focus on you know getting these manufacturing jobs,' or 'We really need to focus on... the Main Street arts.' To me, it all plays off each other," and Waterville "needs to play an active role," Isgro said.

An important aspect to this, Isgro said, is accepting the changing face of development. "Manufacturing today isn't probably going to be a paper mill with 300 employees or 500 employees, it's going to be... maybe an office with 5 or 6 employees and a 3D printer." It is the City's job, he said, to come up with more creative ways to capture money. "I don't think we've pushed the envelope. To me, if the state isn't at least asking us questions about what we're doing, we're probably not doing enough," he said with a laugh.

Isgro also discussed the relationship between the City and the College, which he said has changed over time. With the local economy down, Isgro said, "I think sometimes places like Colby can be kind of made the boogeyman; [people]

say, well they should be paying taxes, and that was certainly a big issue on the campaign and is still an issue going on." When his parents were growing up in Waterville, Isgro said "there was never this kind of feeling of separation... Everybody in Waterville knew they could come to campus and there was much more of an integration."

In his first month, Isgro has met twice with the Mayor's Coalition, a group of mayors representing several cities in

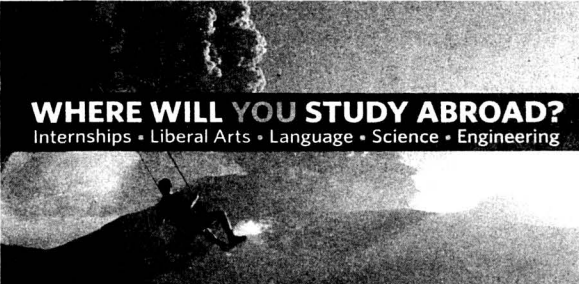
Maine that look at current legislation at the state level and form opinions as a group to unify some of the state's economic centers. Isgro hopes to get more residents involved in city politics by organizing casual public forums to address issues like budgeting and financing. "I think if people understand what we're doing to make these decisions, they're a lot more likely to... realize they have a personal stake in the outcome... every councilor's vote matters to each and

every one of us that's here paying taxes," Isgro said.

Overall, Isgro said he loves the new job. "I love it more than I thought that I would. There's this real fresh excitement about meeting all these people and finding out all these amazing things that are happening that a lot of them I didn't even know about and feeling like that I can contribute to some of the success that I think we're about to have."



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# Counseling staff discusses dating and loneliness at Colby

By FILIP MONTGOMERY  
News Staff

"I need a date," reads one 'yak.' "Just looking for Colbae" reads another. You can find similar posts all over the College's Yik Yak page—with students complaining about loneliness and wanting a relationship. One thing you do not find in abundance on this campus, however, are couples. There seems to be a lot of debate regarding the hook-up culture at Colby, both in formal events and among students, but there is no denying that this culture definitely exists in one form or another.

Some may argue that the culture is simply more noticeable at Colby due to the small size of the campus, but according to sociologist Michael Kimmel, it's something that can be found at almost any campus across the nation. In his book *Guyland*, Kimmel wrote, "Hooking up defines the current form of social and sexual relationships among young adults" and that "now hooking up is pretty much all there is; relationships begin and end with sex."

Many activists and researchers worry about the effect the culture may have on students' behavior and mental health and the role it plays in strengthening gender roles. But what seems to make the Colby Campus unique among others is the disproportionately low ratio of the number of couples to the number of

students.

There is a large portion of the student body that wants to engage in long term relationships, as evidenced by the numerous yaks (for instance "Just looking for Colbae" was the leading yak of the day with 152 upvotes). According to Director of Counseling Services Eric Johnson, 28 percent of the students who visit the counseling center indicated dating/relationships as the reason for their visits and 27 percent indicated loneliness. So why is the hook-up culture so prevalent and dating so rare?

One reason may be that many students simply feel they do not have the time to engage in relationships. Students at Colby face an immense time pressure, and in trying to balance classes, homework, athletic practices, clubs and socializing with friends it can be difficult to find the time to engage in a full-fledged relationship. Hooking-up provides students with a quicker way to enjoy intimacy and sex without having to give a full time commitment

to a romantic partner. Some students may feel that they get all they need from one-time hook ups and see no reason to pursue anything deeper.

Another more troubling reason for the prevalence of the hook up culture may be the fact that some students feel pressured to partake. As Johnson explained, "If we assume that the perceived norm in their social group is to hook up and not to pursue a committed relationship, then it can be difficult for some students to put themselves out there in ways they believe run counter to the perceived cultural norm." Fabrice Charles '15 and Joseph Whitfield '15 of the Gentlemen of Quality (GQ) Club have discussed the topic many times during their "Real Talk" discussion sessions. They say that gender roles can be exasperated as a result of the hook-up culture, and, "at least half the panel tend to say it can be a dangerous and powerful thing."

According to Bridge Steering Committee member Will Wagner

"17, the hook-up culture on campus does not 'overly marginalize the gay/lesbian/bi/pan community simply because nearly everyone choose to participate in it.... But it can be [marginalizing] for non-cis folk who are often put into challenging positions." Nor does he think LGBTQ couples are faced with additional challenges as a result of the hook-up culture. He explained that the LGBTQ community faces other challenges, including having a smaller pool of potential partners to choose from. For this reason, many rely on online dating apps such as Tinder and Grindr to find partners instead.

To counteract these effects, students who have identified the lack of dating as a problem are actively working against it. Noah Tocci '17 has organized a whole array of events for the upcoming week, which are designed to "get students out of their comfort zones and to give those stuck in a routine a chance to get out," which includes a wine and cheese tasting and ballroom dance classes. The events culminate in a big, restaurant-like dinner in Roberts dining hall. The events are inspired by the CA dinner hosted by President Green at the beginning of the year, as well as the Date Week organized by GQ, among others. However, this event is focused on campus to make it more accessible. "People are stuck in their routines, they have their group of friends and they don't expand much outside

of them so this will provide people with an opportunity to engage with people they have not previously engaged with," Tocci said. For those who prefer the privacy of being off campus, discounts in local restaurants will also be effective during the span of the events, much like during Date Week. Noah hopes that the events will make students think more critically about the hook-up culture and to "get a better perception of real life and realize that this is not how things work there."

But by no means does hooking-up have to be an exclusively negative thing. It can work as a stress reliever and can provide students with a way to experiment and explore. According to Johnson, as long as students are comfortable with their decisions and the activities they engage in should not be shunned: "It is important that students pursue the types of relationships, sexual and otherwise, that are consistent with their values and what they want in a relationship, otherwise they run the risk of feeling dissatisfied in their relationships, feeling regret and/or feeling confused."

For those who wish to find someone to establish a deeper relationship with, Johnson encourages them simply to "go for it, 20 percent of the students who visit our office acknowledge being in a serious relationship and there's a critical mass of students who want to date. Students should know they are not alone."

"People are stuck in their routines, they have their group of friends and they don't expand much outside of them."

Noah Tocci  
Class of 2017

# Creative writing department welcomes Robinson

By SIMONE LEUNG  
Features Editor

Born in Natick, Mass and raised in Buffalo, NY and Yarmouth, Maine, Visiting Assistant Professor of English/Creative Writing Lewis Robinson attended Middlebury College where he majored in English and took creative writing classes in nonfiction and fiction. "I was... fairly preoccupied by intramural hockey, being a DJ at the radio station, and leading trips for the mountain club," he said.

"I took a term off during my junior year, and through one of my anthropology professors I got a fellowship to work with

a group of doctors in London who lived together and ran a homeless shelter in the bottom two floors of their flat. When I got back to Middlebury for my senior year, I was starting to get more serious about writing short stories, and I did an independent project with Jay Parrini. We established a schedule to meet every week at the diner in town to discuss the stories I was writing. It was incredible. Jay demystified 'the writing process' for me. He emphasized the importance of devoting at least a little bit of time every day to writing. He also said that allowing for idle time, and going for long walks, was good for writers. Amen!" Robinson said in

an email correspondence.

After Robinson graduated, he began his career in southern Vermont, working with novelist John Irving for two years. "Irving writes on a typewriter, so I retyped all of his work onto the computer, provided him with initial line edits, and managed his correspondence," he said.

He then moved to New York, where he worked as an editorial assistant at a publishing house and as an art mover, which involved driving a truck to deliver paintings and sculptures to various galleries, museums, and collectors. "I worked 12 to 16 hours Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and on my off days, I wrote. That was a productive period for me; little by little, I was learning from my mistakes. The only problem was that I was working in isolation and didn't know other writers. (I lived in Brooklyn and somehow I didn't know that my neighborhood was teeming with novelists.)....I had mixed success with the freelance writing; I didn't sell any of my fiction, but I wrote a piece for Sports Illustrated about visiting the Maine State Prison with my family, where we played against the prison basketball team," Robinson said.

Robinson went on to enroll in the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. "It was a relief to get to the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where I joined a cohort of 25 similarly-obsessed fiction writers. My teachers were Marilynne Robinson, Frank Conroy, Ethan Canin, James Alan McPherson, and Chris Offutt. All of them are writers I admire, they each had a wildly different pedagogical approach, and they all taught me something important."

"But I learned even more from my classmates. We only met for workshop once a week for three hours, but we met every night

around kitchen tables or in bars or restaurants to talk about that week's *New Yorker* story, or other things people had been thinking about, reading or writing. And I continue to learn from them. We're still sharing work and critiquing each other," he added.

In 2003, Robinson published *Officer Friendly*, his first book of short stories, and followed with a novel in 2009, *Water Dogs*. "My story collection, *Officer Friendly*, consists of 11 stories all set in the same fictional town of Point Allison, Maine. My first novel, *Water Dogs*, is set in midcoast Maine in the 90s, and it's about two brothers whose fierce loyalty to each other is tested. Robinson has just finished his second novel, *Halfway Rock*, which is set in modern-day Portland and ... involves the smuggling of mountain lions, marijuana farming, and girls' basketball."

Citing John Cheever as his favorite writer, Robinson added, "I'm drawn to stories about families and relationships. I like character-driven fiction, the kind that allows you to witness and consider the choices people make, the actions they take. Most of my work has been set in Maine, an endlessly fascinating setting in all its contrasts: wealth and poverty, coast and inland, winter and summer, beautiful and terrifying, sacred and profane."

Over the past ten years, Robinson has worked at the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA program, where he mentors graduate students. He has also worked as the writer-in-residence for three years at Phillips Andover Academy, and he currently teaches online classes in fiction writing for Stanford University. This semester, he is teaching three fiction writing courses on the hill.

On why Robinson decided to teach at Colby this year, he said, "I visited Colby about seven years ago to talk with a few creative writing classes and give a reading. I loved the atmosphere. The students I met seemed engaged, friendly, curious, smart, and unpretentious. The faculty, too. I'm feeling grateful to be on campus now for an entire term, to work more closely with students on their writing."

When he is not working, Robinson enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife, six-year-old daughter, and four-year-old son. "We have a little sailboat in Portland, and I like to hike, cross-country ski, and sled with my kids, too. I play in basketball and hockey leagues in Portland, allowing me to relive the minor glories and embarrassments of my past. I have a tiny role (one line) in a feature film coming out this year (*Tumble down*), which I'm sure will catapult me to international fame," he added.

"I'm drawn to stories about families and relationships. I like character-driven fiction, the kind that allows you to witness and consider the choices people make, the actions they take"

Lewis Robinson  
Visiting Assistant Professor of  
English/Creative Writing



Robinson will teach three classes on fiction writing this semester

Courtesy of Lewis Robinson



# Students share what it means to be in a relationship at Colby

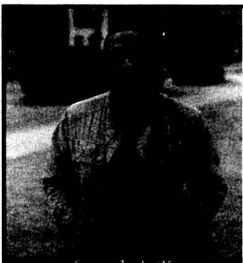
With such extensive discussion on Colby's hook up culture, acknowledging that relations exist at the College is important. This installment aims to recognize the numerous and varied relationships on campus.



Anne Vetter 17

The gay community here is so small that I knew who Megan was before [we started dating], but I didn't think I'd be interested in her. Our mutual friends were like, "Nah, you've got too much in common." Megan was abroad in Thailand in the fall, and then I met her and I was like, "Wow! She is so special."

For queer women, it can be kind of hard because there are so few of us, and I think in a group so small it's hard to find someone that you're super compatible with. Friendwise, I know a lot of queer women at Colby; I'm friends with a lot of queer women at Colby, but it's certainly a hard hook-up scene. It's also hard to sometimes let people know you're queer. For example, I identify as bisexual. I was with a guy the first semester, and so most people, like a lot of other girls on campus wouldn't have known.



Spencer Traylor 15

Grossman isn't the most romantic place to start a relationship, but that didn't stop us. It wasn't love at first sight. I didn't go weak in the knees the first time I saw her. But still, there was always something about Hannah that made me want to know more.

Months of friendship turned into an awkward and fragile relationship that both of us seemed too afraid of to commit ourselves entirely. For me,

it felt as though a slight breeze could cause things to fall apart. I was worried that the friendship that I had valued so much would be lost forever if they did. All I knew at the time was that I loved the way she made me feel and that I wanted to do everything in my power to keep her in my life.

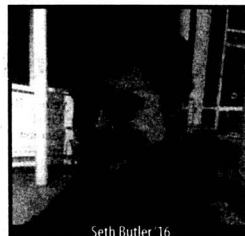
Through those turbulent beginnings, her year in London and my semester in Jordan, and the general ups and downs that come with every relationship (especially college relationships), we have managed to build something more incredible than I could have ever hoped for.

Every moment that I'm lucky enough to spend with her is a moment well spent. Over the course of two years we've built a lifetime of memories that will always stay with me. That being said, what I cherish more than all of those memories, more than all of those uncountable moments, more than the amazing relationship that we made, is that feeling I still get deep in my chest every time I think about her.



Anna Herling 16 and Brian Westerman 16

The first time we actually started hanging out was when we went to lunch one day after class...and that's when the spark started. It was just five days later that we started dating. It was very quick. We realized, "This has to happen." There's no way it's not going to happen...It's just gotten more and more intense and deep and true ever since. It was less than a week and a half after I started being friends with her, we were already in love. It was just the most exciting time of my entire life.



Seth Butler 16

One of the problems I had with a long-distance relationship was the stress that it put on me, just not having someone there for you, and I think that that's why in the end I decided to try something new, which so far I have nothing but positive things to say for. It just means so much to have someone in person that you can have meals with, that you can do homework with, that you can go to parties with, and is in your clubs.



Katie Daigle 15

It's been six years. It's been six years of long drives from town to town, hasty and, if we're lucky, not so hasty visits, as well as countless hours of phone calls and Skype sessions that allow for treasured, albeit brief, moments of reconnection. Yet, most importantly, it's been six years of outdoor adventure and cultural appreciation, of thought-provoking, challenging, introspective conversation, of honesty, compromise, and trust, and of intimately learning the private thoughts, feelings, and aspirations of another.

I met Bryan when I was a first-year in high school and he was a senior. Back then, I was a gawky, self-conscious, over-ambitious teenager who just happened to be injured during track season alongside a curly-haired musician who was way "cooler" than

different academic and career paths, and laughed, sometimes cried, and danced our way into the people that we are today.

While the "hook-up culture" largely dominates public discourse regarding college relationships, there's also something to be said for relationships that evolve over time and are not always about instant gratification. There's beauty in the patience of getting to know another's innermost workings, how their emotions and thoughts gradually reveal themselves. There's beauty in knowing that after six years I have someone by my side who inspires, supports, and loves the best and worst parts of me, who makes me want to relive every day and share them with the same person every time.



Elise Ozarowski 15 and Jake Blech 16

J: Relationships at Colby are a mixed bag. When you're a freshman, I feel like you have this vision that college is like Animal House, and it's just one big bacchanalia. But then you pile in essays and jobs and sports and in the spare moments you have, you hang out with friends, drink, or hook up. I feel like that's one of the major reasons Colby has a hook up culture: people don't feel like they have enough time for a relationship.

To be honest, neither of us [expected] it to go this far when we met.

E: We had amazing conversations and I definitely felt a connection to Jake from the start, but—partially because of the hook-up culture at Colby—I was convinced he had ulterior motives. Also, I was a sophomore and Jake was a first-year, so I had a hard time understanding why he would want to start a relationship rather than revel in the beauty of Page dances.

J: As time went on, we learned a lot from each other.

E: Before meeting Jake, I didn't even like beer. Now we're notorious for spending weekends in Portland to try the latest craft brew. Nearly two years later, I still learn something new from him everyday. I think one of the unexpected

"perks" of a relationship is that I learned so much about myself.

J: Getting in a relationship at Colby can be difficult, but I think it's a valuable experience. There's a maturity in them that was absent from high school relationships. While we have students with varied socio-economic, ethnic, cultural, and political backgrounds, most share similar values in seeking the best education from the classroom as well as the students around them. One huge benefit of dating at Colby is you're rarely going to have the same access to such a diversity of people. Once you become a lawyer, you're going to be around lawyers. Doctors will hang out with doctors. For sure—as an English major (he's a Government major), I doubt Jake and I would have met in our future jobs.

E: I think one of the biggest challenges in college relationships is the (almost) inevitable periods of long distance. The first summer after Jake and I started dating—he was back in Australia and I was in Concord, Massachusetts. While spending summers apart and knowing that there will be a year when I've graduated and Jake is still in school is difficult, it has taught me that I can never take any moment with him for granted.

## 15 Daily

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## Letter from the Editors:

Dear Colby community,

Welcome back to the snowy Hill! To the FSA students, we hope you're acclimating well to campus and enjoyed your first Loudness. To the other first-years, we hope you're enjoying winter in Maine; to the sophomores, we hope this whole college thing feels old hat and that you're feeling like you've found your place; to the juniors returning or leaving for abroad, we welcome you back and wish you luck, respectively.

And to the seniors... Well, we all know how you're feeling, and we're not gonna go there.

As we all return to the grind of a regular semester, our first issue covers the changes that have occurred on and off the Hill since our JanPlan pause. Recently, the Trustees have met to discuss issues of leadership and momentum, and Sodexo now offers unlimited meal swipes (FINALLY!). We're reporting on Dartmouth's recent hard alcohol ban and the work of new Waterville mayor Nick Isgro; we welcome a new Athletic Director to campus and a new exhibit to the museum. For our first issue of the new year, there's a whole lot of new.

Indeed, we've had plenty of our own changes down here in the office, welcoming several new members to staff. Ellie Donohue '16 and Will Walkey '18 are joining us as copy editors, Peg Schreiner '18 is stepping up to be our Assistant News Editor, and Brandon Blackburn '17 is taking on the role of Assistant Features Editor. We're psyched about these new additions and looking forward to the exciting ideas and contributions they're sure to bring to the table!

Here's to a happy (albeit a little late) 2015!



David DiNicola



Sam LeBlanc

## The Colby Echo

Published by the students of Colby College since 1877

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Sam LeBlanc, Editor-in-Chief

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**About:** The Colby Echo is a weekly newspaper written, compiled, edited, and produced by Colby students since 1877. Students interested in contributing should contact either the Editors-in-Chief or the editor of the section in which they are interested.

**Subscriptions:** Paid subscriptions are available for those who wish to receive hard copies of The Colby Echo off of Mayflower Hill. For information on rates and other details, e-mail Business & Advertising Manager CJ Smith at cjsmith@colby.edu.

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## The Unpopular Opinion

## Are all soldiers America's heroes?

During the summer, I started watching Netflix's original animated series *Bojack Horseman*. Though I may have begun the show as a means of distracting my mind from the raging hangover that only Oakland's Kona Club Scorpion Bowls can impart, I was quickly drawn into the dark humor and pressing observations that underlie the show. Not to mention the show's cast includes numerous human-like animals. I'll pause while you watch the first episode on Netflix.

As *Slate's* Willa Paskin wrote, one of its greatest attributes is to "[present] big ideas without having to commit to them." One of the episodes that best exemplifies that idea is the second episode, entitled "Bojack Hates The Troops." In the episode, the eponymous character (Will Arnett), a washed up 90s sitcom actor/horse, goes to the grocery store and finds a box of muffins atop an apple bin. Upon grabbing them, a seal named Neal McBeal (Patton Oswalt) tells Bojack he had dibs on the muffins. Annoyed by this logic and feeling spiteful, Bojack defiantly buys the muffins and promptly eats them.

At home, Bojack turns on the TV to MSNBC to find Neal McBeal (who is, in fact, a Navy Seal) on a diatribe about Bojack's disrespect for the troops. Irritated, Bojack joins the show and in doing so, unknowingly steps onto the unpopular side of a longstanding debate: are the troops heroes?

As Neal McBeal says he helped make the world safer, Bojack disagrees, prompting the host to ask, "Well surely even you think the troops are heroes?" to which Bojack responds, "I don't think that. Sure, some of the troops are heroes, but not all of them. A lot of the troops are jerks, and giving a jerk a gun isn't going to make them a hero."

For most of our lives, U.S. troops have been ever-present in world conflicts. After all, only four of the past 25 years have gone by without a formal U.S. military intervention. Many Americans would not say this is necessarily bad though. As the

global hegemon, many Americans believe that our troops, vested with the ideals of freedom, are a force for unreserved good, one that aids nations in their fight against tyrannical evil. In several cases, this is true. Since 1990, our troops have helped stop genocidal regimes, brought humanitarian aid to war torn nations, and helped cripple terror organizations that murdered our civilians and those of our allies.

Since the attacks on September 11th, it has become increasingly common to refer to anyone in uniform as an "American hero." From politicians to bumper stickers, the hero rhetoric has become an orthodox when referring to our troops. However, does this repetition make the statement true? Are our troops heroes?

According to the Merriam-Webster, a hero is someone "distinguished by exceptional courage, nobility, [and] fortitude." While I would also say that a hero is someone who behaves in a selfless manner, who takes on personal risk and sacrifice, I would say that this definition is cheapened by using it inclusively. The majority of humans are not heroes.

A hero, by definition is "distinguished," meaning only a select few can wear this honorable title justly. Do we expect to believe that class of citizens has been concentrated into the roughly 1,369,532 men and women who form our armed forces? Statistically, I would call that impossible.

But, of course, the term hero is used much more broadly. These are fellow citizens who have decided to sacrifice the ability to see their families for months on end while also putting themselves in harm's way to protect our ideals. This is surely noble indeed. But heroic? Not all of these people are saving children from burning buildings or foiling terrorist plots. One could take the more holistic view that even if some of the soldiers are merely supportive (cooks, mechanics, etc.), the soldiers who are heroic could not have done their job without them. This is true, and

those troops are noble, but the idea of calling them heroes cheapens—if not degrades—the definition of what a hero is.

Now you may be thinking, well, Jake, you pussyfooting, commie, Benedict Arnold motherfucker, what's wrong with using an umbrella term? That's a very eloquent question and I will tell you. Calling all the troops heroes not only damages the esteem of the ones who we truly wish to honor, but also turns the word into political rhetoric. While wars are a necessary evil in the realm of international relations, that does not mean we should forget the brutalizing effects it leaves.

By creating an army of heroes, we become blinded to the cruelties that happen all too often in these war zones. By calling our troops heroes, we play down Abu Ghraib and My Lai. When you think of America's heroes, you picture a handful of Marines raising a flag on Iwo Jima, rather than the "heroes" who have committed unspeakable atrocities.

I doubt everyone reading this agrees with this conclusion, but that does not mean I am trying to disparage our troops. I believe the U.S. military has and will continue to be a force for good. Our uniformed men and women have made great sacrifices to serve our country. However, this entire debate makes me think of a line from a favorite comedian of mine, Jon Mulaney.

In one of his specials, he's talking about the New York Post's use of vocabulary. In their headlines, they often use the word "hero," which Mulaney explains the Newspaper uses it to describe "men who do their job. Like, [he] read a piece a few days ago, 'Hero Garbage Man takes out Trash.' Well... yeah." Not to conflate the dangers of garbage men and soldiers, but in some ways it speaks volumes. Being a soldier is a job. A noble job, but only heroic actions by the individual can make the job heroic.

I thank the troops for their service and while you may not be a hero in my book, I know that I am indebted to the majority of you for making the world a better place.

## The true value of the liberal arts

Who are you?

When you strip away your iPhone, your laptop, your grades, and every possession to which you claim ownership...who are you?

We are absorbed by consumer culture. A culture that allows us to identify ourselves by what we have—as markers of our status in the world. A culture that dominates everything we do, including our participation in the system of higher education.

We are obsessed with "prestige" and "reputation." Colleges are becoming nothing more than brand names we can slap on our cars, our clothes, our water bottles, and anything else fathomably possible. In order to feed this consumer culture, admissions offices have transformed into marketing departments. Across the nation, colleges are in an amenities arms race to have the most beautiful campus, the most delicious food, the most spacious dorms, the most attractive student body...the list goes on and on.

Our consumer ethos is winning and we are losing sight of what college should be about. Education is an active process, not a good that you can simply purchase and obtain. Oftentimes, students don't fully engage with this process. Instead, they go through the motions, striving to get straight A's, quickly congratulating themselves, and then moving on with their lives. Students must

be more than consumers of knowledge. Students must also be creators of knowledge.

We all want to be great and whether or not we openly admit it, we all think we're going to be great. When we're not great, we all feel a bit robbed. But what is greatness?

We have this extremely specific idea of success, so to get a C in a class or to be poor is to be a failure. Our culture values material things so much that what counts as "success" has become so narrow, it only looks one way. We struggle to even imagine an alternative

vision of success besides getting all we can and making all we can. Trapped by our consumer culture and this idea that there are only two types of people in the world—winners and losers—colleges are creating profit makers, people who think of money first, second and third because these are the "winners" of society. Perhaps, what society needs are not winners, but self-reflective and thoughtful citizens.

Citizens who can walk into a room with one perspective and leave with another. People who see others as human beings with thoughts and feelings of their own who deserve respect and empathy.

While many may argue that a liberal arts education is a luxury, I disagree. When it's done right, a liberal arts education is a necessity,

It frees you from a life of desperation—desperate to receive validation from others. It saves you from becoming someone who clings to conformity and is afraid to deviate from the status quo in fear of alienation. It teaches you that to be someone other than yourself is a real form of failure. Students who leave college with a better sense of who they are are the ones who thrive in the world. They thrive because they have alternative visions of success and they thrive because their life has meaning, whatever form that takes for them.

College is a time when you have the potential to find yourself in relation to the world. Maybe you're the person who you thought you were, or who your friends thought you were...but maybe you're someone completely different. What you learn in college can change your life. Ideally, it should change your life for the better.

So amidst the fast-paced academic and social arena we call college, stop and think about why you're here, who you are, and more importantly who you want to be. Keep your Colby car decals, your Colby embellished Vineyard Vines, and your Colby Nalgene's, but also keep your individuality. Challenge yourself to step away from the conformity of consumer culture for a minute and reflect on what matters most to you.



Lucie Gullino



# Reflections on Christopher Caldwell: Xenophobic, Racist and Creedist

Christopher Caldwell's book, *Reflections on the Revolution in Europe: Immigration, Islam, and the West*, argues that "When an insecure, malleable, relativistic culture meets a culture that is anchored, confident, and strengthened by common doctrines, it is generally the former that changes to suit the latter" (350). Caldwell's book suggests that present European culture can be understood as "the former," and "the latter" as Islam, arguing that Islam is destabilizing European culture imposing its stronger, more institutionalized beliefs upon European society.

First, he argues that immigration in general is a problematic phenomenon that challenges normative societal foundations and destabilizes societies by forcing assimilation or integration. Second, he argues that Islam is an example of the culture that is "anchored, confident, and strengthened by common doctrines," and that these common doctrines make its effect on Europe predictable. Finally, he argues that structural and society conditions in the West itself are not conducive to an integration of Islam that maintains European culture while including Muslims. Rather, he asserts, the tolerance and religious ambiguity that pervade Europe leave its society and culture vulnerable to irreversible changes as Islam becomes an increasingly powerful and imposing force on the Continent.

Caldwell's argument, though spirited and broad in scope, cannot stand up to academic review; he self-admittedly abandons any pretense of correct political science terminology or definition, making it impossible to critique on an academic level.

Furthermore, in the overwhelming majority of cases, Caldwell's argument ignores facts, and the evidence he chooses to present is either fundamentally flawed or embarrassingly one-sided. Caldwell calls upon antiquated political writings of little consequence. Overall, it is clear that Caldwell's work is no more than a pinnacle of nativism, intolerance, racism, creedism, and misunderstanding. The only point which he successfully defends is that which states that Europeans are not, in general, truly in favor of diversity—and even this he only successfully proves by standing as a shining example of all that is *wrong* and *intolerant* about the West.

The first section of Caldwell's verifiable defense of intolerance concerns itself with the "facts" of immigration to Europe. He argues that, "In theory, any profoundly different culture could prove difficult to assimilate into European life. In practice, it is Islam that is posing the most acute problems." The latter assertion is ironic in that he frames it as fact when it couldn't be farther from it. He fails to ever offer adequate evidence to back up the superlative claim that Islam poses the "most acute problems" to Europe (11).

He then goes on to list a small number of inconsequential accommodations that Europeans have offered Muslim immigrants at little cost to themselves. Caldwell fails to offer the reader any actual evidence to support his creedist, racist assertions, but this should come as no surprise, as he explicitly abandons all pretense of decent academic practice in his introduction.

Caldwell moves quickly away from his first set of undefended assertions in order to argue that there is a cultural cost to Europe as the Islamic migration damages the European identity. This argument is entirely

circumstantial as Europe's identity, if it did exist, could only be the product of thousands of years of such cultural shifts, transitions, and displacements. That is, if the Romans had not fallen to the Visigoths, if Charlemagne's empire still stood, if the Byzantines had not fallen in 1453, if Napoleon had not spent too long in the Russian winter, if Hitler had not been turned back, if the Moors had not come to Spain, if Luther had not published his 95 Theses, if the Pope had never had a twin in Avignon, and so on, Europe would not have the identity that it has today.

If despicably intolerant and closed-minded quasi-academics like Christopher Caldwell had managed to prevent any change from coming to Europe, the continent would not be steeped in such a rich, if fragmented, sense of a regional identity. Instead, it would be a group of countries not bound together by

a common history. Even if Islam truly affects Europe as profoundly as Caldwell claims, would this not simply be the next common step on the path Europe has walked for more than five thousand years?

Though obviously flawed to the critical reader, Caldwell's argument disproves itself without need for external criticism when he discusses multiculturalism: "If you walk across the piazza della Repubblica in Turin, you see, mutatis mutandis, what the Romans saw. To the east, two well-preserved Roman towers...Today, in a space of about sixty seconds on foot, you pass from chic shops and wine bars through a lively multiethnic market into one of Europe's more menacing North African slums...It was from the city's once-thriving Jewish community that the great chronicler of Auschwitz, Primo Levi, came. The city was also a stronghold of the ascetic proto-Protestant Waldensians, who flourished there for centuries until 1655" (34). The idea that an influx of Muslims to a city will disrupt its vibrant multi-

culturalism is ridiculous; the identity Caldwell describes is the product of centuries of cultural melding and integration—his description proves that if there is a European identity, it is the product of many transitions similar to the "Revolution" to which he refers, antithetical to his point.

Caldwell's basis in economics is similarly flawed. He dismisses the positive effects on a nation's long-term growth potential that economists associate with immigration as nothing more than a "quasi-official account" that Europeans no longer accept (36). Caldwell, however, does not have the requisite training in economics to pass judgment on such analysis, unlike his European counterparts.

Conveniently, any evidence—including statistics reflecting the benefits of immigration—that suggests Caldwell may be mistaken in his argument is dismissed as inconsequential. He claims that "the modern economy has not abolished the laws of economics" before citing high-school level, oversimplified, incorrect economic

theories as laws, and then offering "translated" versions that are even less accurate: "immigration makes the economy more efficient because it drives down the wages of certain natives" (39). However, condemning immigration as damaging to the economy is not only inaccurate, but also as outdated a level of economic analysis as mercantilism.

Caldwell's book continues by failing to set up a dialectic cultural opposition between Islam and Europe, incorrectly characterizing cultural synthesis as a zero-sum game in which only one culture can prevail. He accuses Islam of being inherently violent, pointing to honor killings and violence towards women as proof, while in reality these are uncommon, isolated phenomenon not consequential in Europe. Islam is the cause and foundation of terrorism to Caldwell; he continuously states that violent extremism is a product of prevailing Islamic doctrinal characteristics, and that Muslims experience a "partial embrace of the national identity of the new country...followed by a withdrawal to the religious identity of the old" and possibly to extremism (156). Islam, as an alternate provider of basic public goods to the disadvantaged, is guilty, Caldwell asserts, of undermining European society by creating a parallel culture which will ultimately come to dominate the West—characterized as self-hating and quasi-tolerant, vulnerable to outside influence.

**Condemning immigration as damaging to the economy is not only inaccurate, but also as outdated a level of economic analysis as mercantilism.**

Finally, Caldwell asserts that terrorism is a "facet of Muslim self assertion," that, "not just of a religion, but of a people" (274). These sweeping condemnations of Islam and the West are not only painfully inaccurate generalizations, but also they are not even partially supported with factual evidence by Caldwell, who calls upon barely more than the ramblings of Renan, who wrote in 1883 about Islam as a culture with "habits so strong that all differences of race and nationality disappear before the face of conversion to Islam" (158). 1883 was nearly one hundred and fifty years ago and Caldwell, in formulating his argument, was forced to reach this far back in history in order to find someone intellectually competent enough to produce a book yet ignorant enough to produce a work Caldwell could draw on to partially support his points. Caldwell's second and third sections, together intended to cast Europe and Islam as opposing factions in a zero-sum game, fail to even partially prove Caldwell's point, and doom the argument entirely.

Caldwell's book miscasts Islam as an evil and violent institutional force, miscasts Europe as vulnerable and in need of protection against cultural invasion and subversion, misrepresents the economic reality of immigration and illegitimately condemns all Muslims as possible terrorists. Caldwell does not offer evidence to support his points, makes ignorant and worthless assertions into a ramshackle argument and embarrasses himself in the process. This book should be read only as an exercise in what not to believe in a globalized world, yet the implications of such works being widely consumed should not be understated—provocative assertions may have the power to create bestsellers, but when they come at the cost of driving the public to false conclusions about their neighbors, they have terrible power indeed.

Lashin' Out

## An open letter to the Career Center

Dear Colby Career Center,

First of all, I want to say a sincere "thank you" for putting effort into finding Colby contacts in the media industry. It's the first time I've seen that happen, and I'm grateful for all of the time and money was put aside for students wanting to go into media-based fields.

However, the 'Colby on the Road: Media Track' trip highlighted many of the things that I've been frustrated with throughout the past few years. The Career Center representative on the trip asked questions in the panels that he should have known long ago (Do I submit a portfolio when applying for a PR job? How can a sophomore prepare for a career in this industry?) and it showed a clear lack of training for counseling students who apply to these types of jobs.

Throughout the entire day, a Colby-hired photographer followed us around and took flash photography even in one-on-one networking conversations. Not only did that make everyone seem a little more on-edge and uncomfortable, it also felt like Colby was saying "this is not for your benefit, this is so we can have some cool propaganda to show how much we care about media fields."

It's also crucial that I point out that all of the panels and presentations were organized by a Colby parent who used her own networking tools to find Colby-related people. When I talked to her, she said that every single person there was someone she had found, with no thanks to the Career Center.

This reflects some of the bigger issues in the center that I'm hoping will change in the near future. If counselors in the Career Center are better trained in understanding what the media fields look for, they will be able to actually help revise resumes and cover letters. Recently, when I had to get my resume approved in order

to apply for 'Colby on the Road,' they offered absolutely no helpful advice in terms of wording or structure: the Center's only tip was that I needed to get rid of the color I used in my headings. In the film and TV industry specifically, some people come in with incredibly well-designed and visually appealing resumes: submitting a black and white resume is not nearly as common, and my bosses all recommended adding color. They also offered no advice on my cover letter for a recent job application, but peers and family members were able to provide changes that the Career Center employees didn't catch.

The most important issue, though, is that the Career Center has a great lack of emphasis on the importance of building a network. I've asked for media contacts every year since I've been at Colby, and have come away with exactly one recommendation, which didn't pan out because they couldn't provide his email. They have never given me an outlet through which to find Colby connections: their only advice has been to get a LinkedIn profile and search for media contacts, which is essentially like telling someone to log onto Facebook and search for friends.

My hope is that, as the Career Center grows and more students in media-related majors demand help, we'll stop getting offers to apply for TFA and start seeing some opportunities in different realms. In order for this to happen, I implore Career Center employees to talk directly to recruiters for film, TV and publishing companies to understand what they're looking for. Create a list of Colby connections (parents and alum) and teach students how to network: how to keep in touch with contacts and how to find jobs outside of application-based, post-college programs.

Respectfully,  
Megan



Megan Lasher



Ryan Hoffman

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Screen Pass

# Why absolutely everybody should see *Selma*

I loved *Selma*. I loved everything about it. I loved that it took such a crucial historical event and brought it to life. I loved that it didn't implement the Hollywood convention of a "white man savior" in a movement that didn't have one. I loved that there were female characters like Coretta Scott King (Carmen Ejogo), who actually got a major role.

I loved that the cast's composition was mostly black actors, because mainstream films about African American history inappropriately feature far too many white characters. I loved the acting, the cinematography and the rawness behind every moment and the fact that I sat on the edge of my seat with my hand over my mouth for about half of the film. What I didn't love was the realization that the "happy ending" we all craved right before the credits hit is something we are still waiting for, some 50 years after the events of the film.

*Selma* is resonant today not only because the Civil Rights Movement is a large part of our country's history, but also because the acts of violence in the black and white news broadcasts of the 1960s are practically indistinguishable from the ones that are happening in full color at the very moment. Before all else, *Selma* reminded its audiences that Martin Luther King Jr. and his contemporaries started a job that we have yet to finish. The film was a call to ac-

tion as much as it was a great memorial piece in honor of the Selma marchers.

Past its political importance, *Selma* achieved great measures in terms of cinematography and storytelling. The film was beau-

tiful in its composition of scenes and depiction of power: the camera looked up at King (David Oyelowo)

when ever he spoke to his peers and followers, representing his role as a leader, and stayed at eye level or looked down at him when he addressed President Johnson and other prominent politicians. Director Ava DuVernay used photography's "rule of thirds" as a means by which to emphasize important aspects of each shot, setting King in the front third of a frame while an American flag in the Oval Office practically pushes him out of the picture as Johnson denies his request for a bill to help African Americans register to vote. Two of the most important conversations in the film are when King talks to a fellow protester in their prison cell

**Selma is resonant today... because the acts of violence in the black and white news broadcasts of the 1960s are practically indistinguishable from the ones that are happening in full color right in front of our faces.**

after being arrested by a Selma officer, and when King is assertive with Johnson about the importance of black votes. In both of these scenes, the two characters are positioned exactly on the thirds lines, balancing the shot aesthetically while placing the figures on the same level as though to equate their power.

One of the most notable, unconventional aspects of this film is its depiction of violence. Instead of portraying the brutal events as some kind of climactic cinematic moment with fake blood and slow-motion footage, over sad instrumental music, the violence was raw and heart-stopping.

Most film buffs are familiar with Hitchcock's famous filmmaking advice: if a bomb is going to explode, you can either let the audience know there's a ticking bomb and have them sit in suspense, or you can have it explode and there will be little suspense. Unlike most films, *Selma* opted for the latter choice; every violent uproar was unexpected and unstaged, just as



Actor David Oyelowo stars as Martin Luther King Jr. in Ava DuVernay's *Selma*. (Courtesy of Paramount Pictures)

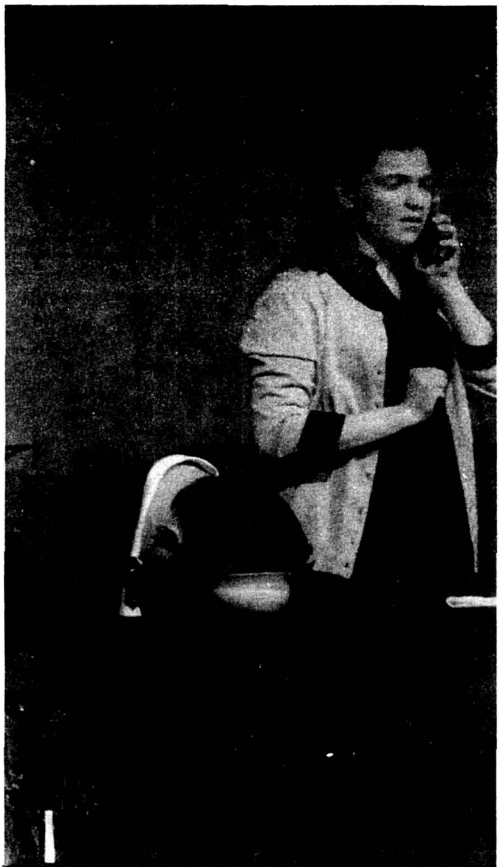
it would be in reality. In the beginning, we see the Birmingham Church bombing happen abruptly in the middle of a conversation between young black girls talking about hairstyles.

None of the major protest scenes were drawn out or unrealistically gory; they were quick with unexpected bursts of violence. This made for a much

more believable and relatable story, in which the audience, like the characters, has no idea when the next brutal event will occur.

*Selma* took a historic event and made it into an encapsulating, gripping tale, bringing the audience into the era of the Civil Rights Movement and humanizing all of the victims of the systematic racism. 5/5

## Powder and Wig's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*



Jordan Lorenz '15 and Kelsey Book '18 perform in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*.

by Izzy Zandi/Colby Echo

## Sundance with Cronkite

A few days after I returned from Park City, Utah for the Sundance Film Festival JanPlan, the wonderful professor who took our class out West, Phyllis Mannocchi, asked me into her office for an interview-style final exam. She greeted me with a pleasant "How are you adjusting to life back at Colby?" An adjustment indeed it has been.

Over the course of a short nine days at the festival, I saw John Cho grocery shopping with his girlfriend, listened to a film director "tripping out" (his own words) during a panel in front of a thousand audience members, and watched a movie in which a quadriplegic man visited a gloryhole.

Designed as a study of American independent film, the class began with a series of on-campus classroom sessions before we flew out West. Once a day, 19 of us gathered to watch and discuss a single independent film, often selections from previous years at Sundance. Before travelling together, the two week period allowed us to get a sense, not only of one another but, perhaps equally important, of one another's film sensibilities.

The nature of the films at Sundance of course is that they are, by and large, new and unknown. Decisions on which films to see, then, are based upon crowd buzz and friendly recommendation, often from classmates. There's a good bit of fun to be had going into a movie relatively blindly, with knowledge only of the prior work histories of the actors and filmmakers involved; this method tends to lead one to a rather eclectic collection of films viewed over the course of a week or so.

Lacking the pre-purchased, bus far at the festival,

bulk ticket passes of the more experienced Sundancers, our group of student filmmakers by and large trudged into premieres and panels by way of the wait list lines. The queues, several hundred viewers strong, are in fact one of the hallmarks of the festival. Populated as much by industry insiders as by laypeople, the crowded line areas are veritable Roman fora of cinematic discussion. While waiting—and hoping—to get into a supposedly fantastic documentary about Mexican drug cartels, I was invited to submit a student film to the Mallorca International Film Festival (MIFF). The woman who invited me, MIFF's founder and director, seemed uninterested in my protestations that I do not, in fact, make student films.

Waiting in lines, reconvening with fellow Colby Sundancers at the end of the day, and sifting through the instant-reaction blogs that popped up from professional reviewers, we got the sense that this year's festival was a strong one. There was a handful of films that, in a few days, seemed to be universally regarded as worth waiting in line for, and a smaller handful to be avoided. Where the crowd buzz system of movie selection becomes interesting is, of course, the mid-tier movies upon which the crowd can disagree.

After seeing one documentary I found particularly strong (an interview-driven perspective on the treatment and rehabilitation of sex offenders in Florida), I recommended it to a few friends. In return, one of my classmates suggested a movie he had seen the night before and found to be one of his favorites,

The film he suggested was a horror film in competition, meaning that each audience member was given a ballot to rate the film on a four-star scale upon egress from the theatre. Though my referring classmate had, I felt, by and large quite good taste in movies, I made a decision about 45 minutes into the movie to tear off the one star corner of my ballot and walk out. A Sundance volunteer politely told me that they could not accept a ballot from someone who had not sat through the entire movie and made a fair judgment. So, on principle (both of respecting the legitimate concern of fair voting and of my desire to cast my derogatory vote), I sat myself back down, endured through the rolling of the credits, and recast my one star vote one grueling hour later.

I had as much fun debating with the aforementioned classmate the merits and demerits of the horror flick as I did sitting in the front row of a wonderful Hungarian satire film about dogs and getting to ask questions to the director about his cinematic vision. (It certainly did not hurt that the director brought the canine star of the film to the premiere, and said star chose to come directly to my seat for a flurry of furry greetings.)

The final exam, such as it was, fit into the spirit of the festival. I did not know much what to expect going in, but upon arrival found an intellectually enjoyable but challenging discourse about film with similarly interested participants. Professor Mannocchi, as with the Sundancers I met in Utah, is passionate about and well-versed in film, which makes for the ideal environment for a week plus of pure cinematic



Peter Cronkite

# currents7 artist sculpts photographs in sand

By LINDSAY FRETHER  
Staff Writer

The newest exhibition at the Colby Museum is called currents7: The seventh installment of the Currents installations at Colby. It is a collection of photography and sculpture by artist Elizabeth Atterbury. The Portland-based artist has extended her mainly photographic practices into sculpture, creating a show that is dynamic in its exploration of the two-dimensional and three-dimensional worlds.

Upon entering the exhibit, the viewer is greeted by the show's biggest sculpture, "The Well." It sits in the middle of the room, drawing immediate attention. The geometric waves of the piece, one can only assume, represent water. This piece sets the tone for the entire show.

Atterbury's other photographs and sculptures are just as geometric as "The Well." The composition of each piece is created purely through different shapes. The shapes relate to create an abstracted representation of something concrete in the world. The way each object is placed in relation to others ignites a story or setting that the viewer can understand is there but cannot accurately identify.

Atterbury works with mallea-

ble materials such as paper and sand to create various figures or patterns. She then takes a picture of the work to document the transitory display of objects. The photographs are a documentation of the work, but they also take the 3D aspect and make it 2D.

The titles of each painting are the only hint as to what the inter-playing forms represent. Works such as "Singing and Dancing" (2014) and "Sleeping and Dreaming" (2014), without the titles, are merely groups of objects composed in such a way that activates the photograph. However, the title reveals the message the artist is trying to convey to the viewers. This type of communication strengthens the artist's connection to the audience while allowing the viewer

to further understand the work. The viewer can find the singing and the dancing as well as the sleeping and the dreaming in the forms.

Atterbury has stripped down the representation of familiar forms to their most minimal indications of identity. Her work teeters on the edge of total abstraction and demonstrates how much the artist or viewer needs to understand the subject of the photographs and sculptures. The piece "Standing on a Platform Waving" where perhaps the only indication of waving is the arch-

ing white which possibly hints at such a gesture.

Atterbury says she has been interested in art since she was a child drawing and molding clay. In high school she "became interested in looking at art, though making it suddenly felt difficult and confusing, so I stopped and focused on writing." She then went onto study journalism in college, but found her true passion after taking a photography class in her third year.

Atterbury said that her inspiration comes from everywhere, including art, design, history, and film. Her search and exploration are constant, she said, whether

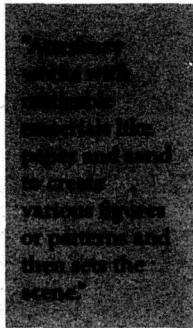
she finds it on the Internet, in a book, or in person. For a long time she only took photographs, but in the past couple years she has "committed [herself] to sculpture and not just for the camera."

The amount of time it takes to complete each sculpture varies with size. They can take a day to a month or more depending on the materials and complexity of the shapes. Atterbury says that "the big, painted reliefs, those take lots of time because there are many steps involved: laminating multiple sheets of plywood together, laying out the design, cutting and reassembling the shapes,

gluing them together, installing hardware, patching imperfections, sanding, painting, touching up..."

Photographs in contrast are less predictable as to when they will be complete. Atterbury explains, "sometimes I can be in the studio shooting for days and not produce a single picture I'm happy with. Other times making a picture feels totally effortless and happens quickly."

Be sure to take a walk around the exhibition currents7:Elizabeth Atterbury and soak in the abstract forms. The exhibit will remain on display through May 10, 2015.



## African Drumming JanPlan



Students of the African Drumming JanPlan course in their final performance. ©2015 Colby Echo

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## From the People

Captions courtesy of Colby's greatest Yaks.



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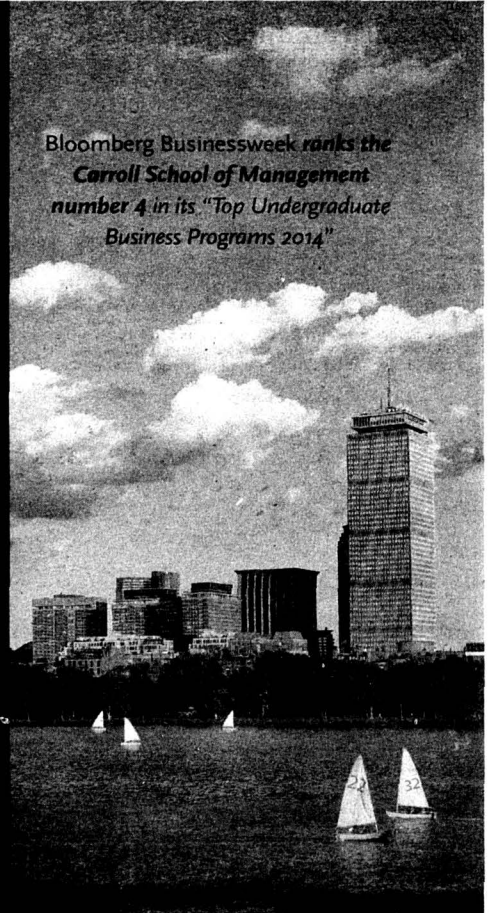
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# Colby Men's Squash drops close match to Cardinals

By HENRY HOLTZER  
Staff writer

The Colby men's squash team stormed the court this past weekend down in Williamstown, Mass. for the annual NESCAC tournament. The teams had high hopes going into this tournament after having successful conference seasons.

The Men's team went into the tournament as the fifth seed—the highest ever from a Colby Men's team at this tournament. Before the team left, Patrick McCarthy '17 said, "We think we can take a few teams by surprise this weekend. I know we didn't have a great showing the last time out against Bates, and we have to play those guys again, but we're back at full strength now. We've already played a lot of the teams we're going to see this weekend and we know what we're up against."

In the first match, the team fell at the hands of the rival Bates Bobcats by a score of 8-1. Yuga

Koda '16 was the only player who won for the Mules, playing at the number five position. Even though the Mules felt confident going into the match, Bates proved to be too much. After the match, Hugh Doherty '17 said, "At the end of the day, they're a great team. Their one and two are really spectacular and when you have that kind of top end depth, it really opens up the rest of your ladder. Basically everyone on that team is playing down and it hurts us because we like to pick up wins from the middle and bottom part of our roster."

Later in the tournament, the Colby boys faced off against the dreaded Bowdoin Polar Bears in what has been dubbed the illustrious "1-95 derby." Bowdoin always proves to be a tough out for the Priscilla and Grey, and this time was no different. With the match sitting at 4-4, McCarthy came through in the clutch, winning his match in four games. McCarthy's win served as the high point for the Mules in this tournament, as

it kept the Mules playing and gave them a rematch with the Wesleyan Cardinals—a team that had beaten the Colby men a weekend earlier.

Ultimately, Colby lost to the lower ranked Wesleyan 5-4. The score was the same as the last time the two teams met. C.J. Smith '16 said after the loss, "sometimes, teams will just have an answer for you. We've seen it happen a few times against these guys now. The good teams are able to pull out the close matches, and that's what Wesleyan did today. Fortunately for us, we'll see them again at nationals and can hopefully pick up the win against this team that's been eluding the entire season."

The team finishes its season at the Collegiate Squash National Championship from February 20-February 22 at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Regarding the tournament, McCarthy said, "How can you not be amped? It's the last match that this team will ever play together. We've had a great season and we're ready to show the nation what Maine Squash is all about."

## Women's Hockey Routs USM in strong performance

By RUSS OLLIS  
Staff writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 3, the University of Southern Maine women's ice hockey team travelled to Waterville to face the Mules. Although it was a close game during the first period, Colby pulled away in the second to rout the Huskies 4-0.

The first period had the two squads evenly matched, however the scoring picked up for the Mules in the second. Forward Delaney Flynn '17 gave the Mules a quick spark to start the second period, as she gave Colby a 1-0 lead after only 15 seconds of play. Elisa Rascia '16 and Maddie Dewhirst '16 assisted on the goal. Defenseman Jackie Tavella '15 gave the Mules a 2-0 lead when she scored a powerplay goal midway through the second. Colby was slowly taking over the game, and the dagger that firmly put Southern Maine away came when Megan Fortier '16 scored with just under a minute left in the second to send the Mules to the second intermission with a commanding 3-0 lead.

After an insurance goal from Lauren Guarente '15 halfway through the third period, the Mules breezed to a 4-0 shutout, which improved their record to 11-9 overall. Despite only posting a 3-9 record in NESCAC play, Colby has a perfect 8-0 record in out of conference play, which has them currently in eighth place in league standings. On top of that, the Mules have won 11 out of their last 16 games and have already surpassed last year's win total of 10.

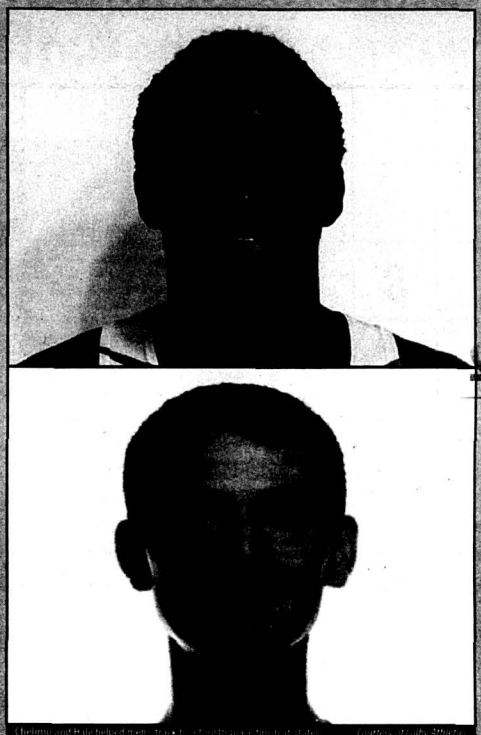
"Following last year's appearance in the NESCAC semi-finals, we changed our mentality and set out expectations a little higher this year," said Rascia. "I think that has resulted in the success of our team."

Last year's surprise semi-finals team has impacted this year's squad significantly. "Graduating the class of 2014 changed our team a lot," commented Rascia. "We lost girls who played a lot of minutes for us, but that allowed other players to step in." The biggest change for the Mules has been in net as they lost Bri Wheeler '14 to graduation; freshman Jess Thulin, however has filled in that role

seamlessly. Another goaltender, Angelica Crites '16, started the game against Southern Maine and stopped 16 shots to record her first career shutout. "Geli had a great night getting the shutout," Kat Mackey '16 said. "She did a great job seeing the puck and making the stops she needed to." Another player that has stepped up has been Katie McLaughlin '17, who has matured significantly since the previous season and plays with more confidence this year. The team has also collectively matured as the Mules returned 17 players for this season.

The women's ice hockey team has already set their sights on the postseason as the regular season is beginning to wrap up. With just four games left and two NESCAC opponents to go, the Mules hope to finish the season on a strong note to boost their playoff ranking. "We are lower in the standings than we'd like to be," Mackey said. "Hopefully we can move up with our last couple of games." The Mules host the Cardinals of Wesleyan University this weekend in their regular season finale at Alford Rink.

### Devastators of the Week



## David Chelimo '17 and Jeff Hale '15

Why: Chelimo and Hale added more awards to their growing collection after impressive performances at the State of Maine Men's Indoor Track and Field Championships. Chelimo, an All-American cross-country runner, is coming off of one of the best complete season performances for a Colby athlete and Hale, in his last year for the Mules, has been a strong leader, consistently performing at the top of the pack. Both the distance runners breezed by the competition averaging a 4:20.61 minute mile defeating stiff competition. The duo is slated to compete this weekend in the Valentine Classic against familiar competition from track powerhouses like M.U.T. Williams, as well as DI squads like Boston University.

## Men's Hockey Ties Hamilton, falls to 5-12-3

By DANNY KOSSOW  
Staff writer

The Colby men's hockey team (2-9-3 in NESCAC competition) won't accept moral victories, not at this critical juncture of its season. With just four games to go, the team finds itself in ninth place in the league, one place shy of reaching the conference tournament and a chance to compete for a NESCAC title. As each game passes by, the room for error becomes increasingly smaller, and the team knows it. But, goalie Sam Parker '15 said, this isn't something they can harp on. "As frustrating as this weekend was to only get one point when, frankly, we needed a little more. I think we did a lot of good things in terms of tightening our game up and competing for sixty minutes."

The team's most recent results, a 2-1 loss to second-ranked Amherst (10-4), and a 2-2 tie against the sixth-ranked Hamilton Continentals (7-

8-5), mark an improvement in play from previous efforts. The game against Hamilton snapped a five-game losing streak, four of which came against NESCAC opponents. The Mules held a 2-1 lead going into the third period with both goals coming from sophomore Mario Benicky. The second goal, a play Benicky had gone over with teammates, was a tangible example of how the team has improved its play. "The second one was a play me and my roommate had talked about a couple of times before when I used to be on the powerplay with him," Benicky said. "I just kept telling him to shoot the puck on my stick and it would go in somehow. That's what happened. He just shot it, he missed the net on purpose, but he put it on my stick and the puck bounced in."

Unfortunately, the Mules couldn't quite close out the game with a lead. Hamilton sophomore Neil Conway netted the tying goal with 6:23 gone in the final period. "Pretty much a bang-bang play," Parker called it, the

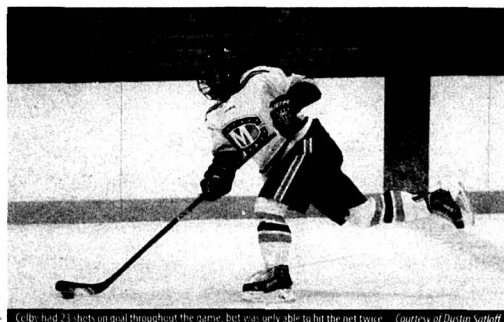
result of a brief mental lapse. "We had one tough shift where we had a little trouble clearing the puck, but I thought we played really well. And then the overtime period, we really took control in that, and I was amazed. Some days the puck doesn't bounce your way."

At this point, Parker notes, the team doesn't have a choice but to look forward, and to do so with a positive attitude. As a senior, Parker has seen this movie before. Two years ago Colby Men's Hockey found itself in a similar position. The team went on to win its last three games and claim the seventh seed in the NESCAC tournament, before eventually losing a close 2-1 game to heavily favored Williams in the opening round. With four games remaining in the season, Parker says the team is ready to finish strong.

Colby can look forward to two road games next weekend against two teams at opposite ends of the standings. The first is at Wesleyan (1-13), the last place team in the NESCAC, whom the Mules beat 5-2 in mid-January. The

second is against Trinity (12-1-1), the top-ranked team in the conference, and the fourth ranked team in the nation. Regardless of the opponent's talent, Parker says the team must remain focused on playing its game. "Do your job. It's a big thing for Belichick and the

Patriots, and we've kind of adopted that as one of our team mantras.... We all know what we need to do, and we're preparing for a huge weekend on the road. Quite frankly, they're getting to be must-win games now. And we're ready for them."



Colby had 23 shots on goal throughout the game, but was only able to hit the net twice. Courtesy of Dustin Safford

## Men's Basketball climbs up in NESCAC standings



By KIERNAN SOMERS  
Asst. Sports Editor

At the end of last year, Colby men's basketball was better known for their bench celebrations than for their play on the court, however, that may not continue to be the case for long, as the Mules have worked their way into contention after years in the league cellar.

In his short time at the helm of the men's basketball program, head coach Damien Strahorn, has righted the ship and brought new life to the once-struggling Mules. Since taking over the program during the 2011-2012 season, he has lead Colby up the ranks of the NESCAC where currently, the Mules sit in sixth place tied with perennial league powerhouse, Williams. Colby is 13-9 and has the highest-scoring offense in the league. Led by co-captains Luke Westman '16 and third-year captain Connor O'Neil '15, the Mules have truly come together as a team and their cohesion has led to results on the court.

Colby is no stranger to success. Under his 40-plus year tenure as head coach, Dick Whitmore led the team to over 600 wins; the Mules, however, had fallen out of touch with their winning culture. After Whitmore, who ranks seventh in DIII for career wins, resigned, Coach Strahorn was called upon to "rebrand" Colby Basketball. The former standout Mule turned coach came in with a mission, but knew it would take time. "For me the first hope was to be able to get the program back to where it once was. Given where the program was when I took over, I knew it was going to be a process...and that there would be challenges along the way. We needed to be committed to excellence." This year, the plan Strahorn implemented has come to fruition and the Mules have realized success in the NESCAC and in non-conference play.

Although on paper this is one of the best years in recent memory for the Mules, the team is still not satisfied. Both O'Neil and Westman commented on how both the team and individual players need to be setting more ambitious goals. Both captains try to lead by example, and under their leadership, they have instilled a culture change on the squad. "Three years ago, there was no desire or commitment to improve," remarked O'Neil. "No one was staying after practice to put up shots or run sprints...but now if you go down to the gym at any time, I guarantee there will be a person on the team working to get better." Early on in his time as captain, O'Neil noted how the Mules broke huddles saying "commitment" but were not truly committed. Now, that commitment to doing the little things right, "the commitment to excellence" is there. For Strahorn this began with the players.

The first recruiting class of the Strahorn era has been the leading force behind the "rebranding" of Colby basketball. This class was quick and ready to fully buy into the program and featured players like Westman, who "stepped in and was a leader on the court from day one," Chris Hudnut '16, who has been the center of the Mules offense, and Ryan Jann '16, who has been "a strong voice both on and off the court for the team."

Both captains described Strahorn as a players' coach. "He is a rare type of coach, where you can respect him for his commitment to the team," noted Westman, "but also respect him as a friend because he is not just passionate about us as basketball players, but as individuals." The attitude to coaching that Strahorn takes is one where he is encouraging good plays rather than harping on the bad. He has a unique ability to connect with players as he was in their shoes 13 years ago. As a former player, he is extremely passionate about Colby and it shows on the sideline during the game. It is not uncommon for Strahorn to storm up and down the

bench, yelling at the refs, stomping his feet, and waving his hands multiple times throughout a game. His passion is infectious, as evident with the team attitude toward losing having shifted. "When we used to lose, guys would be joking in the locker room five minutes after the game...now we hate losing. When you change a culture, it doesn't happen overnight...we've really grown as a team over the past couple years and



Colby led 4-1 in non-conference games at the top with Coach, O'Neil said.

The culture that Strahorn has worked hard to instill in the team over the past four years has begun to show. The team is a cohesive unit that works hard and does the small things right, and the future is definitely bright for the Mules as they return most of their starters as well as their top scorers next year. O'Neil triumphantly alluded to this, saying, "this year we worked ourselves into the conversation, next year we will be the conversation. The NESCAC is wide open as the typical powerhouses struggle. Next year is our year."

school as inspiration. Over the last few years, the men's cross country team and running competitors for track and field have been improving at a blistering rate. They're clearly doing something right, and their fellow on-campus teams might do well to take note.

Two more top runners for Men's Indoor Track and Field added to the Mules' recent list of accolades. David Chelimo '17 and Jeff Hale

'15 won state titles at last week-end's Maine Championships at Bates. Chelimo squeezed out a win the 1,000-meter race while Hale cruised to a more comfortable victory in the 3,000-meter. Charlie Coffman '15 and Brian Somers '17 were runners-up in the 5,000-meter and 600-meter competitions respectively.

For more on Chelimo and Hale, see Devastator of the Week on page 11.

## Tough Competition at Dartmouth Winter Carnival for skiers

Men's and women's teams find consistency throughout season

By WILL LEVESQUE  
Staff Writer

The Dartmouth Winter Carnival, a 104-year-old annual event that always promises to provide fierce competition, is a traditional hallmark of any New England ski team's calendar. This year proved to be no exception to that rule, as the Mules, braving freezing temperatures and light snow, offered a strong performance against the highly determined competition.

The racing began on a cold Friday afternoon with the men's and women's classic sprint races. Both Colby teams provided a strong showing, with the women finishing eighth of 11 teams while the men found themselves tied with Middlebury for eighth. Mules racer Olivia Amber '17 was especially fast, arriving in 11th place, while her teammate and co-captain Amy Bianco '17 came in a respectable 23rd. On the men's side, Calvin Wright '16 led the team in 23rd place, while Jeff Tucker '16 crossed the finish line three places behind in 26th. In the end, Middlebury won the women's sprint with 118 points, while the University of Vermont won the men's with 138.

While Saturday featured a strong showing from Colby, it was obvious that both teams aimed to achieve even greater success in the 10k event on Saturday. Racing in better conditions than Friday, with the temperature at a relatively balmy 29 degrees, the Mules put in their

best, hoping for even better results than were seen on Friday.

For the women's team, Amber, having led her team the day before, repeated her performance in a strong fashion, again coming in 11th place with a time of 32 minutes and 30.2 seconds, as her teammate, Co-Captain Kim Bourne '16 crossed the line in 44th place with a time of 45 minutes and 27.3 seconds. The results were strangely similar to those seen Friday, again placing the women's Nordic team in 8th place with 48 points.

The men's team, however, solidly improved their performance on Saturday, with Silas Eastman '17 coming in 22nd place with a time of 27 minutes and 46.5 seconds. Tucker followed close behind, again showing the same tenacity as he did the day before, coming in 24th place with a time of 27 minutes and 58.2 seconds. These performances, along with a strong showing from the rest of the Nordic team, would place the Mules in sixth place out of 13 with 56 points, a highly respectable showing against the fierce opponents they faced.

Colby Nordic Skiing can, however, take pride in the consistent results they have been able to provide this season. The women have never finished outside the top 10, whereas the men have drastically improved their results after a difficult first two races, finishing sixth, eighth, and sixth for their last three challenges. With a busy schedule ahead, culminating in the NCAA Skiing Championships at Mount Van Hoevenberg on March 11th, Colby Nordic continues to assert their strength as one of Colby's few Division I teams.

## Colby on Deck

### Skiing at Middlebury Carnival

Friday, Feb. 13 9 AM Middlebury, VT

### W. Swimming at NESCAC Championships

Friday, Feb. 13 10 AM Middletown, CT

### W. Basketball at Tufts

Friday, Feb. 13 7 PM Medford, MA

### M. Hockey at Wesleyan

Friday, Feb. 13 7 PM Middletown, CT

### M. Basketball vs. Tufts

Friday, Feb. 13 7 PM Waterville, ME

### Indoor Track at Valentine Classic

Saturday, Feb. 14 11 AM Boston, MA

### W. Hockey vs. Wesleyan

Saturday, Feb. 14 3 PM Waterville, ME

## Two State Titles for M. Track

By PETE CROKITE  
Sports Editor

If President Greene is as committed to the growth and continued success of Colby athletics as he purports to be—and there have certainly been plenty of changes in recent months to suggest that he is—he would do well to look at the meteoric rise of the men's runners at the

school as inspiration. Over the last few years, the men's cross country team and running competitors for track and field have been improving at a blistering rate. They're clearly doing something right, and their fellow on-campus teams might do well to take note.

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