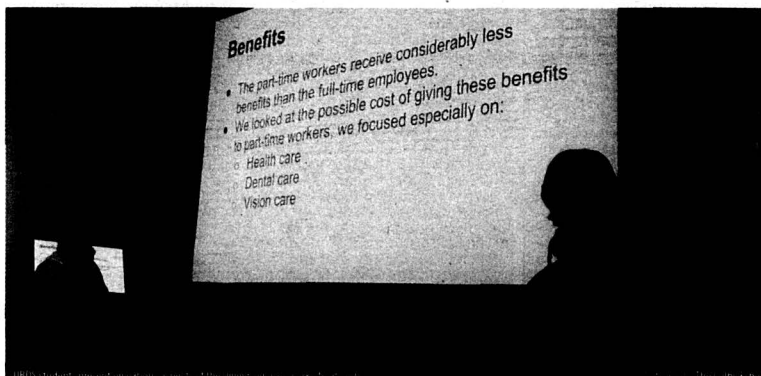


## Students suggest increased Dining Services budget



BY MEGAN LASHER  
News Editor

Multiple students have come together to form an activist group called United for Better Dining Services (UBDS). They are demanding higher wages and better support for Sodexo employees at Colby.

UBDS, which has been active since the beginning of the fall semester, has generated much administrative attention through their campaigns on behalf of the dining services workers. Earlier this year, Director of Dining Services Larry Llewellyn released a

public response to the group's manifesto. In the two-page document, he clarified some specific points that UBDS had investigated, including that each part-time employee is given two sets of uniforms, employees are given one 15-minute break for 6-hour shifts and two for 8-hour shifts along with a 30-minute unpaid meal break, and that "all Sodexo staff are free to converse with any student, staff or faculty on campus during their breaks or after their work period."

In response to the document, and in a follow-up to their semester-long research, UBDS held a meeting on Friday, Feb. 13 to propose new ad-

ditions to the budget for Dining Services. Members Ana Sofia Canelas '18 and Ester Topolarova '17 began the event with a presentation analyzing the cost of healthcare, travel vouchers, new uniforms, and higher wages for all 80 full-time and 60-70 part-time Sodexo workers. Their proposed budget ranges from \$989K to \$3.6 million, depending upon three categorized options (see table on following page).

Following the presentation, Hiya Islam '15 opened the conversation to the community members in attendance. She asked the audience to evaluate three main questions: "Did we

forget something that you would like us to address? Did the budget make sense — can it work? And how can we make it work?"

Brian Westerman '16 started by asking where the budget money would come from, and Islam tabled the question in order to first focus on the presentation's content. Another student asked how Colby's Dining Services compared to other NES-CAC schools, and Marina Arcuschi '16 responded that the other colleges are either self-run or use a different dining service company, so there are few grounds for comparison. Topolarova later commented that UBDS is inspired by a larger national movement, which—as of last year—started encouraging all the Sodexo-focused campaigns to concentrate on improving the contracts to directly affect the worker's conditions and the college communities.

Students asked Llewellyn to clarify whether dining services workers were employed under Colby or under Sodexo, and if they are given the ability to work when school is not in session. "Sodexo is employed on a management contract. We don't own the equipment or the maintenance," he answered. "Sodexo operates a number of summer camps around Maine, so when Colby isn't in school, [the employees] still have opportunities for work. Last summer, everyone who wanted to was able to work."

The audience debated whether the budget should come from Sodexo or Colby, and Spanish Lan-

guage Assistant Clara Morales asked, "Why can't Sodexo take less benefits, so why aren't they offering a collaborative part on this?"

Llewellyn clarified: "This is Colby's money, not Sodexo's. They pay us a fee to manage their budget." Assistant Professor of Global Studies Maple Razza commented: "Really these are Colby's employees—they're Sodexo only by name, but Colby employs Sodexo and decides the wage. For us thinking about this as a community, do we want a campus that's run more cheaply at the expense of the lower-paid workers who live among us?"

The conversation quickly turned back to the feasibility of the budget, and Brian Martinez '17 said, "A lot of you probably know that President Greene recently doubled Colby's debt, and it's a matter of allotting those funds.... It's a feasible thing to add to the Dining Services budget. I think it's do-able."

Razza asserted that the minimum category is "potentially not ambitious enough. It would be good to look at a range of living wage studies and determine the real cost of living first." Topolarova noted that her research had concluded that \$10.10 is the living wage, but that it is higher for employees with children.

*cont'd in Sodexo conditions, p. 2*

## Six Professors Receive Tenure

BY ANH UONG  
News Staff

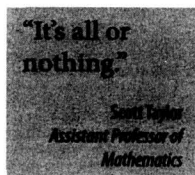
In order for a professor to secure their position at the College, they must undergo the rigorous process of gaining tenure. That process culminated last week for six professors, whose demonstrated excellence granted them permanent spots on the Hill.

Tenure is typically a six-year process that involves a continuous review by professors, students and various committees, concluding in a final decision from the Board of Trustees.

"It's definitely not a sprint, but [rather] a marathon," Assistant Professor of Mathematics Scott Taylor said. Taylor was one of the professors to receive tenure last week and also mentioned how the experience can be a stressful one that takes a lot of work, and in the end, "it's all or nothing." The final decision is characterized by the Board's evaluations of three main components of the professor's career: teaching, research and service.

Of these components, teaching receives the most weight, and its rating is heavily influenced by student and professor feedback. During the probationary period, when the professor in question does not have a permanent position at the College, he or she is tested and evaluated by fellow colleagues in their

respective department. Evaluations are often completed after observing a few of the professor's class sessions and indicate areas where the professor either performs excellently or needs improvement.



In addition to teaching, a professor's research demonstrates a sense of scholarship and professional development that are intrinsic to academia. Another recently tenured faculty member, Assistant Professor of Psychology Christopher Soto, said, "I came to Colby because I love to teach and I love research. At Colby, there are opportunities to integrate them both."

The College provides professors with a pre-tenure sabbatical, along with numerous chances to collaborate with peers on scholarly work. The importance of research is highlighted in the months leading up to the tenure committee's review, when the professor must provide a collection their research to be examined by a

body of reviewers comprised of the departmental committee, objective reviewers from outside the College but in the same field and friendly reviewers who have previously worked with the professor.

Finally, the professor must consistently perform service to both their department and the broader academic community. This is usually done through participation in various projects and committees throughout the campus.

Upon successful completion of their evaluations, tenure was awarded to Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies Chandra Bhimull, Assistant Professor of French Audrey Brunetaux, Assistant Professor of Global Studies Maple Razza, Associate Professor of Art Tanya Sheehan, alongside Soto and Taylor. Each will add their own special touch to their department and contribute greatly to the community for years to come.

Taylor explained that as long as he kept doing his job, he would remain at Colby. However, he now has "the freedom to experiment and try something new." Soto mentioned something similar, noting how professors "have to keep up a certain pace leading up to tenure, keeping it safe and doing a good job." Both professors view tenure as an invitation to develop new and exciting research projects.

## College issues \$100M in bonds for new projects

BY DAVID DiNICOLA  
Co-Editor-in-Chief  
&  
SAM LEBLANC  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Last month, the College issued bonds totalling 100 million dollars to fund a number of potential capital investments. While this move caused *Standard & Poor's* to lower Colby's credit rating and almost doubled the College's debt, this decision demonstrates a recent administrative effort to enact immediate change in areas that many members of the community have identified as having the highest need. President David A. Greene cited athletics and the performing arts as areas that need immediate assistance, and capital raised from the bond issuance will contribute to these efforts.

The bond issuance mirrors a similar assumption of debt in 2013 by the University of Chicago, where Greene previously served as Executive Vice President. The University sold roughly 149 million dollars in federally tax-exempt bonds, after which Bloomberg downgraded the University's credit outlook in January of the following year. However, the institution moved up to a fourth place spot on U.S. *World News's* National University Ranking that same year.

With interest rates nearing record lows (and projected to stay low for the foreseeable future) this was an ideal time for the college to issue debt, and Greene is optimistic about the decision. "We know we're going to be invested in Colby and this gives us the flexibility to be able to invest in those programs at the right time, and that's why we went into it right now."

As a non-profit, Colby is capable of issuing non-taxable bonds, but due to similarly low interest rates for taxable and non-taxable debt securities, the College decided to issue taxable bonds. "Most of the time when colleges and universities go into the market, they get non-taxable debt," Greene said. However, he noted the restrictions associated with this approach: "You have to lay out all the purposes you're going to use it for, it has to be used within two or three years depending on the kind of debt it is."

"The reason that they get non-taxable debt is that typically, the rates are better than taxable debt," he continued. "There are advantages to having taxable debt.... it gives you much more flexibility and the funds don't have to be spent in a certain time period." The College will make annual interest

*cont'd in bond issuance, p. 2*

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# Student activists protest Sodexo working conditions

"From a feasibility perspective, I've already proposed that wages go up to \$10 in this year's budget, and that hasn't been turned down yet,"

Associate Director of Dining Services Joseph Klaus ended the discussion by saying that, if the students aspire to such a significant budget increase, "there are three ways to pay for it: from tuition, fundraising, or

Islam also added that the movement, which has grown since the release of a UBDS web page and online petition, is "a long-term goal about worker's safety, so we can change people's lived realities."

Table of final budget proposals based on various options of each category

*New SGA initiatives: Waterville shuttle, Social Activists Lectures*

Osman Bah '16, SGA Treasurer, presented a rough draft of fund allocation for the semester. He said that approximately 40 percent of the total SGA budget was spent over Fall 2014 and JanPlan 2015, adding that this was the norm, since the spring semester has always required extra event funding. "After accounting for newspaper

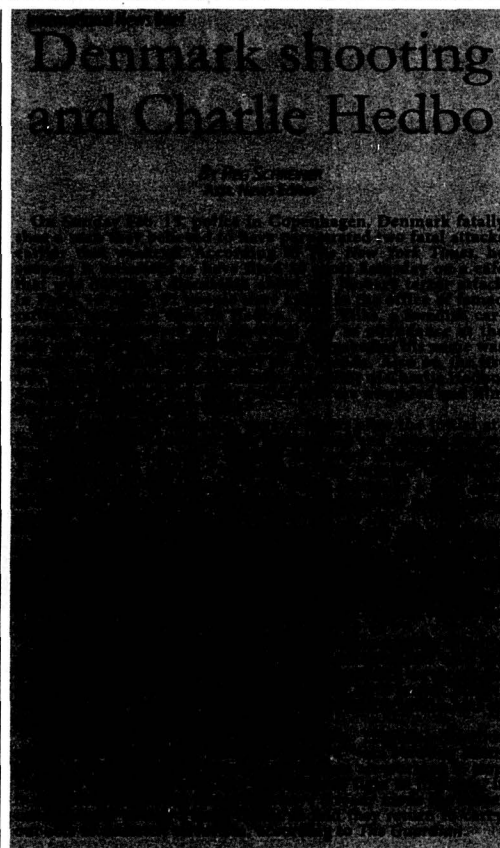
In addition to the new initiatives discussed, SGA approved six clubs during the meeting. These include The Wounded Warriors Club, The Gift of Life Club, the Current Affairs Discussion Club, the Hawaii Club, React to Film (RTF) and Colby Cafe. The clubs' focuses range from charitable work with wounded service members and

Advancements in all of these new and exciting ventures, along with currently unannounced projects will be discussed in the next SGA meeting on March 1st.

## Colby bond issuance

Historically, the college has been fiscally conservative and debt averse in its approach to financial decision-making. According to Vice President and Secretary of the College Andrew C. McGadney, who arrived on campus this past August, "This decision speaks to the College's ability to take on debt.

As part of a larger comprehensive financial plan, both Greene and McGadney noted that the new debt will help to provide roughly five million dollars in financial aid over the next four years. In addition, the College has already planned an open campus conversation on the Performing Arts facilities project, according to an Official Notice from Provost and Dean of Faculty Lori Kletzer. A similar opportunity to discuss the athletics facilities project is forthcoming.



DATE	TIME	REPORTING OFFICER	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS
1/25/15	1:25 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
1/26/15	2:00 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
1/25/15	2:00 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
2/5/15	2:25 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
2/7/15	2:30 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
2/7/15	2:40 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
2/8/15	2:45 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
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2/9/15	3:55 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
2/10/15	4:05 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]
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2/13/15	4:25 a.m.	Det. [Name]	[Description]	[Remarks]

# Three robberies in less than a month shake local community

*Residents begin to question their safety within the city*

By CAROLINE FERGUSON  
Local News Editor

This past Thursday, Feb. 12th, the TD Bank on Waterville's Main Street was robbed and the assailant is still currently at large. At around 5:45 p.m., the suspect entered the bank wearing a full face mask and handed a note to the teller which threatened violence if money was not exchanged. The person showed no possession of any weapon. Out of fear for their safety, the teller handed an undisclosed amount of money to the robber, who then quickly fled the bank on foot. Shortly after, ten police cruisers arrived on the scene in response to dispatch calls and began to conduct their investigation through the use of a canine tracking team. However, the suspect has yet to be located and the investigation is still ongoing.

This incident is the first bank robbery in about a year for Waterville, with the last occurring in late February of 2014. For that case, the assailant managed to obtain nearly \$4,000 in cash from the Bangor Savings Bank on upper Main Street but was eventually caught and charged in June.

This statistic is only looking at robberies specifically of banks, and doesn't take into account similar crimes of that genre in the entire city. Last week's crime at TD Bank is only one part within

the recent chain of robberies in the Waterville area. Within this past month alone, the city has seen three separate robberies, including that of TD Bank, all of which have yet to locate their respective suspects.

The first of this crime chain occurred on the morning of the last Sunday in January, when a male resident was approached by the suspect on Gray Street in Waterville. The suspect then threatened him with a screwdriver, pressing it into the man's abdomen, and ran off on foot after obtaining the victim's wallet. Similarly, less than two weeks later on Feb. 6th, the manager of Elm Plaza's Rent-A-Center was robbed outside at gunpoint after closing up for the night. The gunman then obtained the store's bank deposit bag containing an undisclosed amount of cash and fled the scene on foot toward the corner of Main Street and Waterville Commons Drive.

These recent events are unsettling for many in the Waterville community. With three incidences of robbery occurring in an extremely short time period, two of which involved threat-

ening weapons, it leaves many wondering if they are related. However, Deputy Chief Charles Rumsey of the Waterville Police Department was quick to dispel this concern. "We have not identified the suspects," Rumsey said. "But we do not believe that there is any connection between the recent robberies in Waterville nor any connection between the persons involved."

Along with their lack of correlation, the timing of these robberies does not necessarily imply a related rise in crime rate for the city overall. The fact of the matter is that Waterville has steadily held high crime rates for many years, with its crime index currently 120 percent higher than the Maine average and considered to be safer than only 14 percent of all cities in the U.S. (according to city-data.com).

However, these higher crime related statistics simply come with the territory of being highly populated area with resources drawing in outside visitors. "Waterville is what we call a service center city; people travel here from outlying communities to access the services available here," Rumsey explained. "That type of

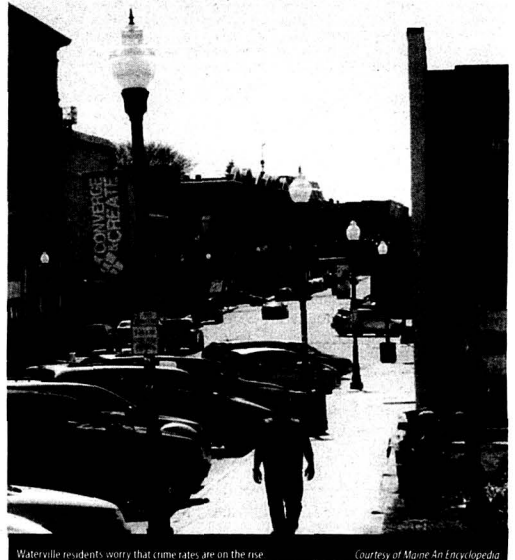
demographic often means that we will have higher crime rates than other cities in the area."

With this, Rumsey emphasizes that the seeming rise in crime rates is "all just coincidence" and residents should not be worried.

Despite these recent occurrences of crime within Waterville, "we still strongly believe this is an overall safe community to live in," Rumsey said, "and we want to make sure that residents feel safe as well."

**"We still strongly believe that this is an overall safe community to live in."**

Charles Rumsey  
Deputy Chief of the Waterville  
Police Dept.



Waterville residents worry that crime rates are on the rise

(Courtesy of Maine An Encyclopedia)

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## SGA test-runs shuttle service

By SIMONE LEUNG  
Features Editor

With President David Greene's inspiring leadership, administration and student organizations have been working toward continuing and rebuilding the relationship between the Colby community and the city of Waterville. Greene has worked with the College's Student Government Association (SGA) to plan a Waterville shuttle service that would help serve student transportation needs and also strengthen the bond between Colby and Waterville.

"[The shuttle service] would not only improve the relationship between Colby and the local community, but it also would help invigorate local businesses by providing transportation to more potential customers (Colby students)," SGA President Justin Deckert '15 said. "At the beginning of the year, we were talking about why people don't feel as connected with the Waterville community, and one of the major things we heard about was that it is an access problem, especially if you don't have a car on campus," he said.

Though the College offers the Jitney Service seven days a week, many students have identified it as an unpredictable and inconvenient form of transportation. "The Jitney service works like a taxi: you call and wait. But, to be honest it's pretty unreliable and doesn't solve this access problem," Deckert said. "Many other colleges and universities have a shuttle for students to get students where they need to go, so we started to wonder if this was possible to have here in Waterville.... If you think about it, everything is just slightly out of walking distance, especially in the winter months, but very much easily accessible with transportation.... Outside of Bangor and Portland, there is no public transportation in Maine," he added.

SGA has been working closely

Main Street Association Jen Olsen and Colby's Director of Planning Brian Clarke to develop a shuttle service that would serve the needs of the College's students. "The shuttle would run in conjunction with the existing Jitney services but will run on a set schedule with set pick up/drop off locations," Deckert said. "The Jitney won't be replaced, but it will definitely start a much needed conversation about the purpose of the Jitney and whether or not it is serving that purpose," Deckert said.

Earlier this month, SGA sent out a survey to collect information on the times, days, and routes that best suits students' needs. "We got about 500 responses detailing ideal locations, times of day people would use the shuttle, and why they would use it. A lot of people were really receptive to the idea, and we got a lot of great feedback," Deckert said. They are looking to obtain a "vehicle... larger than a sprinter van, but smaller than a school bus. Maybe a mini bus," Deckert said.

Though the shuttle service will not begin this academic year, SGA and Campus Life are looking to launch a pilot program to test the shuttle. Ideally, the pilot program will start before the end of the year—maybe March or April—and last for around three weeks. After that, we are hoping to get as much feedback as possible, so that we can analyze people's responses and use the information to work on a more long term solution," Deckert said.

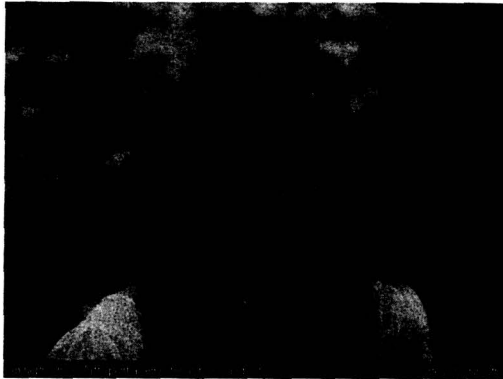
SGA has also discussed concerns over the potential misuse of the shuttle service. "I think there are definite concerns about student safety," Deckert explained. "We don't want it to become a party bus to just bring people back and forth to bars, or to become something that may threaten the safety of students whether on campus or downtown. We are just interested in seeing what it may turn into. What purpose it will serve, and how it will impact Colby life within Waterville."







# Mr. & Ms. February



## Ms. February: Sarah Taft '18

Hailing from Dover, Mass., the beautiful Sarah Taft '18 has followed in the footsteps of her older brother, Will Taft '13, at Colby thus far. Like Will, Sarah ventured across the Atlantic Ocean to spend her first semester of college in Dijon, France. She says she's bad at speaking French but learned a lot more while she was there.

Sarah is one of four Taft siblings, but more importantly, she has three adorable dogs, two golden retrievers and one rat dog which are often featured in her Snapchat stories. Not only does Sarah enjoy mucking around with her pups, but she is also a huge fan of outdoor activities. When she's not taking long walks on the beach pondering life or skiing, she's sailing on Cape Cod, where she teaches at Buzzards Sailing School.

During the spring of her junior year at the Dana Hall School, Sarah attended the Island School in Cape Eleuthera, Bahamas. There, Sarah swam in a four-mile race and spent 48 hours alone on a beach to discover herself. While the Island School may have toughened Sarah up, she is deathly afraid of moths like the rest of us mere mortals. To soothe her fears,

Sarah loves indulging in mint Oreo or chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream and is always willing to share with friends! However, her favorite food is sushi, and she could eat it every day of the week.

When asked about her semester abroad and her first month at Colby, Sarah said, "I loved my host mom in France, Martine, and I ended up liking my host dad, Alain, a lot more by the end, but he scared me at the beginning," Sarah said. My favorite part about being abroad for the first semester was being able to travel all over Europe. We spent a week near the beach in the South of France, a week in Paris, and my friends and I traveled to London, Amsterdam, and Berlin while we were there. Being abroad definitely made me that much more excited to get to Colby in January. I'm still figuring out what else I want to get involved in around campus but I'm thinking about joining CCAK and some other stuff over time. I'm really looking forward to meeting lots of new people throughout second semester and skiing a lot at Sugarloaf."

Written by Natalie Oakes '18 and Sarah Taft '18



## Mr. February: Henry Hodge '18

Ladies, did you strike out this Valentine's Day? Quit sitting around and reading The Colby Echo and go find Henry Hodge '18. This perfect male specimen is tall, sporting hair reminiscent of a serene August afternoon and has eyes so blue that you'll be smitten after just one glance. Henry is a nice reminder that "FebFrosh" exist and that sometimes NEW really does mean BETTER.

A perfect blend of the West and East coast, Henry originally hales from Newport Beach, California but currently resides in Cambridge, Mass and is the perfect catch for anybody in between. If you like intelligence, Henry has an abundance of that. He spent his first semester abroad in Salamanca, Spain learning and perfecting his linguistic abilities in Spanish (don't ask him to demonstrate them), and he plans on majoring in environmental things at Colby. He is disciplined and studious, as he can be seen hard at "work" on the first or second floor of Miller library, usually next to his hilarious FebFroshFriends Will Walkey '18 and David Martin '18.

If you like athletes, Henry can be that for you. He is a member of the men's varsity crew team, and more impressively, he withstands the trudge through the backbreaking wind and snow be-

tween his residence in Hillside and the AC without breathing heavily at all.

If you like outdoorsy people, Henry is perfect for you. He is a black diamond skier, a wilderness first responder with CPR certifications (ask him to demonstrate for you), and a COOT applicant.

If you love social people, Henry is the one for you. He is extremely outgoing and friendly, an expert in small talk and has been known to slap the bag on more than one occasion. In other words, there is NO possible way that you cannot find Henry attractive.

Henry is extremely dedicated in everything that he does, he would be extremely dedicated to the next lucky lady that finds him, and he is a perfect 10. I, for one, personally am sick and tired of seeing a god-among-men like him have to wait for his special someone. So ladies, get your acts together, and line up. This afternoon delight will be scooped up before long.

Favorite Movie: The Incredibles

Favorite Book: The Boys in the Boat by Daniel Brown

Favorite Song: "Baba O'Reilly" by The Who

Favorite Food: Fish Tacos

Written by Will Walkey '18

## COC offers spring break trips

By BRANDON BLACKBURN  
Asst. Features Editor

March 19 marks the beginning of spring break, and, for many students, this time off is an occasion to relax. Some students will head home, catch up with family and friends, and watch Netflix. But for some students, the absence of the dull roar of classes allows the call of the wild to enunciate itself better, and, as a result, they will take it upon themselves to brave the outdoors. For these outdoor enthusiasts, the most appealing option is often to sign up for a Colby Outing Club (COC) spring break trip.

The COC offers a number of student-led trips throughout the semester, but the pressures of classes and other on-campus activities means that neither the leaders nor the participants can afford much time off. As a result, the majority of these trips are day or overnight hikes in areas no more than a few hours from campus. Spring break offers a week-long vacation from college obligations. Thus, students can lead more extensive trips to areas further from campus.

In an effort to reach as many students as possible, all trips are subsidized by the Student Government Association. Each trip costs between \$250 and \$500 per student and covers all planned expenses. Additionally, trippers are selected by lottery in order to provide each student who signs up a fair chance of going on a trip.

"[Going on one of these trips] gives people an option to push themselves and learn something new," said COC Trip Facilitation Committee Head Owens Strawinski '17, who will be leading the backpacking trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas. "It's going to be a tough trip, but so rewarding," she said.

In the past, these trips have consisted predominantly of hiking and backpacking. This year, however, there is much more diversity in both location and trip activity. "One of the trips this year is to the Zion," said Seth Butler '16, who



will be leading the snorkeling trip to St. John in the Virgin Islands. "[Zion is] somewhere you'd want to go on your bucket list."

Changes within the structure of the club, as well as more involvement from the administration this year, particularly from Director of Outdoor programs Ryan Linehan, has allowed the club to more efficiently organize these trips and streamline the process of leading trips. "No one wants to play legal games. Everyone just wants to get outside," Strawinski said, "but we have to ... so we have to work with [the system] rather than against it."

These changes have helped to alleviate many of the pressures of organizing, but the process of navigating the logistics remains a complex and multi-faceted one. The club is doing what it can to make the process more efficient, but Strawinski believes the club can make improvements in the near future. "There's an unbelievable number of moving parts, and they all have to line up," she said. "It needs to be more streamlined."

In the case of many students,

COC trips offer unique and perhaps otherwise unattainable experiences. "I'm a double major, minor," Butler said, "so not much time to leave campus." For him, leading a spring break trip provides the opportunity to travel abroad, which is something his course load would otherwise prevent him from doing.

There will be four trips this spring ranging in difficulty, from the beginner-oriented combinations of day trips and base camping to more intensive expeditionary backpacking in Big Bend National Park, St. John, the White Mountains, and Zion National Park. With about ninety sign-ups this year and limited space on each trip due to safety and budget constraints, the club has had to turn many of these students away.

Strawinski, however, thinks the trips themselves are a solution to this issue. "One thing we would love is for people to get psyched about these spring break trips and become outing club leaders," she said. "The more awesome leaders we can get leading trips in the outdoors, the better."

## Au: Artist in Disguise

By FILIP MONTGOMERY  
News Staff

"I have the ability that if I see something, even something as small as a post stamp, I can copy it." Dining Services Supervisor Kim "Mama" Au said of her artistic talents. "It's nothing I pursued, I always viewed it as a hobby," she explains. Although you may not be aware of it, you probably see Au's artwork on a daily basis around the campus because she makes all the chalk-paintings and decorations hanging in the dining halls and the Spa. Now you're probably thinking, "Oh yea I've seen those," but do you know the woman behind them?

Hailing from Waterville, Maine Au has worked for Sodexo since 2011. In her first year, she was the supervisor for Dana dining hall, after which she transferred to supervise the Spa. Before working for Sodexo, Au owned and operated three different restaurants, most notably the Jade Island restaurant, which she ran with her husband for 27 years before they sold it in 2010 (today it is Joseph's Fireside Grill). "I miss the restaurant, and I miss the customers, but I worked from six in the morning to ten or eleven at night" Au said. She now has more time to spend with her three children and two grandchildren. It has also given her more time to cultivate her artistic interests.

"I never pursued it. It's just always been a hobby or a sideline job," Au says. She was artistically inclined from a very young age. She used to paint windows for seven or eight businesses across town for each different season, and "in my own restaurant, I had 14 large windows to decorate." Au explained that she especially loves painting on windows because it's a little more challenging and requires a special technique: "You have to keep in mind that the work can be seen

from both sides and therefore you cannot rely on layering [the paint]. It's more experimental."

At Colby, Au mainly paints on the chalkboards that are placed around campus to create a "seasonal flare." It all began when a co-worker asked her to draw something to advertise for a cinnamon rolls special the Spa had that week.

"After that, one thing lead to another and I've been doing it ever since," Au said. Working with chalk is a new challenge for Au, but she is open to trying new things. "The only thing I don't like working with is oil painting; it's too rigid," she said. Last year, for a Thai themed event in Dana, Au carved fruit into different shapes and flowers in front of students to demonstrate how to "turn a simple object into a work of art."

Au has done fruit carving for a long time, both at Jade Island and at a summer camp she works at in Androscoggin. Au says that food has always been "her calling," so allowing herself to be artistic with fruit carving is the perfect combination for her.

Au also did all the artwork for the blanket drive put on by Sodexo in November. The blanket drive raised over \$700 worth of products such as shampoo, toothpaste, and clothing. "It was such a joy seeing the looks on their faces when we brought it over," she said. She also said that blanket drive volunteers brought over some of her artwork, and because it was really appreciated, she might do some volunteer work there in the future. Her latest work is the large Mardi Gras display in Dana.

When asked if she has any tips for anyone with similar hobbies or interests they do not intend to make a career out of, Au replied, "What is so great for me is that all the art I produce is in harmony with my work and life."

## Letter from the Editors:

Dear Colby community,

In a conversation with President Greene this past week, he made it clear that he intends to include an oft-absent voice in the forthcoming conversations about the procedural, programmatic and physical efforts the College plans to undertake in the coming years. That voice—as mentioned in an article in *News*—belongs to Colby's staff.

We have spoken on this issue once before, primarily regarding the issue of residence hall vandalism. However, given Greene's recent statements and efforts by student activist group United for Better Dining Services (UBDS), whose efforts are also featured in *News* this week, it seems appropriate that we reflect on what it means to truly talk, as Greene said, "an integrated community approach."

In the midst of all our work and activity, there's a tendency to be complacent and forget how much work goes into providing us with all of the creature comforts that make this place what it is. Many of us have missed one of those Custodian Appreciation Day breakfasts despite our love for squeaky clean showers and vomit-less stalls. Some of us have complained about the long lines in the Pub but aren't grateful enough for the hard work (and strong drinks) to leave a nice tip. Most of us have at one time complained about the food at Dues or Pons or Bob's, forgetting that those workers are cooking, plating and serving hundreds of meals every hour.

This edition of the *Echo* bridges this gap between student complacency and the realities of the lives of Colby employees. True community means taking the time to understand the joys and challenges of one another's lives and not simply passing one another by with impersonal "how are you's?" Getting to know the staff, while not a social movement in and of itself, is the first step in fostering dialogue and creating real change on campus.

The Features section includes two profiles on Colby employees this week: the first is on Dining Services Supervisor Kim Au, whose drawing and fruit carving skills decorate the campus whiteboards and dining halls during special occasions, respectively. The second features an interview with Helga Custodian Specialist Lorri Bolduc who discusses the challenges of working at a College with such great numbers of residence hall vandalism—but also her love for the students. Finally, an Opinion piece notes the strains on the small staff of Information Technology Services (ITS) and offers a solution for WiFi woes when ITS can't get to everything all at once.

Of course, simply talking isn't enough to make real change, but if we, as members of this community, are willing to actively engage with the people who make Colby tick, that's a nice first step. And as much as it sucks, every good English major knows that you usually have to work to (or at least with) the system before you can move outside of it. That said, it's healthy to take fresh approaches, and whether it's the students or the administration, this burgeoning movement for real human interactions is promising.



David DiNicola



Sam LeBlanc

## The Colby Echo

Published by the students of Colby College since 1877

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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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Musings From The Editor's Better Half

## Drunk sex: always a bad idea?

While reading the *Echo*'s Valentine's Day issue, I started thinking more about the college hook-up scene. As someone in a monogamous relationship, I don't think about the hook-up culture as much as I did before I met Jake. And since communication is paramount in a relationship, I've never worried about a questionable encounter between us. To be entirely honest, before thinking about writing this article, I had never actually read the "Overview of Policy Expectations with Respect to Physical Sexual Misconduct" section of the Colby College Student Handbook.

Then Jake sent me an article from Slate.com: "How Drunk is Too Drunk to Have Sex?" I definitely recommend reading it, as it goes into incredible detail about a real encounter (as opposed to my ramblings here). In sum—and I am really, quite frankly, oversimplifying here—a female student and a male student from Occidental College were both extremely intoxicated and had sex. A week later, the female student filed a complaint to the school against the male student, and he was expelled. He then filed suit against the College for applying its sexual misconduct policies unfairly based on gender.

The real issue in this case does not revolve around the facts; everyone involved in the encounter agrees on the events of that night. The real issue in this case is that both parties were extremely intoxicated, leading to the ever-present issue of consent.

We talk about it, define it, have shirts with it pasted on them ("Don't know if it's consensual? Just ask!") and hold forums and events on it—all of which are valid. The more we talk about it, the better. And I am all for having events centered around it. On a college campus, it really is essential for all students' safety. But my question, and I am not even going to begin to pretend that I have an inkling of an answer to it, is: what about drunk consent? This topic isn't new, but I think that when it comes to drunken consent, the only option is to keep talking about it, because we don't have answers.

If a student claims they don't want to have sex and then moments later changes their mind (of their own volition rather than by coercion),

does their level of intoxication invalidate that consent? At that point, how many times should the partner ask to make sure that person does, in fact, want to have sex? What if that person's judgment is equally impaired by alcohol and they do not check twice, three times, four times, or more? The next day, when one person wakes up and feels that they have made a mistake, how should they proceed?

Personally—as this is an opinion piece—I am of the mind that if both individuals are intoxicated, you cannot hold one person to a higher standard of judgment than the other.

I am a feminist. And as a feminist, I hold the value of equality extremely high. I understand that women between the ages eighteen to twenty-four are most likely to experience sexual assault. I was originally researching the statistic that 1 in 5 women experience sexual assault, only to find out that there is much debate over the numbers (if we debate numbers, how can we even begin to debate something you can't quantify? That's an issue for a different piece). When I look at my niece, I am so excited to see the woman she will become, but I am also terrified for her to grow up in a world where women have to think about where they walk, park, or live based on the fact that they are women.

That being said, I also do not think that someone should be expelled for a drunken mistake that, according to all accounts (including a witness, trained in sexual assault during orientation who saw the Occidental students having sex and closed the door because, as he told investigators, "This didn't look like [a sexual assault] to me") was consensual at that time.

Instead, I think we need to target the fact that women are more likely to be regarded as [insert equivalent to "sluts" here]. If both parties are drunk, but the next day one person wakes up and feels dirty or guilty because they had sex, I feel as if at least some part of the reason they might report that incident is to—and this may sound disgusting and terrible, but I'm going to say it—feel a little less guilty by placing the agency on someone else. Let me be clear: what I am talking about is not a situation in which someone

coerced or forced someone to have sex. I am strictly talking about the grey area where both parties (while intoxicated) consent in the moment and then one person wakes up the next day and feels that they should not have consented.

Feel free to disagree with me, but if a man wakes up after having sex the night before, he is less likely to feel a deep sense of shame than a woman. Maybe his friends will give him a high-five, or if he is willing to admit that he regrets the decision, they might even say "so what? You got laid." I admit that I am making a huge generalization here. But I feel that from my personal experiences and from witnessing other women's experiences, a woman is more likely to wake up then next day and feel ashamed or guilty or bad. And that is not her fault. Society, religion, etc. has essentially always engrained in women false virtues that tell them to keep their chastity belts on so that they can be desirable. At Colby, that statement goes a little overboard. But I had a friend who, after telling her mom she wanted to go on birth control because she was scared she might get sexually assaulted at college, her mom told her, "Well, you just shouldn't let that happen." Right. Because it should be the woman's job to make sure she doesn't get raped. Of course, how could I forget?

Getting back to my original point here, I think that consent is always important. It should not fall on one party or another to read someone's mind, so verbal consent is always optimal. Colby's policy on consent (the portion specifically regarding intoxication and consent) is as follows: "When alcohol or other drugs are being used, a person will be considered unable to give valid consent if they cannot fully understand the details of a sexual interaction (who, what, when, where, why, or how) because they lack the capacity to reasonably understand the situation."

The question remains: what if both parties fulfill that criteria in the moment, or give the appearance of fulfilling that criteria? Alcohol, at least for the time being, will always weave itself into Colby's hook-up culture. But when will shame untangle itself from sex?

## Colby divestment: it cannot wait

Did you see the huge banner hanging in Pulver last Thursday? The Colby Alliance for Renewable Energy (C.A.R.E.) hoisted a banner up to the rafters of Pulver to encourage members of the Colby community to question our status of carbon neutrality, in light of our continued support of the fossil fuel industry through our investments. The banner read: "CARBON INVESTMENTS = CARBON NETURAL?" While it is a huge achievement to be the fourth college in the country to achieve carbon neutrality, we find it ironic that our carbon neutrality is not carried over to our investments. Our investments in the fossil fuel industry support destructive, socially irresponsible companies that we learn to question in the classroom. CARE is asking Colby to divest our endowment from fossil fuels and reinvest in socially responsible companies. C.A.R.E. has been organizing for fossil fuel divestment on campus for over two years now. We have met numerous times with former President "Bro" Adams and current Vice President Doug Terp as well

as with members of the Board of Trustees.

Additionally, we have gained significant student support through petition drives, public rallies, and "Take a bite out of Fossil Fuel" campaigns. The divestment campaign at Colby is part of a larger international movement on college campuses, in cities and amongst religious groups to take a stand against the companies that are fueling climate change.

Supporting fossil fuel divestment doesn't mean ceasing to use fossil fuels. Professors need gas to drive to campus, PPD uses limited amounts of oil to heat our dorms in the dead of winter, and many items we interact with on a day-to-day basis are petroleum-based. Additionally, we would not support divestment if we believed it would hurt financial aid.

Bob Diamond, the chair of the Board of Trustees mentioned during the Trustee Fireside Chat this fall that if we were to divest, less money would go towards financial aid. First off, if there were to be a decrease in our endowment returns due to divestment, there is no reason that financial aid would have

to take the fall. Secondly, a study conducted by the Aperio Group shows that completely removing investments from the top 200 public coal, oil and gas companies with the largest potential carbon emissions content in their reserves (Carbon Underground 200) increases risk by only a mere 0.01 percent (2013). Colby should conduct a public feasibility study on divestment and explore more socially responsible investors. Some notable examples of institutions that have committed to divestment are Pitzer College, the city of San Francisco and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Colby could easily take a stand and choose not to invest our endowment in fossil fuel companies. In fact, the five percent of Colby's endowment that is made up of direct holdings is completely divested from The Carbon Underground 200. We can not wait five, 10 or 50 years to divest; the detrimental impacts the fossil fuel companies are having on our planet requires us to act now before it is too late. Colby is a national leader in sustainability and environmental initiatives; it is time that we align our investments with our morals and divest from the Carbon Underground 200.



Casey Ballin

## Winning Hearts and Minds

# Schooling the teachers: a plea for education reform

At present, education is a hot-button issue in American politics, and in American society in general. President Obama has continually spoken about the centrality of a strong public education system to the future of the United States. Education, the development of human capital, has been deemed a fundamental human right by the United Nations.

By developing each successive generation of students into increasingly productive human capital, the public education system of the United States has the unique opportunity to provide for the future good of our economy and our democracy through present policy aimed not at avoiding the bad—recession, war, and instability—but by promoting the good—high productivity, a properly informed electorate and a

more intelligent polity.

For these reasons, it is good that education policy has recently occupied a significant space in the American political discourse. It is important, however, that the issue's salience is not wasted—the United States lags behind other wealthy countries in educational achievement; reform is necessary, and should be prioritized as a national issue.

The easy part, of course, is identifying a problem; it is much more difficult to discern a pragmatic solution. A public education system that does not measure up to others in the developed world is concerning. A public education system that does not efficiently utilize its resources to provide the students it serves with the best possible educa-

tion is a problematic one. That is, even ignoring the possible (probable?) need for increased spending on education in order to improve the quality of the human capital and its outputs, our education system is not doing as well as it should be.

There are a multitude of private schools in this nation that spend far fewer dollars per student per year than many public schools. My own alma mater, Cheverus High School in Portland, Maine, is one of these schools. Unfettered by the Teachers' Union and unbound by the least-common-denominator absurdity of the No Child Left Behind Act, my high school was able to offer me far better instruction and overall education than public schools in my area which spend more than twice as much per student.

That really pisses me off. There is no reason that good, intelligent, pas-

sionate teachers should be reserved for those who are lucky enough to have parents that can afford private school tuition. There is also no real reason that such teachers can only be employed at private schools—other than the Teachers' Union. Like the trust companies that unions originally battled, the Teachers' Union causes massive inefficiency in the education system by engineering a perversion of the incentive system for teachers.

This is exemplified, as recognized by *The Economist* in, "Those Who Can," by the decision of the Union to block an offer by the Washington, D.C. school system for much higher pay in return for less job security. The results are threefold: first, fewer talented individuals choose to become teachers than do in other countries, such as South Korea, where compensation is much greater. Second, those talented

individuals who do become teachers may be blocked from finding a job by incumbent teachers who simply do not produce results but cannot be removed because of Union protection. Third, without the threat of removal or replacement, teachers are not incentivized to even try to be good teachers.

Ultimately, the Teachers' Union services educators by doing a disservice to the educated. While it is important to give job security to those who provide a vital role for society, it is a waste when it protects teachers using their tenure as a means of giving a subpar education with impunity. As No Child Left Behind is dismantled, I hope that education reform will become present in the nation's psyche. America's schools need an overhaul, and while it may not be through the ways I've suggested, it must come before our students fall even farther behind.



Ryan Hoffman

## Netflix won't load? I can help

Very often, I will be approached or I will overhear a conversation regarding the quality of Colby's Wi-Fi. While the exact wording differs, the basis is always the same: Colby's Wi-Fi needs improvement. I would like for everyone to understand why their Internet quality is lacking and what you can do about it.

First, you need to know a little bit about the access points. Those are the boxes in dorms that have the antennae attached and a few blinking lights. For those who have dorms on the ceilings of your hallways, those contain access points. One thing you should know is that the signal radiates out from the length of the antennae, rather than shooting out from the tip. Thus, pointing the antenna toward your room not only decreases your quality of Internet, but the quality of Internet for those around you.

The access points, or APs are a few years old, which is understandable as new Internet infrastructure is expensive. On average, each AP services 10 students. When they were installed, every student had a laptop. There were no smartphones, only a few iPods, and if there were gaming devices, they were most likely connected via Ethernet. For the most part, each AP had about 10 devices on it, which were 10 personal computers. Now, most students have smartphones, if not a few more devices that connect via Wi-Fi. Therefore, on average, each access point services an average of around 25 devices.

The other issue with the APs being a bit old is that the data required by online services, such as Netflix, is much larger than it was a few years

ago. Each AP can broadcast 100 Megabytes a second. To put that in context, 5 Megabytes is equal to 30 seconds of HD broadcast quality video. As you move further from the AP, the signal strength decreases, and that 100 Megabyte begins to diminish. A general rule in wireless Internet is that as distance increases, interference also increases, thus quality of Internet decreases.

The job of an AP is very difficult. Each of the 25 connected devices is constantly talking to the AP and it is responding. However, because each device is different, they send different signals. A helpful analogy to understand how the AP works is to see it as a teacher in a classroom where student speaks a different language. Each student is speaking at the teacher in his or her respective language and expects immediate, full attention back from the teacher. The teacher must now respond in the language that the student speaks, and provide the information requested. Since a teacher cannot give his or her full attention to just one student, attention is divided equally, as that is the most fair. When the class had 10 students, this was completely manageable. Now, however, there are 25. Combining that with the 100 Megabytes from each AP, that gives each device about 4 Megabytes a second, without adjusting for distance and interference.

Now, you have a general understanding regarding why your Wi-Fi can be slow. The AP is trying to give your device(s) the attention it needs, but

there are so many other devices talking to the AP that it simply does not have the resources to give your device the attention it is requesting. It is using the "fair" approach and allocating all of its resources evenly.

You may ask, "why not just upgrade the system?" Well, the total estimated cost is around \$1 million to upgrade all the hardware necessary to give you a better signal. The funding has been approved, but it is a long-term plan. Furthermore, the IT office has only three people that specialize in Internet. Between the three, they cover cyber security, defense, Ethernet hardware, wireless hardware, manage Colby Access and Colby Guest Access and many other things. With little manpower and many other jobs to do, they try to allocate time to everything but there are sometimes higher short-term priorities. New units are being tested in Lovejoy and Davis to try and find the best AP for the dorms.

Here is what you can do about it: get an Ethernet cable. Each internet jack has 100 Megabytes per second going to it, just like an AP. Obviously, the same distance rule applies due to resistance with the wire, but the rate of decline in signal is much smaller than it is with Wi-Fi. You can purchase an Ethernet cable in the bookstore for a few dollars, and every room has one Ethernet port per student. This not only gives your computer better, stronger, and more reliable internet, but it also decreases the number of devices on the AP for phones, tablets, and gaming devices.

If you have any questions, feel free to shoot me an email at adengler@colby.edu



Drew Dengler

## A Lenten Suggestion

By POPE BENEDICT XII  
(An Anonymous Alumnus)

Well, fellow Anglicans, Calvinists, Lutherans, Methodists, and Roman Catholics (forgive me if I forgot a few), Lent is here. Every year when it rolls around, I hear the endless chatter: "What will I give up? Should I give up chocolate? Maybe I'll give up Lent! I hate this time of year!" Invariably, this person ends up giving up something mundane for Lent: chocolate, meat, sweets, alcohol, and swearing usually top the lists. Interestingly enough, 2014 saw Twitter and social networking rise in the rankings, giving us an interesting glimpse into what we value nowadays. As for me, I've decided that I really want to go the extra mile. I'm giving up food.

Now, hold on. I'm sure you're thinking that I'm nuts, but I think that it's worth looking into the background of Lent to see where I'm coming from. As I understand it, Lent is a season in which practitioners imitate the Temptation of Christ, a time when Jesus spent forty days in the desert, avoiding temptations laid forth by Satan. In John 6:26, Satan urges Jesus to turn stones into bread, in order to break his fast and relieve himself from crippling hunger. Jesus refuses, and in doing so conquers his worldly desires.

I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this. If practitioners are supposed to imitate Jesus' refusal of worldly temptations, why not try to imitate it as perfectly as possible? Well, I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest that all of us aren't going to be able to last for forty days without food. But we can pursue another

method, a method backed by precedent. We can go without food, and replace it with beer.

For those with medical issues to worry about, or for those who just aren't twenty-one (like that'll stop you), this really isn't feasible. For the rest of us, we should take solace in the fact that it has been done before. In the 17th century, Minim friars from the Neudeck ob der Au cloister near Munich created a hearty, malty beer to sustain themselves through the Lenten season. The beer was rich in oats, simple carbohydrates, sugars, and vitamins. The friars were able to survive for forty-six days on this concoction. This isn't just an historical phenomenon; people today are throwing back rich dopplebocks to slake their thirst and hunger during Lent.

People will be quick to point out the cons in this proposal, so I figure I'll tackle two of them. One, many will say that this won't provide proper nutrition. It's true that those who undergo this won't get optimal nutrition, but they will still survive. On top of that, did Jesus, as he sat among the brush and dirt, get optimal nutrition? No, unless he was eating geckos on the sly. He let his belly grumble while he contemplated his existence. Two, some will say that drinking causes people to feel jovial, and that's anathema to the spirit of Lent. Phooey. Alcohol is a magnifier. It loosens inhibitions and reveals what's deep within us. If you truly feel the spirit of Lent, alcohol will only magnify the penitence and want that one should feel during Lent.

Naysayers will abound. I'll see them at the Pub.

## The Unpopular Opinion

## Leave Lindsay alone: celebrity, mental illness and hypocrisy

Amanda Bynes. Quick—what's your first thought? Now, I'm assuming that a couple of you smartasses would say you thought of *The Amanda Show*, the Nickelodeon sketch comedy show that allowed the eponymous actor to play characters from the corrupt-as-shit Judge Trudy, stereotypical yodel Lula Mae, and Amanda #1 super fan Penelope Taynt (oh my god, am I the only one who just got that?). Maybe a few of you remember her as the cross-dressing soccer player from *She's the Man*. Probably a couple of you thought of the uptight Jesus freak from *Easy A*. But, realistically, you probably thought of a picture on the cover of *People Magazine* surrounded by "troubled star," "DUI," and "arrested."

In September 2014, Bynes made headlines again with her second and most recent DUI. That October, after tweeting that her father had repeatedly mentally and sexually abused her, she spent 20 days on a psychiatric hold. Newspapers and tabloids alike depicted her as a party girl who had gone off the deep end.

A month prior to Bynes' second DUI,

Robin Williams committed suicide in his California home. Described as "one of a kind" by President Obama and "the brightest star in our comedy galaxy" by comedian Billy Crystal, Williams was mourned by fans and colleagues worldwide. Following his suicide, his name was the fastest growing search term on Google for 2014. Many called him a national treasure. How could someone so talented, so beloved decide to take his own life?

While Williams left behind a wife, three children and a mob of adoring fans, his life had not been easy. During the 1970's and 1980's, Williams was a cocaine addict as well as an alcoholic. While he was able to quit using cocaine following the death of John Belushi and the birth of his first son in 1982, Williams struggled with alcoholism for much of his life, doing stints in rehab in 2006 and mid-2014. Prior to his death, Williams' widow said he was suffering from severe depression after being diagnosed with the early stages of Parkinson's disease and Lewy body Dementia.

Mental illness and substance abuse

are serious problems in our societies. According to the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 10 Americans are affected by depression, with 80% not receiving the care they need. Likewise, the National Institute on Drug Abuse believes that 17.7 million (6.8%) Americans are alcohol or substance dependent, with only 1% receiving proper treatment.

Having gone through a stint of depression and thankfully the healing process, it can feel embarrassing, if not suffocating, to go through something that feels so isolating. I was lucky enough to deal with my issues in the privacy of my own home, but the demands of celebrity make this issue more complicated. One would assume that the people these celebrities once entertained would come to their aid in their times of need, but in many cases, it's merely Schadenfreude.

I guess what I'm getting at is why do some struggling celebrities get thrown under the bus while others are put up on pedestals? At first, I thought maybe it was an issue of talent. Sure, I loved *The Amanda Show* and Lindsay Lohan's *The Parent Trap* when I was growing up, but do they stand up to the comedy gothic that is Robin Williams? But then

I thought, Jesus Christ, Jake, what are you, a sociopath? After all, should the level at which someone entertains us correlate to how much we sympathize with them during their times of hardship? No.

Then I considered this discrepancy might be a result of lifestyle. Robin Williams, for all of his problems, was a father and a husband. He was a family man who brought millions of people laughter. Compare that to what the general public thinks about regarding Bynes or Lohan (or Britney Spears or Courtney Love). Images of irresponsible, law-breaking washed-up party girls around, bordered by shaved hair or crotch shots or drugs. While some of this stigma might come from Bynes and Lohan's current troubles, this judgment continues to at least partially define Spears and Love as well. Compare that to Robert Downey Jr., who, despite being arrested multiple times for drug charges, DUI, and breaking and entering throughout the 1990s, remains one of the most popular actors in Hollywood. Perhaps it's sexism then?

While I wholeheartedly believe that it's a contributing factor, I believe that the main reason for the different

treatment between Bynes and Williams is death. Robin Williams could not have possibly imagined how massive the outpouring of empathy and support would be after his death. So is the constant coverage of Bynes and Lohan's troubles a means of changing their ways before it's too late? I think profits are more to blame, but also the fact that you can't criticize the dead. Think of Michael Jackson: up until the day he died, many of us (non-fans) still thought of him as that singer with the catchy song that plays on repeat at Halloween stores and who may or may not have diddled some kids. After he died, he was paraded as the King of Pop, with little attention being paid to his past eccentricities.

Here's what I'm getting at: I don't know Amanda Bynes or Lindsay Lohan personally. Maybe they're jerks. Maybe these episodes have been cries for attention or self-entitlement. I don't care. While we may laugh at or scold celebrities for these scandals, they're humans too. Just because they lead more public lives doesn't mean their lives any less sacred. It's hypocritical to mourn Robin while also mocking Lindsay.



Jake Bleich



## Screenpass

## Something to be desired, Fifty Shades of Mediocrity

"More...Oh yeah...Fill me up," I told the concession stand workers as they prepared my large popcorn and medium Diet Coke. What they didn't know was that I would also soon be feasting upon the two large boxes of candy smuggled within my large winter coat. But it was absolutely necessary. I was about to embark on a cinematic odyssey of sexual exploration to discover the inner goddess of my feminine sensuality; I was about to see the much anticipated *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Floating into Theatre 2 of Waterville's Flagship Cinemas, my friends and I rooted ourselves in the middle row and waited for our lives to begin. I couldn't think of a better way to spend Valentine's Day afternoon than to be wearing an entirely grey outfit and gazing up at the exquisite jawline of the emotionally troubled Christian Grey. I was aroused before the trailers even began.

The film *Fifty Shades of Grey* tells of the erotic relationship between a young female college student, Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson), and a slightly older yet extremely successful

businessman, Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan). The two characters meet through a series of events in which they experience an undeniable, and also uncomfortable, amount of sexual tension which quickly blossoms into a relationship. Yet the mysterious personal life of Christian Grey soon reveals that he is a masochist with unique sexual preferences and a dash of psychological instability. The audience follows the experiences of Anastasia, as she falls into the emotionally and sexually complex world of Mr. Grey. Here the two characters endure emotional trials and sacrifices as both struggle to habituate themselves with the intimate needs of the other.

And that's it—that's the movie. The film trudged through its story at the same slow pace for the entire two hour running time, without anything significant or thrilling coming into play. It felt as though everyone in the theatre was sitting in their seats waiting for something to happen, yet nothing came. The only things that came were the characters during the sex scenes, which

were not as fulfilling as in the book (and understandably so) yet showed just enough to keep the moments steamy while tastefully avoiding becoming pornography. However these slightly spicy moments were not enough to keep the burning flame of passion inside me lit for very long. Everything was just kind of average. Despite all of the hype and anticipation for the movie's release, there was no new story told or explored beyond what was already shown in the numerous theatrical trailers doused in sexual tension.

But unfortunately, this dullness is inevitable when one removes all the thoroughly detailed and juicy sex scenes for the movie adaptation of an erotic romance novel. What makes the book stand out from others in the genre is not only its unique characters, but also its focus and detail towards strong sexual content rather than the more traditional theme of romance accompanied by indirect sexual euphemisms. The novel's storyline is founded on the physical aspects of relationships instead of their softer and more emotional elements. By removing the book's uniquely erotic material, the story becomes nothing more than a poorly written drama without much of a plot. In other words, you get a film adaptation.

Despite all of this, however, there were many things that went into the film which allowed for it to remain entertaining. The acting, mostly that of Dakota Johnson, was rather

impressive and definitely made the repetitive plotline far more tolerable. I personally believe that Johnson's performance actually helped the portrayal of Anastasia, in that her acting choices made the protagonist more relatable, funny, and independent in the eyes of the audience. Moreover, by choosing to not cast a bombshell actress with the body of a voluptuous goddess, Johnson's more average shape added to her character's much-needed normalcy to balance the bizarreness that is Christian Grey.

In regards to aesthetics, the cinematography of the movie was consistently decent. Wide-panning shots of scenery and setting effortlessly created the eerily picturesque ambience of the film, while numerous closeups of the characters helped dramatize and add intensity to certain dialogues. The movie's lighter color palette along with the subtle glow overlay on screen gave the film a colder and untouchable tone, distancing the audience from Christian Grey's cool business persona. In addition, the faded palette added emphasis to the contrasting moments of overwhelming color found inside

the "Red Room of Pleasure," intensifying the audience's interest in his secrets.

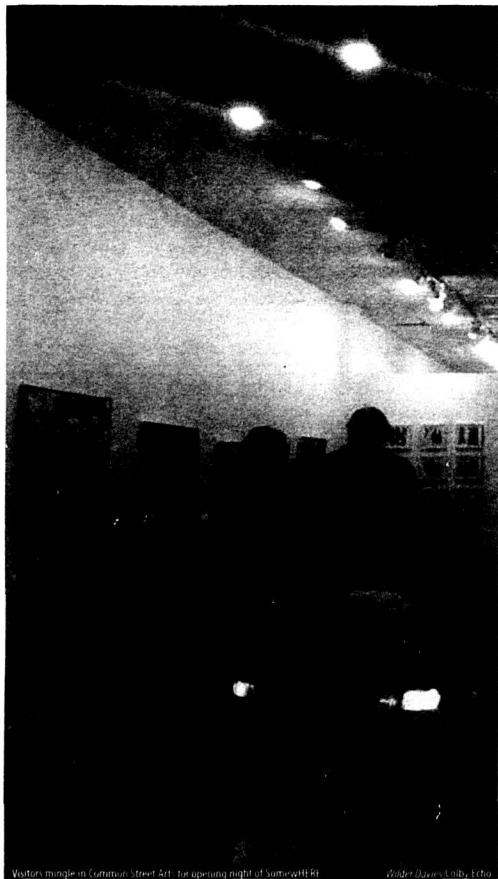
Overall, *Fifty Shades of Grey* was a decent movie and relatively entertaining, however it failed greatly to live up to audience's expectations. Its inability to fill the void of explicit sexual content which made the novel a sacred item within the bedside tables of many women, resulted in the already rough plot worsening and left viewers feeling unfulfilled, especially me. I was someone who completely and full-heartedly bought into the hype: I read the book, purchased the film's official soundtrack, bought my movie ticket a week in advance, and watched all three versions of the trailer repeatedly until my eyes crumbled into piles of sexual frustration. Yet at 4:30 p.m. on Valentine's Day, I sat in a dark movie theatre, wearing a groupon, ready for my goddess of feminine sensuality to finally awaken, and might as well have been left in the sticky aisleway to die with the forgotten popcorn kernels from last week's showing of *Night at the Museum*. Maybe it would have been better if I had gotten a slushie.

Caroline Ferguson

The audience follows the experiences of Anastasia as she falls into the emotionally and sexually complex world of Mr. Grey

...the repetitive plotline far more tolerable. I personally believe that Johnson's performance actually helped the portrayal of Anastasia, in that her acting choices made the protagonist more relatable, funny, and independent in the eyes of the audience. Moreover, by choosing to not cast a bombshell actress with the body of a voluptuous goddess, Johnson's more average shape added to her character's much-needed normalcy to balance the bizarreness that is Christian Grey.

## Student curated show SomewHERE



Visitors mingle in Common Street Art, for opening night of SomewHERE

Wilder Davies, Colby Echo

## Museum features contemporary black artists throughout February

By WILDER DAVIES  
A&E Co-Editor

Fish dangle amidst shadows and dark foliage in two Joseph Norman lithographs which were on display during the first week of February at the museum. It is an odd image, put into context by the title, *Strange Fruit*; a grim homage to the Billie Holiday song lamenting the lynchings of African Americans during the 1930s. Throughout the month, the museum has been featuring the works of three contemporary African American artists in celebration of Black History Month. Alongside Joseph Norman, works by Kara Walker and David C. Driskell will also be on display for the remainder of the month. Francisca Moraga, the Mirken Family Postbaccalaureate Fellow in Museum Practice, came up with the idea for the project.

"When I arrived at Colby in mid-October I was excited at the opportunity to 'represent' the underrepresented groups on campus at the Museum. Then

Ferguson happened, Michael Brown died and Darren Wilson was not indicted. I was angry and upset and I thought, 'what could I possibly do in little

"I think in the United States, museums can be seen as predominantly 'white' spaces, and it's true to some extent, as with art history, most of the art the museums have on view or acquire has been created by white, male artists. So what is there for us? Where are we represented in the museum?"

Francisca Moraga  
Mirken Family  
Postbaccalaureate Fellow  
in Museum Practice

Waterville? The idea of a spotlight has been thrown around in some staff meetings and it kind of just clicked." Moraga, a recent graduate from Williams College, saw Black History month as the perfect opportunity to introduce more racial diversity into the museum, something with which museums have historically struggled. "I think in the United States, museums can be seen as predominantly 'white' spaces, and it's true to some extent; as with art history, most of the art the museums have on view or acquire has been created by white, male artists. So what is there for us? Where are we represented in the museum?"

Moraga started out the project by creating a list of suitable works in the permanent collection, then worked with Dean of Students and Director of the Pugh Center Dr. Bradley and of Tionna Haynes of SOHBU to finalize the selection for the Art-

ist Spotlight Wall.

Moraga also collaborated with the Pugh Center, SOHBU and the African-American studies department to put on Open Mic Night in honor of the works. Students shared poetry and prose inspired by Joseph Norman's *Strange Fruit*, alongside other creative works discussing racial identity and discrimination. Moraga said she was pleased with the evening: "It was great to see students who I hadn't seen passing through the Museum before in attendance. The energy that night was amazing."

This week, Kara Walker's no world is up on view. The striking etching features two dark hands reaching out of the ocean clutching a ship. Walker's work harks back to the images in J.M.W. Turner's *The Slave Ship*, which features the hands of drowned slaves reaching out between the waves. Walker gained notoriety over the past Summer for her project "A Subtlety" in which she constructed a giant sugar sphinx in an old Domino sugar factory in Brooklyn, New York.

The month will end with the display of *African Women, Windows* by David C. Driskell, a striking woodcut of varied layers of deep, rich color. Driskell has made several important contributions to the art world as not only an artist but as a scholar and curator as well.

This is only the first of several potential Artist Spotlight Walls to feature diverse artists. Moraga is currently preparing a similar endeavor for Hispanic Heritage Month, which will be on display from mid-October through mid-November.

## Easel Talk

# Reflecting on a month of anatomy, an artist's take

As an art major coming off of a fall spent abroad, I was excited to bring back with me all the inspiration I had gathered during my four months traveling through Europe. Having enjoyed an endless array of beautiful vistas, museums and architecture, the creation of my own artwork took a backseat to the viewing of others. For that reason, I jumped on the opportunity to sign up for the Figure Drawing and Anatomy JanPlan course offered by Visiting Professor Kris Engman.

The sister of Colby's own Professor of Art—and my painting professor—Bevin Engman, Kris Engman is an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Maine. Coming from a background in drawing, painting and sculpture, Engman offered a wide and varied approach to the study of the human figure. With limited experience in drawing the figure, I was initially intrigued by the prospect of expanding my artistic horizons, if not somewhat intimidated. The backgrounds of the other students in the class, however, proved to be just as numerous. With several art majors and minors, the class was populated by nearly as many, if not more, first-timers.

This variety was refreshing for a Colby art class. In most situations, I am surrounded by

other art majors, but the different levels of experience offered an immensely diverse set of approaches to the subject matter.

Beginning with a study of the human anatomy, Engman structured the class by hammering home the fundamentals of figure drawing in the first two weeks of class. She focused solely on mark making and line quality the first class—three hours long—which introduced us to the complexities involved in the manipulation of the materials. From there, Engman began a comprehensive study of the skeletal and muscular structures of the human anatomy—eventually incorporating perspective, movement, and weight—before moving on to working from live

nude models.

Of Engman's approach to the course, Taylor Schlichting '16 said, "She seemed to want to teach us the fundamentals without forcing us to lose our creativity." For me, this was a large source of the excitement we would experience when looking at our collective work at the end of each class. By the time we began working from models, the class had been prepared with a basic understanding of how to

translate three-dimensional information onto a surface. By the end of the month, however, most students made breakthroughs that showed a clear progression in understanding. Because we were eventually given some wiggle room with how we were allowed to approach each project, the results ended up expressing the large number of artistic points of view present in the class.

As for the length of the course, the material could have easily benefited from being given a full

semester's worth of time. Schlichting, on the other hand, said, "It was a little bit rushed but I thought it was a breath of fresh air." The short window of time forced us to progress rapidly through techniques and subject matter, but it certainly added to the excitement I would feel every day when entering the studio.

As with all of my art classes, the critique sessions each day allowed for students to share techniques and criticisms, as well as benefit from the experienced perspective of our profes-

sor. In many cases, the quality of these discussions depended on the examination of the strengths and weakness of each piece. By the end of each class, we were able to come together and ultimately—live model included—appreciate the creation of beautiful interpretations of the human form. If I had one criticism, it would be that the Art Department doesn't offer such a class during either of the two full semesters. As for the course itself, however, I would recommend it to anyone.

"She seemed to want to teach us the fundamentals without forcing us to lose our creativity."

Taylor Schlichting '16



Students' art work from the Figure Drawing and Anatomy JanPlan course hangs in the Baker hallway.

Terry O'Connor/Colby.edu

## SVSAP presents art show

By CATHERINE DUINN  
News Staff

The Sexual Violence Awareness and Support Program (SVASP) sponsored an art show this past Friday the 13th that displayed student art centered on the perceptions of love and healthy relationships. While we often associate the prevention of sexual violence with only negative injunctions, such as "do not rape," "do not harass," and "do not assault," club founder Alexa Williams '15 believes that there is another equally important component: modeling a healthy understanding of loving relationships. In this way, Williams looks to create a positive view of what love and sex have the potential to be. Approaching the issue from this angle has the added benefit of being less painful and difficult to discuss, while also promoting the creation of a common ground.

"It's hard to get a conversation going because people don't want to talk about it," Williams said. "So I thought if I made it more about 'what is the opposite of sexual violence' and 'what does love look like,' we could start a conversation that way, instead of having it more focused on sexual violence."

A total of six students were involved, submitting three poems and three photographs for the show. These submissions were displayed on six

large easels in Page Commons, where many students filed in and out throughout the day to examine the artwork. When asked about her favorite piece, Lainey Battiston '17 cited a poem from the first display. A particularly memorable line for her was "there's a blizzard outside, but you're gonna walk over and tell her you love her anyway."

The poem continues with similar examples of love and devotion and then ends with the lines "love can be expressed in a myriad of ways / but it only takes one for love to spread."

While six submissions is not a particularly large number, Williams was pleased with the overall level of interest and passion each submission represented. "I'm happy there are people getting involved, showing a passion for it," said Williams. "It's a great first step, having people show interest."

Although Williams will not have the opportunity to host another art show before she graduates, she hopes that her predecessor will continue the tradition and hold another Valentine's Day art show next year.

"I think this was a good start," Williams said. Going forward, however, she hopes that more people will submit art pieces to show an increased commitment to the issue, and hopefully increase the community's awareness of the healing effects of love.

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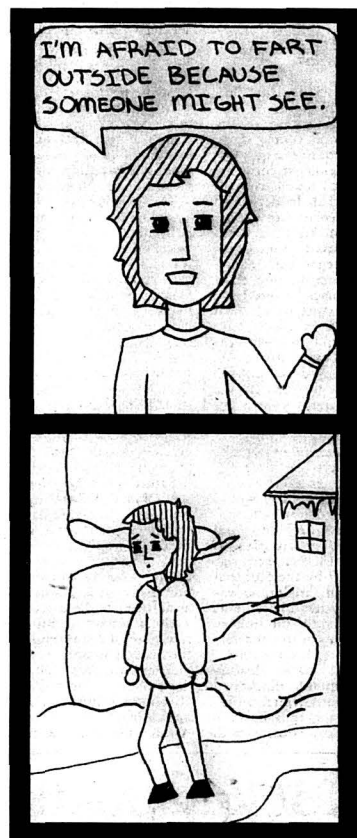
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## From the People

Captions courtesy of Colby's top Yaks.



Terry O'Connor | The Colby Echo

From the Archives: October 16, 1980

# Editorial

## President Cotter after one year: ... earning a passing grade

Since taking office, President Cotter has been in a hurry to see changes. Above all else, he wants to ensure that the academic programs that are offered are as good as they can be. He is a very demanding man who expects nothing but the best from those around him. He has become aware of certain problems and has been trying to overcome them. Yet in his eagerness to overcome these difficulties, it might be argued that he has acted somewhat hastily without always being aware of the immediate consequences. Overall, however, it is clearly apparent that he has the college's best interests at heart and will continue to strive for excellence in all fields.

In his Inaugural address, Cotter expressed his uncertainty that women, "although equal in numbers at Colby for some time, have been fully equal in rights." Not much has changed in a year.

Cotter has limited his role in aiding the women of Colby toward equality to a reactive rather than an active role. When pushed, he came through. But he had to be pushed and sometimes pushed to the wall.

Cotter should be applauded in his efforts to increase student diversity. Changes in the campus population, although not profound, are significant for a one-year period. Colby has long needed a program like the Ralph Bunche scholarships to attract minorities to the largely white upper-middle-class college.

Cotter also rates good marks in attention to residential life, although the results of the majority of his actions remain to be seen. He has made broad-based efforts, extending from alcohol use to library capacity. Colby has a history of building construction problems, however and the dorm is being built on an extremely fast time schedule. It remains to be seen if his first major project is successful.





## Baseball hopes to make jump to final four in league standings



By DAN HYSZCZAK  
Staff Writer

"Watch out for the Mules," says co-captain Scott Goldberg '15. Goldberg has high hopes for his team this season and thinks the Mules have what it takes to contend for a NESCAC championship. "The team's main goal for this season is to win the NESCAC. The team fell one game short of the final four team playoff last year and we are out for revenge," Goldberg said.

The team's goals are certainly ambitious, but after last season's large improvement, the team is in great position to take another step. After the 2012 and 2013 seasons, which saw the Mules finish in last in the NESCAC East division, the Mules jumped up to third in the 2014 season, with a 5-7 record in the conference. To advance further, the Mules will need to finish in the top two of their division, which is comprised of Tufts, Bates, Bowdoin, and Trinity. Last season, Tufts was the best team in the division with a 9-3 record, but in the middle of the division was separated by just one game between the three Maine teams.

To make that jump to the final

four and have a shot at the championship, the team will have to rely on many of the same players who helped them rise from the bottom of the division to the middle.

"Having experience is extremely important in being a successful team in the NESCAC," Goldberg said. "Players know the competition they are going to be facing as well as how crucial every single game is." Last season, co-captain Jason Bucu '15 led the conference with seven home runs, earning a first team all-NESCAC selection. In addition to Bucu, the Mules should have one of the stronger teams in the middle of the lineup, adding in Soren Hanson '16 and Nils Carlson '15.

Besides Bucu's all-NESCAC selection, the strength of team comes from their dominance on the mound. Goldberg described last year's staff as "one of the top, if not the top, pitching staffs in the league. All three starters are returning again this year: myself, Soren Hanson, and Greg Ladd '15." The pitching staff carried a 3.07 conference ERA, good enough for 5th in the conference. Goldberg and Hanson both relied heavily on their ability to strike out batters, each having above a strikeout per inning pitched. The same pitching

staff that propelled their season last year will be relied on even more heavily this season. Last year's NESCAC final four teams were also the four best in terms of team ERA. If the Mules are able to lower their team's ERA to under 3.00 and continue their improvement, a spot in the final four could happen.

In contrast to their pitching staff, the team's offense ranked in the bottom tier of the NESCAC last season. The team scored a league-worst 36 runs in their 12 league games, diminishing the effects of their strong pitching staff. In addition to runs scored, the team ranked last in both walks (.24) and on-base percentage (.290). Similarly to ERA, success in the NESCAC is strongly correlated with on-base percentage, with the final four teams each ranking in the top five in the league in on-base percentage. To reach their goals, improving their on-base percentage significantly to around .350 will be necessary.

The team will begin official practices this week and will begin their competitive season in March with their Spring Break Trip to Winter Haven, FL, for 12 games. The team will have to build on their past successes on these Florida trips and propel themselves forward into NESCAC play. Key games will be, as for any Colby team, their games against Bates and Bowdoin. The Mules will square off against Bates on April 10th and 11th and then against Bowdoin on the 24th and 25th. The results of those games will be a sure indicator of the success of their overall season. Jumping from the bottom of the NESCAC to the middle last season represented a great step forward for the Mules, but the jump from middle to top will be an even larger challenge. But with goals in baseball, it makes sense to swing for the fences.

### Devastator of the Week



## Mardi Haskell '17

### Sport:

Alpine Skiing - Slalom

### Hometown:

Holderness, NH

**Why:** Haskell cemented herself as one of the top slalom skiers in the Eastern Inter-collegiate Ski Association (EISA) circuit this past weekend after capturing the title in the women's slalom at the Middlebury College Carnival. Haskell was the EISA Rookie of the Year and an All-East selection last year and has returned to lead the Mules. She dominated this weekend with two impressive runs. Her second run, the fastest run on the day for the carnival, clocked in at 40.25, a full second ahead of the next closest competitor. Haskell is comfortable on the Middlebury course as she previously finished second at the Eastern Championships last year. Her win was the first for the Mules in the individual slalom since 2006, a year in which Abbi Lathrop '06 captured the national title in the same event.

## Men's Hockey drops two over weekend in Connecticut

By RUSS OLLIS  
Staff Writer

The Colby men's hockey team traveled down to Connecticut last weekend as they prepared to face the first and last place teams in the NESCAC. On Friday, Feb. 13, the Mules headed over to Middletown, CT, to face the struggling Wesleyan University Cardinals.

Wesleyan has had its troubles this season, as they are at the bottom of the league with a 2-14 in conference record and an overall record of 3-19. Still, Colby has had its own share of difficulty as they are in ninth place in NESCAC standings and are sporting a 2-11-3 in conference record and are 5-14-3 overall.

The first period was a back-and-forth game, but the Cardinals scored first with only 50 seconds left in the period to take the lead going into the first intermission. The second period was similar to the first, but at the end of the second period it was Colby who scored the equalizer. Freshman Cam MacDonald tied the game up at one with only 36 seconds left to play in the period off of assists from Alexander Walsh '16 and Michael Decker '18.

Regulation would end in a tie, sending the game into overtime. Unfortunately for the Mules, Wesleyan snapped their 14-game losing streak as they snuck a puck past goalie Sam

Parker '15 about three minutes into the overtime period.

"We generated a lot of opportunities, but were unable to capitalize on our chances," Walsh said. "The Wesleyan goalie played well and they were able to convert on a couple of our mistakes." The Mules could not dwell on this loss for long, as they had to face the first-place Trinity Bantams the following evening.

Colby entered the game against Trinity on Saturday, Feb. 14, looking to stifle the strong Bantam offense. After a scoreless first period, Trinity drew first blood going ahead only five minutes into the second. Just three minutes later, the Bantams would build on their lead to make it 2-0; however, Colby would cut the deficit in half when Michael Rudolf '18 converted a

Trinity turnover into a goal with the assist from Jonathan Sdao '16. Trinity busted the game open in the third period as they scored three unanswered to take the lead, and ultimately the win, 5-1.

"[Trinity] has a strong power play unit," Walsh commented after the game. "They were able to capitalize on a couple of power play opportunities in that third period." The Mules need to put this past weekend in their rearview mirror, as they close out their regular season with Tufts University and Connecticut College at Alford Rink this weekend.

"We're excited about the Tufts and Conn games," Walsh said. "They're very important games for us as they'll be crucial in order for us to make the playoffs."



## Colby on Deck

### M. Swimming at NESCAC Championship

Friday, Feb. 20 10 AM Middlebury, VT

### Indoor Track at NE DIII Championship

Friday, Feb. 20 1 PM Springfield, MA

### W. Hockey at Hamilton

Saturday, Feb. 21 7 PM Clinton, NY

### M. Basketball at Trinity

Saturday, Feb. 21 3 PM Hartford, CT

### W. Basketball at Amherst

Saturday, Feb. 21 3 PM Amherst, MA