



## The rising cost of a Colby College education

By KIERNAN SOMERS  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

On March 18, Provost and Dean of Faculty Lori Kletzer notified the campus community in an email that the 2016-2017 academic year comprehensive fee will be set at \$64,060. In the past five years, the comprehensive fee has grown by more than \$10,000. Over the past 15 years, the comprehensive fee for the college has nearly doubled. Tuition and fees have risen sharply at Colby's peer institutions, liberal arts colleges, and large universities across the country, as well.

In the announcement, Kletzer stated, "Colby's student-centered approach to teaching and learning involves significant cost. Attracting and retaining world-class faculty, providing programs that inspire lifelong learning, and offering opportunities that prepare our students to enter an increasingly complicated global society all require tremendous resources."

This is the second consecutive year that the comprehensive fee has grown by approximately 3.75 percent. Since the 2010-2011 academic year, the com-

prehensive fee grew at an average of 3.4 percent. On March 20, 2015, President David A. Greene announced that the comprehensive fee would go above \$60,000 a year. The comprehensive fee for the 2015-2016 academic year is \$61,730, an increase of 3.75 percent, from last year.

Last year, Greene also announced the College would be increasing its commitment to financial aid. In September 2015, the College announced a substantial increase in funding for financial aid called the Colby Commitment. According to a college press release, Colby will meet full demonstrated need and will not include student loans in financial aid packages. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, which produces the Common Data Set, details that 759 students receive financial aid from the school and that the average financial aid award is \$38,406.

According to the 2014-2015 *Financial Overview*, an annual report produced by the College, "student charge revenues of \$108.7 million—including the comprehensive fee and other charges—[represent] the largest

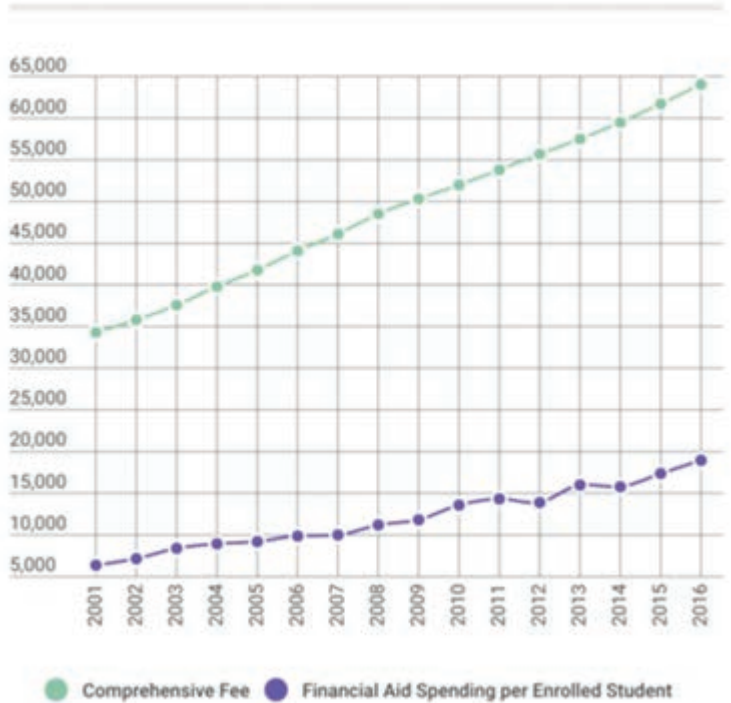
source of income for the College, comprising 71 percent of total revenues." Overall, the College has \$147.5 million in operating expenses for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 34.9 percent of which went to instruction, research, and academic support. The next largest expense for the school was financial aid.

The 2014-2015 *Faculty Compensation Report* (FCR) compares faculty compensation to that of other NESCAC schools. Faculty compensation is the largest expense for the College. The average salary of a full-time faculty member at Colby is \$103,900. In all, of the full-time faculty, 40 percent are professors, 23 percent are associate professors, and 37 percent are assistant professors. The College also offers a comprehensive benefits package to all faculty members and staff. Colby, when compared to other NESCAC institutions, is seventh in salary and sixth in total compensation according to the 2014-2015 FCR. The same report stated, "nationally, Colby's average salaries are in the top 5 percent of all baccalaureate colleges for professors, associates, and 'all' salaries and in the top 10 percent for assistants."

The College has flexibility when determining the comprehensive fee. Currently, the College's endowment subsidizes the cost of educating a student. Colby, like Bates, charges a single fee and does not break down the costs of tuition, room and board, and activity fees. Schools such as Bowdoin and Williams, disperse the total cost among categories of fees ranging from tuition to student activity fees.

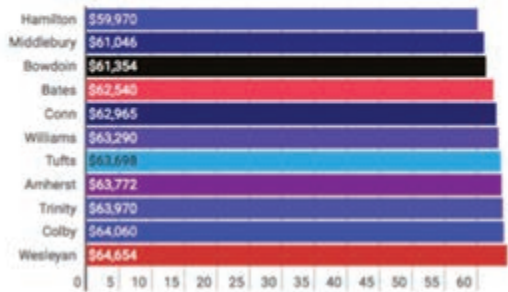
In relation to other NESCAC schools, Colby is one of the most expensive. Most NESCAC institutions cost more

### The Cost of Colby



The comprehensive fee has grown at an average rate of 4.26 percent since 2001. Kiernan Somers | The Colby Echo

### Comparing the cost of NESCAC schools



Colby is one of the most expensive schools in the NESCAC.

Kiernan Somers | The Colby Echo

than \$60,000 a year; however, Colby's most recent comprehensive fee increase pushes the college above the NESCAC average of \$62,847. In the NESCAC, Wesleyan University is the most expensive school and charges \$64,654. Colby is the only other institution that charges more than \$64,000.

As tuition continues to rise and the cost of a college education continues to burden families across the country, Colby must reconsider the affordability of the College when setting the fee. In two years at this rate of increase in tuition, the College will grapple with the reality that the cost of a Colby

education will surpass \$70,000. According to the US Census Bureau, the mean household income in the US is \$72,641.

At Colby, 55 percent of the College's budget is delegated for instruction and financial aid. This severely limits the College's flexibility in budgeting. Roughly 42 percent of the student body receives financial aid; therefore, as the cost of Colby continues to strain families paying full price, the College must expand its financial aid resources at a faster pace. The future of the comprehensive fee is uncertain; yet, the College must continue to balance affordability and financial security.

## Event series explores campus issues surrounding consent

By PEG SCHREINER  
News Editor

This past week, the Athletics Department, the Dean of Students Office, the Student Government Association (SGA), the Pugh Community Board (PCB), and Student Health on Campus (SHOC) sponsored Consent Fest. Consent Fest is a weeklong event series, which aims to help the Mayflower Hill community better understand the practice of and issues surrounding consent, according to emails sent by SGA.

The series began on March 29 with three main events. The first, entitled "Build Upon Consent," was hosted by Women's Rugby in the Spa. Community members were invited to "build a wall of consent," according to an email from Mules Against Violence (MAV), in order to visually express one's perception of affirmative consent.

Later that day, events continued at the Colby College Museum of Art. Professor of American Studies and Christian A. Johnson Professor of Integrative Liberal Learning Margaret

McFadden and faculty fellow Hermangini Gupta discussed Jenny Holzer's *Crack the Pelvis*, a piece of art involved in the dialogue surrounding rape. The artwork is a dark grey, granite bench engraved with the phrase: "Crack the pelvis so she lies right. This is a mistake. When she dies you cannot repeat the act. The bones will not grow together again and the personality will not come back. She is going to sink deep into the moss to get white and lighter. She is unresponsive to begging and self-absorbed."

Tuesday's events concluded with the popular annual Sex Narratives forum in Ostrove Auditorium. The forum, which counts towards the wellness seminar requirement for first-year students, focuses on stories submitted by students to describe "the good, bad, and ugly of sex," according to SGA.

Events on March 30 began at 6 p.m. in Page Commons, where there was a reading of the November 19, 2015 *Echo* article, entitled "Sexual Healing: Senior Girls Want Action." Seventeen female members of the Class of 2016 wrote the

article about affirmative consent and instances of sexual misconduct within the College's community, leading to an increase in dialogue. A panel with the authors followed the reading.

Following the panel in Page, students and faculty gathered in Ostrove to hear Katie Hnida talk. Hnida is the first woman to have scored in an NCAA Division 1-A football game, according to records from the University of New Mexico. In addition to her accomplishments as a barrier-breaking athlete, Hnida has become well known for her perspective on sexual misconduct in American professional athletics since graduating

in 2004. Attendees of her talk were welcomed to the Marylow Coffeehouse afterwards to discuss their reactions to the lecture.

During the second-to-last day of Consent Fest, Instructor in Sociology Karen Macke and her students displayed work done in the Sociology of Sexualities class in the Joseph Family Spa. Student projects included studies on political efforts and cultural theory to better understand activism surrounding sex and sexuality.

At 4 p.m., the Mary Low Coffeehouse hosted a conversation on what it means to "Reclaim Sex," in conjunction with the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights. At 6 p.m. Professor

and Director of Education Mark Tappan's Boys To Men class facilitated a talk in Dana Dining Hall about how gender norms influence sexuality on campus.

Finishing up Thursday's programming, EXPRESS Poetry, the Feminist Alliance, and the Oak Institute sponsored a Women's History Month Open Mic Night in the Mary Low Coffeehouse. Self-identified female community members were invited to present poetry that would contribute to the discussion on the role of women in the social and hook-up culture at the College and in the world.

On April 1, the popular SexPosition (SexPo) event was held in the Spa. Multiple student groups and organizations set up tables and presented various activities surrounding sexual health and consent, attracting many students between classes. MAV, for example, focused its table on helping students find creative ways someone can ask for consent. The SexPo event embodied the ways in which Consent Fest makes its programming engaging to students, without trivializing the serious issue of sexual misconduct.

Consent Fest makes its programming engaging to students, without trivializing the serious issue of sexual misconduct.

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# Candidates for SGA Student Body President and Vice President

## Anita Guaman '17 & Aaliyah Michelle Bell '17

Hello Colby! We want to be your next SGA President and Vice President. Our multiple experiences in leadership positions, continuous curiosity for new concepts, and yearning to hear all voices make us great candidates. We are running because we cannot mentally and socially attend this institution without sincere accountability efforts aimed towards all aspects on and off this campus.

We hope next year we have the opportunity to do so, because it is not only for us, and the environment the community is currently facing, but for future years. We need to make sure that we acknowledge that unaccountable, and insincere things have to be addressed before any incident, and that they have no place at Colby.

The five main points of our platform are:

Community- We have micro communities on this campus and that is okay. We should be able to come together with open perspectives that do not hinder the

safety of anyone in this community.

Accountability- What does "Be a mule, not an ass" and the Colby Affirmation mean to you? The occurring events on and off campus have shown dismissal for this slogan and document. It is time to hold each other accountable in social and academic arenas.

Decolonization of Academia- We want the Colby education to be accessible to all learning styles, all demographics, and all experiences.

First Year Orientation- We will give incoming students the tools to create a more inclusive community. We will make a productive and feasible orientation through collaboration efforts with organizations that have already been developing these conversations.

Vision for Class Senators- The new and anticipated position will serve as a bridge between SGA and the club community. We hope to create a strong relationship that will assume solidarity at all moments.

SGA represents the student body and

we acknowledge that work needs to be focused towards being more involved with the community, whether at the micro or macro level. We need to be transparent. We should be reaching out to groups, listening, and not waiting for groups and individuals to come to us. We need to acknowledge that the violence that has occurred on this campus are not isolated events. We need to be aware of our own privileges that contribute to this cycle. We have to hold administration, faculty, staff, and assigned leaders on campus accountable, and also all members of Colby College. It is then up to all of us to attend events and discussions even if we may feel uncomfortable and that is okay. As candidates, we have been facilitating conversations since our first year at Colby and would love for you to join us! We have the leadership skills, the experience, and we are confident in taking on these roles. This is just a snippet of our ideas! We will be available in the Spa this week and hope to speak to you!



# Matt Hawkins '17 & Jenner Foster '17

Thanks for reading! Our names are Matt and Jenner. We are running to become the President and Vice President of the Student Government. We are both juniors who have been on SGA in the past and have been working together on projects for almost a year and a half.

We want to emphasize that the President and Vice President are head of SGA broadly, and that we are prepared to lead this group macroscopically - motivating our team, connecting SGA to students, and initiating larger discussions with the administrative body of Colby.

Here we outline steps that we want to take in accomplishing our goal of making Colby more inclusive, safe, and enjoyable as they relate to our five guiding ambitions for running:

First, we want to enable all students to get the most out of their four years at Colby. To do this, we will continue to push the growth of initiatives like the creation of the Center for Teaching and Learning, as well as the future progress of Colby Dining Services and the Libraries.

Second, we want to create a balanced

platform with the Administration for discussion and action. This requires SGA to be thorough in its communication with administrators, maintaining continuous dialogue and follow-up. We would also like to see student participation in administrative student committees increase.

Third, we want to increase the approachability of SGA to the student body. This is a joint effort that we would like to foster with both the executive board and the class councils. Through incentivizing greater SGA collaboration with clubs and organizations, specifically through the SGA Treasurer and Publicity chair, we want to see SGA continue to support all organizations as best we can.

Fourth, we want to increase the efficiency of programming and publicity in student life. To start this, we would create a new chair on the Executive Board for student programming. Working with the Publicity chair as well as the departments of Communication, Technology, and Scheduling,

as well as all academic departments, Jenner and I want this new position to help make communication around events more visible to students while reducing clutter and the email-dependency of announcements.

Fifth, and most importantly, we believe that it is our chief role as student representatives to support diversity and inclusion in all forms of student engagement. Our focus in this respect will be through the expansion of the Colby Affirmation campaign spear-headed by Michael and Brittany's administration. With the foundations of the Affirmation (Community, Integrity, and Respect), SGA wants to be as supportive as possible for students who have ideas to make this campus a more welcoming and comfortable space for all students.

Speaking generally, life at Colby is grounded on the voices of its students. In the challenges that we face in the coming year, as well as the achievements that this school has yet to reach, we hope you will have faith in us as your representative voices!



# Class of 2017 Presidents: Grace Dunn '17 & Muheb Esmat '17

Wow...how time has flown by. We are almost SENIORS. It is scary, emotional, yet super exciting. Grace Dunn and Muheb Esmat want to make it the best year yet, do you?

Muheb is a member of the Hall Staff, a peer sexual violence educator and a member on the Student Advisory Board for the Colby Museum of Art. He has learned how to best facilitate and organize different types of events with educational and social purposes. Additionally, through his experience of working as a member of the CLAS Steering Committee, Muheb has grown a close bond with a variety of students and staff members at Colby, which will

serve a great deal of importance in our attempt to plan a great senior year full of fun and engaging events!

Grace is an already existing member of the Student Government Association. She will be able to grow from her experience and continue to voice the concerns and ideas of Colby's student body, specifically seniors next year. Grace is also co-chair for Colby's Relay for Life Committee, a former member of the Track and Field team, and a mentor for Colby Cares About Kids. She has worked with a vast array of individuals both on and off Colby's campus and will continue to do so.

As a team, Grace and Muheb will

plan an unforgettable senior year. We have many exciting plans in the works such as class dinners in Foss with delicious food and tasteful wines and beers (21+). Additionally, we will coordinate a jam-packed senior week, host senior apartment lock-ins, schedule incredible bar nights, and have spontaneous events throughout the year to reward you for all your hard work. Just like you, we only have one more year at Colby and we will make the absolute most of it.

Gear up for a crazy, exciting senior fall, winter, and spring with us as your Senior Class Presidents! We are trustworthy, personable, reliable, efficient, and FUN! Vote for Muheb Esmat and Grace Dunn!



# Class of 2017 Presidents: Tanya Kureishi '17 & Charlie Beck '17

Guess what? We want to be your senior class co-presidents for the upcoming year!

We are extremely passionate and energized to take on this role to further establish and encourage positive change in our community. We will work endlessly to leave behind a legacy for the class of 2017 that ensures continuous change for years to come. As rising seniors we recognize our class' role and ability to lead by example and foster togetherness. As a class, we have incredible talent and passion and we want to encourage and channel this to make our senior year the best year yet. Our platform focuses on

community more than anything else; through senior class programming and meaningful and proactive efforts and policy reform surrounding social issues on campus. Charlie is excited to use his experience as an executive member of SPB to lead the programming of incredibly fun, inclusive and memorable events. These include pub nights, bar nights, class dinners, lock ins, senior week and new events such as senior brunches, coffee nights at the Mary Low Coffeehouse, museum mixers and class service trips. Additionally, Tanya is excited to use her experience on SGA planning efforts like Consent Fest to host events that

are meaningful to the senior class and the rest of the student body. We will change policy that lasts beyond our senior year so that we can address shortcomings and ensure that future classes enjoy their time at Colby as well. We guarantee to be engaged and accountable presidents receptive not only to the senior class but also to the community at large. Voting is now open and we would love your support! Check out our FB event for more information, and we are excited to talk more with you all about our platform and ideas.

XOXO <3  
Charlie & Tanya



# Candidates for SGA Treasurer *Chandler Smith '18*



As Treasurer, my goal is first and foremost is to be a representation of the student body. In order to improve the system that we already have in place, I strive to ensure an effective use of the SGA budget. I plan to make the process more efficient while simultaneously implementing a sense of accountability that holds ourselves to the highest level of integrity. Clubs, organizations, and programs who receive over \$6000 a semester will be required to submit a short reflection on the ways in which they used SGA funds in order to be eligible for funding the next semester. The clubs will be asked to define their metrics of success and provide a summary of their spending to the finance committee, informing our allocation decisions. In return, these

clubs will be eligible to receive a flexible semester budget which provides financial security, streamline budgeting, and provide tangible justification for budget increases.

The treasurer position is as much social as it is fiscal as the leadership position also involves a strong presence on SGA executive board. Being an activist and club leader on campus, I understand how frustrating it can be to accomplish meaningful change. In order to facilitate change, the communication of the finance committee, which I will chair if elected, needs to be clear and strong. I will work closely with campus life to ensure every student who wants to make change has a voice that will listen and support them. Under themes of diversity, inclusion, and community, I plan to implement an "idea/programming" competition where submissions will be received, voted on, and put into practice by students.

What separates me is not only my passion but my openness to learn, to listen ideas brought forward and work with the student so they can come to fruition. I will be a dynamic leader who is culturally engaged, socially aware, and is willing to listen. Vote for someone who is in your corner, who wants to say yes, and who follows through on action. Historically the treasurer role has solely been about distributing funds, which is great and necessary, but as treasurer, I will do more. The issue is that some students don't feel included, and don't feel safe, needs to be addressed. Here exists an opportunity for SGA to put its money where its mouth is. Together we can create a better Colby.

# *Eric Kim '17*



Hey Colby, my name is Eric and I am running to be your next SGA Treasurer.

In my tenure as treasurer, I hope to achieve what I call the COLBY platform.

C - Creating a more efficient system of dialogue and expression. As many of you have felt in the past couple of years, we need to develop a more efficient system of dialogue and expression than our current system provides. I envision a Colby community where individuals with minority opinions are heard, and where meaningful and regular dialogue can take place, but where bigotry will not be tolerated.

O - Optimizing the experience for the Colby community. We have four years here on campus. As SGA treasurer, I want to ensure that you are able to make the most of your time at Colby. I

hope to work with all great ideas students have and provide funding for these projects. That being said, overspending the budget is not an option. My goal is to optimize our funds to benefit the most number of students here on campus.

L - Looking for ways to bring the campus closer together. At Colby, we have over 110 clubs in existence, some small and others large. As SGA Treasurer, I want to place priority into funding events that can bring multiple clubs, teams, and departments together. One of the first things I hope to achieve is "The Great Apartment Barbecue" in the beginning of the year, where first years can have a chance to meet the seniors who live in Alford in a non-party setting.

B - Bringing to you a more accountable and approachable SGA. I'll implement more thorough oversight to ensure that we are spending our funds towards events that will best suit the student body. I also want to make SGA more approachable by taking a more active stance and reaching out to clubs and individuals directly. We should be reaching out to the students, not the other way around.

Y - You. You're the reason why SGA members are elected in the first place. I will make sure that as SGA Treasurer, the students are my primary concern.

I'm confident that I have the best experience and knowledge to handle such a vital position in the Colby community. I'll do all I can to make sure you have the best possible time this upcoming year.

A vote for Eric is a vote for COLBY!

# Class of 2018 candidates for President

*Kat Restrepo '18 &  
Jacob Adner '18*

Jacob Adner and Kat Restrepo are running for 2018 Junior Class presidents and are excited to share their platform with you all! Let's make Junior Year the best it can be!

## Class Unity

Junior Year is difficult in the sense that many people are going abroad or spending time engaging in other activities. So our goal is to bring our class together as much as possible. What does this look like? Class game nights in the Coffee House. More engaging and exciting class dinners and events like a class BBQ at the beginning of the semester. A class calendar that enables people to post and advertise events that they are involved in and for all of us to celebrate each other!

## Outreach

As your elected student representatives, our purpose is to provide a connection between you and the administration, advocating upon your behalf. We are both very open and approachable people who want to listen. To be sure that we are representing our class in the best way, we would create open forums, such as more surveys, in which we discuss our plans for SGA events and policy with you.

## Setting the Tone

We combine both experience on SGA and a fresh perspective. As a member of this year's executive board, Kat has a firm understanding of how to get things done on SGA. Also, with this being his first semester on SGA, Jacob will contribute an outside view of SGA that will help improve accountability and approachability in reaching our goals. As active members of the Colby community, we both will bring dedication and energy to SGA and will work to make our junior year one that everyone can enjoy!

Vote Kat & Jacob for Junior Class Presidents!

*Liz Paulino '18, Jake Lester '18 & Maddie Partridge '18*

Dear fellow Mules,

This is Liz Paulino, Jake Lester and Maddie Partridge and we're excited to run for Junior Class Presidents!

Liz is an involved member of SGA as class president and she's really passionate about her work as the First Generation to College Fellow. She founded the Colby Bates Bowdoin Alliance and is one of the Vice Presidents for the Women Of Color Alliance. If she could

You may see Jake running around campus for track, playing in jazz band, at an outing club meeting, or working with Dining Services Committee or the Library planning group. He has worked hard to improve the school through SGA and has had a strong work ethic over the past two years.

Maddie just finished her first year on SGA as the dorm president of Foss and Woodman. She strives to make campus more sustainable through groups like

CARE and EnviroCo. Maddie is passionate about making Colby the best place it can be.

As we think about what the role of a class president is we draw on our experiences here at Colby. Regardless of whether that be as a part of Student Government, or other student groups on campus we want to continue working on making Colby an even greater place for everyone. This means pushing for accessibility and promotion of events, opportunities and resources. We are working on the Diversity requirement, the dining hall providers next year and a shuttle down to the hume center. We've loved working with you these past two years and it would be an honor to continue doing so!

Ultimately our first priority is you, and we want to work with you to make next year as amazing as possible.

Vote Liz, Jake & Maddie



# Class of 2019: Khyndal Stewart '19 & Nizar Kaddouri '19

Dear Members of the Class of 2019,

We are Kyndhal and Nizar, two freshmen respectively from Texas and Morocco, and we want you to elect us as your Class Presidents for the year 2016-2017.

Our platform works toward one main goal: making Sophomore year as great as it can be. To achieve this we plan to focus on four axes: class events, student involvement, connecting to Waterville, and insuring transparency.

We plan to hit the ground running next year with meaningful programming that is meant to increase class unity and spirit. This

will include class dinners, class study breaks, and random day celebrations, like Pi Day.

Next year we want to see an increased level of student involvement in both SGA and class events. With the addition of Class Senators, we will be able to gather more student input and help everyone achieve more.

We want to try to give back to Waterville as much as possible by hiring local restaurants to cater events and having class service trips to engage with the community. This will help us strengthen our relationship with Waterville and foster unity.

Finally, it is important to us that all the work we do is visible to the public. If you want the information,

we will be catering to this by holding office hours, encouraging class participation in SGA meetings, and sending out a class newsletter on a regular basis.

While we are confident of our policies concerning next year, we already have proof that our team has potential. Over this past year, Kyndhal, along with Nizar in her council, has worked as Class President by coordinating class events such as dinners and study breaks, delegating as a part of multiple committees, and working with SGA on the CBB Alliance, Spirit Week, and the Dress for Success initiative.

Make sure you vote for us. Kyndhal and Nizar: the Colby I believe in.



History Spotlight

# Meet the living mule mascots of Colby's past

By CHARLOTTE JONES  
Contributing Writer

When I decided to attend Colby, my younger brother was desperate to get a piece of clothing he could wear to flaunt his Colby pride. When he unwrapped the classic blue and white t-shirt I gave him, he beamed. "That's so cool!" he said. "I didn't know Colby's mascot was a white stallion!"

Much to my brother's dismay, our mascot is not a fiery stallion but is instead a humble mule, the offspring of a mare and a male donkey. Fortunately, the Colby Mule's history is slightly more illustrious than its parentage.

The legend of Colby's mule begins in the fall of 1923, due to a string of successes celebrated by the Colby football team against Bowdoin and the University of Maine. The football team was historically regarded as a dark horse against traditionally stronger teams, but due to the volume of their upsets, Joseph Curn Smith, a 1924 graduate and an editor of the *Echo*, suggested that Colby ought not be identified as a "dark horse" but instead a "white mule." After seeing this editorial, several students managed to borrow a white mule named Nancy from a local Kennebec farm, and, after painting her blue and gray,

There were several mules used on the football field after Aristotle, including a true white mule named Ybloc and a celebrated donkey named Louis

paraded her around for the state championship game against Bates. Colby won 9-6 due to a reportedly strong kicking game, and, according to an *Echo* article published in the fall of 1925, the mule was "accepted as a good omen" and a solid "standard of determination and grit" for the athletes to embody.

After Nancy's death, Colby found a new mascot named Aristotle. Although according to his papers he was the son of a Japanese stallion and a female jackass, there were arguments that he may in fact have been a hinny or a donkey instead of a mule. Regardless, his beloved presence rallied the student body and alumni in a manner previously unseen at Colby football games, and in Aristotle's obituary he was noted to have had "an uncanny faculty for hee-hawing every time Colby made a touchdown." Ironically, Aristotle is noted to have had a disinclination to kick; though the

student section would often chant "kick, mule, kick," Aristotle's student handler, a freshman, was unable to urge him to do so. This may have been part of the reason that Aristotle was deemed, in an *Echo* article written by Bob Slavitt in 1948, the "orneriest...Mule in all Christendom."

There were several mules used on the football field after Aristotle, including a true white mule named Ybloc and a celebrated donkey

named Louis, who landed a role with the Metropolitan Opera as a member of the cast for *Aida*. However, there were several attempts to rid the campus of the mule. The most notable of these occurred in the late 1980s and early 90s. Dean of the College Earl Smith earned the nickname "Mooseman" for his efforts to change the mule to a moose, but there was relatively intense backlash from several alumni and students. He even received an anonymous letter with a vague threat to "Drop the moose business or else!" Around the same time, another complaint came in the form of an alumni letter to the editor, which expressed astonishment at "the substitution of our much loved and respected

Colby Mule for a grossly oversized animal that spends most of its life dredging decaying plant matter off the bottom of murky ponds." Over time, the effort to change the mascot slowly dwindled, and after the University of Maine at Augusta declared their mascot the moose, Dean Smith officially surrendered his dream of the Colby Moose. "All hope is lost," he reportedly said. "We're stuck with a sterile mule."

That is not to say, however, that the mule hasn't undergone subtle transformations over the last decade. Beginning around 2000, there was a slow but steady change to remove the word "white" from the official mascot name. The only remaining reference to the color of our mascot is buried

on the Colby Athletics history page. This was in part due to a conscious decision in admissions materials to increase diversity at Colby beginning around 2003, because the word "white" had received somewhat negative feedback. However, the removal of the word "white" was more a matter of shifting the emphasis of the mascot, not necessarily changing it.

Around campus, though, there seems to be no desire to abandon the faithful mule. "It definitely grows on you," Gerardo Diaz '19 said. "It's your school, it's your spirit. The mule is also and unexpected mascot; it's not the generic bobcat, or tiger, or knight. It's exciting."

Here's to another hundred years of the mule.



An unidentified living mascot from around the 1980s

Courtesy of the Colbiana Archives

## ASB's Faith in Action tackles food insecurity in Baltimore

By DREW LADNER  
Asst. Features Editor

Colby's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a program that allows Colby students the opportunity to take a spring break trip, volunteer their time, and explore issues of social relevance.

This year, the ASB Program's Faith in Action trip was to Baltimore, Maryland and Washington D.C.. Dean of Religious Studies Kurt Nelson selected Baltimore as

the central location due to the success of the ASB trip to Baltimore the previous year. Aaliyah Bell '17 said that the trip's main focus was "on the issue of food insecurity in Baltimore, and how this connects to the corollary issues of poverty and race in the city of Baltimore. An important aspect of the journey was gaining a multi-faith perspective, which guided our work on this trip." To Bell, this particular trip had special meaning, as she explained, "I chose to attend this trip, because once I saw Baltimore, bells went off in my head that reminded me of Freddie

Gray and the large protest that was occurring in the city. It has been a year since the disgusting event and I had to get down there to see what the aftermath was. So it appealed to me way more than the other trips. I was also curious to see how faith and social movement intersected," she said.

At the start of Spring Break, the student volunteers travelled to Baltimore, where they would spend the next eight days. The group worked with several organizations in the region, including Our Daily Bread, Black Church Food

Security Network, Baltimore Food Policy Institute, Center for a Livable Future, Farm Alliance, MD Food Bank, Pearlstone Center, and Bread for the World. Working with the organizations gave the students a new perspective on the scope of food insecurity and the lives of those who experience it. "What I learned is that food insecurity needs to be viewed and tackled from many angles and that all of those organizations, institutions, and communities can play a part. Also, just because someone is food insecure doesn't mean they aren't living a happy life. Who are we to put restrictions on that?" Bell said.

Though the trip focused on food insecurity in Baltimore, Colby students were also given the opportunity to attend an alumni dinner in Washington D.C. They were also treated to a tour around the United States Capitol by Bill Hudnut, father of Chris Hudnut '16. "That was incredible because Bill was a Congressman in the year of 1974 during the Watergate Scandal with Nixon," Bell explained.

This ASB Faith in Action trip intended to give students a fulfilling and perspective-changing experience. For many students, it accomplished that goal, allowing for an educational experience on the affect of food insecurity and the steps that are being taken to stop it. Because

the trip covered the topic extensively in a short amount of time, the days were very packed. As a result, Bell explained "It was very intersectional—how could it not be? One day we were working at Pearlstone, weeding and cleaning out the goat pens, while on another day we were speaking with Pastor Dr. Hebrew Brown on how black communities can become self-sustainable without non-profit assistance."

For those who want to learn more about the ASB trip to Baltimore, the program is currently working on a video to shine more light on the experiences of students on the trip. ASB is a Colby tradition that continues year after year thanks to support and participation from the student body, and the group intends to continue the trips.

When asked if she would recommend it to other students, Bell said, "I would

definitely encourage students to take an ASB trip, especially this one, because of the sense of community. I decided to let myself be vulnerable with my group and the complex issues that I was dealing with and I am so glad that I did. Reflection is important during Spring Break and this trip provides that. It is important because as we work so hard at Colby, there aren't many moments to be able to reflect on your actions and your mental care."

"An important aspect of the journey was gaining a multi-faith perspective, which guided our work on this trip."

Aaliyah Bell '17



The students on ASB worked with a variety of organizations throughout the week

Courtesy of Lily Herrmann '19

# Megan Lasher '15 launches her career at *TIME* magazine

By WILDER DAVIES  
Features Editor

The single largest specter hanging over every college graduate's head is the fear of unemployment. Especially for those pursuing creative careers, trying to find a job after graduation (let alone one you actually want) is daunting and at times seems impossible. However, one wouldn't know this talking to Megan Lasher '15, who went from graduating last May to becoming a full-time staff member at *TIME* magazine in the matter of a year. Lasher discussed with the *Echo* how she made it to *TIME* and shared some insight on how to prepare for the impending postgrad job panic.

Lasher has always loved writing, but didn't consider it as a professional pursuit until meeting Special Advisor to the President and former professor in the English Department Jenny Boylan: "Taking Fiction [Writing] with Jenny Boylan really empowered me to write every day and begin a career that involved writing." From that point, Lasher joined the *Echo* staff and later started contributing to *Elite Daily* and the *Huffington Post* on a regular basis. In addition to writing outside of class, Lasher was engaged in a diverse range of activities while at Colby: she was a tour guide for admissions, a Colby Cares About Kids (CCAK) mentor, a member of the Oak student board and a singer for Ethnic Vocal Ensemble (EVE). Lasher also has a passion for film, and created an independent major in Cinema Studies with Associate Professor of Cinema Studies Steve Wurtzler alongside her preexisting major in Mathematics.

Lasher, originally from Denver, CO, spent little time at home between school years. For two consecutive summers she lived in New York City, intern-

ing first at a "Devil Wears Prada" like Public Relations (PR) firm, and in the following summer at the popular children's television network Nickelodeon. After these experiences, living and working in New York became Lasher's post grad goal.

During her senior year, Lasher applied to the Columbia Publishing Course (CPC), an intensive summer program offered through the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, and began immediately after graduating from the Hill. Through CPC, Lasher gained a comprehensive introduction to the world of print media in a rigorous and hasty environment. "We had fantastic guest speakers every day and then two week-long workshops—one for books, one for magazines—where we created our own publishing companies and worked with professionals to fine-tune our projects," she said. While CPC was not an easy experience, Lasher has no regrets about the course. "It was absolutely the best decision I've ever made because it gave me a network of young media professionals and taught me so many things about the industry."

After graduating from CPC, Lasher was eager to begin a career in New York City. "CPC ended in July, and I spent every day in August applying to jobs and doing lots of freelance writing. No kidding, I think I sent out at least 200 applications and I have about 25 different cover letter templates still saved to my computer. I went on interviews and networking dates and the whole shebang, up until I got an offer from *International Business Times* to be their Social Media Fellow," Lasher said.

Lasher started working at *IBTimes* on September 3; the same week she moved into her apartment in Manhattan and was promoted to Audience Development Manager in November. Lasher



Megan Lasher '15

Courtesy of Megan Lasher '15

remained at the *IBTimes* for a few months but felt somewhat limited by her opportunities there, so she decided to move on. She applied for a position at *TIME* magazine through a connection with the CPC network, and was hired immediately after her interview.

Much like her time at the College, Lasher maintains a variety of roles at *TIME*. "I'm a Content Producer at *TIME.com*, but my role changes a lot so I've been able to wear a lot of hats here. I run social media for *LIFE* magazine and spend most of my day producing articles for *TIME* and packaging them for search engines/social media." Beyond her role as Content Producer, Lasher was a part of the team that launched *Motto*, *TIME*'s new media site geared toward the empowerment of millennial

women. "Launching *Motto* was the highlight of my career so far. We've had articles from Barack Obama, [model] Cara Delevingne, [chef and television personality] Ina Garten, and tons more, and I feel lucky to be able to learn from my bosses who all do these incredible interviews with such a sense of professionalism and passion."

While it may seem that Lasher's expedient start to her career came with ease, it wasn't without ample preparation and long-term goal setting. "I didn't just land at *TIME* right after graduation, and I think that's something important to note. Colby students graduate with great educations and (hopefully) great resumes, but you're not going to snap your fingers and have a job by June 1, especially if you're going into a creative in-

dustry. It takes work to build a network and meet people, and sometimes you have to take a job that isn't necessarily your dream job before you can really know what you want and who you want to work with." Lasher started developing her professional network as a student, keeping in touch with people she met at summer internships and taking advantage of the Colby alumni network.

"I think my advice to any Colby student looking for a job is to do right now what you plan to do in your career. If you want to be a teacher, volunteer in classrooms. If you want to be a filmmaker, rent a camera and put together a film. If you want to write, don't wait until you work for a big name publication: submit to the *Echo* and make your own blog."

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Letters from the Editor:

Loyal readers,

On April 1, the Echo released its annual edition of the Joke Issue. The issue covered a multitude of topics, ranging from Colby buying the city of Waterville to an announcement that a local Drake cover band will be the spring concert. While the issue was meant to be in good fun, during the editing process, a member of the women’s rugby team was mistakenly named in an article entitled “W. Rugby Player Comes Out as Straight.”

This student was offended, as she had every right to be, and members of the Women’s’ Rugby team also expressed their hurt and disappointment with the article. As we have addressed on the Civil Discourse and in our individual reflections, this was never our intention, but in retrospect we can see how our article caused hurt and pain. We in the Executive Board accept full responsibility for the mistakes we made in the article.

In attempting to satirize the coming out process, we believed that we were critiquing reactions to the process. However, because we evidently failed in this endeavor, we succeeded only in trivializing a difficult and extremely personal process that many members in our community experience. Beyond that, we perpetuated antiquated and harmful stereotypes about female athletes, specifically those on the rugby team. We acknowledge that we didn’t turn the system on its head, but instead reaffirmed an existing system from which many are trying to break free. Furthermore, we apologize for including an image that objectified women. Beyond that, we are sorry that we boiled down the accomplishments and complexities of women’s rugby to little more than sexuality.

To the greater Colby community: we are also sorry to you. We hope to do better.

Sincerely,

Jake Bleich & Kiernan Somers  
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Carli Jaff  
Managing Editor

Young Americans for Liberty

Why the frik frak do you wanna ban our Yik Yak?

In February 2016, a group of protesters petitioned the president of California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) to not let conservative editor of *The Daily Wire*, Ben Shapiro, speak on their campus. The president caved to their demands and canceled the event. However, Shapiro threatened to come to the university anyway. After all, the event had gone through all of the legal channels, had been approved by the school, and was the result of months of work by student organizers on campus. There was no legal or moral right to cancel it.

After being called out, and in order to save face, the President reversed his decision, causing pandemonium to ensue as protesters tore down event posters, forcibly blocked the doors to where the event was held, allegedly assaulted those who tried to enter, and pulled the fire alarm. Those wishing to enter had to be snuck in through the back, and Shapiro required a police squad to escort him off campus. As disturbing as this sounds, violations of free speech are becoming shockingly more common on campuses.

For example, in April 2014, students at the University of Hawaii–Hilo were prevented from handing out copies of the Constitution on campus. Last February, two students at Northwestern filed a Title IX report against a student for writing an article criticizing certain aspects of Title IX.

Last March, two radio show hosts were summarily expelled from

Bucknell University for allegedly making a racist comment on air, with neither the actual transcript being provided nor a hearing.

In April of last year, a student was suspended from USC after writing a racial slur on a whiteboard as one of the reasons why “USC WiFi blows” without formal investigation.

Last May a student sued Blinn College for forcing her to receive permission before expressing controversial political beliefs and because the college had set up a “free speech zone.”

Last November, University of Missouri protesters, including students and faculty, forcibly removed the press from filming their rallies.

Last December, Yale students demanded the resignation of a professor who sent an email suggesting that people not confront those wearing offensive Halloween costumes. That same month, a

student at Colorado College was suspended for six months after making an offensive Yik Yak comment.

I am not saying that we should be making racist, controversial, or deliberately provocative statements. However, the freedom to make these statements is protected under the First Amendment, including the right of the press to print generally whatever they want. Public institutions

like University of Missouri are required to uphold these values by law. The vast majority of private institutions, including Yale and Northwestern, also claim to sup-

port free speech, and thus should also abide by the same standards. However, evident by the list above, these supposed champions of freedom of speech sometimes completely miss the ball.

The assault on the right of free speech is most evident at Colby in the form of those advocating a ban on Yik Yak.

Colby is indeed an institution that claims to support free speech. Our student handbook states that “[a]s an institution built on respect, active inquiry, and the free and open exchange of ideas, Colby is committed to maintaining an environment in which teaching, learning, and research can flourish.”

Yik Yak provides the greatest forum of uncensored thought on campus. Thus, an attack on Yik Yak is an attack on free speech itself. Those seeking to ban Yik Yak for the purpose of social justice do not understand that Yik Yak is good for us as well as for social advancement. If people are silenced from speaking their mind, then our society has no way of addressing the issues that people on Yik Yak bring up.

The best way for people to put an end to racism is to challenge convictions through open discussion. In order to do this, though, individuals need to be able to state unpopular, and sometimes, very stupid, things. After all, freedom of speech is not there to protect our right to talk about the weather; it is there to allow us to discuss controversial issues and criticize those in positions of power. There can be no civil discourse if no one is allowed to speak up and disagree. Good ideas should not fear free speech. Reason and evidence always triumph over illogical thinking and lies, but only in an the open forum.

Freedom of speech is about respecting people’s fundamental rights to live and express themselves the way they want. You do not need to like Yik Yak and Yik Yak does not need to like you, and that’s the way it should be.



Ryan Hara

The best way for people to put an end to racism is to challenge convictions through open discussion. In order to do this, though, people need to be able to say unpopular, and sometimes, very stupid, things.

Speak of Opinion, and He Shall Appear

Humor can address issues, aid conversations

When something like the recent joke edition of the *Echo* causes controversy and negative feelings, it is natural to feel that the easy solution would be to never print such an edition again. If there was no joke edition, there would be no controversy. I am not endorsing this year’s joke edition or any articles within it, but I feel that getting rid of the joke issue is not the right path going forward.

This may seem obvious, but it is important to remember that humor can often have many positive effects as well. Besides simply providing laughter (when the humor is in good taste), it allows people to consider issues in ways that they otherwise would not have if it were not for the humorous presentation. Having a chance to examine this community through humor does not have to be a bad thing.

We all know, and many of us

watch and read, shows like “Saturday Night Live” and “joke news” outlets like *The Onion*. Many of these skits and articles have become extremely well-known, and they all reflect, even if in a joking manner, what is happening in the world around us. These outlets often make us think about issues in ways that had previously not been explicitly discussed. For this reason, they add tremendous value to society even if they are jokes.

Not only do they add value, but they often also cause people to pay attention to issues they previously would not have. As with all small communities, we have many similar issues and cultural aspects at Colby that often go unnoticed or undiscussed. Besides the fact that I hope we are a community that values good humor, I

hope we can continue having a joke *Echo* edition that serves the same purpose for us as outlets I mentioned above do for the entire country.

When joke editions occur, it is natural for there to be controversy at times. However, I hope we as a community do not respond to the controversy by attempting to keep joke editions from occurring in the future. Nearly every issue, no matter how controversial, can be brought up in a humorous way while still bringing light to the issue, not making it worse. Obviously there is some subjectivity in this, but I hope that in the future we focus on the joke *Echo* issue being written in that way instead of stopping it entirely.

I hope we respond by ensuring that the future humor is viewed as right by the community. We could increase input from other community members (besides those involved in the *Echo*), and we could work to better understand how to bring up topics in a tasteful way. If this happens, the annual joke *Echo* would cause positive humor and thought.



Ethan Schuler

Nearly every issue, no matter how controversial, can be brought up in a humorous way while... not making it worse.



The Colby Echo

Published by the students of Colby College since 1877

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# Two wrongs do not make a right

A week ago, we at the *Echo* released our annual joke issue. Less than 24 hours—at roughly 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning—we pulled the issue from the racks. Most people reading this know why we pulled the issue, but for those uninformed, the *Echo* made the mistake of printing the name of a student in the satirical article “Women’s Rugby Player Comes out as Straight.”

The printing of that name was seen by many as an attack not only on that individual, but also an attack on the Women’s Rugby Club and a dismissal of the struggle of LGBTQA+ individuals face when they come out. As I wrote on the Civil Discourse several days ago, this was never the intention of our editors or institution; it was a result of poor editing our part. It was a mistake. This article created a rift among our friends, peers, and broader community, and for that I am truly sorry.

Since this mistake came to light, I’ve been—more than anything else—confused by the community response. I was ex-

pecting the backlash for the rugby article—that is more than justified—but since then, the floodgates seem to have opened. In the past, the joke issue has always been understood for what it is—a joke. Yes, some elements will always be crass, irreverent, or simply unfunny, but they have never been written for the sole purpose of marginalizing an individual or group in our community. Was our article about Dean Sloat rude? Yes, but its also so outrageous and far from the truth that it shouldn’t matter.

So why am I upset? I’m upset because students have compared our team to members of the Ku Klux Klan. I’m upset because a tenured professor opined that reading the issue showed that our team was “obviously made up of affluent, white people only interested in perpetuating the patriarchy” when our team has made a concerted effort to fight against enclaves of privilege on this campus. I’m upset because that same professor accused us of utilizing “sexism, sexual violence, homopho-

bia, white supremacy, and pure nastiness [as] sources of levity” when many of our articles were clearly challenging these notions. I’m angry because people are upset that we attached President Greene’s name to Kanye West lyrics.

Everyone has a right to find things distasteful. Everyone has a right to reach out to us and tell us what we—Kiernan, Carli, and I—did wrong. That is something that the *Echo* has always encouraged.

Though we made a mistake, I’m genuinely irritated by the response. A Faculty member making sweeping accusations about our staff’s integrity and morals in such an unforgiving and hostile manner is little more than bullying a group of students: a group of students who work tirelessly week after week to uphold a longstanding institution which today remains underfunded, lacking contribution from both students and staff, and is generally undervalued at this school. Our organization is made up of students who have no journalism degrees—much less rigorous training in satire. I hope members of the community will remember that.



Jake Bleich

# We learn from our mistakes and move forward

Humor is hard. When done right, it can lift us out of poor spirits, bring us together, and most importantly, make us laugh. When done poorly, however, humor has the ability to hit us where it hurts the most. The latter is something many of us have experienced after last week’s release of the Joke Issue of the *Echo*. While some members of the campus chuckled at the articles, ads, and Bango, others were deeply hurt by our words. There are some parts of the Joke Issue that I remain proud of; they successfully acted as satirical reflections on the Colby campus. However, other parts of this year’s Joke Issue missed the mark entirely, and I acknowledge that.

Joke Issue night in the *Echo* office is a bit different than normal layout nights, as the staff treats it as the one week off of the whole year of layout in which we can relax a bit and just write some funny articles. On Joke Issue night, the Executive Board (the Editors-in-Chief and the Managing Editor) is less hands on when it comes to what goes into the issue. For this reason, I had a broad idea of what most of the articles would cover, but I did not read most of the articles before they went to print, including the article regarding Women’s Rugby. I certainly regret this now, as I feel as if I could have prevented some hurt from occurring if I had read every single word that was to be published. We are already working on putting structures in place for

next year, such as a more rigorous editing process and a Code of Ethics in order to make sure the issue is more thoughtful, and takes into account the experiences those on our campus are undergoing at any given time.

A wise professor and comedy scholar recently pointed out to me that there is a difference between satire and mockery. While we originally thought that what we were producing was satire, some of the issue turned into mockery, and this is a fact that we—I—must own up to. Mockery is unacceptable on this campus, as well as anywhere else, and the fact that a product that my name is so closely resorted to mockery is disappointing—it was not what I intended.

I would like to apologize for letting this issue come out. While I didn’t read all of the articles—or even most of the issue—before the issue went to print, I should have. I apologize for not being more responsible for my work. I apologize for printing words that were deeply hurtful to members of my community. I apologize for insulting the identity of students and faculty in our community, and I apologize for publishing jokes about topics that are personal, difficult, and painful for some of our campus population. I apologize for ignoring the systemic violence that is occurring on our campus and making light of this violence in the *Echo*. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, I deeply apologize to all for not representing

the Colby community in its entirety. The story that this edition of the *Echo* told is not representative of our community and I apologize to those who were misrepresented.

However, apologies in print can only go so far. What’s just as important for me to express—in addition to apologies—is that while this experience has been difficult and painful for me, as well as so many others, it has also been an opportunity for learning and understanding. From this experience, I have learned how to truly listen to and hear others before responding. I have learned how to express my thoughts in authentic and genuine ways and stand up for myself and for what I believe in. On a less personal level, I have learned that in an environment such as the *Echo*, we must continuously do deep cultural readings of our campus as well as our greater community and re-evaluate our actions. We must create a more diverse, well-rounded staff in order to obtain a plethora of perspectives and thoughts; by taking these steps, we will do better.

Not knowing better is not good enough, nor is it an excuse for what happened. We are intelligent students at a top-ranking institution and we are a group of good journalists. We as a group should have known better, and that is not an excuse. This entire experience has been a humbling one, and I want to thank everyone—my friends, colleagues, professors, and the *Echo*’s critics—for a willingness to stay in dialogue and continue to educate us when it is needed most.



Carli Jaff



Kiernan Somers

## Letter to the Editor

# Echo “joke” issue no joke

By ELIZABETH LEONARD  
Professor of History

I am writing to express my solidarity with Maggie Burgos’s powerful response in the Civil Discourse to the article in the recent “joke” issue of the Colby *Echo*, targeting the women’s rugby team. Indeed, I know that I am not alone in having found the entire “joke” issue unfunny, not to mention a violation of both the spirit and the promises of the Colby affirmation. From first page to last the issue reveals the persistence on campus of a culture that considers sexism, sexual

violence, homophobia, white supremacy, and pure nastiness to be sources of levity. Certainly humor can be used effectively to challenge dehumanizing social norms and ideologies, to paraphrase one of my colleagues. Colby students have demonstrated on many occasions that they have all the skills they need intellectually and creatively to do this. But whatever its intentions, in my view this “joke” issue of the *Echo* succeeded only in reinforcing and (apparently) justifying some of the most vicious social norms and ideologies, which it seasoned with gratuitous unkindness.

# Reflections from the EIC

Being a good journalist is different from being a good humorist. I would like to think that the staff of the *Echo* consists of innovative, curious, talented and exceptional student journalists. However, I have no qualms with saying that no one on our staff is a humorist. We are a platform for student’s thoughts and opinions and are not a monolithic entity. We come from diverse backgrounds and all hold differing opinions. Every year around April Fools, the *Echo* has traditionally published a joke issue. In this past year’s rendition we attempted satire, and simply failed.

I would like to spend some time apologizing to some of my closest friends here on campus. To the women’s rugby team, I am sorry. There is not much else I can say besides promising that the appropriate steps are being taken to ensure that moving forward, an incident like this will never happen again. As a paper, we understand the issues of satirizing the coming out process, perpetuating negative and demeaning stereotypes, and offending the identity of women’s rugby players are wrong. And for discrediting those processes in an attempt at humor, was cheap and pathetic. The women’s rugby team is an integral part of the campus community and contributes in countless ways to

Colby’s culture. In addition, I want to apologize to one of my close friends, Maggie Burgos ’17. Her name was wrongly and mistakenly utilized and appeared in the joke issue as a result of editorial oversight. It is our policy to not mention student’s names, without consent, in the joke issue, and regrettably, her name slipped through the cracks. Utilizing a student’s name without their consent, especially in a negative fashion, is terrible journalism. Moving forward, the *Echo* will implement a much more rigorous oversight process. Overhauling the joke issue is not an easy task. It will take time; however, I hope that the community will be patient and trust that I will work to guarantee that this incident never happens again.

The campus community reacted strongly to the Joke issue and that is something that I am proud of. However, throughout the weekend, the community reacted in a variety of fashions. I received a lot of feedback, and many critiques and comments were respectful, educated, and intelligent. College is a learning experience and this past weekend will probably be one of the most memorable. I understand how our paper hurt and pained individuals on this campus and I hope that, as a community, we can move forward and heal.

There’s not much I can say besides promising that the appropriate steps are being taken to ensure that moving forward, an incident like this will never happen again.

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Backstage Pass

# Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hip-hop operetta, a review

Ask anyone that knows me even a little and they will tell you that I am a musical theater nerd. My sister and I would sing together while doing dishes, figuring out who would sing which part of what harmony and who got to be Glinda and who got to be Elphaba. I can probably blame my dad for this, as he’s the original theater nerd in the Jaff family. My life has revolved primarily around musical theater, which means it must come as no surprise to anyone reading this that when *Hamilton* came into our lives, I was more excited and obsessed than the average person. It must also not come as a surprise to anyone that when my parents bought *Hamilton* tickets for my family for March 18, that I immediately set a countdown on my phone and computer and played the *Hamilton* playlist on repeat until the day finally came in which I stood in line at the Richard Rodgers theatre and I could see the show live.

Let’s back up for a minute. For those of you that don’t know (which I hope isn’t many of you), *Hamilton* is a musical about founding father Alexander Hamilton with music, lyrics, and book by Lin-Manuel Miranda (*In the Heights*). Miranda was inspired by historian Ron Chernow’s biography entitled *Alexander Hamilton*. Instead of a typical musical, however, Miranda tells Hamilton’s

story through the form of a rap operetta. The project originally began as an album of songs entitled “The Hamilton Mixtape”, but Miranda quickly realized that this work was meant to be a full show, and not just an album.

Enter *Hamilton*, the Broadway show that has quickly become the most coveted New York City experience. Theatregoers line up outside the Richard Rodgers theater before every show hoping to get a ticket, thousands—if not millions—enter the lottery each day to try and get a front row seat and a chance to meet the cast, and listeners all over the world are reciting raps and song lyrics from the soundtrack. Educators are using *Hamilton* as teaching tools in their classroom in order to educate their students about American history in a fresh, innovative way. *Hamilton* has quickly taken the world by storm, and Miranda will not allow it to slow down any-

time soon. What’s most special about *Hamilton*, however, is the cast. Besides the fact that the group is beyond talented (talented doesn’t begin to describe what this cast can do), the cast is made up primarily of black and Hispanic people, thus adding a level of multiculturalism to an originally all-white story. In an interview, Miranda describes *Hamilton* and his use of a color-blind cast as “the story of Amer-

ica then told by America now.” This country certainly isn’t what it was in the 17-and-1800s, especially in terms of race and diversity, and Miranda seamlessly and brilliantly incorporates this concept into his show.

My sister and I have been nerding out about *Hamilton* since we found out we were going to see the show. Nerding out doesn’t just mean listening to the album over and over (although we did do that and continue to do that); it means watching every #Ham4Ham video there is (look it up on YouTube if you don’t know what I’m talking about), pouring over interviews, scouring Tumblr for unofficial cast recordings, and reciting *Hamilton* lyrics in everyday conversation. This might seem over-the-top, but I can promise you that I am not the most obsessed Hamiltonite out there—not even close. But, I digress.

The experience of seeing *Hamilton* is truly otherworldly. It’s impossible to critique, because there’s so much happening onstage that is dynamic, exciting, educational, innovative, and intelligent. There’s just no room for error or fault. The cast is sharp, the set is simple yet effective, and the music is beyond incredible. I know those words are vague, but it’s nearly impossible to explain unless you’ve seen the show. From Elizabeth Schuyler (Philipa Soo) to Aaron Burr (Leslie Odom, Jr.), *Hamilton* takes its audience on an emotional and educational journey through the American Revolution.

If you don’t like musical theater, listen to *Hamilton*. If you don’t like rap, listen to *Hamilton*. If you don’t like music, listen to *Hamilton*. There is something in this show for everyone, and even if you don’t like it, at least you’ll learn something about America’s least taught founding father.



Carli Jaff

It’s impossible to critique, because there’s so much happening onstage that is dynamic, exciting, educational, innovative, and intelligent.

# “Zootopia”: Taking a political stand with talking animals

By Emily Malinowski  
Co-A&E Editor

Meet Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin). She’s a bunny with a mission—one that her parents and the rest of the animals living in the sprawling city of Zootopia would call impossible. Hopps wants to be the first police officer of her kind, bringing justice to the seemingly harmonious metropolis. She has no plans to spend the rest of her life growing and selling carrots like the rest of the bunnies of Bunnyburrow. “Keeping things the same,” her parents call it.

Yes, on the surface, *Zootopia*, directed by Byron Howard (*Tangled*) and Rich Moore (*Wreck-It Ralph*) is yet another talking animal movie for kids. However, you would never expect this lighthearted children’s fantasy to tackle everything from outright sexism to institutional racism in just less than two hours, without failing to elicit laughter from both parents and kids. It’s clear that Hopps defies cultural norms when she ends up as the top student at the Zootopia Police Academy, an institution reserved for the more “able” animals of society. Think polar bears and rhinos: predators, who are, for the sake of the matter, all male.

Hopps faces reality when she is placed on parking duty by Zootopia police chief Bogo, a hard-ass buffalo voiced by Idris Elba (*Beasts of No Nation*, *The Wire*). Turns out the mayor’s new mammal-inclusion initiative isn’t all that it’s cracked up to be. Unappreciated and ignored, Hopps takes things into her own paws, uncovering the dirty secrets of Zootopia’s not-so-integrated society.

Here, another plotline unfolds in which Zootopians discover the faultiness of their predator vs. prey logic—the logic that prohibits bunnies

from mingling with polar bears. The societal divide between traditionally predatory and preyed-upon animals is said to be biological (sound a little like your introduction to cultural anthropology class?) Hopps and her partners in crime prove to audience members that this is untrue, uncovering a crime involving corrupt politicians and an illegal drug that’s making animals “go savage.”

The racial element is drawn out even further in Hopps’s unlikely friendship with a fox, Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman). Their relationship is strained because Zootopian society always says, “Never trust a fox.” Wilde’s character development reveals facets of the suffering that can come from harmful societal expectations. He says to Hopps, “Everyone comes to Zootopia, thinking they could be anything they want. But you can’t. You can only be what you are. Sly fox. Dumb bunny.”

*Zootopia* is also notable for the dimensions of its humor. It includes references to *The Godfather* and *L.A. Confidential* and maintains a healthy balance of animal-related puns. The film pokes fun at some of the typical parts of living in a city—one scene shows a DMV with a staff of sloths. Another great part involves Hopps and Wilde entering the Mystic Spring Oasis, a haven for animals who wish to live peacefully in the nude (a.k.a. a nudist colony).

According to movie critic Peter Travers, “[*Zootopia*] may be the most subversive movie of the year” (*Rolling Stone*). It’s true: what makes for a classic kids movie is also quite the political statement. You’ll be at the edge of your seat, you’ll laugh, and most likely, you’ll cry. This is the perfect feel-good movie that takes some serious dives, preventing it from becoming too cheesy or predictable. It’s still playing at Flagship Cinemas for \$7, so catch it while you can.

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Pen to Paper

“For my brother”

by Drew Boulos

When I left my brother said the house had a tangible lacking empty like hollowed stone – no, like snapshots from before.

I guess I liked the music loud or maybe just enough to drown the downstairs shuffle, you know, the thing that stalls the morning.

You see, these are the first days of spring when I find myself sitting barefoot in unsuitable weather wishing for the March’s and April’s

we would climb ass first out mom’s bathroom window to the roof we watched the neighbors fight with doors closed their kitchen

painted a grapefruit orange, so bright and tacky it stuck. They yelled about dishes and yelled about kids, though I think we made that up, right?

We used to run wild tip over trash cans paint the neighbors garage I guess she was right to call the police but it’s true she was a bitch.

And this is why I’m wondering if we’re really done here if we’ve stuffed ourselves full and thrown hands on it all. Look,

I never thanked you for that time you dragged me by the hair from the bar on Fore last summer, you see, at least I didn’t puke in your car like when

I held you, shook you, kept you from running away made you stay and make a plan and look where we made it we’re almost unscathed.

# Senior artist profile: Sitting down with Emma Rosenfield '16

By **TERRY O'CONNOR**  
Co-A&E Editor

Each year in May, The Colby Museum of Art hosts the Senior Art Show, an exhibition featuring works by senior students ranging a variety of mediums, including photography, sculpture, print-making and painting. Over the course of the next several months, the Echo will feature interviews with the senior artists, showcasing their work and speaking to them about their personal inspirations and processes.

Raised in Newton, MA, Emma Rosenfield '16 has spent her time at Colby juggling her interests in art, biology, and wildlife research, while also being an active member of the Women's Rugby team. Rosenfield has been pursuing a concentration in painting, and has spent her senior year working towards developing and preparing the body of work she'll be presenting at the end of the year. Her paintings are unique in that the process behind them is a continual response to the addition and subtraction of layers of paint. At one point a painting may look like a highly detailed portrait, and at another it could be covered in a grid of geometric shapes only later to be sanded back down. Her work is both unique and unmistakably hers.

We were able to sit down with Rosenfield to talk to her about her time as an artist at Colby.

Do you want to begin by telling me what your major is and where your painting fits into all of that?

I'm a biology and art double-major. Art fits in because I did it all throughout high school, and

I just wanted to continue doing it more as a hobby and less as a career path. I still wanted to be painting and learning about art.

And outside of your classes, what are you involved in on campus?

I am on the women's rugby team. I also at one point did Paw Pals, volunteering at the Humane Society, so I did that for a little bit. But yeah, mostly just rugby and academics.

How did you get on the track of becoming an art major? Did you know coming into Colby that you'd want to do something with art?

I think I knew coming in that I wanted to do an art major—it's kind of the liberal arts experience. So, I started off my first semester taking Foundations with Bevin because I heard that she was a painting instructor. I wanted to see how she taught and I really enjoyed Foundations, so I kept going with the major.

How have your art classes complemented the rest of your studies?

It's been really nice to have different classes that are more hands on than some of the intro-biology classes. It was really nice to have drawing and painting while also taking classes like ecology and introduction to biology. It was fun to split it up.

Can you tell me about the current work you're doing?

Right now I'm discovering what my paintings are. I'm doing a lot of additive and subtractive work. I'm trying to build up the surface and then take away layers, and see what's there. It

all stemmed from these self-portraits that are kind of quirky and weird, with color fields in the background that are strong and intense. I wanted to play more with color and shapes, so I started building up shapes on top of the portraits, then taking away the shapes, and then adding more. So I get to this middle ground between the different layers of the painting.

Are you looking at any other artists, or have there been any significant outside influences on your work?

Not really. I'm so bad at looking at art history and trying to find what interests me. I think something that spoke to me was when Bevin said that my paintings reminded her of old, medieval church paintings called frescos. In some of the ways, the pieces have this fresco-esque element to them. So that's kind of cool. But I haven't been looking at anyone in particular.

Do you have a specific end goal in mind when you're painting or is it a more intuitive process for you?

Right now, I'm working more intuitively and seeing where they go. But I'm kind of in a phase where I want to build up more layers and bring more down again. I want to see if they represent the transition from these hard shapes to more naturalistic, abstract, worn down images. I don't know if that makes sense. But it's more intuitive.

What other art classes have you taken while at Colby?

I've taken drawing which was

really good with Bradley Borthwick, and that sort of brought me back to basics. I've taken art history classes, like the introductory level ones. I did one on the renaissance with Veronique, and that was interesting to learn about iconography and see those kind of paintings that were very religious and had such a methodical way about them. But mostly its been painting that I've been involved with that has sort of been the central focus of my art experience here.

Do you see yourself going forward with your art?

Yeah I'd like to continue keeping a sketchbook and documenting places I go and things I see. Whether I do formal paintings or not, I'm not sure if I'll have time necessarily. But I feel like its something I can always come back to. If I ever wanted to go to school again and study art I feel like having this major and taking these classes now will help me.

Do you have any plans yet after you graduate?

I do. I have a job for the summer at least doing research in Michigan.

What kind of research are you doing in Michigan?

It's called the Michigan Predator and Prey Project. So they are looking at predation rates on white tailed deer in the Upper Peninsula by different predators. They're moving the project, so we'll be setting up experiments this summer and conducting howl surveys for coyotes and setting up snares and that kind of stuff to track wild life.

Any plans after that?

I'd eventually like to go to grad school for the biology side of things. I'm really interested in wildlife so that's eventually the plan but I want to do lots of little research jobs before I go to grad school to at least get my foot in the door.

Do you have any reflections on your past four years at Colby?

They've been good. It's been a journey for sure. I really like the academics at Colby. I think they've pushed me outside my boundaries. Even the art history has been challenging and stimulating in a way I didn't see. The academic experience has been really good I think.

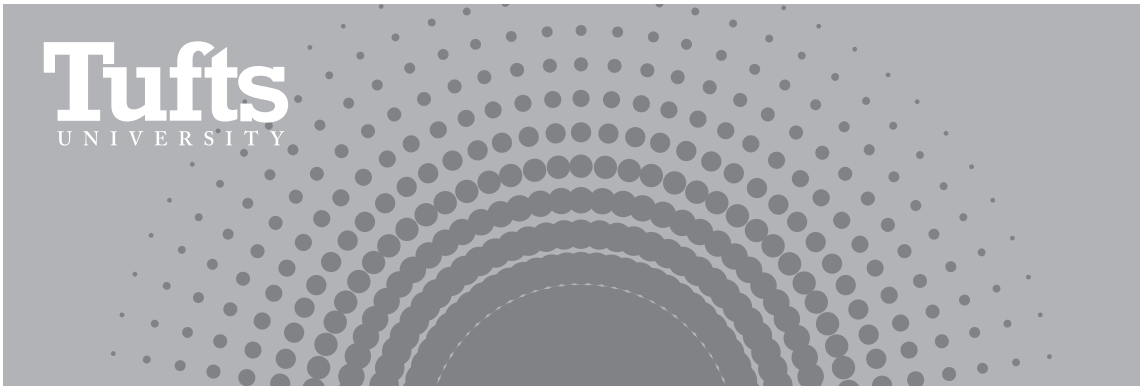
“I’m doing a lot of additive and subtractive work. I’m trying to build up the surface and then take away layers, and see what’s there.”

Emma Rosenfield '16

## Christine Francis '16 puts on capstone production, “Devolution”



“Devolution”, an original digital media performance piece, has been a year in the making. Courtesy of Katie Monteleone '18



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April 8, 5:30 PM / Railroad Square Cinema  
Art in the Lobby Opening: Fauna: Factual and Fancied, featuring the paintings of Toni Jo Coppa and Juliet Karelsen

April 9, 7:20 PM / Waterville Public Library  
PechaKucha Night WTVL Vol. 20 at the Hathaway Creative Center

April 8, 9, 15, 16, 7:30 PM; April 10, 17, 2 PM  
Waterville Opera House  
Mary Poppins  
(For tickets visit: [www.operahouse.org](http://www.operahouse.org))

April 9, 12:55 PM / Waterville Opera House  
The Met: Madama Butterfly

March 22 – April 24  
a program of Waterville Main Street and Waterville Area Art Society  
25th Annual Maine Open Juried Art Show at the Waterville Public Library

April 14, 12 PM / Colby College Museum of Art  
Noontime Art Talk: Liberty, Equality, and Phrygian Caps: Martin Puryear's Up and Over

April 15, 6 – 8 PM / Common Street Arts  
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April 16, 10AM – 3 PM / Common Street Arts  
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# Baseball opens on new field with 4-10 record

By WILL WALKEY  
Co-Sports Editor

Colby Baseball opened their season at a modest 4-10, but the team has posted impressive wins over NESCAC foe Williams College and Maine rival University of Maine Farmington (UMF). The win over UMF was also the program's first victory on the new Coombs field. Co-Captain Soren Hanson '16 has been strong both on the mound and at the plate for Colby, earning NESCAC player of the week honors for the last full week of March.

Under head coach Dale Plummer, the team has high hopes for this season coming off the second 20-win season for the program last year. Co-Captains Hanson, Tommy Forese '16, and Dan Csaplar '16 lead a team bolstered by the improvements to Coombs field, the first synthetic turf field in the NESCAC. Hanson posted an impressive 5-1 record as a starting pitcher with a 3.08 earned run average and 38 strikeouts. At bat, he was third on the team in batting average (.348), and his overall performance earned him All-New England honors from D3baseball.com and first-team All-NESCAC honors for the 2015 season. Forese was second team All-NESCAC last year after leading the Mules in runs batted in (RBI), slugging percentage, on base percentage, walks, and runs scored. Csaplar was a fielding maestro for Colby,

posting just one error in 111 attempts at first-base last season.

At a Spring Break tournament in sunny Tucson, Arizona, the Mules split their first two games against the University of Wisconsin at Superior. Colby outhit Wisconsin in both games, but lost the first matchup by a narrow margin of 5-4 before taking the nightcap by a more convincing 15-7 score. They scorched the Wisconsin pitching staff for 17 hits in the second game, and a massive variety of Mules got hits, batted in runs, and scored runs. However, Blake Egan '18 was a standout in the first win of the young Colby season, as had a trio of hits, two runs, and two RBIs.

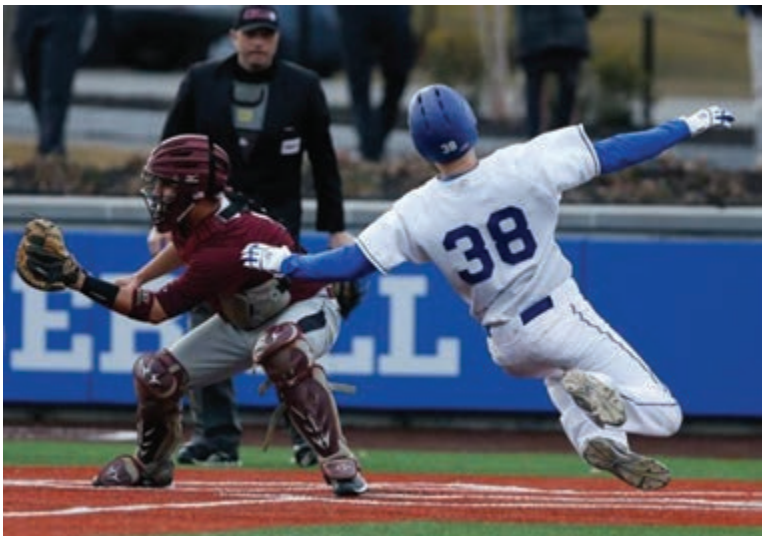
In the second doubleheader against Oberlin College, the Mules dropped both games but saw some bright spots. In their 8-1 loss in the opener, Hanson pitched six innings and only allowed one run off six hits while striking out eight batters. The relief pitching cracked under the pressure of a close game and gave up seven runs, but the power of Colby's ace was evident after the scores were tallied. The Mules were unable to mount any offense in the nightcap and fell to Oberlin, 4-0.

The Mules split their next doubleheader with Carleton College and fell the next day in games against both Carthage College and Buena Vista. Against a wide array of talented opponents from across the country, the Mules

struggled to earn many runs and cracked under the pressure of a small, late-inning leads multiple times in games, including the one against Buena Vista, where they led by one run after five innings but gave up the lead in the final two. Colby dropped their next two games against Hastings College two days later.

However, Co-Captain and ace Hanson came to the rescue in Arizona against NESCAC foe Williams. He pitched eight dominant innings in which he allowed just four hits and no runs in the team's final game in Arizona. The Mules won 9-2 after Andrew Currier '16 led the offense with three hits, three RBI, and one run. The team left Spring break with a 3-8 record.

Back on Mayflower Hill, the Mules earned their first win at "The Stable," or Coombs field, over UMF. The new turf's first win was earned in a close 7-6 affair. Pinch-hitter Matt Garcia '18 was the hero as he hit in Currier with a game-winning single in the bottom of the eighth inning. Unfortunately, this victory was quickly soured after the team dropped both doubleheader games to Wesleyan this past Saturday at Coombs Field. Going forward, the Mules hope to fight off their uneven start and put together a string of victories as it warms up in Maine. They play host to Trinity College on Friday at 3:00 P.M. and Saturday at 12:00 P.M.



Top: The Mules practicing on their field. Bottom: Andrew Currier '16 scores. Both courtesy of Colby Athletics

## M. Lax starts season slowly

By ANDREW D'ANIERI  
Staff Writer

The Colby men's lacrosse team has endured a difficult past two weeks, going 0-5 overall with three league games among the losses. While most of campus was enjoying a relaxing spring break, the Mules were on the road, starting in Medford, Massachusetts against Tufts University on March 19. One of the team's strengths this year has been getting off to a strong early start, which they did versus the favored Jumbos. The Mules scored two goals in the opening 10 minutes to keep the contest close at 3-2, but the hosts soon pulled away in the third quarter with four straight goals and the game ended 16-8. Colby's scoring duo of Kevin Seiler '17 and Colton Michel '19 continued their impressive form with three goals apiece.

The team faced a quick turnaround with a trip to Virginia to face Washington and Lee University on March 22. Possibly affected by the travel, Colby didn't gain any momentum until the fourth quarter. Down 7-3 entering the final frame, the Mules looked like

they might pull off a dramatic comeback thanks to three straight goals from Sam Wasserman '16, Alex Rutan '16, and Michel. But it was too little too late, and the boys fell just short, losing 7-6.

The exhausting away jaunt rolled onto Connecticut College on March 26 with the Mules looking to secure their first NESCAC victory of the year. Unfortunately, it proved to be a rough day for coach John Hunt's team, who suffered a sobering 21-4 defeat. The Mules struggled to win faceoffs all game and the resulting lack of possession was crucial. The Camels shot out to a 10-1 first half lead and extended it to 19-1 by the end of the third quarter. On the plus side, the scoreline allowed a host of reserve players the chance to get on the field and gain experience, especially freshman goalie C.J. Layton '19 who registered nearly 24 minutes in relief of starter Dylan Rothenberg '16.

The team was happy to be back on Mayflower Hill for their mid-week matchup with Keene State on Wednesday. They again kept it close in the first half, as goals from Austin Sayre '17, Jack Bratches '16, Scott Miller '19, and Thomas Brewster '19 left the sides knotted at 4-4 going

into halftime. Yet in what has become a troubling theme this year for the Mules, they failed to keep pace in the second half. Five straight goals from the visitors were enough to put the game out of reach by the start of the fourth quarter. Colby tried to muster a comeback but could not enough momentum going and finally fell 14-9.

The team's struggles continued on Saturday as the Wesleyan University Cardinals came to town. The game started well enough for the hosts, who went up 2-0 in the first three minutes. Colby outshot their opponents 13-11 in the second quarter but the Cardinals were simply more clinical, scoring four goals to take a 7-4 lead. The Mules stayed within striking distance for much of the second half before a late Wesleyan barrage settled the game 15-8.

While the team went into spring break expecting nothing short of a challenge, they were nonetheless displeased with the results. The Mules now stand at 2-7 overall and 0-5 in the league. They will have a chance to stop their skid and build some confidence on Tuesday against Maine Maritime Academy ahead of a trip to Amherst College on Saturday.

## Softball loses two against Williams

By JACOB ADNER  
Staff Writer

As the flowers and spring fever spread vibrantly across Mayflower Hill, a similar excitement fuels the spirited play of Colby's softball team. The women of the diamond got off to a fiery start prior to their double header against Williams this past weekend. Coming off an impressive two wins over the University of Maine at Farmington, in which the Mules dominated by the scores of 2-1 and 11-1, they looked to utilize strong defense and effective hitting against a formidable Williams squad.

The Ephs came into this weekend with an impressive 12-5 record while the Mules looked to push their record above .500, holding a 5-5 record. The first game went back and forth for the first five innings before the Ephs exploded for the eight run rule, capping the game at 11-3. The devastating loss didn't deter the resilient Mules as they bounced back, pounding ten hits in the second game. Grace Farnkoff '17 sparked the sudden surge of offensive output from the Mules, going three for four in the final game. The second game was entertaining for the full the full seven innings. Good defense on Colby's part kept the game close until the Ephs put the game out of reach by scoring four runs in the top of the seventh inning to eclipse the eight run rule, making the final score 12-3. The offensive

outpouring by the Ephs emphasized their continuing dominance this season.

Despite the two losses, the Mules found promising notes in both of their matchups. The offensive rebound in the second game denotes the character of this year's team. Vanessa Warshaw '18 said, "The season is off to a good start. We are super excited about the new fields, and they have been amazing because we have been able to practice outside since the season started." The new fields have surely added

a spark to the season, and have provided a new advantage to the team. Outdoor practices this early in the season have given them an advantage in acclimating to game-like situations, which other teams might not have yet. "We have a strong team this year and have been putting in a lot of work, so we are ready to start playing our conference games next weekend," Warshaw added.

The extra practice, in combination with the spirited attitude of the team, promises for great achievements as the season wears on.

With their double-header against Williams behind them, the Mules look forward to two games against a tough Tufts team next weekend, followed by a matchup with Thomas College, and then two games against Bowdoin on the horizon. The Colby women's softball team has a lot cut out for them, but with their competitive edge and unified play, they surely seem up to the challenge.

"The new fields have surely added a spark to the season."

Vanessa Warshaw  
Class of 2018



Julia Saul '18 has started her sophomore softball campaign well with a number of pitching gems. Here she is on the mound against UMF. Courtesy of Colby Athletics