

Students host a discussion of anti-Blackness at Colby

By *FIONA HUO*
News Reporter

On Monday, Oct. 26, the second segment of a three part series of student-led discussions on the History of Anti-Blackness at Colby College took place in Ostrove Auditorium in Diamond. The event was also streamed on Facebook Live by the Colby Mutual Aid Fund.

The series centers around instances of anti-Blackness on campus, institutional failures in responding to these racist incidents, and student resistance against anti-Blackness. The discussion on Oct. 26 specifically

dealt with the Akon Day incident that occurred in the fall of 2018.

The event, sponsored by the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, was led by Terri Nwanma '22, Faith Nkansah-Siriboe '22, and Micaela Duran '21. Both Nkansah-Siriboe and Duran work in Special Collections at Colby, from which most of the information for the series was compiled.

The three students shared that the History of Anti-Blackness at Colby College series received substantial pushback from the College. However, that did not deter the 146 students who regis-

tered to attend the Akon Day discussion.

They viewed the purpose of the series as a reckoning of the history of anti-Blackness at Colby, examining the way the administration has responded to incidents of anti-Blackness, and reflecting on how Colby's campus has failed and continues to fail to adequately support marginalized students.

Nwanma added that they felt a responsibility to "[document] the stories of people not having a good time on campus and people who are affected by racism all around the world."

The Oct. 26 presentation

began by describing the build-up to the Akon Day incident. That fall, Four Winds, the College's indigenous students club, created a poster detailing advice on how to avoid offensive Halloween costumes.

Their poster included "Four signs your Halloween costume is disrespectful," which included wearing accessories that resemble another culture's sacred artifacts or any offensive symbols. However, controversy arose after an SGA email that reiterated Four Winds overall message did so with much milder language.

The Akon Day incident itself occurred on Nov. 11, 2018. The event had been an annual tradition, and the 2018 event marked the 7th anniversary of it.

The party was thrown by the men's lacrosse team and was predominantly attended by white students. Partygoers dressed in orange jumpsuits and wore fake teardrop tattoos using rapper Akon's *Konvicted* album as inspiration. Female students braided their hair to mimic cornrows and wore hoop earrings.

These costumes were racist; students appropriated Black culture through their hair and accessories and correlated Blackness with criminality by dressing in jumpsuits imitating prison garb. When these white stu-

As of 12:00 a.m. on Nov. 3, according to the New York Times:

In the presidential race:
Biden Currently Leads with 209 Electoral Votes from:

Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Illinois, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Trump currently holds 118 Electoral Votes from:

Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, and South Carolina

In the competitive Senate races:
Republican Roger Marshall wins in Kansas
Republican John Cornyn wins in Texas
Republican Mitch McConnell wins in Kentucky

Republican Lindsey Graham wins in South Carolina

Democrat John Hickenlooper wins in Colorado

Republican Kelly Loeffler will face Democrat Raphael Warnock in a January Special Election in Georgia



Photo courtesy of Wendy Wei

Student panelists present at a segment of a three part series on the History of Anti-Blackness at Colby

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Professors present perspective on educated dialogue regarding the election

By *MOLLY GEORGE*
Layout Editor

On Monday, Nov. 2, faculty from a variety of departments led discussions and presented on panels related to the election. Specifically, each event focused on a different perspective on original ways to discuss politics.

"The Racial Turnout Gap: Myths and Mobilization" Carrie Levan, Assistant Professor of Government

"Many political pundits point to the turnout disparities between Voters of Color and White voters. But what role does racism serve as a source of these disparities? What are the potential consequences if these disparities persist? And perhaps, most importantly, what are potential solutions to closing the Racial Turnout Gap in US elections?"

The Racial Turnout Gap relates back to the Voter Rights Act but is also a mechanism of conventional wisdom and stereotypes, amplifying narratives that minority groups vote less because they are disengaged or uninformed. Levan presented on the real reasons for the turnout gap and led a discussion on what managing the Racial Turnout Gap looks like.

First, to counter an explanation based solely on socioeconomic status, Levan cited research suggesting that there are higher rates of lower income among mi-

nority racial groups. While socioeconomic status is involved, education does not explain any difference between races.

When group size is larger, the Turnout Gap shrinks, regardless of socioeconomic status. This effect is due to three determinants: rational choice, empowerment theory, and elite mobilization.

With campaign statistics, Levan emphasized that closing the gap matters. She suggested that the best solution is mobilizing voters through personal canvassing with clear instructional information.

The reason politicians do not take advantage of this strategy is their focus on winning elections rather than mobilizing voters. The vicious cycle of campaign audiences and active voters impacts the nuanced yet real Racial Turnout Gap.

"How New Media is Reshaping Electrical Politics" Daniel M. Shea, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Government, Professor of Government

"One of the most significant transformations in contemporary electoral politics has been the rise of affect partisanship — also called negative partisanship. Rather than seeing members of the "other" party as the opposition, we now view them as the enemy, a genuine threat to democracy. One empirical measure of this change

has been the evaporation of split-ticket voters. But how has this happened? This pop-up discussion will confront the role of media, particularly social media, in creating echo chambers where we are drawn to narratives that cast the other side as dangerous and menacing. It will also confront the stark implications of this turn."

In this presentation, Shea summarized the transformation into negative partisanship as a dramatic change in American politics.

"We used to see the other party as the opposition, mistaken on policy issues, but also good Americans, neighbors, friends," Shea stated.

Seeing the opposing political party as a threat or evil is due to the reemergence of a partisan press. While media companies can benefit from this business model, Shea claims it is bad for democracy.

To combat this divisive view on partisanship, citizens need to consider another side's perspective, listen with an open mind, and break out from their media echo chamber.

In the past, there weren't as many media outlets, Shea explained.

"News used to be centrist, it professed the objective. You couldn't search easily to find an outlet that matched your ideology."

"Places like Colby and institutions of higher learn-

ing have to do the best they can to help people consider other perspectives, and bust out of the bubble."

"Does Debate Matter?" Hosted by: Aaron Hanlon, Assistant Professor of English, Director of Science, Technology, and Society

"Pollsters typically find that presidential debates don't have much of an impact on how people vote, but what about the smaller debates and discussions in our day-to-day lives? When we discuss politics with family, friends, on social media, and in the classroom, are we changing people's minds? If not, what's the value of political debate?"

This informal discussion centered around preparing for the inevitably controversial political conversations that surround the election. Participants shared anecdotes of successful and frustrating debates in daily situations and brainstormed strategies for productive and polite political debates.

Preparing for conversations is important, everyone in the discussion agreed. Going in intentionally with an open mind and without the purpose of trying to convince another are helpful check points. A student shared that productive conversation isn't about changing someone's mind: "that's not our job." Analogies and conscientious explanations can help both parties see the other side.

Having an audience can lead to inflated confidence and unnecessary argumentation, rather than connecting to learn. The main takeaway was that a focus on better listening creates more informed arguments.

Hanlon said, "it's the idea that we should approach arguments with the goals of learning and connecting, not winning."

"The election of 2020 in a pandemic economy" Michael Donihue and the Economics Department

"The coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the global economy. Faculty from the economics department will share their reflections on the pandemic and some of the accompanying economic issues that face Americans as they head to the polls."

In this conversation between five economists, reflections and predictions led to a hopeful outlook for the country. Each contributor shared an overall impression of the economic state of the U.S. in the context of both the election and the pandemic.

One focal point was defining what debt and deficit mean to different presidential candidates. Associate Professor of Economics and Associate Chair Samara Gunter claimed, "the carbon pact is a policy tax economists would get behind."

Donihue explained the

ambiguity on the impact of deficits in the current economic climate as spending continues to maintain economic growth in the short term.

While some industries are doing well (Donihue mentioned Amazon as an example), most small businesses and individuals are struggling, and so an effort to preserve small businesses will be important in the long run.

The professors discussed ideas for the economy to recover as economic and social tension exacerbate each other. Donihue closed with a possible scenario of reform measures, constitutional compromise, infrastructure investments, and faith in the country — though he admitted it is not likely.

This Friday, Nov. 6, another election-focused faculty discussion will take place as part of the Historians Reading the News with Friends series of conversations. This Post-Election Edition will be held over live stream so a large number of people can tune in to the informed perspectives of John Turner, Associate Professor of History; Danae Jacobson, Visiting Assistant Professor in History; Arnout H.C. van der Meer, Assistant Professor in History; and Sarah Duff, Assistant Professor of History, on the outcomes of the election.

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dents were told to change by their peers, they refused.

After the event, there was little to no disciplinary action or sanctions applied to the organizers and participants of the Akon Day party. This led to student outrage and an eventual sit-in in Cotter Union on Nov. 9, 2018. Hundreds of students and staff dressed in black and sat in silence for an hour. A group of Black students dressed in orange jumpsuits to mimic the students at the party.

To accompany their own telling the story of Akon Day, the three presenters screened an interview done with an attendee of the sit-in, Adjii Astou Seck '20.

"The turnout was amazing," Astou Seck recounted. "Seeing my professors there and seeing people I didn't think cared showed to me that as a whole our community still stands together."

The aftermath of the event also led Duran and other students to start a new group called Students 4 Change, which, among many other as-yet unrealized demands, called for President David Greene to host a town hall for students to address the incident. This was frustrating for many students as President Greene never agreed to lead the town hall.

Duran also outlined in the presentation a list of demands the group had for the College that she has yet to see be fulfilled by the College even now, two years later.

Some of the demands included not only making Civil Discourse accessible to students but the archives of past years' posts as well. Students also called on Colby to make a one to five year plan to improve counseling services for students of color, hire more staff for the Pugh Center, and to create a five to ten year plan to create a department dedicated to ad-

ressing bias on campus.

The students also called for the College to relook at their threshold for bias in the student handbook and the role of the Bias Incidence Prevention and Response (BIPR) team.

Nkansah-Siriboe shared that she believed it was important to keep the story of Akon Day alive.

"As students filter out through Colby, some stories get erased. On the same note, when incidents are not addressed outright, it gets erased," Nkansah-Siriboe explained. "For students of color at Colby, they should know that their feelings are validated and they are unfortunately not new."

The presenters took many questions from the audience.

The first installment of the series took place on Oct. 19 and featured the story of Mayra Diaz, a Puerto Rican Black student at Colby, who was falsely accused by a white student for threatening

her life. The last part of the series took place on Nov. 2 and was focused on an incident of police brutality that happened at the College in the Students Organized for Black and Latnix Unity (SOBLU) meeting room in 2009.

The incident took place on April 12, 2009. Following a Rave to the Grave Party in Page Commons, an intoxicated student wandered into the SOBLU room in the Pugh Center where he fell asleep. A security officer passing by came to check on the student with two students who identified the sleeping student. A third student by the name of Ramirez also came into the room questioning what the security officer was doing there.

At this point, tensions between the student body and Security had been high. Ramirez was then slammed onto the ground and put in a butterfly hold. The situation escalated and Waterville, Fairfield, Winslow, and Oakland Police Departments

were called along with Maine State Troopers and personnel from the Kennebec Valley Sheriff's office.

Another POC student Roundtree also had a confrontation with law enforcement in the same Pugh Center incident. In what could clearly be categorized as excessive force, Roundtree was maced three times while handcuffed.

Law enforcement also stopped another student, Talarico, by Johnson Pond for unclear reasons. After a scuffle, the three, all students of color, were arrested and taken to the police station in Augusta for criminal trespassing and assault. Ramirez, Roundtree, and Talarico received no medical attention for the injuries they sustained from law enforcement.

One of the critical pieces of evidence from that night was video footage taken on a cellphone showing Ramirez pinned on the ground in his

own blood. The footage was widely circulated among the Colby community and which prompted outrage. A protest was held on April 14 which was attended by over 800 students, which was nearly half of Colby's student population at the time.

As with the aftermath of the Akon Day party that would occur nine years later, many of the demands by the students which included the suspension of the security officers involved, a public apology, and financial support for the affected students were never realized.

The series shed light on the failures of the administration when it comes to supporting BIPOC students at Colby and how justice still has not been served for affected students.

Students looking to better understand these events can check out the special collections archives for the documents and sources used in the presentations.

Students partake in Colby-sponsored activities during Halloweekend

By MATT ROCHA
News Reporter

This Halloween was certainly different from those in years past. The College's COVID-19 regulations prevented the large gatherings characteristic of normal Halloween celebrations, but thanks to some creativity from student groups, the weekend was still a success. On Friday and Saturday, groups across campus sponsored fun and safe events.

On the evening before Halloween, students staged a haunted house in the Lovejoy academic building. Participants walked down the dark hallways and through creepily decorated rooms. Cassie Lieblein '23 helped set up the haunted house with the ski team.

"My team volunteered to do it. I helped set up the haunted house. I did the clown room in particular," Lieblein said. "We put up lights and pumped up a bunch of scary balloons and displays."

This year, the visitors of the haunted house were different than normal.

"Normally the haunted house is for little kids from

the Waterville area, but obviously that wasn't possible because of the COVID-19 rules, so this year it was just for Colby students," Lieblein explained.

She was very happy with how the haunted house turned out. It surpassed all of her expectations.

"I saw the other rooms, and they looked really cool. It turned out really well!" Lieblein said.

On Halloween, scores of students participated in the Monster Dash for Mutual Aid, which the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted. Starting at Runnals Field, students in costume ran a two kilometer course through the upper Arboretum.

The Monster Dash was a great opportunity to have fun while enjoying the beautiful fall nature around campus, but it also included an important charitable aspect. SGA asked participants to encourage ten of their friends to donate to the Colby Mutual Aid Fund, a student-run fund that supports the College's first generation low-income, BIPOC, Trans, and Queer students. Along with the run, SGA also provided food, set

up games, and put on a costume contest, the winner of which received a one hundred dollar gift card.

With her teammates on the field hockey team, Lauryn Nelson '23 participated in the Monster Dash.

"One of my teammates is in SGA and arranged for my team to walk the event. It was very chill and a really fun time," Nelson said. "As a team, we wanted to support Colby Mutual Aid. It was a great way to incentivize our friends to donate toward an awesome cause."

Nelson believes that SGA did a great job setting up the Monster Dash and creating a costume in an inclusive environment.

"SGA really went all out. They decorated the trail with cobwebs and other Halloween-themed decorations. They taped off the course, and CER was on stand by just in case," she said. "We dressed up in costumes, and one of my teammates actually won the costume contest."

In the last hours of Halloween, seven of the College's most talented bands hosted a concert in Foss Dining Hall. The Colby Music Incubator, an organiza-

tion that promotes student bands and coordinates music-related events, organized the Halloween concert. For over four hours, the bands and musicians entertained a socially distanced crowd.

Doug Werner '23 plays saxophone and sings for Basement Picnic, one of the bands that headlined the Halloween concert. Werner and Basement Picnic covered songs from a variety of genres, including "Sunday Candy," "I Will Survive," "Psycho Kill-

er," and "Heart of Glass." He thought that the concert was a great success, as it balanced COVID-19 compliance with Halloween fun.

"Everyone was wearing their masks, which was good. They wanted everyone to sit down, which I imagine had something to do with COVID-19," Werner said. "It was a success overall. It was a great time."

Werner noted that because of the limited seating in Foss, the crowd was

tightly controlled. Many eager concert-goers were unfortunately turned away at the door.

"It didn't seem like a lot of people were let in. Probably whatever the limit is for a room of that size. Maybe fifty people. There were mobs of people at the top trying to get in, but they had to leave," Werner said. "The last concert was outside, but since it's cold out now, I guess they wanted to do it inside, which makes sense."



Photo courtesy of SGA class of 2023

College rejects student petition calling for a holiday on election day

By DONOVAN LYNCH
Contributing Writer

As voters trickle into polling places across the country, the Colby community will be experiencing a Tuesday like any other—at least as far as the official College schedule goes. Colby administrators this week quietly rejected a letter signed by ten students and four faculty members to suspend all academic and extracurricular activities for election day.

In a letter addressed to President Greene and Dean of the College Karlene Burrell-Mcrae, the words of the appeal were unequivocal: "It is crucial that we protect our democracy by making the voting process as accessible as possible for our entire community."

Sophomore SGA co-President Josh Brause, who penned the letter and started an accompanying 300 signature petition on Change.org, saw the day off as a way to increase voter turnout

and give the school a little breathing room.

"Yeah, people really are gonna be in a difficult place mentally to varying degrees throughout campus," Brause told *The Colby Echo* from his common room in Dana.

Colby is hardly alone in this effort. Brown University, Colorado College, and American University—among others—have all pulled the plug on the Nov. 3 class day after successful lobbying from students and faculty.

Many who signed Colby's letter, representing the Student Government Administration and ColbyVotes, a non-partisan student group dedicated to increasing turnout and registration, agree on why it fell short at the College: too little, too late.

"The request was sent out at the last minute and it is an enormous undertaking to close an institution such as this at short notice," said Professor of History and ColbyVotes Advisor Sarah

Duff.

"Practical considerations were, clearly, the reason for the College's decision" Duff added.

But this may have been a plea heard before by many Colby administrators.

I know that Colby Votes, one of their big things they wanted to be able to get done from a very early point in the semester, they were wanted to get us the day off on election day," said one source familiar with the situation. President of ColbyVotes, Lutie Brown '22, couldn't be reached for comment.

Though Colby's pulse won't slow on Tuesday, last-minute changes to the election day schedule have been quickly implemented at other institutions. At Swarthmore, President Valerie Smith called a schoolwide election holiday on Oct. 26, just two days before Brause published the letter to school leadership on the Colby Civil Discourse online forum.

Even closer to the wire, Il-

linois Governor Jay Pritzker designated Nov. 3 a state holiday just hours before voters headed to the polls, effectively closing public schools (those not already shut for voting) and some—but not all—businesses.

Although the College flatly rejected an election holiday, many original sponsors of Brause's letters are pleased with Colby's civic engagement efforts in general.

"From my vantage point, Colby leadership has been highly supportive of civic engagement efforts across the board," Kimberly Flowers, Executive Director of the Goldfarb Center for public affairs, wrote.

Despite the uptick in Colby-supported electoral awareness efforts on campus some numbers still put Colby near the bottom of voter participation among peer schools. According to a NESCAAC ranking of member schools by pledges to vote in 2020, (posted to Instagram on Oct. 29) Colby sat

in 9th place out of 11.

While this could be a result of scant participation on the platform Motivate-responsible for recording pledge data—the College's voting record in the most recent election has been similarly low. ColbyVotes reported a 37.6% Colby student turnout in the 2018 midterms—roughly 36% lower than the number of students registered.

To Brause and others, this made the demand for no school Tuesday all the more pressing. According to a Tufts study highlighted in the circulated letter to Colby leaders, the second largest excuse for college students not voting is a scheduling conflict.

With the rejiggering of the class day to abide by COVID-19 protective measures, some fifteen classes have taken a once weekly night slot from 7-9 p.m.—falling in the final hour before polls close in Maine. Earlier in the day, about one half of

the Colby community will take a regularly scheduled test for COVID, throwing another potential snag in voting.

Brushing off the "nay" on an election holiday, student and faculty voting leaders are onto another flashpoint—the post-election fallout. Brause, along with student body President Ashlee Guevara, recently formed an ad hoc committee to explore how best to address the the results of the election—whatever they may be—with the student body, faculty and staff. Their decisions are expected in the week ahead.

Despite the unsuccessful push for an election holiday and the general tumult ahead, Brause is proud of this year's civic engagement on campus.

"I think something this election did was [that] it brought awareness to a lot of people's minds and ... awakened people to civic participation."

Security Incident Report Log

Date:	Time:	Location:	Comments:
10/24/20	12:03 a.m.	Taylor	Gathering Checks
10/24/20	3:03 p.m.	Dana	Gathering Checks
10/24/20	4:28 p.m.	Campus Wide	Gathering Checks
10/24/20	5:57 p.m.	Heights	Gathering Checks
10/24/20	10:52 p.m.	Cotter Union	Student Event
10/24/20	11:58 p.m.	Dana	Gathering Checks
10/25/20	12:17 a.m.	Drummond	Gathering Checks
10/25/20	12:27 a.m.	AMS	Gathering Checks
10/25/20	12:33 a.m.	West	Gathering Checks
10/25/20	8:14 a.m.	Lovejoy	Student Event
10/25/20	8:30 a.m.	Mary Low	Underage Drinking
10/25/20	9:05 a.m.	Lovejoy	Student Event

Maine rolls out new COVID-19 restrictions, the College responds

By SARAH WARNER
Local & Features Editor

This past Sunday, the Office of the Governor Janet Mills rolled out more preventative measures in response to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases both within the state of Maine and nationwide.

According to the press release, Maine recorded 103 new cases on Friday Oct. 30, the highest single-day increase since the pandemic began. Maine's 7-day positivity rate also doubled over the past two weeks to 0.92 percent. The United States passed nine million total COVID-19 cases and 230,000 deaths this weekend.

"If we don't control this outbreak, we may never get this evil genie back in the bottle," Mills said in the Sunday press release.

The Mills Administration announced that they will extend the "Keep Maine Healthy" program into December. The "Keep Maine Healthy" plan, unveiled in June, relies on three cornerstones: requiring visitors to obtain a recent negative COVID-19 test to stay in lodg-

ings as an alternative to the traditional 2-week quarantine, increasing symptom-checks at popular tourist locations, and supporting community-based prevention and awareness of COVID-19 safety.

Mills has already allotted \$13 million to the "Keep Maine Healthy" program from the Federal CARES Act, a \$2 trillion dollar COVID-19 relief package passed in late March. That money went to 132 municipalities and two tribal governments to fund community prevention efforts, including developing local education consistent with CDC guidelines, installing fences and signage to encourage social distancing, purchasing hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment, and supporting the purchase of extra cleaning supplies and added staff time for enhanced cleaning.

The Mills Administration is also reducing the indoor gathering limits to 50 people effective Nov. 4. Previously, indoor gatherings had been limited to whichever was less between 50 percent of permitted capacity or 100

people. The limit on outdoor gatherings remains at 100 people and the limit for retail establishments at 5 people per 1,000 square feet.

Mills also announced that the previously anticipated reopening of bars and tasting rooms to indoor seated service on Nov. 2 would be delayed, a decision she said she was "deeply sorry" for.

"We realize that this decision will cause hardship," Mills said. "We do not take this action lightly, but the rapid rise in cases in just the past six days means that we cannot in good conscience proceed with the planned reopening."

The states exempt from Maine's quarantine or testing alternative have also changed. As of Nov. 4, people traveling from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are no longer exempt and must either produce a recent negative COVID-19 test upon entry or quarantine for 14 days. New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts remain exempt.

Soon after Maine's new COVID-19 restrictions were announced, the College re-

sponded as well. On Nov. 2, Dean of the College Karlene Burrell-McRae sent an email notifying the student body that the administration decided to switch the Health Code Level- which was previously green and had been since the start of the semester- to yellow.

"To keep our community safe through what the Maine CDC has called a surge in Maine, we are writing to ask for your increased vigilance," Burrell-McRae wrote. "While there will be few noticeable changes in daily operations, this is an important moment to recommit to the health and safety of our community."

According to the College's COVID-19 dashboard, the move to yellow does indeed bring with it some noticeable changes. Classes of 50 or more students will move to remote instruction if they have not already, seating capacities in the dining halls will be lowered, cleaning measures will be increased, and religious gatherings of over 50 must be conducted outside or in larger venues with face coverings and so-

cial distancing.

The College's own COVID-19 numbers have remained stable, with only 15 positive cases since the school year began and only 1 positive case currently in isolation. The last positive case was a faculty member on Oct. 29. Kennebec County currently has 91 positive cases. In her email, Burrell-McRae asked Colby students to keep it this way and continue to practice

COVID-19 safety.

"Please continue to complete the CoVerified symptom tracker every morning, fully participate in the testing program, wear cloth face coverings, abide by distancing guidelines, and practice good hygiene," Burrell-McRae wrote. "We are all in this together and want to be sure we are able to complete the final few weeks of the semester on campus and learning in person."

Health Code Level: YELLOW

Alert Level	Confirmed New Weekly Positive Cases	Symptom Surveillance	Compliance with Mitigation Efforts
Green	Few identified or contained cases	Seasonal Norm	Very High
Yellow	Limited number of cases	10% above seasonal norm	High
Orange	Modest outbreak	20% above, stable	Moderate
Red	Significant outbreak	30% above, daily increases	Low

Alert levels may be applied to residence halls or other identified cohorts.

Courtesy of Colby College



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Hammel

In response to Maine's recent uptick in cases, the College announced that they would be moving the health code from green to yellow. The code change brings with it new restrictions on campus, including reduced dining hall capacity, increased cleaning, and requiring masks in the dorm hallways.

Governor Janet Mills (D) announced new COVID-19 regulations in a press release on Nov. 1 in response to increasing cases in Maine and nationwide.

Susan Collins believes there is no systemic racism in Maine

By JENNA BOLING
Local News Reporter

Senator Susan Collins, in her final debate with Senate race challenger and Maine Speaker of the House Sara Gideon, stated that systemic racism does not exist in the state of Maine.

During the debate on Oct. 28, the two opposing politicians shared their views on the handling of the pan-

demic, health care, and systemic racism.

"I do not believe systemic racism is a problem in the state of Maine," stated Collins during the debate.

This statement was rather bold, and did not sit well with Gideon.

"It doesn't matter how white our state is, it still exists," Gideon responded. "We see it in terms of access to education for people of color, access to healthcare,

rates of poverty, rates of incarceration."

During the debate, Collins acknowledged the presence of systemic racism in our country and the need for reform. However, in her eyes, Maine is an anomaly because of the state's "terrific members of law enforcement." She never elaborated on this statement or explained how Maine's policing practices differ from among the forty-nine other states.

Government Professor, Carrie Lodge, disagrees with Collins' statement and believes we should think more deeply about why Maine is considered the "whitest state."

"Whenever I hear people deny that systemic racism exists in the state of Maine, I find it absolutely absurd. In general, folks who make this claim found their belief on the idea that, 'Well, there's really not any black and brown people in the state; and so, therefore, there can't really be any racism here,'" she said in an interview with *The Colby Echo*. "But, I think the fact that this is largely an all white state speaks volumes about the state. Why is it that there are so few people of color in the state? Why is the rest of the country diversifying?"

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Maine's population is 94% white, and minorities compose the other 6%. This statistic is questionable, as Maine, at one point, was much more racially diverse.

"These patterns don't emerge on accident. They are consequences of design. The language and culture around saying 'you're from away,' is riddled with prejudice. The state has a sordid history with anti-Black racism in particular," Lodge stated.

One Smithsonian-employed historian, Kate McMahon, traced the decline of racial diversity in the state of Maine back to the nineteenth century. In an interview with the Maine Public Radio, she discussed how during the Civil War many residents in established black communities were no longer needed in factories. Consequently, several Black Mainers were unemployed and left the state to find work.

"They were excluded because of their race, so there were not African Americans working there," McMahon said in a 2019 interview with the Maine Public Radio. "[Maine] gave preference to white immigrants," she continued.

Anti-miscegenation laws were also enacted, banning interracial marriage in Maine. These laws contributed immensely to the diversity decline in the late 19th century.

In 1920, the Ku Klux Klan established themselves in Maine and worked closely with the Maine government to marginalize African Americans. According to McMahon, this group sought to elect government officials who would support their effort to keep Black people out of Maine. Maine is now widely known as a "white state," and very few ask why.

Though Collins' statement was referring to the present, Maine's history led up to the state's current circumstances, and statistics do not lie.

"But it's not just about the past. Maine's chapter of the ACLU released a report on the state of racial discrimination in Maine's public schools. Beyond bullying and individual level prejudice, the report found that students of color, especially Black children were significantly more likely to be suspended. Black students made up over one-third of the in-school and out-school suspension even though black people make

up less than 2% of the population," said Lodge in an interview with *The Colby Echo*.

These are not the only statistics that suggest there is systemic racism in Maine.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 50% of black and 33% of indigenous Mainers live in poverty. Collins never discussed what she believes causes this, and her statement ignored all data completely.

The News Center Maine also provided data on how minorities are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 across the United States, including Maine. In Maine, Black residents make up 1.6% of the population, and yet, 24% are affected by the virus. Moreover, Maine has the widest gap of all states between Black residents and Black coronavirus infection victims. Collins never addressed this either and still has some more explaining to do.

Ultimately, Collins' statement was rather controversial and left a lot of room for interpretation. History shows that systemic racism persists in Maine, and Senator Collins could and should have provided more information to support her stance on this issue.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Warner

A retrospective from *The Colby Echo*

Obama wins over Maine and the nation (2008)

By SUZANNE MERKELSON
Ex Editor-in-Chief

The excitement in the Diamond atrium was palpable as students, faculty and staff gathered Tuesday, Nov. 4, to watch on

several projector screens as Barack Obama was declared President-elect of the United States. The crowd gathered seemed almost entirely pro-Obama as they counted down the closing of the

West Coast polls at 11 p.m. Immediately afterwards, breaking news bulletins declared the outcome.

"There were open containers, lots of champagne—don't tell Security," said Kate Humphrey '09,

who was there to watch and dress up in the Colby Mule costume, interpreted tonight as the Democratic Party's donkey. People jumped up and down, cheered, hugged and cried. Some immediately shed their clothes to engage in celebratory streaking.

The Goldfarb Center hosted the event, which included over 40 pizzas, three large screen projectors displaying CNN and Fox News, and, by some counts, attendance by over 150 members of the College community who gathered together to witness this moment in history.

"I'm tired and haven't done laundry in a month, but I'm just so proud," President of the Colby Democrats Amanda Burgess '10 said, as she sat on the floor, surrounded by friends. Burgess joined the "Obama train" in 2004 after seeing him speak at the Democratic National Convention. She and the Colby Democrats have worked this year to reg-

ister about 515 voters on campus. "The stars are aligning," she said. "I'm so proud of our generation right now."

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and African American Studies Cheryl Gilkes wore a t-shirt emblazoned with Obama's face on the front and his New Hampshire primary concession speech on the back. She talked about her 89-year old parents in Massachusetts—her father, a veteran of World War II and Korea, and her mother who brought her to the voting booth when she was a little girl. Both refused to send in absentee ballots, instead going to the polls in person. They inspired her, she said.

"This is a miracle coming out of the racial wilderness," she said. "Obama mobilized so many people who worked to engage with those different from themselves—a conscious mobilization across different boundaries."

Among those gathered were some unable to vote

in these elections—the College's language assistants, who sat together watching CNN. "The French think Obama is really sexy," French Language Assistant Nina Pouliet said. All seemed to enjoy the scene, joining in the eating of pizza and cheering.

"These elections are an especially cool time to be in America," Spanish Language Assistant Claudia Sanchez said. Kyoko Shingga, the Japanese Language Assistant, agreed. "This is very festive. The American people are very patriotic," she said, a red, white and blue balloon tied to her hat.

All gathered seemed acutely aware of the challenge that lie ahead for President-elect Obama. Including the financial crisis, two wars, and a need to address environmental and energy concerns. Still, the celebratory mood prevailed. According to Eric Foster-Moore '09, "The energy contained in this space could wean us of our dependence on foreign oil."



Photo courtesy of Christopher Dilts

This is an article the Editor-in-Chief of the Colby Echo wrote back in 2008 after President Barack Obama was elected to office. Obama's vice president and close friend Joe Biden is currently the Democratic candidate in 2020.

Senior Spotlight: Justin Alvino

By HAE-JUNG KIM
Features Reporter

As an Education and Classics double major, Senior Justin Alvino's academic path is certainly unique, especially since Colby tends to be Finance and STEM-centric.

Despite the Education department being on the smaller side, Alvino appreciates the tight-knit community it offers and loves being a part of it.

In fact, his favorite class that he's taken at Colby was in the Education department, called "Boys to Men" taught by Professor Mark Tappan.

"The Education department is probably 90% women, 10% men, so going into a class like that made me super introspective of what it means to be a man and masculinity, and the different effects that masculinity can have, and the power that it holds. It just made me think a lot about who I am as a person," Alvino said. "And I know that for the other guys who took that class, they all say the same thing. It's

just really eye opening, and a class that I would definitely recommend, male or female should take that class."

Alvino's club involvement on campus is centered around the outdoors. He is involved in the Colby Outing Club, the Climbing Club, and the Fly Fishing Club, although he admits that because of COVID-19, they haven't been doing as much as they have in the past.

Justin appreciates the tight-knit community [the Education department] offers and loves being a part of it.

Besides extracurriculars, through the Education department

Alvino had the opportunity to do his practicum during his study abroad in London last spring.

"I was visiting a school for a whole eight hours one day, and then on another day I would go to the after school curriculum and stuff like that, so it was super interesting to one, be able to teach in a school and two, have it be an international school where the whole curriculum and everything is different, like the styles of teaching and learning are a lot different than the high schools here. It was super eye-opening."

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, his global experience was cut short, and he was forced to return home early. Alvino reflected on the differences between British and American teaching culture.

"I would say the teachers in England are way more candid with their students — it would be like friends talking to each other and they would be super nice but also, I don't want to say mean, but [they] could be harsh," Alvino said. "They would be really harsh to their students,

but the students would take it really well. Because they knew it was just friendly banter."

Having lived in East, West, and Averill, living in the apartments downtown is certainly a breath of fresh air.

However, Alvino admitted that there was something special about living in West Quad, specifically the sense of community.

"I've got an affinity towards West — that place gets a bad rep, but I loved living in West. I feel like (because I was there as a junior) a lot of it is kids who got low room picks and they all just end up in West," Alvino said. "They're all kind of just stuck there together, especially the upperclassmen who got stuck with such a bad dorm."

Alvino also noted that there were many ways in which Colby could improve its mission of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"I know the Dare Northward fund is the biggest endowment [Colby's] had, they've hit record highs this year — they could extend their financial aid



Photo Courtesy of Justin Alvino

Alvino is a double major in Education and Classics and enjoys hiking and fly-fishing in his free time. He currently is enjoying living downtown for his last year at Colby, although he sometimes misses living on campus in West.

into areas they haven't yet, and give people more opportunities, give people more funding here," Alvino said. "They're slowly starting to improve, but I think every freshman and

sophomore that comes here should take a required diversity class, but not like the current diversity requirement, I think it needs to be more of a social justice class."



HUMIDITY
By Anonymous

I show up late to the dinner party wearing a red dress stained in the blood leaking out of her t-bone. She hands me a glass and fills it until the water clings soft and round to the rim, trembling. I lift it. I drink. She smiles, tender.

The dinner party is always just a dinner party. I chat with the mindlessness of a canary, flitting around a cage. I would like to think of her as the cat, but she says she's a dog person. I talk about my job with the paper dolls. The water lolls in my gut.

She shows us around the backyard. There's a peach tree in the far corner and many peach-pits below it. I can smell the sticky decay from the interstate. It smells of her. I think of pale, pink tendrils hanging off of her lips.

I stand against the white picket fence, knowing how it offsets the umber of my skin. I am a siren in a sundress. I am as overripe as a late summer thunderhead. Won't you feel my rain?

She serves dessert. It's peach cobbler, and she eats it, slow. She wipes her lips clean.

The dinner party is over, and I am leaving. I wait in line to exchange sugar and sweetnesses, behind two boys from the office. I say it's the wine making me flushed. She laughs, and it clings soft and round to my skin, trembling with tension. I touch her, tender. I drink.

Election elicits anxiety, stress from students and faculty

By SARAH WARNER
Local & Features Editor

This is perhaps one of the most highly-anticipated election nights in recent memory. With not only the presidential election at stake but several critical Senate seats as well — including Susan Collins' here in Maine — Colby students and faculty are left to grapple with the election's massive impact on top of an already busy course load.

"I feel very anxious [about the election]," Eana Bacchiocchi '21 said. "I think the College needs to make sure they're accommodating their students. They need to have a plan."

The Pugh Center is one of the campus institutions that has preemptively responded to the inevitably high stress

levels among the student body. Director of the Pugh Center Lexie Mucci sent an email out on Monday morning offering support for students as the election unfolds.

"We know that, for many, this week brings stress, anxiety, sadness, uncertainty, and so many more emotions and physical/mental burdens," Mucci wrote. "As a Pugh Community, we are dedicated to supporting you through these times."

The Pugh Center is offering a variety of programming on Wednesday and Thursday to support vulnerable students, including several discussion groups for LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, Women+, Black, and ally students. Mucci is also offering office hours throughout the week with them and their dog Ellie.

The Student Government

Association (SGA) also acknowledged the burden election week can put on students in an email sent Oct. 28.

"A nation's opportunity to exercise democracy is a significant and tense moment in which it can be easy to feel lost and overwhelmed," the SGA wrote. "Therefore, the mental health and well-being of students, faculty, and staff should be of the utmost importance. It is crucial that we collectively work to become 'One Colby,' where we respect the differences in our community while facilitating a welcoming environment."

The College has created a page of election resources that offers volunteering opportunities, processing spaces, community support resources, and links to the College's free speech policies.

Events such as the Pugh Center's discussion groups

are also listed on the site, which is accessible at <https://election-resources.colby.edu/>. SGA is hosting some of the events, including a post-election processing event on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Parker Reed room.

Several departments have also sent emails out to their students regarding the election, including the English department, who urged English majors and minors to get out and vote.

"This election will shape the country for a lifetime," Arthur Jeremiah Roberts Professor of Literature Mary Ellis Gibson wrote on Monday. "It will have a profound impact on our health, the health of our democracy, and the future of the planet."

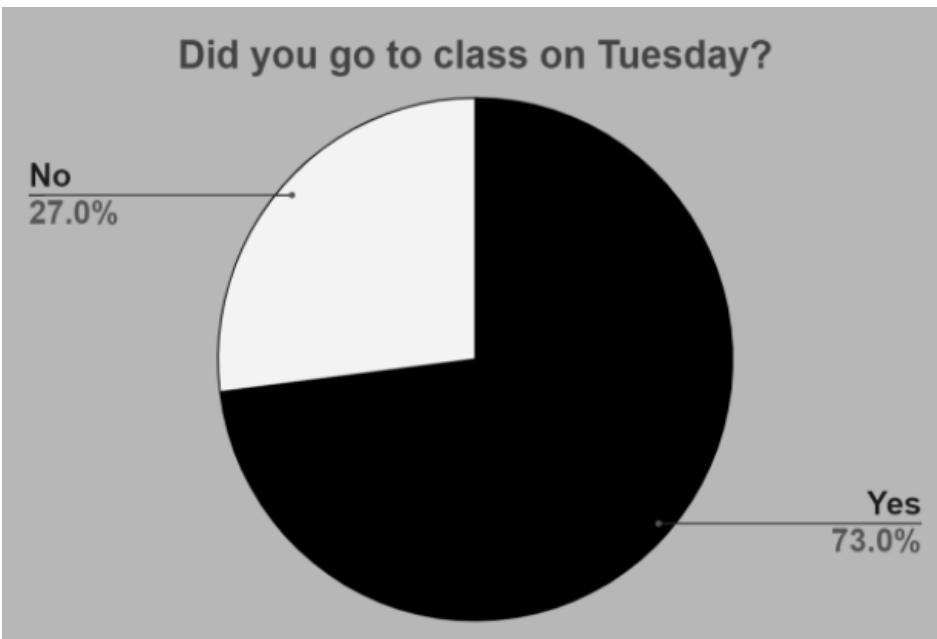
Some professors also cancelled class on Tuesday to encourage students to go out and vote. In a poll conducted on *The Colby Echo's* Instagram, 32% of the 94 students who responded said they did not go to class on Tuesday.

The Colby Echo also asked students via Instagram how they feel about the election. Responses varied, but were centered around a central theme: stress and anxiety.

"What makes me nervous is that we probably won't know the results on Tuesday," Grace Dodig '21 said. "That kind of open-endedness makes it even more stress-inducing. If I knew when I would know the results I would feel better."

"I'm so nervous about the election," Sangya Tiwari '22 said. "It decides my future in this country."

At the time of publication, the results of the 2020 election are unknown — but undoubtedly, as votes roll in, the results will continue to weigh on the minds of students and faculty alike.



Graphic courtesy of Sarah Warner

The Colby Echo asked 135 students via Instagram whether or not they attended their classes on Tuesday.

How students are feeling about the election

"Anxious"
Katie Lane '24

"Sweaty"
Colin Alie '21

"Y'know how when a train-wreck is so horrifying you can't look away?"
Jonathan Taylor '21

"Overwhelmed"
Katherine Martinez '21

"f***ing stressed"
Misia Delgado '24

"not good"
Saam Rasool '22

Issues that matter to students this election

Women's rights, defunding the police, climate change
Sophia Kennedy '24

Immigration, racism, and climate change policies
Sangya Tiwari '22

LGBTQ+ rights! Justice and equal rights for POC!
Katie Lane '24

Russian bounties on US Soldiers in Afghanistan
Ben Pickle '21

Healthcare
Katherine Martinez '21

Lower taxes and rule of law
Jonathan Taylor '21

CMI's COVID-friendly Halloween concert

By TANVI IYER
A&E Reporter

In the spirit of Halloween, the Colby Music Incubator (CMI) put on their annual Halloween show on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Held in the Foss dining hall with seven different performances, the show began at 10:00 p.m. and went all the way to 2:30 a.m.

While the energy was intoxicating and the show was incredibly entertaining, it would be a stretch to say that the entire operation was smooth.

In the midst of an ongoing pandemic, one may wonder how concerts could take place. As one might assume, concerts provide the perfect grounds

for a virus to spread.

CMI had previously managed to forgo the indoor person limit by holding outdoor concerts, but as temperatures hit a nice low of 32°F/0°C, it would be asking a lot of both performers and viewers to stand outside and bear the cold.

CMI managed to follow COVID-19 guidelines by building strict barricades and having “bouncers” manage the flow of people who were allowed on the concert floor, in addition to spacing out the seating and standing area.

There were even tables blocking viewers ability to get too close to the stage.

The concert also provided free kegs for those 21+ and snacks for the audience, making it en-

tertaining for reasons beyond the music itself.

However, it was clear that CMI did not account for the sheer amount of people that would want to watch the concert, as numerous people were turned away at the stairs heading down to the concert floor.

The entrance to Foss was flooded with students head-to-toe in costume, ready to sing along to a high-energy concert.

Additionally, with the concert taking place on a Saturday, a number of these students were incredibly intoxicated, causing rules to go in one ear and out the other. Some even tried to bypass the regulations by finding different ways to get to the concert floor, whether

it be the elevator or even sneaking in from outside. It got so out of hand that security was called to help patrol the crowd by trying to get people to leave.

That said, this did not stop people from waiting for their turn to go watch their friends rock the stage up close.

Donavan Lynch '22, who was among the attendees who managed to get in, shared his opinion on his experience during the concert.

“It definitely feels very different because concerts were the time when everyone would come together, but at the same time I feel like that appreciation for student bands is still very there, and I feel like the spontaneity of the night is still pres-

ent albeit the restrictions on entrance,” Lynch said.

Walker Benet '23, who was monitoring the people entering and leaving the concert floor, also shared his view.

“I think the beginning bands have definitely brought it and have set a high bar for the rest of the night,” Benet said. “There [have] been a lot of people here which has been surprising and kind of an issue but I think we are keeping them back well but we have to be strict.”

Another person working the event, Skye Rhomberg '22, was incredibly pleased that the concert was allowed.

“Yeah, we're just glad this could happen at all,” Rhomberg explained. “You know it didn't

seem like there was going to be a music scene this semester, and all of a sudden there was, and we're happy despite how weird this all is that people want to be out here.”

CMI have had to overcome quite a few obstacles this year, from finding COVID-19-friendly practice spaces to limiting their concert attendance.

But even with restrictions, it's clear that CMI and the student bands who are a part of it are not going to stop doing what they love.

CMI concerts still remain an integral part of the Colby social experience and I look forward to the next event that CMI puts together.



Crowds were limited at the CMI Halloween concert in Foss as bands performed throughout the night.

Photo Courtesy of Wendy Wei

ANONYMOUS LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The poverty of (liberal opinion piece) philosophy in response to “Why you should vote” by Milo Lani-Caputo

The recent opinion piece published in *The Colby Echo* entitled “Why You Should Vote” is a bit eclectic to say the least. It covers a lot of ground in its dozen or so short paragraphs, jumping from lighthearted jokes to broad philosophical statements.

The piece belongs to a subset of opinion pieces who's ranks have inflated so rapidly in the past few months that it verges on becoming a genre.

It is an attempt to rouse the disaffected voter into dragging themselves to their polling place and reluctantly pulling the lever for Biden.

But to what end? It doesn't focus on any policy issues or differences between the candidates' records (in fairness, anyone still not planning on voting at this point is unlikely to be motivated by policy). But why would one engage in politics for something other than the sake of policy?

The simple answer is self-interest. The aims of the piece are revealed in its first two sentences: “It's easy to ignore the political world. Attractive, even.”

This betrays a pathology that is frighteningly common among liberals: the idea that engaging in politics is undesirable and that the ideal scenario is a ‘return to normalcy’ where we can all simply forget the political world exists. The piece even readily admits that little will likely change

in either outcome.

If we are all doomed to burn in climate-change-hell no matter what happens, then what reason is left to vote for Biden but to gain some brief respite?

In this view Biden is a good candidate. He's probably the closest you can get to bringing back the Obama years. This is an unseemly thing to admit though. No one wants to say that they're voting for Biden in the hope that they can stop caring about politics.

So the case must be made that Biden is a good candidate in a more objective sense. “Why You Should Vote” is an acute display of a tendency within pro-Biden opinion pieces: arguments based not on the legitimate ways in which voting for Biden might be beneficial, but on warping reality so that Biden is not merely a “lesser of two evils” but is in fact good.

This is not meant to be a moralizing judgement of people who vote for Biden so that they stop having to see Trump's name in the headlines. It feels like the only thing left in our power to change, and is a completely understandable impulse.

But it is also damaging in the long run, especially when it seeps so deeply into our collective consciousness. Where are we headed if we keep voting for the lesser of two evils? If we prioritize feeling better for four years over stepping

back and looking at the bigger picture?

At this point, most opinion pieces from this growing catalogue try to make a policy-based case for Biden: ‘If you squint your eyes real hard while looking at his platform and ignoring his record then Biden is actually the progressive's dream!’

This is usually followed up with a good old ‘not voting for Biden is a vote for Trump’ (to which I would say: “a vote for Biden is a vote for Trump, please stop stealing votes from the Green Party”). “Why You Should Vote” takes a slightly different approach.

The piece chides you that your life may suck, but it could be a whole lot worse. In fact, the U.S. is a pretty good place to live compared to the rest of the world. Actually (the piece declares) suffering is the natural human condition! You deserve to suffer! This is a bold line of reasoning to say the least. Without delving too deeply into philosophy I would say that “You deserve to suffer and you should be grateful for any time at which you are not suffering” is a bit of a fringe position.

This is a jarring thing to read in a college newspaper, but it would be dishonest for me to say that “you deserve to suffer” is the central argument of this op-ed.

The core argument focuses more on what is to be done in this moment. Will you take an hour out of your day to try to make the world

better? Is that not preferable to resigning yourself to nihilism? This is a common pro-voting argument. It is a clever isolation of voting into a discrete act without context.

When the question of whether you should vote is posed as only affecting the immediate future then the answer is obvious: I'll take the one with the marginally better domestic policy then see what we can do.

Voting, however, is not a one time action. It's habitual, and we have been conditioned to buy the ‘lesser of two evils’ argument every time. What happens after four or eight years?

Well, given that Obama produced the conditions that led to Trump, and Biden is promising a return to the Obama years, I'd say we're probably destined for another Trump.

Unsurprisingly, the prospect of alternating Russiagate/Benghazi investigations until the Sun swells into a red giant and the seas boil away is pretty uninspiring. But if you ask a vote-for-Biden Editorial writer about this Sisyphean future the answer is inevitably: “Trump is in office right now, the Supreme Court hangs in the balance, and climate change looms can't your problems wait?”

But if, as “Why You Should Vote” has already told us, nothing will likely change under Biden, then won't these immediate issues still be present? Won't

every election be the most important in history?

This at minimum fits that definition of insanity often misattributed to Einstein, and more cynically could be seen as a way to consistently rally political support without making significant change.

This argument is mostly run-of-the-mill but there are also parts that spit so blatantly in the faces of people who are truly suffering that it is practically self-satirizing. When making the case that the U.S. is a pretty decent place to live, the piece remarks that “you don't usually get killed in a bombing or chemical warfare strike” in the United States. This is correct. The United States is not like this. There are quite a few countries that are though. Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Yemen, these are countries that have collapsed, become embroiled in civil war, or are on the brink of unprecedented genocidal famine as

a result of U.S. intervention.

People like Joe Biden are directly responsible for this. Biden pushed for the invasion of Iraq in 1998, long before the Bush presidency or 9/11 and voted to invade both Iraq and Afghanistan. Those wars killed over a million civilians, a number so staggering it defies comprehension. He was Vice President when we intervened in Libya, prolonging their civil war. He was also Vice President when the U.S. helped Saudi Arabia bomb hospitals and weddings in Yemen and enforce a blockade that put 13 million people on the brink of starvation.

There are no good outcomes to this election, what's important is that the (rightful) anger directed at the Trump Presidency maintains its ferocity under Biden. To go back to ignoring politics if Biden wins is no better than to have not voted in the first place.



THE COLBY ECHO

Share your opinion!

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to make your voice heard.

Open list of demands: top 5 sports that deserve a spot in the 2021 Summer Olympics

By COLIN ALIE
Opinions Reporter

I've been meaning to pen this open letter, best described as a list of demands, to the governing body for the 2021 Summer Olympic Games directly for months now. Normally, I would starkly reject such a roundabout piece of communiqué, but seeing as I've run out of stamps and been soundly blocked on all online forums dedicated to the discussion of suggested improvements to the selection of sports represented in the Olympics, I've no choice left. I have "squeezed the last vestige of toothpaste from my toothpaste tube," in a manner of speaking. Unfortunately, moving from digital media to the printed word means that I'm somewhat limited in the length of my list of suggested demands, though, it could be inferred that the extraordinary length of my previous attempts at a repartee with the governing body of the Olympics is what prevented me from getting through to them in the first place.

The 2020 Summer Games, slated to be held in Tokyo, Japan for the second time ever, were postponed to 2021. Like

all Olympic Games dating back as far as 1894, the main governing body in charge of the staging of the Games is the IOC. Although technically the IOC stands for International Olympic Committee, I would better describe it as standing for absolutely nothing. Due to the ill-timed pandemic, most of my ideas that would surely have made the cut last summer have been squashed as a result of COVID-19 concerns. Alas, this means that promising contenders for the Olympic stage such as masked swimming, auctioneer speed-talking, and bean-spitting contests were necessarily trimmed from the voluminous list of ideas. Fear not, as I've narrowed down my list into a much more digestible top five, with great consideration having been paid to the health and safety of the athletes.

1.) Synchronized birdwatching. Similar in nature to its aquatic cousin of competitive fishing, this up-and-coming sport has a very promising future indeed. With a slew of exhilarating birdwatching pairs already well-established, such as the celebrity duo of Van Morrison and Fidel Castro (the de facto "bad boys" of the league), along

with a carousel of various other misandry characters to act as a supporting cast, the (bird) seeds of mass support for the sport have already taken root. It is a fact that synchronized birdwatching was once the sports world's Nibiru cataclysm, promising to collide with Earth in 2012. But London did not end up serving as host to America's future pastime. That's why by 2021, synchronized birdwatching should be given the long-overdue invitation to the Tokyo Games. 2.) Speed reading. Of course, in Hebrew, one reads right to left. That's why you never see a Hebrew mystery novel crack the New York Times Best Sellers list — the ending would be spoiled right from the get-go. Moreover, the motivation for speed reading to be an Olympic sport is more than existent; I've been informed that the preeminent guide to the sport states that speed reading "is to the mind as aerobic training is to the body." I've never read it, but I believe it.

As a projected recipient of a Bachelor's Degree in a mere matter of months, practically every guess I make is an educated guess. Therefore, I predict with the utmost confidence that despite this limitation on what genres can be submitted for competition, people worldwide would tune in at noon on some Thursday in the summer to watch a field of competitors battle it out by reading books. A real page-turner, indeed. 3.) Getting tested for COVID. This would be a smart move for the IOC, especially considering how the best athletes in the world were royally hoodwinked, ran astray, run amuck, and flat-out bamboozled as their 2020 ambitions were dashed as a result of the pandemic. Plus, getting tested for a highly contagious disease while staying at the same lodgements as nearly 4,000 other top-tier competitors seems like an interesting story to follow. A very basic level of science may well entirely contradict the claim that simply testing athletes without the inclusion of any additional health and safety procedures is good enough, but that level of science has not yet been introduced to the IOC. 4.) Settlers of Catan. Truly the game of games, the athlete who takes home gold in the Catan category is a veritable Hercules. The mastermind behind the game, Klaus Teuber, is practically a

member of the German aristocracy, despite not having a single royal bone in his body - whereas Noah Schimanski '21 is unmistakably royalled-boned when it comes to winning Catan.

We sat down with Schimanski to discuss his obsession with the board game. When asked how he defends his suggestion to add Catan as the next sport to be featured in the 2021 Summer Games, he had this to say: "Catan has a defined, quick time limit - it can't go on forever; first to ten [victory points], and strict rules, so there's no room for interpretation and no need for referees. Besides, what's better than six people sitting down and looking at a table together and just, like, people being people?" Truly, he once again makes some good points, offering up a toothsome slice of the choicest quality insights. Schimanski stands as a portrait of the athlete unpolished: a raw, viciously-competitive phenom turned contemporary straight shooter. Well said.

5.) Counting ballots. At the time of this piece being written, there was a very real possibility for there to be no official result by the end of Election Day this past Tuesday.

According to CNBC (an acronymic national news outlet), by the end of October, more than 69 million Americans have voted early in the 2020 elections. What better way to ensure expedient and accurate tallying of votes than to have, in theory, the world's best selection of ballot counters working on the task in their preliminary trials? Trouble people may have trouble grasping this concept! As someone who is rumored to hold an estimated net worth of many, many dollars, it should be glaringly obvious that I have what some may say a "supreme influence" over the inner workings of the IOC's decision-making process. Still, others are saying "he's completely bluffing" and "he's still massively in debt." Irregardless, my hands are deep in the well-lined pockets of Olympic governing officials. Little does this bevy of prickly muckrakers and big-name iconoclasts know, I've made a comfortable living for myself entirely off of my three-figure salary via *The Colby Echo* alone. I march on.

Don't hate the game, hate the player

By MILO LANI-CAPUTO
Opinions Reporter

People, by the time you read this, Election Day will have ended and the election will be over. Votes will have been cast, and we may or may not know who the next President of the United States will be.

I don't think I am alone in the worry that the fallout from this election, regardless of its outcome, will be marked with divisiveness, violence, and hate on all sides. In attempting to understand our society and myself in the context of this tumultuous fall, I assumed my usual position of pondering: head bowed in contemplation, chin resting upon closed fist.

I thought back to a dark time, when I still had to worry about acne and facial hair (or the lack thereof): 2016. Millions of hearts were broken that November,

when it was announced that Donald Trump would be our next president. The general consensus was that Hillary Clinton would win, and she would be the first female president. World peace would ensue, hungry people would eat, and the Satan-worshipping CEOs of multinational corporations would see the error of their ways and renounce capitalism. Sadly, that didn't happen.

While Trump received nearly three million fewer individual votes than Clinton, he was nevertheless named the successor to President Obama. Pain and outrage spread quicker than COVID-19 through Liberals and Democrats. How could this have happened? The fingers began to point, and they all settled on one culprit: the Electoral College.

The history of the Electoral College is long

and boring, and I won't subject you innocent readers to that. Today, each state in the United States has electors who vote for president according to the results of each state's presidential race. Each state has a number of electors in each state is equal to the number of senators and representatives it has in Congress. Every state has two senators regardless of population. That means that the most populous state, California, has the same amount of representation in the senate as Wyoming, which is home to fewer than a million people.

Clinton received fewer electoral votes than Trump because many of the states she won were populous states, where an individual vote counted for a lesser portion of an electoral vote. Trump's victories were in more states for which an

individual vote counted for a larger portion of an electoral vote. As a result, Trump won the race, even though he received fewer individual votes than Clinton did.

Democrats were upset by this, and a popular idea began to emerge: abolish the Electoral College! Many progressives now claim that a popular vote would be a more fair way of electing a president. And fair enough— that way, each American's vote would count the same, no matter what state they live in. It is a virtuous proclamation. It is less virtuous that 'twas only proclaimed once Democrats realized the Electoral College didn't give them an advantage. In the haters' haste to denounce the EC, they didn't stop to think about what benefits it might lend.

Robert Frost's famous quote is pertinent here:

"Don't ever take down a fence until you know why it was put up." One of the dangers of direct democracy is tyranny of the majority. It's two wolves and a sheep voting for what is for dinner. The separation of powers and representative nature of our democracy exists to protect the minority from the majority, and prevent tyrannical rule by the 51%.

Here's a minority that you might not think about very often: rural Americans. Less than 20% of the population lives in rural areas. It might not surprise you to find that many states with "unfair" representation in the Electoral College are largely rural. (Shoutout to Maine!) Conversely, only 6% of New Jersey is rural. Rural people vote conservatively more frequently than urban people do for a variety of reasons, et voila le Trump.

I've lived in rural Maine for all of my life. Being at Colby, I often feel like an anthropologist immersed in a population of yuppies, trying to understand the way they see the world. And as well as I can figure, most urban liberals see rural people as racists, inbreds, or gun-toting lunatics. Many people are racist, but these city-dwellers are also viciously classist. Rich white people refer to poor white people as "white trash." They disparage trailer parks. The list goes on, but the fact remains: today's virtue-signalling urban liberals are a little more biased than they might otherwise believe themselves to be.

Now consider the perspective of a rural voter. You are a minority in America. Your way of life is not respected by the people in urban areas. The workers' -rights-lift-the-poor Democratic party of yesterday has degenerated into a bunch of corrupt talking heads arguing about who is the most

woke. Meanwhile, you're living in a trailer and living off food stamps. You probably have a family member addicted to opiates. You are the backbone of America. You do the farming, you build the houses, you do the jobs that an educated wealthy urbanite is too good to do. Rather than trying to help you build a better life for yourself, Democrats respond with: "It is because of rural voters that Trump is here. They are racist and they like guns too much. They are so stupid that they don't realize they should vote for us." Then they try to silence you by removing the one institution that gives you the ability to voice the issues that city-dwellers don't understand.

Colby students (Democrats): I know you want Biden to win, and I do too. But I have a sinking feeling that this race might go the same way as the last one. If you find yourself angry with the results of the election, don't be so quick to blame rural voters. Don't be so quick to assume that you are the righteous one. Don't be so quick to blame the system which has allowed for peaceful transfer of power in America for almost 250 years. If you think abolishing the Electoral College will solve the deep economic problems ingrained in our society, you are dead wrong. The only way to ameliorate them is to truly listen to rural America, and include them in your national discussion. Think about the 60 million people who have been hung out to dry by Washington for decades. Don't blame the shortcomings of your party on the foundation of our republic.

Don't hate the game, hate the player.



The Colby Echo

Published by the students of
Colby College since 1877

Martyna Czarnik Co-Editor in Chief
Heather Jahrling Co-Editor in Chief

Sarah Warner Creative Director
Aaron Mills Locals Reporter
Hae-Jung Kim Features Reporter
Milo Lani-Caputo Associate A&E Editor
Tanvi Iyer A&E Reporter
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Jack Tomlin Distribution Manager
Cole Turner Tech Guru

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The new athletic training room is another step in the right direction for Colby Athletics

By WILL BEDINGFIELD
Sports Editor

The brand new Carl Nelson Athletic Training Room (AT) in the Harold Alfond Athletics and Recreation Center is as state-of-the-art as the facility it's found in. With updated equipment and fantastic trainers to support Colby Athletics, the new athletic training room is another show of dedication from the College to take the Mules to the next level. Sitting down with Athletic Trainer Mishaal Amjad, *The Colby Echo* discussed the AT's new features.

"It's bigger! There's more space, more people, more treatments and recovery!" Amjad said.

"Some new things in the AT room are a boost alter/anti-gravity treadmill, blood flow restriction therapy, in-ground cold and hot whirlpools, Normatec recovery chairs and Normatec musculoskeletal ultrasound diagnostic tool," Amjad added.

The list goes on and on with incomprehensibly scientific names of tools that must fix anything and everything. I would love to see what a "Normatec musculoskeletal ultrasound diagnostic tool" is capable of, but

until then I recommend everyone enjoys the serene recovery treatment combo of the new cold and hot whirlpools.

I expect with the College's investment in both athletic training and recovery facilities there will be tangible payoff in the form of bursting trophy rooms and NESCAC championships, but of course that is all on hold at the moment. Amjad contemplated my theory of imminent athletic success and noted how the training staff was impacting athletes in the meantime.

"It's hard to say this year with there being less practices and competitions. We are working to monitor recovery and performance using data analytics through force plate testing and health and wellness surveys." Amjad said. "This project is under that Peak Performance team created last year. We've been building upon it and trying it with certain teams with the goal of eventually reaching all varsity teams".

The new training room is complete with data analytics to truly get to know Colby's athletes and eventually how to draw the highest level of performance from them. The Peak Performance team's project is more necessary now than ever, with teams more disconnected from teammates and staff due to space and indoor gathering restrictions from COVID-19.

Although every team has a few treatment-junkies, ready to re-

ceive any and every recommended athletic training service, there are also proud-naturalists who can be found brushing through stretches and turning down ice baths. For those who are intimidated by the prospect of athletic treatment, Amjad had some words of encouragement.

When asked if all athletes should check out the Training Room, Amjad replied, "Absolutely!"

"Athletic Training services are not just for those who are injured - we work to help decrease risk of injuries, enhance recovery and performance, and evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation for chronic and acute injuries," Amjad explained. "We work as a part of a collaborative Peak Performance team which includes sports psychology, physical therapy, sports medicine, strength and conditioning and nutrition. All of these health care professionals work out of the AT room."

Athletic training is truly for all, helping prevent injury and really amplify overall athletic performance. While the college has always had incredibly qualified and skilled trainers, the College now has a facility to match. *The Colby Echo* inquired about Amjad's personal athletic recovery preferences and philosophy.

"I am a big proponent of active recovery- pool workout, light workout, hopping on a bike and foam rolling/stretching," Amjad said. "We have



Photo courtesy of Meredith Atwood

Morty the Mule '24 supports the new Athletic Training Room



Photo courtesy of Meredith Atwood

The Carl Nelson Athletic Training Room's treatment beds

a variety of treatments available to improve an athlete's wellness and performance including Game Ready (ice and compression), Normatec (intermittent compression), cold and hot whirlpools, dry cupping, foam rollers and stretch bands."

"Remember- sleep and nutrition are even more important to improve wellness and performance!" Amjad added.

I was hard-pressed to find a single criticism of the new AT, which seemed almost too good to be true. After much thought and

deliberation, Amjad could hardly come up with any shortcomings at all.

She said there could be, "[more] wall space for rehab and suspension training."

There is no question that this training room is another step in the right direction for Colby Athletics.

With every feature an athlete can dream of, and the Athletic and Recreation Center to match, athletes can train as hard as possible knowing they have treatment and recovery support akin to a Division 1 athletic program.

Forum

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Email any and all submissions to *The Colby Echo's* Creative Director Sarah Warner at sewarn21@colby.edu. Pieces can be submitted anonymously, if desired.

This is your chance to show Colby your writing chops!



Sustainability

Creating a green dorm



Cartoon courtesy of Sarah Warner

By ADRIAN VISSCHER
Sustainability Columnist

In October, students had the opportunity to “eco-certify” their dorm rooms. Eco-certification is a survey that tests the environmental aspects of students’ dorm life. It is exciting to see positive change on campus. Many students, including myself, have felt doomed from the environmental sacrifices, so the outlet that eco-certification and other dorm plans offer is a refreshing one.

“Overall, the dorm certification process encourages students to engage with themselves and their roommates about sustainable practices that can be implemented into everyday life. It is a way of bringing conversations on sustainability back to your dorm and thinking more about individual actions in an accessible way,” Lena Hanschka ’21 mentions, an EcoRep herself.

The process behind eco-certification is pretty straightforward. The end goal is to use the data collected and compare dormitories across campus. However, the data collection begins on a more individual level. Eco-reps start by reaching out to students. Each roommate is required to fill out a survey with various questions regarding sustainable living. Then, the responses are combined to see who receives certification and also to see a holistic view of the dorm.

Some questions that you would find concern themes of waste management, energy usage, and community engagement. The questions are attached with a certain score, like driving a low emissions vehicle results in three points. All the questions answered “yes” are then added together, creating an overall score.

Sarah Haynes ’22, a community advisor (CA) in Woodman, spoke on sustainability in the dorms. “A big fear at the start of the semester was about all the plastic and single-use containers. So, how do you create a sustainable campus in these times?” she ponders.

On this issue, there is a level of toughness in creating a sustainable campus, given the precautionary COVID-19 measures. A way to partially assuage this fear is through the eco-certification check-up.

“It may not be the most effective way to make change. Rather, it is more of a point of reflection and starting point,” remarks Haynes.

Her point makes sense; by offering the eco-certification, the campus’s environmental problems will not just disappear. However, there is great importance and meaning within the act of analyzing one’s own relation to sustainability.

The same survey gives readily available options where students can see what sustainable practices in dorms look like. Haynes continued that this should not be a singular effort to create more environmentally friendly dorms. There are many current and future issues requiring the leadership of both the CAs and EcoReps, so it is essential to evaluate our environmental presence on campus continually.

Haynes list a recent issue that has risen in Woodman: an overflow of trash. This issue occurs most intensely during Sundays after residents find their rooms overflowed with trash and food waste from dining halls. Due to the time we live in, eating out is sometimes necessary to ensure space in the dining halls. This raises the question: how can we work around to reduce food waste and foster emptier trash bins?

Haynes offered a few suggestions herself. She found great value in the implementation of a compost bin accompanied by proper labeling. For example, the ones you find in the Spa are deliberate in showing what bin to throw what in. With this system, two goals are simultaneously accomplished: improving living quality and implementing greener practices.

“We need to be thinking about this all the time,” remarks Haynes. There is importance in longevity. Environmental issues are not a phase or something to be considered during an awareness week. In the dorms, it is vital to make sustainability a constant battle.”

In conclusion, from the eco-certification system to Hayne’s included perspective, it hopefully is easy to see the importance of checking in on your position in the campus’s initiatives for sustainability. It can be easy to lose track of your goals, and the survey was a great way to evaluate your standing. However, as Haynes and Hanschka note, eco-certification is not the end goal, but rather a start. Whether you filled it out or not, you can still think about your future impact on the environment at the College.

Cam in the Woods

Navigating election anxiety

By CAM WOODS
Lifestyle Columnist

Growing up, my family considered Election Day to be something of a sacred holiday, a democratic ritual to be treasured and celebrated. Academic tardiness was inevitable on these crisp November mornings as I’d accompany my parents to the polls—where we would be reminded that fierce civic engagement manifests in long lines and even longer conversations with local city council members passionate about salmon ladders or water towers or the latest greatest library renovation.

There was always an unparalleled electricity in the autumn air that endured late into the evening, at which point my family and I would gather in the living room with pie and mulled apple cider as we watched our democracy flourish with each and every tallied vote.

It feels different this year, less like a joyous celebration and more like a suspenseful season finale chalked full of anxiety and utter uncertainty—a season finale that will drag on for at least a few more days.

At the time of writing this, we have no clear indication of who will serve as Commander and Chief of the United States for the next four years. We do, however, have a collective understanding that tension levels will be high regardless of the outcome.

If you are anything like me—in that election stress permeates all other facets of your life—this week will be hard. Next week will be hard. Every day until we know for certain which direction our country is moving in will be hard.

We are not capable of mitigating this anxiety, though; there are a number of healthy coping mechanisms to get us through these trying times. I have consolidated a number of them below.

Take a long walk through the Arboretum and enjoy the sounds of nature. Turn your phone off for a while. Watch the clouds and consider what life may be like on other planets.

Read a really good book. Not an academic assignment or the newspaper, but a truly phenomenal piece of literature that restores your faith in humanity and convinces you—even if just for a fleeting moment—that anything

is possible. If you need a suggestion, I recommend *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho.

Speak with a therapist. The Colby Counseling Services are excellent resources and are free of charge for all Colby students. You can make an appointment by contacting them at 207-859-4490.

Practice mindfulness and meditation. This is possible to do on your own in a quiet space or with Colby’s own Jung Ye in the Rose Chapel on Mondays and Tuesdays at 4:00 pm. The sessions meeting on Nov. 9 and 10 will focus on election anxiety and civil unrest.

Allow yourself to disconnect from the current political climate and turn off the news. It does not mean that you do not care, but rather that you need to recharge. Watch a comedy on Netflix, something that demands minimal brain power.

Volunteer for an important cause. We cannot control everything in this world, but we can control what good we put into it. Regardless of who wins this election, we are individually responsible for continuing to make our country a better place through meaningful change. Focus on what you have control of, let go of everything else.

Find solace in the fact that life will go on, even if it feels dark now. The sun will soon rise, and we will put one foot in front of the other and continue to try our best.

Most importantly, remember to support one another. Reach out to friends and family, particularly those most affected by the results of this election. Many people are experiencing the same whirlwind of emotions during this time, and by reaching out you are simultaneously reassuring them and yourself that we are all in this together. Put a little more love and empathy into this world.

The coming days will be challenging. The strength of our nation will be tested. Our capacity for human decency and compassion for all beings will be questioned. The future of the environment will be determined. We will learn a lot about ourselves and our neighbors.

We will mourn, or we will cheer—and then, when the dust settles, we will continue to fight for a better America.



Photo courtesy of Wendy Wei

COVID-19 update for October 28 to November 3

By SONIA LACHTER
News Editor

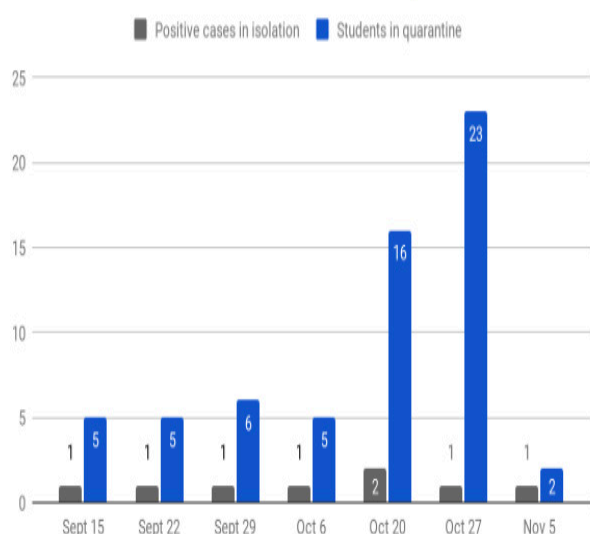
The College has changed from the green to the yellow level, where it had been since Sept. 9, meaning that classes of 50 or more students will move to remote learning, dining halls will have lower seating capacities, face coverings will be required in common spaces of residence halls, and those spaces as well as “high-touch areas” in dining halls will be cleaned more. Religious services of less than 50 people can be indoors and those above 50 people will be outdoors. As of November 3, 68,032 negative tests, 15 positive cases, and 797 inconclusive

tests (or 1.2% of the total) have been identified since testing began. Currently, there is one positive case in isolation and 2 students are in quarantine, down from 23 in quarantine last week.

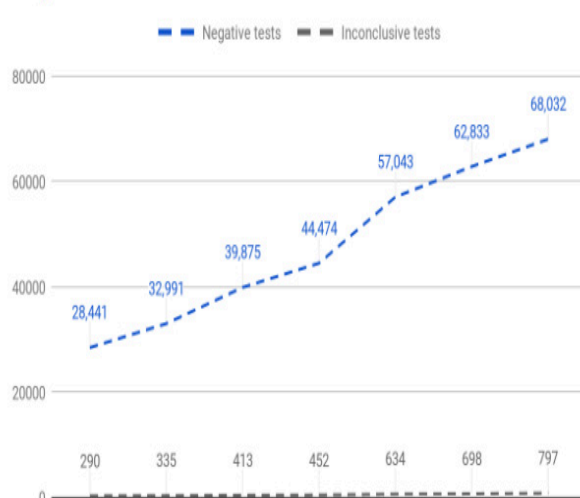
The positive cases are made up of five faculty or staff members and ten students. 14 positive cases have recovered since testing began.

The College’s COVID-19 Health Code and Testing Data page includes data on the active cases in the state of Maine from the Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Students can see the number of cases by county. Kennebec County, where the College is located, has 91 active cases as of Nov. 3, up from 69 cases as of Oct. 26.

Positive cases in Isolation and Students in quarantine



Negative and Inconclusive Tests Total



Positive Cases Total

