

Colby Mutual Aid taps into Portland alumni network for winter clothing drive

By **FIONA HUO**
News Reporter

On Saturday, Feb. 27 the Colby Mutual Aid fund, a student-run organization focused on redistributing wealth within the Colby community to students in need, held a clothing drive to collect winter necessities.

The drive, which was held at Portland's Eastern Promenade, targeted faculty and alumni

living in Portland. Colby Mutual Aid promoted the drive mainly through their Instagram account, ColbyNow, and by word of mouth.

The Colby Echo spoke with one of the drive's organizers, Rachel Powers '22. Powers, who is on Mutual Aid's communications board, is currently taking a gap year in Portland and was able to oversee the drive.

In the past, Colby

Mutual Aid has mostly fundraised to help students in need. These students can submit funding requests to get their expenses covered. Powers said the Portland drive was motivated by many funding requests for winter clothing.

Powers added that Colby Mutual Aid was able to collect a sizable amount of jackets, sweaters, gloves, and hats from professors,

alumni, and even individuals without an affiliation to Colby.

Ashley Ketchum '22, who also serves on Colby Mutual Aid's communications board, said the drive will help students who are not used to dressing for Maine winters. Many students already have a surplus of winter apparel because they are from places with cold winters or are able to afford it on their own.

Ketchum recalled her own experience: "I came here as a first gen[eration to college] student from a really warm climate. I had no idea what I needed to buy or how much it would be. Luckily I was able to find a lot of it second hand at Goodwill. But even stores like Goodwill sometimes don't have a lot of it and sizes are very limited."

Ketchum said the plan for the donated items is to take pictures of everything and create a catalogue. This way, students who requested items will be able to easily pick out what they need. Afterwards, the items will be promoted on social media and students will be told where to pick them up.

Powers said that Colby Mutual Aid wants to diversify its resources and strategies. "One thing worth thinking about is the fund, in terms of long term stability ... [and] practices of mutual aid beyond monetary donations. So what can that look like? Not only redistribute your wealth but redistribute your resources ... Also, we do have some faculty and young alum[ni] who regularly donate and there are a lot of people in Portland."

Powers added that Colby Mutual Aid would like to have a second drive in Waterville aimed at getting donations from students.

Colby Mutual Aid was founded in July 2020, as part of a wave of new college-based mutual aid funds at institutions like Williams College and Rice University. There has been a rise in demand for financial assistance as students struggle with the unexpected costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Initially, the first round of fundraising was focused on travel expenses and helping students come back to campus for the fall se-

mester. Since then, Colby Mutual Aid has been able to hold six rounds of funding to meet various student needs. Ketchum said the fund has been able to redistribute \$49,145 to 64 students so far.

Powers added that they have been able to meet 100% of demonstrated need from applicants. Some of the more frequent requests are for laundry, textbooks, travel expenses, and food. Round 7 is expected to open March 29 and end April 5. This round is focused on bigger expenses including flights home for the end of the spring semester.

Both Powers and Ketchum said that they hope to host more events in the future. In the fall semester, the class of 2023 Student Government Association representatives held a 5k run to raise money for the mutual aid fund, which Powers and Ketchum said was a success. Students looking to support Colby Mutual Aid can do so by making a donation at one of the options on linktr.ee/colbymutualaid or can look out for a Waterville winter drive at a future date.



RACHEL POWERS '22

Rachel Powers '22 at the drop off site in Portland for Colby Mutual Aid's winter clothing drive.

Front & Main restaurant to open in Lockwood March 18

By **MATT ROCHA**
News Reporter

The College is set to open the Front & Main restaurant at the Lockwood Hotel on March 18. The Lockwood, which is currently closed to the public and serving as student housing, is set to open to the public in late summer. In an email interview, *The Colby Echo* spoke with Jordan Rowan, the General Manager of the Lockwood Hotel, about the opening of Front & Main.

Rowan believes that the restaurant will serve as an important gathering spot for

Waterville residents. The layout of Front & Main and its focus on the local food scene will enable the restaurant to foster a sense of community.

"First and foremost, Front & Main is intended to be a meeting place for our community, with a strong emphasis on communal gathering spaces inside and out. We aim to build on the growing food scene in Waterville, and ultimately to elevate it, with a strong emphasis on local ingredients that celebrate the bounty available to us in central Maine," Rowan said.

According to Row-

an, the atmosphere of Front & Main will be dynamic and appropriate for many different types of gatherings and events.

"Our atmosphere is luxurious yet fun, elegant yet relaxed—perfect for every event, from a special dinner to a quick burger and beer at the bar," Rowan said. "Modern decor and contemporary artwork throughout the restaurant and lounge are balanced with natural wood and stone elements to create a warm, inviting setting for our guests."

Front & Main will serve dinner from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m., Sun-

day through Thursday, and 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The restaurant will also serve weekend brunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

With Executive Chef Jesse Souza and Director of Food and Beverage John Phillips-Sandy working on the restaurant's meals and menu, Front & Main will have excellent food for all tastes.

"Front & Main will serve a variety of contemporary American cuisine, from elevated takes on classics to some really unique dishes that may be new to some of our guests," Rowan said. "I hope

that everyone will enjoy our food!"

Rowan also noted a few possible specialties for the restaurant.

"Early contenders to become specialties for us include our Pork & Beans, featuring heritage pork belly, bourbon applesauce, steamed brown bread, red cabbage and maple baked beans; and our Lobster Bucatini, featuring uni, shiitake mushrooms, charred scallion, uni cream sauce, and roasted garlic & chili. Both dishes are simply delicious," Rowan said.

While the rate of COVID-19 transmission has decreased through-

out Maine, Rowan acknowledged the importance of remaining diligent. With its "Clean Dining Promise," Front & Main will create a safe environment for its staff and guests.

"Our Clean Dining Promise is our pledge to open and operate our restaurant safely, for both our guests and our employees. Steps we are taking include daily temperature and symptom checks for employees, disposable single-use menus and QR codes, hand sanitizing stations throughout the restaurant, plexi-

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ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATION -BASKERVILLE

Architectural renderings of the interior of Front & Main, which will open on March 18, 2021



ARCHITECTURAL ILLUSTRATION -BASKERVILLE

Front & Main will use its "Clean Dining Promise" to mitigate the risks of spreading COVID-19

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COVID-19 Update for February 24 to March 2

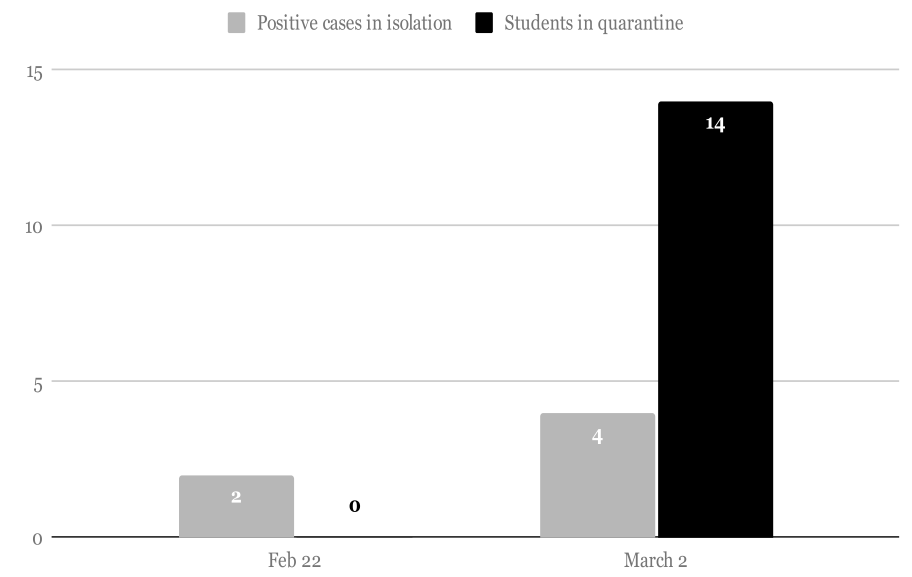
By SONIA LACHTER
News Editor

At the moment, there are four positive cases in isolation and 14 students in quarantine, compared to two positive cases and zero students in quarantine last week. The two new positives are both from March 2 and are both students. 61 positive cases have recovered, up six from last week. 66,201 total tests have been administered, 1,171 (or 1.8%) of which have been inconclusive. Members of the test-

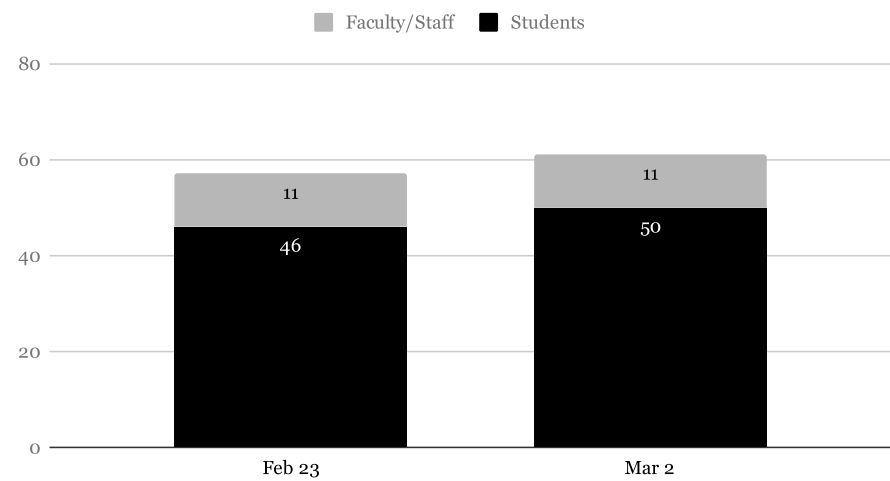
ing program are still receiving two PCR tests and one antigen test a week. There are 2,704 cases in Kennebec County as of March 1, according to the Maine CDC. The first of two modified spring breaks of the semester is coming up on March 8 and 9. These four-day weekends replace the regular week-long spring break, with the expectation that students will stay in Maine and remain on their testing schedule. The College has been at the yellow health

code level since the start of the semester. This means lower dining hall capacities, face masks required within dorms, increased cleaning, and remote learning for classes above 50 students. Clubs were given the green light to operate on the yellow level on March 2. They had not been able to meet in person until Feb. 24, when they were given permission to meet given that any food they provided was commercially individually packaged.

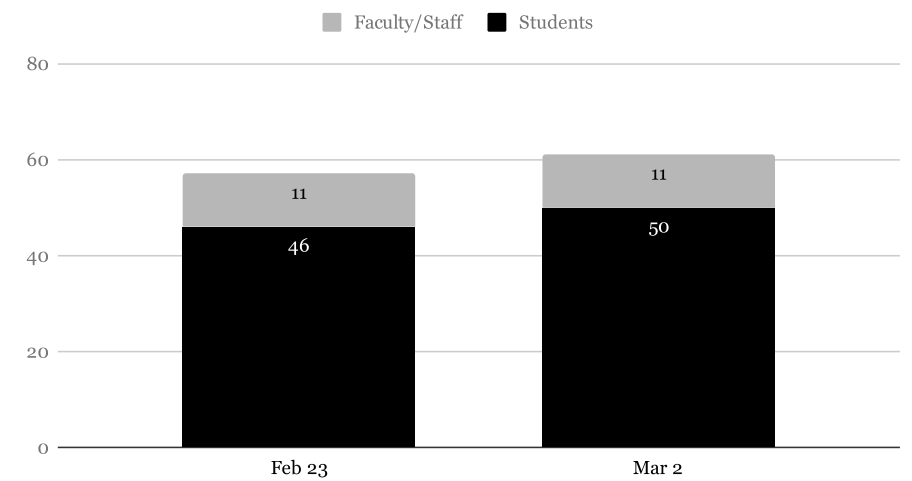
Positive cases in isolation and students in quarantine



Positive cases total



Positive cases total



Front & Main restaurant to open in Lockwood continued

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

glass barriers at the bar, and more efforts to ensure we are opening as safely as possible. Furthermore, all guests will be entering from Main St., and the public spaces on the first floor are contained within a separate HVAC system from the hotel rooms upstairs.

For students, Front & Main is working with Easy Eats to start an on-campus delivery program. The restaurant will also implement a curb-side pick-up option.

Rowan believes that Front & Main, along with the Lockwood Hotel, will become important centerpieces of downtown Waterville.

“There is a palpable energy and excitement around the changes downtown, and I see Front & Main being the leading edge of Waterville’s revitalization. Also, our Executive Chef, Jesse Souza, is a Bangor-native that recently returned to

Maine, and our Director of Food & Beverage, John Phillips-Sandy, was born and raised right here in Waterville—so I am equally excited about the quality job opportunities” Rowan said.

“I like living in a little bit of hustle and bustle and I think it’ll add a little bit of activity and interesting people in the Lockwood”

Thea Reddin `22

Students living in the Lockwood are excited about having a way to get food in their building. Lockwood residents have been frustrated by their distance from on-campus dining halls and their lack of a kitchen like their coun-

terparts in the Alford Commons.

Thea Reddin `22, who lives in the hotel, said she hopes the restaurant opening will liven things up in the building.

“I like living in a little bit of hustle and bustle and I think it’ll add a little bit of activity and interesting people in the Lockwood and in my life. And, I’m also excited about the prospect of going to a restaurant at least once this year and just seeing what type of food it is and just having something new on Main Street,” she told *The Colby Echo*.

Aidan Sweeney `22 also lives in the building and agreed, but expressed concerns about how expensive Front & Main will be: “I think it would be nice to get food without leaving the hotel, but I am also wondering if it will be a pricey place or not. Knowing Colby, it feels like it might be very expensive.”

Lockwood resident Lauren Oliver `22 agreed. While having a

way to get food excites her, “they definitely aren’t making it [the restaurant] for students, so I imagine it won’t be cheap and might be kind [of] fancy.”

The Lockwood Hotel and Front & Main are part of a trend of College investment in the surrounding community in the past few years. The Lockwood

holds fifty-three rooms and suites, meeting rooms, fitness facilities, and a full-service bar and restaurant. The College hopes that the large hotel will redefine the atmosphere of downtown Waterville.

Additionally, through the construction of the Arts Collaborative, which will open later in 2021, the College hopes

to make Waterville a hub for artists across Maine.

The College also plans to invest \$11.2 million into a series of road and sidewalk infrastructure projects over the next year. This investment will help the city government change traffic patterns on Main Street and improve the efficiency of many intersections.



WENDY WEI `23

The Lockwood in fall 2020 before it was completed. The hotel is set to open late summer 2021.

Security Incident Report Log

Date:	Time:	Location:	Comments:
02/15/21	1:09 a.m.	Keyes	PPD Call in
02/16/21	12:28 a.m.	Davis Science Center	PPD Call in
02/16/21	9:17 a.m.	Health Center	Medical Call
02/17/21	4:49 p.m.	Campus Wide	No Contact Order
02/17/21	4:49 p.m.	Campus Wide	No Contact Order
02/18/21	6:52 a.m.	Heights	Alcohol Violation
02/19/21	11:38 p.m.	Woodman	Alcohol Violation
02/19/21	11:38 p.m.	Woodman	Alcohol Violation
02/19/21	11:38 p.m.	Woodman	Alcohol Violation
02/19/21	11:38 p.m.	Woodman	Alcohol Violation
02/19/21	11:38 p.m.	Woodman	Theft
02/19/21	11:38 p.m.	Woodman	Theft
02/20/21	12:19 a.m.	Cotter Union	Alcohol Violation
02/20/21	12:19 a.m.	Cotter Union	Medical Call
02/20/21	4:36 p.m.	Heights	Gathering Checks
02/20/21	9:24 p.m.	Roberts	Alcohol Violation
02/20/21	9:24 p.m.	Roberts	Medical Call
02/20/21	10:26 p.m.	Roberts	Gathering Checks
02/20/21	10:51 p.m.	Coburn	Medical Call
02/20/21	11:50 p.m.	Marriner	Vandalism
02/20/21	11:55 p.m.	West	Vandalism
02/21/21	1:21 a.m.	Dana	Alcohol Violation
02/21/21	1:21 a.m.	Dana	Medical Call
02/21/21	1:53 a.m.	Drummond	Alcohol Violation
02/21/21	1:53 a.m.	Drummond	Medical Call
02/22/21	7:50 a.m.	Marylows Lots	Vandalism
02/22/21	10:16 a.m.	Davis Science Center	Medical Call
02/22/21	7:50 a.m.	Marylows PLOT	Vandalism
02/22/21	10:16 a.m.	Davis Science Center	Medical Call
02/23/21	2:48 p.m.	East	Smoke Detector
02/23/21	4:15 p.m.	East	Smoke Detector
02/24/21	2:54 p.m.	Athletic Center	Theft
02/27/21	1:30 a.m.	Off Campus	Alcohol Violation
02/27/21	11:13 p.m.	Sturtevant	Gathering Checks
02/27/21	11:24 p.m.	Roberts	Gathering Checks
02/27/21	11:50 p.m.	Averill	Vandalism
02/28/21	1:34 a.m.	Taylor	Alcohol Violation
02/28/21	2:29 a.m.	Averill	Medical Call
02/28/21	3:38 a.m.	Treworgy	Alcohol Violation
02/28/21	3:38 a.m.	Treworgy	Medical Call

New eatery set to open this spring in Alfond Commons on Main Street

By AARON MILLS
Staff Writer

Downtown Waterville will soon be home to another business hoping to elevate the local culinary scene and recapture the Waterville dynamism that once boasted a bustling commercial heart fueled by resilient blue collar grit. Andrew Volk '05 and his wife Briana Volk will be opening a new restaurant to be called Verna's All Day.

While Waterville's blue collar roots have remained intact, the economic success it once enjoyed has not. Downtown Waterville has yet to reestablish its mid-century prosperity, although optimism remains that this may soon change.

The buzz surrounding the eatery's arrival accompanies a bevy of recent development in the area, generating hope about the district's

encouraging prospects.

The new restaurant-builds on growing momentum behind Colby's broader multilateral investment in downtown Waterville. Described on its website as a "classic old school American tavern and market," Verna's is set to open this spring on the ground floor of the Bill & Joan Alfond Main Street Commons on Main Street, servicing students and locals alike.

Occupying 4,000 square feet, Verna's will be nestled between the Chace Community Forum and Camden National Bank. The announcement of Verna's is one of a series of recent important developments spearheaded by the College and coalitions of local and regional entrepreneurs in ongoing Waterville revitalization efforts.

Colby's support of Verna's is emblematic of its intentions to heavily invest in down-

town, not only enhancing amenities for students, but also improving quality of life for local residents.

Throughout his tenure, President David Greene has continually reiterated the critical role the College plays in facilitating downtown investment, which he emphasizes mutually benefits both Colby and the Waterville community.

In early 2019, Vice President of Planning Brian Clark approached the Volks about the idea of opening a restaurant in Waterville to anchor the newly completed downtown dorm development.

"Three years ago, that block of Main Street was a vacant gap that wasn't contributing to downtown's vibrancy of Waterville's tax or job base," Clark said in a January 2020 press release. "The addition of Verna's completes the transformation

of that block, which now includes hundreds of students living downtown, the Chace Forum, and Camden National Bank, while advancing Waterville's growing identity as a leading culinary destination in Maine."

After living in Portland, Oregon, the Volks moved back to Andrew's native New England, seeking closer living to his family in 2011. The couple opened a thriving cocktail bar in Portland in 2013, and decided to accept Colby's courtship to establish a venture in Waterville. This move marked not only a new chapter in their culinary ambitions, but also a return for alumnus Andrew Volk to a familiar community.

"I am excited to be returning to Waterville and am excited about the changes the city, and Colby, have charted together," said Andrew Volk in the College's 2020 press

release. "Briana and I are thrilled to be able to be a part of the Waterville community, which is already incredibly strong and welcoming."

Named after Briana Volk's grandmother Verna, Verna's All Day aspires to be well-integrated into the community through hosting classes, fundraisers, and events during the year for both locals and students.

Verna's will feature locally-sourced food and craft cocktails sourced from regionally available produce from local farms, supporting Kennebec County and surrounding counties' independently-owned and operated growers.

Preliminary plans include incorporating a small deli and cafe connected to the restaurant's north end, featuring prepared foods and convenience goods for frequenters downtown, much to the delight of locals and students.

"I don't know a ton about it," Lukas Alexander '22, resident of Alfond Commons, told *The Colby Echo*. "I'm excited to have a small market downstairs though!"

The full-service restaurant will take up about two-thirds of the interior space, and boasts lunch, dinners and weekend brunches likely to bolster foot traffic for students and Waterville residents.

The Volks hope to employ 20 to 30 people full time while simultaneously serving as a multipurpose space for the community, especially targeting other local businesses and the nearby residents of the downtown apartments.

However, the recent developments have also prompted concern among some residents who see it as another invasive encroachment by the College that will ultimately do little to address

the real economic plight that has plagued Waterville and other regional mill towns in a post-industrial economy.

Even as the statewide population stagnates, the Central Maine Growth Council found the city has grown by more than 5% since 2010, bucking a precipitous decline present since the beginning of the century - a significant feat.

With the increasing population, Greene explained that the College will capitalize on the moment and continue to play a role in ensuring more individuals feel they can stay in Waterville through shoring up critical amenities and generating economic activity.

Greene underscored his commitment to transforming Waterville into a destination, with Colby as an anchor of the community, not the detached island some residents had believed it to be for many years prior to his tenure.

The College's ambitious mission has been joined by local investors eying to contribute as well.

William Mitchell, an insurance agency owner, operates an events center downtown and acquired several buildings in the area. Previous revitalization efforts were "false starts," Mitchell said, but Greene's plan was "taking it to a whole new level."

Many question whether there is room for them in the new Waterville envisioned by the College and local advocates both aiming to fundamentally transform and reimagine the city.

Now, Waterville's future sits at a crossroads firmly awaiting time to tell whether the path forward truly includes everyone.



VERNA'S ALL DAY

Colby alum Andrew Volk '05 is opening Verna's All Day with his wife Briana in downtown Waterville, inspired by his time at Colby and his connection to downtown Waterville. The restaurant, described as a "classic old school American tavern and market" is another part of the College's revitalization efforts.

Maine receives more COVID-19 vaccine shipments, ramps up vaccinations

By SARAH WARNER
Local & Features Editor

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), following its purchase of nearly 12,000 doses of the newly-approved Johnson & Johnson single shot vaccine, has announced the opening of two new mass vaccination clinics in southern Maine.

The announcement directly precedes Maine's move to an age-based vaccine distribution approach. According to the State of Maine's COVID-19 Response webpage, all Maine residents over the age of 60 will be able to get vaccinated effective March 3. In April, the vaccine will be available to residents age 50 and older; in May, to residents age 40 and older; in June, to those age 30 and older, and finally, in July, to all Maine residents. Until now, Maine had prioritized essential workers and residents over age 70.

As of March 2, Maine has administered 355,810 doses of the vaccine: 231,353 of the first dose and 124,457 of the second. With the two new clinics, one located at the Portland Expo and the other at the former Marshalls department store in Sanford, the state hopes to increase from 500 vaccinations a day to 1,000.

"We are undertaking the largest mass vaccination effort in history, and I am grateful to Maine people for their understanding and patience as we make adjustments to reflect the latest science and get shots into arms as quickly as we can," Gov. Janet Mills said in a Feb. 27 press release.

The clinics, run by Northern Light Mercy

Hospital, will help distribute the over 55,000 doses of the vaccine Maine is expected to receive this week. The state is also looking to open more mass vaccination clinics throughout Maine, including in the Lewiston-Auburn area as well as in Oxford County. The 55,000 doses will also include 15,000 new units of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"The FDA's emergency authorization of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine expands vaccination options for Maine people," Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Dr. Nirav D. Shah said in a Feb. 27 press release.

"Because it's fully effective with one shot and does not require ultracold storage, some of the challenges we faced when previous vaccines were approved will not be a factor as we distribute this vaccine to sites throughout Maine," Shah explained.

Until recently, Maine had relied on the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, which both require two doses and need to be stored between -112 to -76 and -13 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine can be stored in a normal refrigerator and is much longer-lasting than the Moderna vaccine, which expires after a month. All of this, coupled with the fact that it only requires one dose, significantly eases many of the previous logistical issues with vaccine distribution.

Regardless of the increase in vaccine supplies, however, elderly residents, front-line workers, and people with underlying conditions have struggled to get vaccinated. Rachel Powers '22, who

is currently taking the year off and living in Portland, told *The Colby Echo* about her struggle to receive the vaccine despite being immunocompromised.

"I have Hashimoto's disease," Powers said. "I was under the impression until recently that I would be eligible for the vaccine here in Maine due to my underlying condition, but then Janet Mills announced that they were retracting eligibility for folks who are immunocompromised or front line workers in favor of going by age. So I went from being at the top of the vaccine list to the bottom in a day."

The move to an age-based distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is largely motivated by the statistic that over 95% of COVID-19 deaths in the United States are people ages 50 and over. Powers claims

that while vaccinating people 50 and older is crucial, waiting to vaccinate residents younger than 30 until July will only further the inequity of COVID-19's impact in Maine. Maine has one of the largest COVID-19 racial disparity gaps in the country, with the state's 1.6% Black population making up 6% of all positive cases.

"I think the notion that a forty-five year old who makes six figures and works from home will be eligible before a twenty-something who is immunocompromised and works in your supermarket to feed you is completely insane," Powers said.

Not all Colby students have been so unlucky in their journey to get vaccinated. Catriona McIntyre '21, a member of Colby Emergency Response (CER), received two doses of the Moder-

na vaccine through Waterville's Delta Ambulance earlier this year. She claimed it was a relatively easy process, with only some minor side effects.

"After receiving the first vaccine, I had some soreness in my arm," McIntyre explained. "It didn't last that long and was completely bearable. Two weeks later, I received the second dose. Six to ten hours later, I did spike a fever of about 100 and had full body chills and some nausea ... but these side effects only lasted around 24 hours and after that I was feeling back to normal."

Currently, 17 percent of Maine's population has received their first dose of the vaccine, with 9 percent fully vaccinated. The Maine CDC hopes to hit a full 10 percent fully vaccinated soon.

The increase in vaccinations will hopefully continue Maine's downward trend of COVID-19 cases. After a peak of more than 600 cases a day in January, the state's average is down to 167 cases per day. Since the start of the pandemic, Maine has had almost 45,000 positive cases and a little over 700 deaths.

Colby's campus had a similar spike in January, with over 57 cases documented during JanPlan. Luckily, the College seems to have similarly gotten the virus' spread under control, with only four active cases at the moment. Considering Colby's commitment to a completely in-person Fall 2021 semester, along with the nationwide pressure for schools to reopen, the influx of vaccines is certainly a sign of better times to come.



DELTA AMBULANCE

Waterville-based Delta Ambulance offered to vaccinate all members of Colby Emergency Response (CER) for free, including Catriona McIntyre '21.

Students reflect on a year amid the COVID-19 pandemic

By JENNA BOLING
Local News Reporter

This March marks one year since the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic took hold of the nation, reigning students in for months of online learning and social isolation. The consequences of the pandemic forced high school seniors from all over the country to surrender their preconceived notions of senior prom, high-school graduation, and the day they would hug their parents goodbye before embarking on their first year of college.

Unfortunately, as our country's circumstances remain stagnant, first year students at the College will never experience social or academic life in the same way as students from years prior.

For Ainsley Bonin '24, the pandemic has limited opportunities for socializing with her peers and meeting new people.

"When I go about meeting new people and getting lunch with them, COVID-19 is always in the back of my mind. I'm afraid that, when I'm with someone, it's just one more person that I might have to be contact traced to, so I feel like I try to limit myself to a smaller group of friends which makes it hard because I don't know as many people as I would like to," Bonin said.

The pandemic has presented many problems for first years and upperclassmen alike. Catie Riley '21 has faced several challenges with

remote learning.

"Learning during the pandemic has been an adjustment. I'm able to focus more when I'm in person because it's more engaging and I absorb the material a little easier. In the fall, I was fortunate enough to have all in-person classes, so I was very lucky for that. But, in the Spring I have two remote classes, so I've had to learn how to adjust to that by making sure I am keeping up with the material and

"I'm afraid that, when I'm with someone, it's just one more person that I might have to be contact traced to, so I feel like I try to limit myself to a smaller group of friends"

Ainsley Bonin '24

focusing," Riley said.

Students that live downtown have another set of problems to deal with because of the pandemic. Riley struggles with issues like transportation on a daily basis.

"Trying to find a place to take those [remote] classes can be a bit of a hassle, especially when trying to balance that with [my] schedule," Riley explained.

Remote learning, for

some, was better because it allowed them to work at their own pace, especially when confronted with many tasks to complete.

"I kind of like hybrid and remote learning in that, I like doing work on my own time, so I personally think that's a benefit. I know not everyone likes remote learning, but I love the hybrid format," Bonin said.

Riley also felt that remote learning was convenient at times.

"I've enjoyed some parts of being remote because it's added a little bit of convenience. Like for some sort of a mandatory meeting, people are usually crammed into an auditorium or gym and it takes forever to get everyone in or out before you can even get started on the meeting. But now, we can just hop on a Zoom call and handle administrative meetings that way," said Riley.

"Also, through Zoom, I was really fortunate to get a remote internship this past summer," Riley continued. "Though it would have been nice to be in person, the remote aspect gave me a lot of flexibility for my summer and allowed me to do things with my day instead of being stuck in one place from nine-to-five."

The uncertainty around the pandemic creates much stress in and of itself.

"I know for me, coming into the fall, I wasn't really sure what to expect. Just the day-to-day of making sure who you're hanging out with, or if you are seeing too many peo-

"I was really worried we were going to get sent home again and I didn't want to go through that after we had to do it all in March."

Catie Riley '21

ple, and having all of those questions in the back of your mind, has definitely impacted my schoolwork. Sometimes, it was a little bit harder to focus when I was worried about these outside things. It's definitely been an adjustment," Riley noted.

Students at the College also had different expectations for how this school year would go, so when Colby had a successful fall, it surprised many. Bonin doubted this year would run as smoothly as it has, given the circumstances.

"My expectation was to basically just be on my own for the entire year, and that has not been true at all. I was kind of thinking that I would just be restricted in my room and not able to do as much as I have been," Bonin said.

While first year students didn't get the college experience they had in mind, they made the most of these trying times.

"I feel like I made a very close, small group of friends very

quickly because I was very socially deprived at the end of my senior year, so it was really nice to have a new beginning. And, I feel like I changed because I kind of latched on to a group of people and then got close with them very quickly as a result," Bonin commented.

Riley wasn't exactly sure what to expect, but appreciated how well the College has handled COVID-19.

"Honestly, I don't really know what I expected in the school year after getting sent home in the spring, and then this sum-

mer not even knowing if we were going to come back," Riley said. "I've just kind of gotten used to going with the flow and taking information as it came. I was just excited to be back in the first place. I was really worried we were going to get sent home again and I didn't want to go through that after we had to do it all in March."

Ultimately, Colby students have had so many different experiences over this last year and have proven their resiliency, adapting to every obstacle thrown their way.



SARAH WARNER '21

A year into the pandemic, many students are dealing with burnout and fatigue. Others are mourning losing their traditional college experience to social distancing and masks, struggling to meet new people.



RUNAWAY By Anonymous

Another day we go on with life as usual

as if we never know

but before you go to sleep you hear it turning

and you know it's still there

ready to lay your pains bare

Where do we go from here?

faraway from home we ran

too far to go back again

too close to what we seek

too close: always too close

although we never know what it is

and we wake up again, staying

but in dreams it's burning

nudging on

The need to feel belonged

to somewhere, or someone

Remote fall semester students adjust to being on campus for the spring semester

By HAE-JUNG KIM
Features Reporter

In the fall, Colby distinguished itself from other college campuses in two major ways: the College reopened its campus in the midst of a pandemic and was able to keep its campus open. This is thanks to a robust testing program and comprehensive safety protocols for students. While a major COVID-19 scare during JanPlan made the future of in-person learning uncertain, Colby was determined to bring students back onto campus for spring semester.

Some students who studied remotely fall semester have returned to campus for the spring, but in the flurry of newly implemented testing methods and protocols, their arrival was largely pushed to the sidelines.

Remote students were all but ignored by administration last semester as they were focused on keeping in-person students safe and mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 on campus. This challenging transition was amplified for first year students, who not only had to deal with being the "new student" amongst a student body that was in-person during the fall, but also to assimilate to the broader Colby community as well.

One first year student who was in this situation is Andrea Lee '24, an international student. She studied remotely during the fall, but arrived on campus for the spring. For her, fall semester was particularly difficult because of the isolation and time difference.

"Starting off my first semester as a freshman and far away from Colby, I definitely felt ... isolated. With no prior friends, it was hard to make friends since everything was done remotely. The time differences for classes [was] 13 hours, and it was definitely hard for me as all the classes required attendance, and classes were from 12 a.m. to 4 a.m. I barely got enough sleep during the fall semester, and it

was hard to juggle the time, with squash practices in the morning at 8 am," Lee said.

It wasn't just international students that were unable to attend fall semester in-person — many domestic students were unable to as well. Marthe Godwilling Unkap '24, a first year who was also remote for the first semester, commented on her experience with remote learning.

"My family was extremely worried about me leaving Texas all the way to Maine for the first time by myself. I was sad because I did not want to miss out on the chance of being lost with every other freshman, figure things out together, and make new friends along the way. I thought I was going to feel extremely left out," Unkap shared.

Nevertheless, even though spring semester has only just started, the difference in learning experiences is palpable. Remote learning, amongst many other things, has been normalized during the pandemic, yet this normalization conceals the tremendous difficulties that come with trying to learn in a virtual environment. This struggle was magnified for international students, who were studying in completely different time zones.

"[Spring semester] is better than fall semester because of the time difference. In-person classes are much more interactive and I was able to meet some new friends. It was hard to do that during fall semester as the time difference made it hard to communicate with people back here on campus," Lee explained.

Administration largely made remote learning seem like a personal choice, but for many students, coming to campus simply wasn't an option. For example, in Lee's case, the embassy in her country was closed due to the pandemic, and coming to campus for the spring almost didn't happen either, as her parents were concerned about the heightened number of cases of COVID-19 in the



WENDY WEI '24

Following a remote fall semester, some students are struggling to adjust.

United States.

Nevertheless, there were various resources on campus that Lee could rely on for assistance with her transition to campus. The International Club on campus held weekly meetings and "administration was always reaching out to me, giving support if I ever needed anything." However, this transition period was disrupted by the sudden quarantine week implemented by the College to mitigate spread of the virus. While this quarantine period was designed to ensure the safety and health of campus, it also posed many problems for students who were arriving on campus for the first time.

"I found myself quite lost with the quarantine and the need for necessities during the beginning of spring semester. I believe it would have been better if the administration was able to provide international students with more care — they briefly explained what international students needed before moving in, but they should provide help from the beginning and always check on them at least for a few days as they might feel a little overwhelmed and helpless with no friends," Lee explained.

For Unkap, she found her source of support through

the POSSE group on campus, and was able to turn her remote first semester experience into a positive one "by focusing on my self-growth before making the decision of moving in the spring."

The community at Colby supported her through her transition to campus spring semester as well.

"I had different members of the Colby faculty as well as my POSSE checking up on me from time to time. I was quite anxious as being the youngest this was my first time stepping out of my shell," said Unkap. "I was worried about being lost alone, making friends, etc. Nevertheless, I was so warmly received! From my POSSE walking me time and time and again around campus until I could walk by myself to faculty and staff supporting me. I am glad to see just how nice and respectful everyone on campus is and I am happy to have taken the risk to come here despite the situation we are in."

While Colby slowly lifts restrictions as cases remain low, it can be easy to assume that things are back to normal, or as normal as they can be in a pandemic. However, it is important to remember that not everyone has the privilege to learn in-person, even if Colby's campus is open.

Willie Nelson: where the country meets the city

By MILO LANI-CAPUTO
A&E Editor

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, musical culture has seen immense change.

Some groups have put on remote video concerts, while others have opted not to play live at all. Some artists have ramped up their music production while others have faded into the background.

Prolific musician Willie Nelson has not let the pandemic slow him down. This year, he released his second album of Frank Sinatra covers, *That's Life*.

One might be rightly surprised by this meeting of legends. The Texan Willie Nelson, singer of "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" and "Whiskey River," is an unlikely candidate for tackling Sinatra's portfolio of jazzy urban love songs.

However, this is Nelson's second time doing it, and he bridges the gap between Texas and New York culture skillfully.

The album's

instrumentation blends Sinatra's signature big band jazz backing with country guitar solos and Nelson's distinctive harmonica licks.

His classic country approach roughens and relaxes the old Sinatra staples and gives them an informal, laid-back feel. His singing style, like Sinatra's, abhors symmetry and dances before and after the beat.

He nails "You Make Me Feel So Young" and "That's Life," showing no fear in filling Sinatra's big shoes. Nelson's duet with Diana Krall in "I Won't Dance" demonstrates a willingness to reinterpret Sinatra's songs in his own way.

At 87 years old, Nelson sounds his age. His voice doesn't venture into the upper range like it did in the '70s, but that's to be expected since he's approaching his ninth decade on Earth. However, he would do well to lean into his sound rather than try to hide it. His album's producers made some distasteful use of

digital pitch correction on his voice "In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning," which compromised Nelson's rough, genuine feel.

The entire album is produced to fit the times: bass-heavy with a rich range of sound. This is a departure from Nelson's earlier work, and the producers sacrificed some of his charm in order to make the songs sound good on phone speakers.

This is demonstrative of larger trends in the music industry: the disappearance of raw recordings in popular music. As production technology has advanced, more and more vocalists have used hardly noticeable tuning technology in order to "perfect" their takes.

Additionally, skilled mix and master engineers can manipulate the audio to sound good on music players of all types, but in classic country and jazz, heavy production can be overwhelming. In these genres, the delivery is everything and the personality of

a song can be squeezed right out of it in order to make it palatable across all devices.

At the end of the day, Nelson can't be blamed for changing his sound to match the times; he's done so many times before. *That's Life* is his

95th studio album, and he shows no signs of slowing down.

Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of his first album release. The fact that Nelson is still pushing the envelope in new ways is indicative of

his permanence. While musical styles may ebb and flow, Nelson's love for music and our love for Willie Nelson is here to stay.



MILO LANI-CAPUTO '23

Willie Nelson bridges the gap between Texas and New York culture skillfully.

Mule ice sculpture: a winter tradition

By TANVI IYER
A&E Writer

Colby loves to bring different people and activities to its campus as a way of fostering a sense of community. Just last Friday, Colby students enjoyed s'mores by a fire pit in the presence of a mule ice sculpture outside of Cotter Union.

This incredibly ornate ice mule was adorned with a little flag and a fur blanket, making it look "straight out of Game of Thrones," as one passing student exclaimed.

The Colby Echo interviewed Jason "Jay" Bluck the owner, lead designer, and carver of Sub Zero Carvings, the company Colby has contracted for the past three years for these impressive ice sculptures. While this has become Bluck's full-time job, he once had a very different career.

"I was introduced to this while working as a chef down in Falmouth, Maine, in 2007," Bluck said. "I apprenticed with an experienced ice carver for approximately 18 months where then at that time I began to transition from chef work to ice work."

Bluck's extensive artistic ability gave him a great edge in this new profession.

"I have always had an artistic ability," Bluck explained. "I can draw, paint, carve multiple mediums, and there is an art to the culinary profession as well."

Bluck also went through the process used to create these



"Sunlight, ambient temperature, wind and other factors play a role in how long the ice carving lasts."

Jay Bluck,
lead designer,
Sub Zero
Carvings

ice sculptures.

"The amount of time it takes to make a sculpture depends on the size and complexity of the sculpture. Some designs can be done in less than an hour, some can take days or weeks to complete," Bluck said. "I use the seven systemic steps for ice

carving. This system allows me to break down each step of the process and helps build consistency, efficiency, and confidence through practiced repetitions."

Unfortunately, despite the complex creation procedure, the lifespan of an ice sculpture is unpredictable. The poor ice mule that once stood tall has now completely lost shape.

"There are many variables to this as well," Bluck explained. "Sunlight, ambient temperature, wind and other factors play a role in how long the ice carving lasts. Generally speaking, a solid block of ice, in a shaded and wind-free environment at 72 degrees Fahrenheit, will discharge approximately five gallons of water every hours."

Despite this, Bluck still finds the beauty and passion in creating these ice sculptures

inspiring.

"Ice sculptures are a way for me to create something using a temporary medium that others will enjoy," Bluck said. "[I use a] mix of science to make the block and art to make the finished sculpture."

He also enjoys how interactive an ice sculpture can be.

"The feedback we receive is always greatly appreciated and used to improve. I like the live demonstration aspect where we can interact with the people who stop by to watch us carve. That is what I enjoy the most," Bluck explained.

It's safe to say that the elegance in each sculpture is conveyed to its audience. The Class of 2022 has had the luxury of being able to see a different ice sculpture come to campus since their first year at Colby.

"I thought the little mule was cute and very impressive. Having an ice sculpture is very fitting since we go to college in Maine."

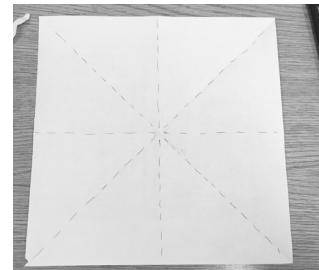
Isabel
Hoffman '22

"I thought the little mule was cute and very impressive. Having an ice sculpture is very fitting since we go to college in Maine," Isabel Hoffman '22 said.

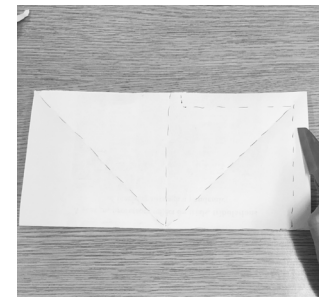
"I also think it is a unique Colby tradition that I will remember once I graduate," Hoffman continued.

While the ice mule brought to campus last Friday may no longer be in pristine condition, it was a great addition to campus while it lasted. The Colby community cannot wait to see what Bluck and his team bring to campus the next time.

How to fold an origami mule



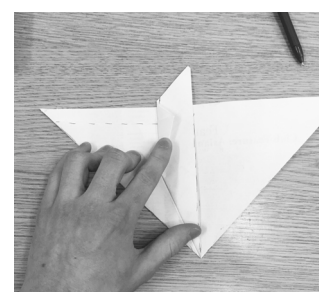
1. Crease a square piece of paper in an "X" and a "+"



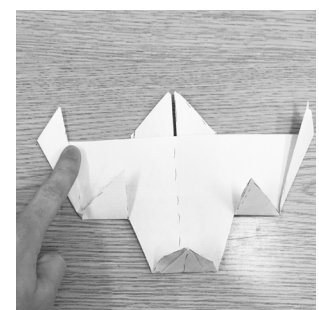
2. Fold and put a corner strip off the paper like in the picture.



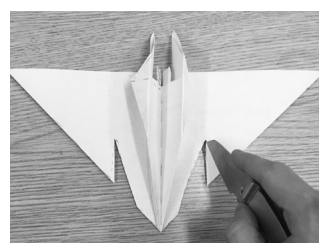
3. Push the bottom corners up and flatten to the shape pictured.



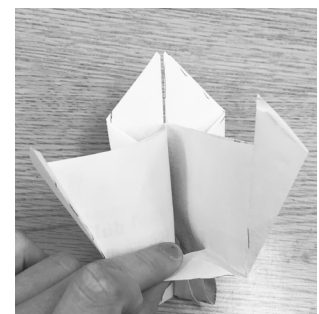
4. Fold one triangle flap along the crease, then fold back out. Repeat for both sides.



5. Cut triangular pieces of paper out of both back triangle flaps. Fold up the downward-facing point.



6. Flip the paper over and fold corners as pictured.



7. Push together the flaps of paper opposite each other.

Flip it over and you're done !



TANVI IYER '22

The mule ice sculpture was on display outside the spa on Friday, Feb. 26.

The difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion

By COLIN ALIE
Opinions

Death, taxes, and the omnipresent denial of our civil liberty to refuse paying said taxes: is there any limit to the follies of mankind?

This week I'd hope to engage you with an anecdote of no small amusement. I was awoken this morning to the sounds of my desk drawers sliding open, followed by a very loud and forward line of questioning.

Among the inquiries flung in my direction: are these your tax returns from the past five years? And why are there piles of already-used stamps overflowing from your desk?

I found myself in an uncharacteristic stupor, so much so that I actually went through all five stages of grief in a split second and discovered a sixth: fight or flight.

I coolly sprinted away from the situation. Now that I have the wherewithal to respond, I'll provide something in the way of an explanation.

Firstly, I have no filing cabinet for my tax forms. Secondly, why would they call them Forever Stamps if they're only good for one use. Plus, single-use plastic — no thanks.

As my great big Italian grandmother used to gab, I'm someone who thoroughly enjoys

“having my finger in a lot of pies.”

It goes without saying that she was an eloquent lady, but she also had a playful side — chasing us grandchildren around with a large wooden spoon, weaving in and out of the background garden and through the clotheslines of sheets and bloomers until we keeled over in laughter, out of breath.

The point is, as someone who likes to engage himself in and around a wide variety of topics, I feel the overbearing need to weigh on the topic of taxes. Although I'll reluctantly admit I'm quite poorly versed on the subject, I do have a strong opinion on the matter. With tax season already underway, I urge students to keep the following in mind.

1. Filing your taxes is confusing and tedious.

Sally Burke '21, who many recognize as a perennial shoe-in for the Geico Safe Driver discount, had this to say on taxes: “Some are good, some are bad, but we need to start taxing annoying drivers.”

Indeed, many potential IRS customers find themselves road-blocked, to borrow the term, on what exact taxes should be paid, and which should fall by the wayside. A tax program based on the opt-in model may be advisable going forward.

2. Tax evasion is the much more acceptable step-cousin of tax avoidance.

Disgraced former Twitter user and current tax avoider (not evader) Donald Trump made an all-time scumbag move when it was revealed that he paid only \$750 in taxes this past filing season, a figure that somehow fell short of the already incredibly low expectations.

Trump also managed to pay no income taxes at all in ten of the last 15 years, an exploit he managed to pull off by “losing much more money than he made,” per *The New York Times*. Unfortunately, I was not able to yield similar results using this tactic, though it was not for lack of trying.

I sat down with a panel of students to learn more about campus feelings toward taxes. This pool of interviewees was made up from one of the most diverse and impassioned sample groups to feebly be drawn from a six-person suite of roommates.

I simply asked, “Should we pay our taxes?” before leaning back in my faux-leather Lay-Z-Boy reclining chair to watch as my genius unfurled and waited for the inevitable discourse to erupt.

Like the author of a well-founded “Would You Rather” prompt, I knew to expect lively debate as soon as the question left my lips. Soon enough,

tempers flared while pointed fingers bounced around the room until, eventually, this gave way to the shedding of tears. Not dissimilar by any stretch to the single tear that falls down one's cheek once the curtains fall on the grand finale of a particularly striking piece of opera.

Each person seemed to hold a uniquely nuanced opinion. Spencer Smead '21 made an excellent case, pointing out a glaring flaw in the current filing system: “If you guys don't pay your taxes then I might have to pay them so, please pay your taxes,” Smead said.

“Paying my taxes was my New Year's resolution.”

Jack MacPhee '21

There were also those on the other side of the spectrum.

“Ugh, hate those things,” Jack MacPhee '21 said. “Paying my taxes was my New Year's resolution.”

In his earlier years, MacPhee was also the brand ambassador for the Gas-X brand of upset stomach and digestive health products due to his unique talent of producing a loud, ribbit-like sound when

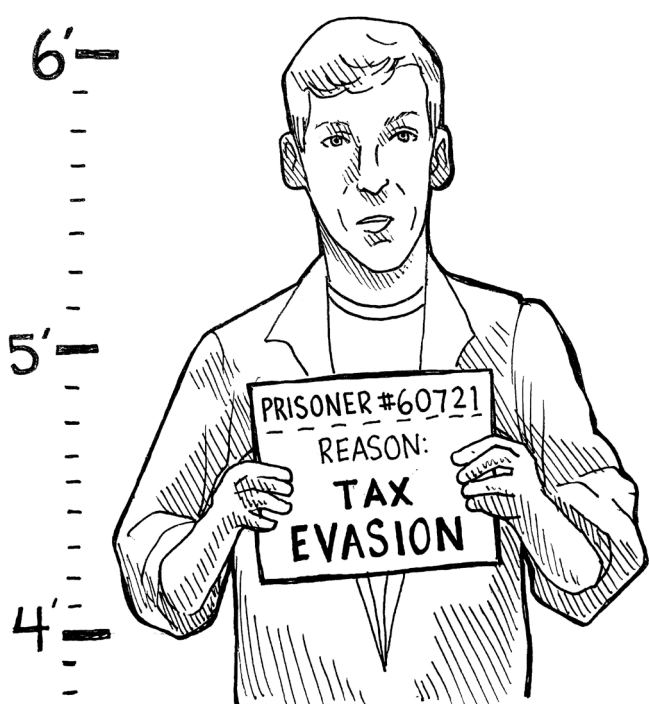
he swallows.

They used to call him the “gastrointestinal Gerber baby,” though he prefers that not be printed. He just has one of those faces, I guess. Anyways I digress.

Unsurprisingly, few voices chimed in to advocate for paying taxes. Nevertheless, I demonstrated commendable restraint in maintaining my journalistic integrity and managed to record those rare voices.

“Yes, pay your taxes. I encourage everyone to pay their taxes,” Zachary Bergman '21 implored. “You have to pay them every year.” I have yet to fact check this last quote for misinformation, but I urge the readers to look at the corrections list next week.

“I think taxes should be higher to support more public benefits, like in Europe,” added Noah Schimanski '21. I hate to admit that it's been several years since I last studied European tax systems under any formal tutelage, so I'll stay away from this one. Overall, it seems that all opinions on whether or not filing your taxes is a necessary evil are celebrated as valid here on campus.



CARTOON COURTESY OF SARAH WARNER '21

Drive jalopies: don't need no fancy automobile

By MILO LANI-CAPUTO
A&E Editor

Long before I could drive a car, I listened to *Car Talk* on the radio. It was a Saturday morning NPR show where two mechanics would answer callers' questions about their cars, driving, and life in more general terms.

One episode sticks out in my memory: just like usual, the *Car Talk* guys were answering car questions and (mostly) goofing off, when one brought up Daniel Pinkwater's theory of displaced suffering.

“If you're fully occupied with one sort of misery, it's unlikely that anything else will bother you,” he quoted. “I discovered this theory the first time I

owned a French car ... If you're the owner of a French automobile, other sources of unhappiness will recede.”

“If you're fully occupied with one sort of misery it's unlikely that anything else will bother you.”

Daniel Pinkwater

When I got my driver's license, my dad passed down his

Volvo 240 to me. It was 24 years old when I started driving it, but that doesn't mean much when it comes to these cars. They will keep going until they literally rust to pieces.

This one had a lot of life left in it, but it was still a jalopy. The A/C didn't work and the radio was broken. It didn't want to start on frigid mornings, and I was tardy to school often in the winter. The hot rod went from 0 to 60 in fifteen seconds flat. For a few weeks one summer, the windows wouldn't roll down and the heat wouldn't turn off—sauna car!

And my favorite quirk of all, the engine leaked oil. I never had to change the car's oil because it

changed itself! I'd just buy a quart to top 'er off every so often.

I learned many lessons from the Volvo: I learned how to switch out fuses, and how to change a tire, I learned how to do a burnout with an automatic transmission. But the most important things the Volvo taught me had nothing to do with driving.

It was constantly broken in some way, so I really appreciated the times when it was working. Nothing is as euphoric as hearing a frozen engine finally roar to life just when you think you're going to have to call in to school. That car was a big steel tub of imperfections, and that's why I loved it so much.

I was the final owner of that car, but it had had countless owners before me or my dad. It was the friendliest car you'd ever ride in.

Some of my friends got new cars in high school, but I didn't like to ride with them. Their seats were too smooth, and their floors were too clean. They made me feel

“The guy with the most efficient and futuristic car only has his own flaws to think about while he drives.”

like a dirty caveman sitting in a sterile operating room.

The Volvo was different. Sitting in the Volvo compelled you to be yourself, to set aside all pretense. The most genuine conversations I've had were in that car.

We all want to have nice things.

I've fantasized about buying a Tesla since I rode in my cousin's. There are cars with full-blown TV screens inside them, with separate climate control for each passenger.

New cars have cameras on the backs of them so you don't mess up a parallel park job. Some of them can drive themselves, can connect to the internet, and can read your texts to you. I can't lie, that would be pretty cool.

I don't think I'll ever get one, though. As dope as it would be to drive around in a spaceship-lookin' supercar, I think I'll have to pass. The guy with the most efficient and futuristic car only has his own flaws to think about while he drives.

My Volvo sadly succumbed to its injuries two years ago. I don't dwell on the fact that it's gone, I'm just happy to have spent time with it while it was still here. I'm a lot like my car: I'm scrappy and messy, and I don't always work right. But I think if I could love my Volvo even when it had no power steering and an exhaust leak, I can love myself.



The Colby Echo

Published by the students of Colby College since 1877

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MILO LANI-CAPUTO '23

An intersquad future for Colby athletics?

By WILL BEDINGFIELD
Sports Editor

For those who briskly delete their emails, Feb. 23 brought a notice from President Greene hailing Mayflower Hill's positive efforts to fight COVID-19. The email left the door open for further expansions of freedom. Greene's announcement was a sign of great news and hope for athletes, sports enthusiasts, and Mules fans everywhere.

"[Colby] had a successful program of training and inter-squad scrimmages in athletics, and the question about whether we might be able to support inter-collegiate competitions this semester remains open. I hope so, even if it is more restricted in scope than we would normally see," Greene wrote. "For our winter teams (and especially for our seniors on them), even a few local contests would make a big difference."

Scrimmages with other teams would offer a fresh taste of competition that teams would not ordinarily appreciate. The chance for intercollegiate competition would make a world of a difference. Saying the option "remains open" is not a guarantee, these words alone bring hope to students.

As far as more restrictions go, there's not a senior or underclassmen alike who would not agree to greater restrictions than normal for the honor to compete again. In the same email Greene continued, offering sympathy to the teams and giving further details.

"Our spring teams lost their season last year, and while no conference-wide decision about this spring has yet been made, I am

personally committed to identifying opportunities for our teams to compete," Greene wrote.

"Our decisions in this area, of course, will be guided by ensuring the safety of our students and the broader community, and nothing will supersede that priority," Greene added.

Spring teams lost their season last year and fall teams lost theirs this year, so ideally both could be compensated by this change.

On-campus speculation suggests that competitive opportunities would come from other Maine Colleges. Limited contact and all other possible measures would be taken to ensure both teams stay safe long after the competition ends. Colby softball player, Laura Powell '22, was quite pleased about recent news.

"I am so excited at the possibility of getting to play other schools," Powell said. "I think it really means a lot to all student-athletes to see how hard the administration is working to get us playing again."

Katharine Dougherty '22, of Colby Women's Tennis had this to say on Greene's statement:

"We've been working extremely hard since the beginning of our season this semester and have used this unique opportunity to grow as a team. We all know that we are incredibly lucky to be able to practice together as a whole team because the reality is that many other schools and teams are not in the same position we are. We are still hopeful about having competitions this semester, even if that means just playing Bates or other Maine schools."

"Regardless, we will continue to use this

time to strengthen our program so that way when we finally are able to compete, we are ready to hit the ground running and utilize our strengths," Dougherty added.

Dougherty and Powell's statements reflect the hope and perseverance of Colby's student-athlete community. Colby's state-of-the-art athletic and recreational facilities, coupled with a fall semester of uninterrupted training, will be sure to land the Mules in a class above any team they face.

Greene also reminded students to stay vigilant with COVID-19 preventative measures.

"One of the most important lessons of the last several months is that while we cannot control the spread of the virus across the country and around the world, our personal behavior, day in and day out, determines the safety of our community and our ability to stay together," Greene wrote. "If we sharpen this focus on keeping everyone safe, we should be in a good

position to expand our programmatic opportunities in the weeks and months ahead."

Personal behavior, athletic or otherwise, is the most important factor in keeping safe on campus. Of course, safety will in no way be sacrificed for athletics.

Just as Greene's email declared commencement ceremonies would be live-streamed for the greater Colby Community to enjoy, many teams have already begun to livestream their intrasquad scrimmages for their fans around

the globe. Notably, the men's and women's Rugby teams streamed their faux-competitions on Facebook Live with support pouring in from alumni, parents, and enthusiasts everywhere.

If the COVID-19 situation has shown anything positive about the resiliency and strength of the Colby community, it is that we are all willing to sacrifice, persevere, and adapt to make the most of situations that once seemed unimaginable.



ALEC CHAPMAN '21

View of the second floor of the Harold Alford Recreational and Athletic Center, featuring the new weight room and lounge area.

Forum

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Sustainability

Driving electric at Colby: is it possible?

By ADRIAN VISSCHER
Sustainability Columnist

This past week, the *Wall Street Journal* posted an article titled: “What’s Missing in the Electric-Vehicle Revolution: Enough Places to Plug In.” With growing interest in the electric car market being reflected in companies like Tesla, the practicality of shifting the way we travel has to be considered.

The article specifically focused on car manufacturers other than Tesla and highlighted the difficulty one finds when searching for a charging station. While on the road, users discovered that stations were sparse and overcrowded, resulting in delays while attempting longer drives. The infrastructure within the United States certainly needs to be expanded, but what is like for a College student?

It is hard to miss the charging stations on Campus, especially when entering the Athletic Center. In fact, the College has offered this resource for electric cars since 2005 when the Alumni Center was built. At the time, three to four faculty had electric cars and the charging process would take twenty-four hours to complete. Today, the electric vehicle scene has grown, and there are a total of six stations affiliated with ChargePoint on campus, offering a total of twelve spots. There is also an additional station in the parking lot of the Downtown apartments.

“In 2018, there were three dual ports installed in the Diamond lot, and then, with the Athletic Center being built, three more were added”, said Sandy Beauregard, the Director of Sustainability. She cited a growing amount of interest, a projected increase in the amount of electric vehicles, and adher-

ence to LEED standards for these recent additions. The new stations are also considered level two, meaning that a fully electric car can be charged within four hours.

Additionally, the previously mentioned new ChargePoint interface allows users to connect and see data on their phones about when their car is full.

In the future, Beauregard also mentioned that the new performing arts center, once built, will have two or three more charging points. However, while these resources are readily available, the question of how frequently they are utilized still stands.

“In February, nineteen unique vehicles used the charging stations”, Beauregard said, and she predicts that this number is predominantly made up of faculty and staff. However, as Maine becomes more electric car friendly, the amount of electric vehicles, especially those owned by students, may increase. The state of Maine has made recent efforts to strengthen their infrastructure, adding charging stations and financial incentives.

With both Maine and the usage for College laying the groundwork for electric cars, the prospects for growth and the potential for an electric car dominated campus seem in reach. I personally still believe that this future may be relatively far. However, as students, I think it is important to recognize the privilege we have to make the transition to electric vehicles, as we have strong infrastructure and networks to use. Obviously, it would be absurd for people to scrap or sell their cars and buy electric ones. But, in the future, when thinking about your next vehicle, remember that driving electric is possible at the College.



SARAH WARNER '21

Cam in the Woods

Finding solace in Front & Main



FRONTANDMAINWATERVILLE.COM

By CAM WOODS
Lifestyle Columnist

It seems that while all of us were distracted living through a pandemic, a civil rights movement, a Capitol insurrection, and a series of natural disasters, our calendars continued to push forward without us reaching, as of this week, March once again.

The arrival of this milestone was hardly met with open arms, as most of the world is still recovering from the trauma that was last March. For me personally, it marks a year since I was traversing the cobblestone streets of Covent Garden, speaking French late into the evening with locals in Paris, and cooling off in the Balearic Sea. I was experimenting with fashion, food, culture, modeling, and a new sense of identity. For the first time in a long time, I felt utterly fulfilled and alive.

I suppose that is when I first understood that there is a deeply raw truth in the humorous statement “abroad changed me” — a phrase that is thrown around so often at Colby that it has begun to delegitimize the sincere feelings of growth and change that occur after spending time in a foreign land. It does change you. It is supposed to change you.

It was hard transitioning back to the United States, specifically to my hometown of Yarmouth, Maine — where the go-to fashion piece is a pair of L.L. Bean boots and the staple cuisine is a lobster roll. I was frustrated by the familiarity of it and dissatisfied with the homogeneity of it all. I began searching for pieces of abroad everywhere I went: the bookstore, the market, the beach,

clothing, conversations, people.

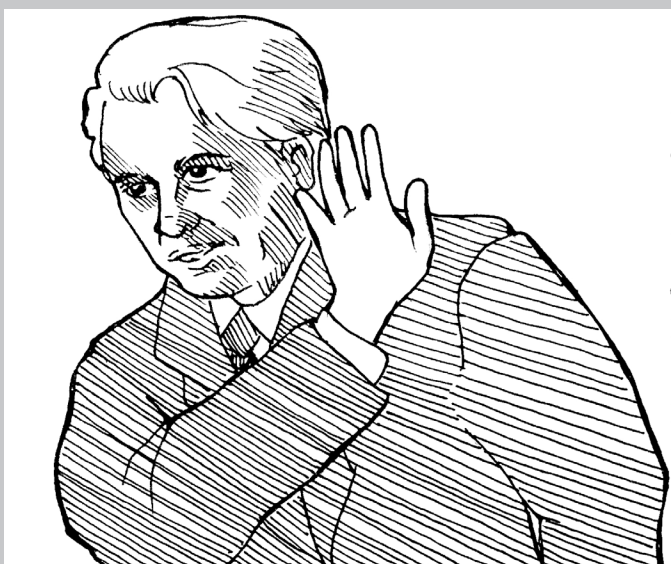
Returning to Colby was even harder yet, as I was being thrust back into an isolated bubble that represented everything I had been seeking to distance myself from. I found solace in both those experiencing similar sensations, and the promise that I would return to Europe soon.

Most recently, I have found solace in something entirely different: a cozy new eatery and bar called Front & Main, located in the Lockwood Hotel. I have never been one to grant a restaurant much more thought than the average praise of food or perhaps the more advanced praise of drink. However, the energy surrounding Front & Main filled the gaping cultural hole I had been experiencing so much so that I convinced them to let me join their team.

Set to open on March 18, the highly anticipated restaurant is led by Executive Chef Jesse Souza — a gentleman who approaches food as thoughtfully as one would a form of art, brushing exciting tastes and flavors over his canvas — and Director of Food and Beverage John Phillips-Sandy whose passion for, and knowledge of, fine wine and drink is the most extensive in the area.

Rooted in locally sourced Maine produce, an excellent selection of drinks, and an inviting atmosphere, Front & Main seamlessly combines the best parts of our great state with a fine dining experience. In my unbiased opinion, I suspect that it will be Waterville’s most coveted spot. In my biased opinion, I am certain that it will be Waterville’s most coveted spot. Join me on March 18 to find out for yourself.

The Colby Echo Cartoon Caption Contest



Each week, *The Colby Echo* will post a captionless cartoon on Instagram. Comment or DM us (@colbyecho) your cleverest caption. Our staff will choose two finalists. You, the reader, then will get to vote for your favorite caption. The winning caption will be published in print. Happy captioning!