

Column: Ryan Mark’s Remarks

As temperatures surge, so do tempers and violent crime rates

By RYAN MARK
Columnist

When you think of the temperature outdoors, mental and behavioral changes don’t often come to mind. However, studies have shown a correlation between higher temperatures and increased aggression in human behavior. According to these studies, heat makes individuals more irritable, which in turn increases the likelihood of committing violence.

According to Gregory Wellenius, Boston University Professor of Environmental Health and Director of BU’s Program on Climate and Health, on days with higher temperatures, there is a higher risk of visits to the emergency room for substance abuse,

mood and anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and dementia. Higher temperatures also affect people’s professional lives, with a greater risk of judgment errors, worse performance on tests, and injuries in the workplace.

In a 2000 laboratory experiment conducted by social scientist Craig Anderson in *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*, undergraduate students were observed as they were tasked with watching the same clip of a couple’s interaction, but at different temperatures. The students were asked to rate the hostility level of the couples in the video.

The study found that the students who watched the clip in a hotter climate scored

the couple as more hostile than the students placed in cooler rooms.

The correlation between hotter temperatures and aggressive behavior extends beyond a controlled experimental setting. Data collected by re-

search economist and data scientist Kilian Heilmann and his team in Los Angeles from 2010 to 2017 (published in May 2021 in the *Journal of Public Economics*) shows that violent crime was 5.5% higher on days where temperatures ranged

from 75°F to 89°F. On days where the temperature was even more extreme, violent crime was found to be 10% higher.

Anderson also observed that violent incidents were less common at colder temperatures. Thus,

to combat the negative effects that come with hot days, it is important to find places to escape the heat and to stay hydrated. Luckily, going into the winter season, hot temperatures outside should not pose this issue on campus.



EMMA ROSENTHAL

High temperatures are correlated with elevated violent crime and may produce measurable cognitive effects.

SGA seeks to foster deeper connection with student body with round table event

By MILO LANI-CAPUTO
News Editor

On Oct. 24, the Student Government Association (SGA) held a round-table event, inviting campus leaders to join in a conversation intended to point out problems in the community and identify possible solutions.

SGA sent an email out to student leaders at the College acknowledging the frustration and pain they perceive in the campus community. The email explained that SGA exists to “hear and support student voices.”

While around 400 students were invited to the round-table event, there were no more than a few dozen people in the Alumni Center on Sunday night. Several SGA members shared their perspectives with *The Colby Echo* on their relationship with the student body.

One class senator expressed concerns that SGA might seem inaccessible to the student body.

“I think a lot of people are unsure of what SGA does,” Sarah Snyder ’24, told *The Colby Echo*. “We do a lot. [When I was a first-year] I wasn’t really sure, if I go [to an SGA meeting], is it really going to make a difference?”

Others wondered if SGA was disconnected from the student body at large.

“A lot of times, there’s a lot of people of similar friend groups who are on SGA,” another class senator explained.

“We don’t get the whole student body representation by just asking our friends, so it would be nice to have a more inclusive

survey sent out [to the student body].”

SGA Vice President Laura Powell ’22 told *The Colby Echo* that

“I think students sometimes don’t think we’re trying. I think we are a lot of times, and we receive that pushback a lot.”

Laura Powell ’22
SGA Vice President

it sometimes seems like the student body doesn’t fully understand the daily undertakings of SGA.

“I think students sometimes don’t think we’re trying,” she said. “I think we are a lot of times, and we receive that pushback a lot. That’s really frustrating, and [we are] trying to work on how we can improve that going forward, because we all need to work together or [at the] end of the day nothing’s going to get done.”

Powell explained that SGA is ramping up efforts to foster deeper connection between it and the student body.

“This meeting was a first step,” she said. “We invited over 300 people and obviously those numbers didn’t show up. Doing more things like this, talking with more students, and connecting is going to be a really great way to engage more. [I hope] we can actually start to hear what is going on instead of assuming what we think is going on.”

SGA President Lukas Alexander ’22 added that their efforts are not just isolated to

Sunday evening events in the Alumni Center.

“Last week I did a bunch of tabling in the Spa with the goal of increasing people’s knowledge and awareness of what SGA does, what we’re actively doing and working on, and who’s on it,” he said.

“I think those three pieces of information can really help drive a conversation about, ‘okay, what could I go to SGA for, or who should I reach out to when I have ‘x’ problem?’ We’re [taking] a multifaceted approach to increase outreach, increase transparency, and better represent all students.”

Recently, SGA has been dealing with complaints about laundry on campus. Washing machines and dryers have been out of order in the Alford Apartments, Roberts Row,

and other dorms. SGA candidates have run with laundry reform on their platforms for years but have had little success in ameliorating student concerns.

Powell and Alexander explained that SGA advocates on behalf of the student body, but is sometimes unable to compel the administration to take desired action. Additionally, some SGA members noted that it can be difficult to overcome the bureaucratic inertia inherent in the organization.

Actions taken in SGA must be submitted as motions, which are then modified by other members of SGA. Each motion must be voted on in order to pass and for SGA to take action upon it. This process is used for tasks as small as sending out an email.

However, despite the hoops they must jump through, SGA maintains an active presence on campus.

The organization re-

wise be able to leave campus. Additionally, SGA worked to establish this semester’s dining hall tupperware exchange system.

SGA members stressed that they serve the student body, but that it can be difficult to advocate for students from whom they don’t hear. They plan to continue their process of outreach in order to learn about students’ varied opinions. One anonymous class senator told *The Colby Echo* that she hopes meetings like this one are successful.

“A lot of us [senators] think it would be great to see more people come to [SGA] meetings,” she said, encouraging club leaders and students alike to voice their concerns to their SGA representatives.



EMMA ROSENTHAL

Students gathered at a round table in the Alumni Center to bring up campus problems and discuss solutions with SGA members.

Security Incident Report Log

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POSSESSION OF FALSE IDENTIFICATION
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ASSAULT
FIRE SAFETY INCIDENT
DRUG VIOLATION
ACCIDENT
UNDERAGE DRINKING
NOISE COMPLAINT

Interest groups weigh in before the vote on Question 1, which will determine the future of Maine’s energy

By RAGHAV SURYANARAYAN
Contributing Writer

“Question 1” is a contentious and controversial measure that has now become the highest-funded ballot initiative in the state’s history. On Nov. 2, the state of Maine will put it and two other measures to a vote. The exact text of “Question 1” is as follows:

“Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to require the

Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land?”

The first part of this ballot measure asks voters if they would like to “ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region.” The measure is referring to the CMP corridor, a 145-mile stretch of land on which the company is building electric transmission lines. About 50 miles of the corridor will cross through unbroken forest that would need to be cut down before construction could begin. The corridor would, controversially, pass over a disputed stretch of

public land.

These lines would be built by Central Maine Power (CMP) and send hydroelectric power from Canadian utility Hydro-Quebec to a converting station in Lewiston. From there, the electricity would be introduced into the New England energy grid, supplying power to most of the region with much of the power going to Massachusetts.

The ballot measure also asks voters if they would like “to require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to require the Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land.”

This portion of the ballot measure requires two-thirds of the Maine legislature to re-approve all energy projects on public land going back to 2014. It mandates a vote on all energy projects on public land since 2020. Future energy projects would also be put to a vote. The year 2014 is significant as it was when the CMP project was initially approved.

If Maine residents vote “yes” on the initiative, then they are in favor of prohibiting the CMP corridor’s construction and of requiring the state legislature to approve future high-impact energy projects. By voting “no,” Mainers support the continuing the construction.

Adam R. Cote, the chief legal expert for the “Yes on 1” campaign, discussed the purpose of Question 1 with

The Colby Echo. Cote’s initial justification for voting yes on Question 1 was purely legal.

“[Question 1] was written to reinforce the Constitutional requirement in Maine that the legislature needs to be involved when public land is sold or substantially altered,” he said.

Cote is referring to Article IX, Section 23 of the Maine State Constitution, which dictates that sales or alterations of “public lots” of land must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the legislature. The “Yes on 1” campaign argues that this section of Maine’s constitution was violated when the state legislature originally approved the CMP corridor.

From an environmental perspective, Cote’s reason for voting yes on Question 1 focused on the project’s inability to generate clean energy.

“This project does not add new clean generation in Maine. It essentially takes existing hydro generation in Canada and sells it at a higher price to buyers in Massachusetts,” he said.

The “Yes on 1” campaign believes that the environmental justification for building the corridor and sending hydroelectric power to New England is weak. Instead of this project, they say, Maine should focus on clean energy projects instead that can not only diversify our energy sources but also invigorate our local economies.

While the “Yes on 1” campaign appears to be pro-environment, it is difficult to look past its sources of

For sample ballots visit: waterville-me.gov/content/1381339042mainesampleballot.pdf

For voter registration information visit: maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/votreg.html

For voting information visit: maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/data/data-pdf/votingplace1121.pdf

funding. Its highest donor, Next Era Energy Resources LLC., is an electricity supplier based in Florida that owns and operates one of the largest natural gas-fired power plants in Maine. When asked about this inconsistency between stance and funding, Cote’s response was succinct.

“There [is] a broad coalition of folks who are opposed to the [CMP] corridor. Many pro-environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, Natural Resource Council, and others are opposed to the project because of environmental concerns. Furthermore, the top three donors for the “Yes on 1” campaign own and operate many clean energy, mainly solar and wind, utilities across the country,” he said.

While Question 1 has received support from Mainers across the state, there is significant opposition as well. Maine State Senator Trey Stewart spoke with *The Colby Echo* about the opposition to Question 1.

When asked about his primary opposition to Question 1, Stewart insisted that this ballot measure was not representative of the wishes of the people of Maine.

“This initiative is an at-

tempt from the fossil fuel industry, mainly companies based out of Texas and Florida, to do whatever they can in a last-ditch effort to block a project that is going to be a serious competitor for them,” he said. “The displacement of fossil fuel with hydroelectric energy can cost them up to 1-3 million dollars a day.”

Stewart also believes that the project would have a net-positive impact on the state and its people. According to Stewart, the integration of clean energy into the New England grid would have a clear environmental benefit, despite the impact of clearcutting 50 miles of trees in Western Maine.

Another primary concern of the “No on 1” campaign is that Question 1 gives the Maine legislature retroactive powers over energy projects back to 2014. In Stewart’s view, this is a bad deal for business in Maine.

“Giving the legislature the ability to take action retroactively sends a signal to businesses that Maine is not open for your innovative projects, Maine doesn’t want to be a part of any clean future,” he said.

This highly contentious issue comes to the ballot on Nov. 2.



PIXABAY

Environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club and Natural Resource Council, worry that the CMP corridor would disturb Maine’s wilderness.

Poetry Column

Her hair, her choice

By MAAHEEN SHAIKH
Columnist

“What is the
Rag you don
Upon your shiny, thick locks;
They are so beautiful left bare —
Why would you ever
Cover
Them up?”

“What is the reason
You follow such an
Oppressive
Religion? You don’t
Have any
Autonomy
Over your head or
Body;
Come here, let me show you
What it is to
Live freely — “

These are the words
Bestowed upon a student
Fighting to keep her hijab, against a teacher who wishes to remove it;
These are the things
A second-grade girl
Is singled out to hear
Among a crowd of her peers;
These are the ideas
Instilled in the youth — freedom isn’t freedom
Until it fits the western noose;
Freedom isn’t freedom
Until someone loses the right to choose;

Freedom isn’t freedom
Until it’s coerced —
Never mind that a
Child not even yet nine
Just wanted to
Wear something she liked;
It didn’t
Fit the bill
Of the average girl’s garb — so naturally
It could only be oppression
Or insecurity
That led her to put it on —

What kind of message
Does that little girl receive?
That her religious heritage is
Inferior to
Others’ views on
Who she should be?
It’s more than just clothes; it’s about what they represent
It’s about how a child’s choice
Riled up the teacher’s voice
Which detonated a stereotype—the very stereotype
Every Muslim woman wishes and prays
To avoid —

Muslim women aren’t helpless creatures just thrust across an Islamic void;
Muslim women aren’t sad or forced to keep quiet, modest poise;
Muslim women aren’t voiceless or broken or helpless porcelain toys

Muslim women have iron spines — of love, of fire, of fight
So fear the day that that little Muslim girl
Grows into a Muslim woman
And pity the one who tells her then
What she can wear or what she shouldn’t.

Last week, teacher Tamar Herman from Seth Boyden Elementary in Maplewood, NJ, forcibly removed a second-grade student’s hijab under the guise of “liberating” the little girl. The girl resisted, clearly wishing to keep her scarf atop her head. This teacher persisted, insisting that the girl uncover her hair because it was “so beautiful.” Herman told the girl she “didn’t have to wear her hijab to school anymore,” completely disregarding the possibility that perhaps the girl wanted to.

In a room full of highly impressionable children, Herman turned this girl into a spectacle of insecurity and oppression, leaving the child humiliated in her classroom by someone meant to nurture and protect all children therein.

This incident isn’t isolated; it affects multiple people. There’s the girl who was assaulted by a teacher, who may not recognize what occurred but feels scared nonetheless,

yes, but there are also the girl’s peers, who may also adopt the views of the teacher and demonize the hijab.

The hijab is a spiritual choice embodied by a holy garment, but it is also just a piece of clothing. If one cannot agree with or refuses to understand its religious importance, that is that person’s prerogative. However, it is not allotted within said prerogative to dictate another’s wardrobe. This child probably didn’t know the deeper meaning of the hijab and wore it regardless. She fought to keep it on, even as Herman opposed her. She wanted to wear it. While the unfortunate truth is that in some parts of the world, women don’t have a choice and are forced to cover up, that wasn’t the case here, and it usually isn’t the case with women who don the hijab in the United States.

I am a proud American woman who wears the hijab. I, too, started from a young age, solely because I wanted to be like my mother. As I grew, I learned about the deeper importance of the hijab and chose to keep wearing it because of the way it tied me to my religion. Unfortunately, it also tied me to something else: Islamophobia. Lewd comments. Unkind gazes. Blatant stares. I’ve been fortunate that I never experienced the levels of animosity other women have, but knowing that it also happens to children splinters my soul. My initial reaction is always sadness, but it is immediately succeeded by anger, for how dare the western worldview turn us into broken dolls? How dare the Western worldview break us down, just to pat itself on the back for supposedly picking us up? How dare they demonize us? How dare the western world bend over backwards to find an unflattering narrative to plaster onto the Muslim woman?

We Muslim women
Do not need to be saved
We Muslim women
Have fire in our veins.
We Muslim women
May turn the other cheek
But we Muslim women
Have never been known to be meek.

Whether it be undermined by an unfit American teacher or the whole of the French government, one truth will forever remain: Muslim girls will become Muslim women, and they will wear their hijabs. They will wear it for themselves, not because they are insecure about their hair or their bodies, but because the hijab makes them feel beautiful—because the hijab is a part of who they are. To an onlooker it may just be a piece of cloth. It may represent a terrorist’s garb. It may represent oppression. But to the Muslim woman it is pride. It is joy. It symbolizes the spirit and strength of Islam. It isn’t something any Muslim should feel obligated to justify.



MAAHEEN SHAIKH

Features

Colby Art Museum workshops encourage artistic expression

By ELAINE LIU
Features Reporter

Colby students looking for new ways to relax during the rigorous academic semester can now add Colby Art Museum workshops to their list of coping mechanisms. The workshops encourage self-reflection and cultivate creativity, providing healthy alternatives to unwind.

These small-scale workshops, often inspired by an artist's works in the galleries, revolve around specific art techniques, such as drypoint or silkscreen printing.

After walking through the exhibition, participants learn briefly about the necessary materials and steps that go into the art-making process. They then get the chance to apply their knowledge by creating their own unique artwork.

These workshops are part of the Colby Art Museum's effort to make art more accessible and interesting. They are available to both Colby students and visitors from outside the College, attracting a wide range of attendees. Participants vary from seniors citizens to art teachers to first-years looking to destress after midterms.

Kris Bergquist, the Mirken Curator of Education and Engagement of the Colby Art Museum, explained the organizers' intentions in creating the workshop series.

"The practice of making art is a way of reflecting on art that you've looked at in the museum, and it's a process that allows you to reflect on your own experiences," Bergquist said. "When you move from looking at art in the museum to making art inspired by what you've seen, you get to know the works of art better."

The drypoint printing workshop was an excellent example of the Museum's successful workshop series. Because the unfamiliar words "drypoint printing" can appear intimidating to beginners, the organizers were dedicated to making sure every participant had an enjoyable time, regardless of their skill level.

Tricia Yang '25, a participant in the workshop, said that it not only provided a good opportunity to start exploring the Museum, but also allowed everyone to practice drypoint.

"I think it was a really good introduction to the museum, because we got to see the exhibition and go to the studio," Yang said. "It's hard to start something in art because a lot of the time you don't have the resources. But the workshop was efficient and it made sure everybody had a chance to try."

"The practice of making art is a way of reflecting on art that you've looked at in the museum, and it's a process that allows you to reflect on your own experiences."

Kris Bergquist
Mirken Curator of Education and Engagement of the Colby Art Museum

Beyond encouraging participants to familiarize themselves with Museum resources, the workshops also helped participants understand the exhibitions better. For instance, the drypoint printing workshop helped participants better appreciate the works of Mary Cassatt.

"The printmaking processes Mary Cassatt used are not ones that most people have a chance to do," Bergquist said. "In the exhibition you really get to see Mary Cassatt experiment with the printmaking process. So I wanted to give people the opportunity to see that they can also experiment with printmaking."

By expanding the art-

learning experience to both studying and making works of art, the workshops create an environment where participants can discover and share the joy of making art.

Lunder Institute for American Art Residential Fellow Adriane Herman led the drypoint workshop. She recalled watching a nurse exclaim excitedly as her creation came to life.

"I was delighted that some of the workshop participants were very enthusiastic. When things were going off the press, the nurse was saying 'that's spectacular!' That sense of enthusiasm really spread," Herman said.

By helping participants learn and appreciate art, the workshops help cultivate participants' ability to appreciate artistic nuance that will accompany them throughout life. Physical processes, like drypoint printing, force each artist to notice how their actions can make a big difference on their artwork.

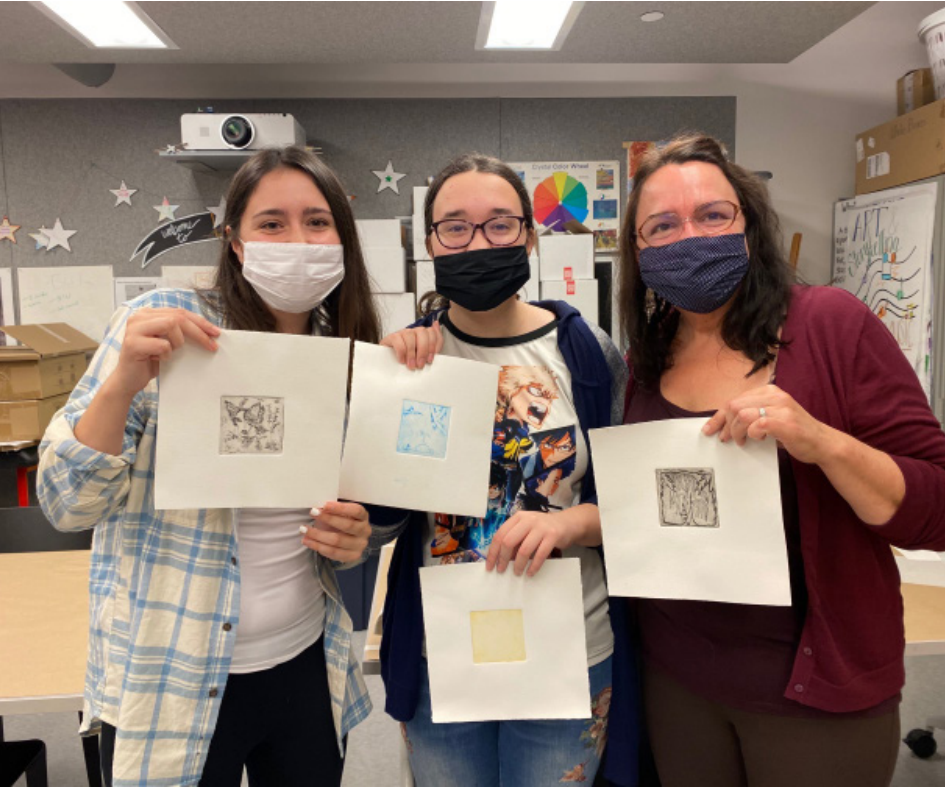
"I think noticing the subtlety of something is what keeps us human and compassionate," Herman said. "Noticing detail is very important, whether people want to make more drypoints or not. It tunes us into the world and that seems like an important goal."

The workshops have not always been hosted in-person, but COVID-19 did not prevent the Museum educators from striving to create meaningful learning opportunities. One of the first workshops was inspired by the exhibition *Miracles on the Border: Retablos of Mexican Migrants to the United States* during the Spring of 2020.

"We wanted to do an art-making experience with this exhibition because it was such a wonderful way of thinking about how you would tell your own story about something you felt was a significant moment of your life," Herman said.

Many students, staff, and community members enjoyed the workshop. To meet demand, the Museum hosted it again.

"People felt like it was something really special, and they wanted more of that opportunity to learn about an exhibition and also create art," Herman said.



ADRIANE HERMAN

Lunder Institute for American Art Residential Fellow Adriane Herman (above) has taught students and community members about drypoint printing in a series of workshops.

cial, and they wanted more of that opportunity to learn about an exhibition and also create art," Herman said.

The Colby Art Museum offers amazing opportunities for students to get in touch with their artistic side and relieve stress. Beyond its pristine glass walls lies a treasure trove of new opportunities and

experiences.

The Colby Art Museum also offers many other educational programs. One of their current programs is called "Let Art Inspire," a wellness initiative that focuses on using art to promote mental and physical health through yoga and meditation sessions. The Museum also gives out free cre-

ate it kits to help students create art independently.

It can be easy to overlook artistic development in a demanding academic setting. It is vital to remember that art can be a reflective process that allows the artist to spend time with themselves and develop creativity, a necessary skill for all disciplines.

Student feature: Trevor Yamada and the Colby Music Incubator

By MARTRITA CURCIO
Columnist

Trevor Yamada '22 is the co-president of the Colby Music Incubator (CMI) alongside Sophie Nacht '23. I sat down with Yamada to talk about the CMI.

To set the scene, Yamada's room is full of guitars and plants. He has a blue guitar on his lap, which he

is strumming softly.

Before discussing the CMI, we talked a little bit about Yamada and how he became the leader of the group: he is a senior music-interdisciplinary computation major and an economics minor. That was a new major to me, so I inquired about what it means.

"If I had to describe my major, I'd say that it's a double major

with less work, not that I haven't had to work hard," he said.

Yamada explained that the CMI aims to help students create and perform music on campus.

Below is a series of questions and answers with Yamada.

Maryrita Curcio: What work goes on at the CMI?

Trevor Yamada: We are constantly planning for future live

performances, with our first official show on Halloween weekend. Located in the basement of Bob's and incorporated into the same space as WMHB 89.7FM, Colby's very own radio station, the CMI works to be a hub of musical activity. Whatever an artist could ever need to make or practice music is located in the multiroom area that we enjoy. Re-

cording booths, microphones, guitars, bass, etc; there is really no end to the amount of equipment that we have.

MC: With all of these options, it must take a good amount of planning and leadership to run this club. Can you tell me a little about your co-president Sophie Nacht?

TY: If I'm being honest, she's easily the main force behind the recent push towards updating and renewing the space we occupy. It looks great! So all the credit should go to her, even though I think that I'm also making a name for myself this semester. She started as co-president during her freshman year, so she's been around for a while.

MC: The CMI has a wide variety of tools that can help musicians, but is CMI membership only extended to those who have a musical background?

TY: No! To be a part of the club, all you need is a passion for live performance and musical production. Anyone can join, but ideally they have a reason, like making music or performing live.

MC: With the CMI being open to anyone to join, how many members do you currently have?

TY: I think right now there is no definite number, only because there are waves

of people that come to use the space. If I had to guess, probably around 100, but more realistically, probably 30 people that actively participate.

MC: As a senior at the CMI and having been an active participant in the club for the last three years, what are your goals for senior year?

TY: I'm hoping to do some crazy shows, and hopefully create a Colby College label under which students would be able to publish their music while at school.

MC: Is there anything else that you want people to know about the CMI?

TY: It's not just a creepy hallway in Bob's! But no, seriously though, it's not just a creepy hallway in Bob's. It's a great space and a diamond in the rough in my opinion, even if it's just a quiet space to study. Look forward to some awesome shows this year!

From this interview, it is clear that the CMI is a hidden gem. It seems like a place that should be on everyone's bucket list. It is an inclusive space for both the uber talented and those just putting their foot in the door.

If you want to see the CMI in action, be sure to check out the Halloween concert on Saturday. It will take place from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Heights common room.



ZAIE NURSEY

Trevor Yamada '22 (above) will perform in the Colby Music Incubator's first official show on Halloween weekend.

Visiting Writers Series: Pamela Erens discusses reading and writing a different point of view

By MOLLY GEORGE
A&E/Opinions Editor

Pamela Erens has written several critically-acclaimed novels approaching heavy subjects with intuition, subjectivity, and grace to make unique perspectives accessible. The author’s visit to the College on Monday, Oct. 25 included a 1 p.m. class visit and a 5 p.m. reading, both focused on the construction of a point of view different from the writer’s own. In a class talk during Professor of English Sarah Braunstein’s workshop on perspectives, students read and discussed Erens’s novel “Eleven Hours,” a deep dive into the emotive experience of childbirth, stemming from the author’s own experience but reaching far beyond. “It is representative of the bigger story of life and death that a hospital sees, and I almost saw

the hospital as a city, one that contained and allowed the intersection of all these different lives,” Erens said. Erens drew inspiration for the structure of two overlapping points of view in “Eleven Hours” from Virginia Woolf’s fluid narration in “Mrs. Dalloway” and “To the Lighthouse,” and sectioned each main point of view intuitively. “I read and read until those voices were in me,” she said. Visual art and poetry make Erens aware of various approaches to perspective to apply to her fiction work, writing from “a vast array of different sounds of voices.” Erens constructs her work sentence by sentence, and frequently asks herself “what does this sentence need to say?” This method allows creative, descriptive, and detailed language to flow through Erens’s work, while paring down the

content to drive the text with a clear voice and urgent story.

“It is representative of a bigger story of life and death that a hospital sees, and I almost saw the hospital as a city, one that contained and allowed the intersection of all these different lives.”

Pamela Erens
Author

With experience as a magazine editor, short story writer, and novelist, Erens explained her approach to different forms of prose as an introvert. “I don’t stare at people because it makes me feel I’m being rude, so I miss opportunities to people-watch ... but I ‘stare’ at them in my imagination, via fiction,” she said. Internalizing or inhabiting a perspective requires rich exploration. Erens wrote an essay, “In Search of the Perfect Point of View,” which explains her approach to a “Fake Omniscient Narrator” out of a first-person voice, a narrator who invents truth to tell an entire story. This is the type of narrator Erens employs in her novel “The Virgins,” an excerpt from which she read on Monday afternoon, introduced by her former classmate Professor of English Debra Spark. Erens also read from

her 2007 novel “The Understory” which she wrote with a creative approach toward truth, her intended tone being “a little funny as well as perfectly serious.”

“I am driven by the sound of the language. A strong downbeat tells me the piece is done.”

Pamela Erens
Author

This was her tone while reading her work from an unlikeable point of view, making it sound authentic and reliable throughout the excerpt, despite questionable actions. Creative writing stu-

dent Isabelle Harrison Bregman ’24 asked Erens, who read from two of her novels with a male point of view, about writing from an opposing perspective. Erens explained her process of choosing a narrator with a different and even distant experience in order to create a character or persona separate from the writer’s emotions. “This was the first author talk I’ve attended since the pandemic, and it was a nice normal event,” Bregman said. Erens engaged a full Parker Reed room of creative writers with her thoughtful and witty advice on fiction writing. Erens’s prose involves lyrical strategy drawn from poetry with the analytical approach of an editor. “I am driven by the sound of the language. A strong downbeat tells me the piece is done,” she said.

“The Velvet Underground”: a documentary review

By TANVI IYER
A&E Reporter

The 1960s were perhaps the most influential time period for classic rock and roll music, with multiple popular music acts, such as The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and even Jimi Hendrix rising to mainstream fame. However, a less talked about, but equally important band also gained momentum at this time: The Velvet Underground. The Velvet Underground is widely regarded as one of the most influential American rock bands. It was originally composed of four members: singer/guitarist Lou Reed, multi-instrumentalist John Cale, guitarist Sterling Morrison, and drummer Angus MacLise. In 1966, Andy Warhol became the band’s manager,

and they joined his art collective known as The Factory. The Velvet Underground’s debut album was created in collaboration with Nico, a German singer and model, and titled “The Velvet Underground and Nico.” While it did not do all too well in its initial release, it is now an incredibly respected and renowned album, with songs like “Sunday Morning” and “Femme Fatale.” In fact, just this year *Rolling Stone* ranked this album number 23 in their 500 greatest albums of all time. On Friday, Oct. 15 a two-hour documentary directed by Todd Haynes was released in theaters and on Apple TV+, the first documentary ever created about the band. The film explores how each member came to join the band and re-

counts some of their stories along the way. It truly captures the essence of what The Velvet Underground stood for and the various struggles they faced throughout their rise. The documentary provides a detailed look into each of the band members’ upbringings and shows how they all came together. This deep dive into each of their lives humanizes the band as it highlights their struggles in great detail. Moreover, it also highlights Lou Reed’s queer identity and how it fit into New York City club culture, as well as the band’s hardcore experience with drugs, all of which serve to characterize the 60s. Since many of the original members of the band have unfortunately passed away, family members gave testimoni-

als throughout the documentary, offering a much closer look into the members’ tumultuous personalities and family lives. While the content of the documentary is quite interesting, the film’s style is the star of the show. It is aesthetically pleasing and delivers the information in an efficient manner. The color palette of black, white, and pink is very consistent. Additionally, the pieces of the documentary are put together in a less traditional fashion, with most of the video clips off-center and the testimonials mainly in the form of voiceovers. I would argue that this design can get a bit tiresome to look at after a while, but I think it suited the subject matter being discussed. The Velvet Underground themselves were an incredibly experimental band, and

this documentary delivers that experience on all levels. One of the biggest issues with the documentary is that it requires a decent amount of background knowledge about the band and the influence Andy Warhol had on the New York City art scene at the time. As someone with limited background knowledge on the band, I found myself having to research things on my phone while watching the documentary in order to fully understand what the narrators were talking about. Opening up with a brief introduction about how influential the band has been in testimonials from other influential musicians would have provided a better foundation for the audience and fit the documentary style. Unfortunately, without this

image, sitting through two hours of the dense documentary was quite a tedious task that required excessive additional research. I also wish this documentary had further discussed the continued impact the band has had on pop culture. This would have allowed viewers to think about the subject matter in a context with which they are more familiar. While this documentary does have its flaws, it was still an entertaining and unique watch. There was definitely a lot to learn and if the band itself is not interesting, the visuals and film style surpassed typical documentary style and were enough to keep me engaged. If you have two hours to spare, it is definitely worth a watch!

Overall rating: 7/10

The new normal: “reconnecting...” and what that means

By TARA GODAY
Opinions Reporter

The other day, I was sitting on Miller Lawn, admiring the trees and writing an article that was supposed to be featured in the opinions section of *The Colby Echo* this week, when almost every student around me got up and left. I did not think much of it, and blamed it on the particularly strong gust of wind that had just hit us. But moments later when I began typing again my screen was frozen and refused to load. I loudly exclaimed “Is anyone else’s Wi-Fi not working?” mainly directing this question to my friends, but many students passing by answered with a clearly angry “Yes!” For about twenty minutes, I sat naively on the lawn, writing my article in the notes app and hoping the Wi-Fi would come back. When it didn’t, I retreated back to my residence at the Lockwood Hotel, with many friends piling into the backseat of my car hoping to take advantage of the hotel Wi-Fi. Though I was able to escape the Wi-Fi outage, I know many students living on campus did not have the same luxury. This thought led me to switch the topic of my story from an essay about how I have observed that women are constantly apologizing for things that are not our fault to the more pressing issue of the ongoing Wi-Fi crisis. I know many students will agree with me when I say that the Wi-Fi must be significantly improved. On a campus where our lives are ruled by work that requires constant Wi-Fi, many students are left trapped, unable to work and connect with each other through our normal modes of communication, when it abruptly stops working for hours.

Several of my friends and classmates told me they either visited Selah Tea, Starbucks, or used their phone as a hotspot to complete their work, but this leaves students who don’t have unlimited data or students who do not have a car stuck without Wi-Fi or any chance of completing their assignments. It is for these reasons that Colby must improve the Wi-Fi so that it is constantly accessible and high-quality. Discussing this with my friends, I learned that two of them have such a poor Wi-Fi connection in their rooms that they can’t even do work. Maya Sachs ’24 and Lily Rice ’24, residents of Dana, talked to me about how the Wi-Fi connection in their room can barely load a Youtube video or sustain multiple tabs open in a browser. This is simply unacceptable; students are constantly being bombarded with homework and assessments, and poor-quality Wi-Fi impedes students’ ability to meet their professors’ expectations. All students should be able to access high-quality, or at least consistent, Wi-Fi in their dorm rooms. Students were so frustrated that on Sunday, Oct. 24 a petition emerged titled “Acknowledgment of Colby Wi-Fi Issues and Impacts.” It outlines students’ frustrations with the ongoing Wi-Fi issues, stating, “As an institution that relies heavily on the wireless network, connectivity, and many digital platforms such as Google Suites and Moodle, it has been literally impossible to complete any of our assigned work.” A sentiment I have heard echoed many times today and earlier this week during the previous Wi-Fi outages is that students need Wi-Fi to keep up with constant academic demands. The College

administration should be taking immediate steps to mitigate these issues and ensure students’ success in the classroom. Colby students expect themselves to constantly produce a high standard of work while facing constant stressors from the pressure of both our environment and ourselves. We do not need any additional stress from fear that we will not be able to complete and submit our work because of Wi-Fi outages. In order to succeed as students, we need Wi-Fi that is not unreliable to the point that it impedes our ability to work. From casually speaking with students today, I learned that many classes were disrupted because of Friday’s Wi-Fi outages, with some professors unable to access their lesson plans or presentations for class. Some professors even went so far as to cancel their classes because

of the disruption. These occurrences make it clear that the College’s Wi-Fi problems have gone beyond students complaining about slow Wi-Fi or being unable to watch a full movie on Netflix without any buffering; students’ learning is now clearly being negatively impacted because of unreliable Wi-Fi. The students who wrote the petition are demanding that “classes are modified on Monday 10/25 and Tuesday 10/26 to account for the Wi-Fi issues experienced all throughout campus this weekend.” They imply that it is unreasonable to expect completed assignments when the majority of homework is based on using the internet in some capacity, and it is clear that many students agree with them, as nearly 250 people signed within just four hours of the petition’s creation. These outages have only

exacerbated students’ frustration with the existing Wi-Fi network. This semester, many students have had issues with accessing Wi-Fi and the speed of the network. It is clear that the current Wi-Fi network is not able to support the student body. In order for students’ needs to be met, the Wi-Fi not only needs to be available at all times, but the quality of the connection must be improved. In response to these ongoing internet challenges, the administration sent out an email to students and professors explaining the reason for the recent Wi-Fi outages and urging professors to be lenient with students who were unable to complete their assignments because of the lapse in Wi-Fi. Consistent Wi-Fi access is integral to student success in the classroom and especially in homework assignments, and therefore the proper steps need

to be taken to improve the current Wi-Fi. This ongoing Wi-Fi crisis outlines a need for more resources for students, specifically more IT support when these issues occur and better technology in place to keep them from occurring. The College needs to listen to students’ demands and ensure that all the resources we need to meet the high academic standards that are set for us are provided. It is critical that the administration follows through with the plan laid out in their email. These improvements in the Wi-Fi need to go beyond the network being able to operate without crashing, but also must be upgraded to a high-speed network. The College must provide a better Wi-Fi network that ensures that every student can learn without the constraints of malfunctioning Wi-Fi.



WENDY WEI

Sports

Hard-fought tie takes Colby Men's Rugby into the postseason

By WILL BEDINGFIELD
Sports Editor

Colby Men's Rugby hit the road this weekend, heading up to Orono, Maine to take on the University of Maine Black Bears. Going into the game, the Bears were 3-0 and Colby was 2-0, priming what would prove to be a hard-fought clash of divisional powerhouses. The game's winner would be declared division champion and earn the right to host their first playoff game on Saturday.

The game started with a well-placed dropkick from Peter Morariu '22 that slipped through the Black Bears' hands only to be returned to them due to a Colby penalty. The following phases resulted in only a few meters gained, but set the tone for Orono's offensive strategy.

Analogous to football's ground-and-pound style of running, the Black Bears run a pick-and-go offense, meaning that they rarely pass and prefer runs with minimal gain in an attempt to wear the opposing defense down.

The Colby defense, however, muscled up behind the likes of Vice-Captain Sam Donahue '22 and Jesse Higgins '22, shut down Orono runners at the gain-line and stuffed the Black Bears' attack. Donahue in particular dominated defensively, recording over eight "jackals,"

which is essentially when a defender strips the attacker of possession after making a successful tackle.

Possession swung back and forth between Orono's relentless beat-down style offense and Colby's skillful jackals, defensive stops, and several Colby penalties. A spark of excitement suddenly came from a Colby lineout thirty meters from the try-line. Running a play meant to swing the ball out wide, Colby's Mason McKee '25 took the ball off the lineout into the first ruck. Following a forwards-smash sort of play to set a second ruck, the ball swung from Morariu to Burr Rhoads '23 to Will Bedingfield '22.

Bedingfield had slotted in at inside-center to start this week after playing inside-center the past game and full-back in the opening match against Bowdoin. Back to the play with an Orono back line hot in pursuit of Rhoads, Bedingfield received the offload in stride, breaking through two Orono defenders before running clear into the try zone.

With the score now set at five to zero, the game sank back into the usual drudgery, with Orono controlling the offensive pace. Colby struggled to maintain possession due to dropped balls and penalties, but was always steadfast de-

fensively.

The next break came from Orono, who in an instance of creativity and athleticism, swung the ball wide through their back line and took a line break into the corner of the try zone after a few missed tackles. Luckily for Colby, a try scored in the corner of the try zone makes for a difficult low-angle extra points kick and the Orono kicker never stood a chance. The game was now level at five to five at the end of the first half.

The second half was a new game and the Mules came out firing. The first ten minutes of the second half showed signs of domination from Colby that could lead to an outstanding victory, but the team was still plagued by penalties and missed attacking opportunities. After one particular strand of repeated Colby penalties that contributed to Orono's attack, the Black Bears were able to pound the ball over the try line and take the lead. Luckily, Orono again missed the kick for extra points, making the score ten to five.

The Mules knew they had a tough game to finish, but had to dig deep to manifest success. After multiple substitutions in the second half to bring fresh legs and energy to the field, Colby found the break they were looking for on

a lineout twenty meters from Orono's try zone.

With a direct lineout to Bedingfield from Oliver Lawrence '22, who subbed in at scrum-half for Morariu, Bedingfield crashed past the forward pack, faking out an Orono would-be tackler, before trudging through to make it five meters from the try line.

Bedingfield took the ball into contact and set a ruck, letting Lawrence swing the ball to the far side where Brett Cosby '24 scored his second try of the year in the

corner of the try zone.

In a dramatic turn of events, Mack Fisher '22 took a difficult kick from a low-angle position and came up just short. Due to the Orono chase leaving early, however, Fisher was allowed to re-kick from the same position, but hit the crossbar.

The game petered on as it had the whole time, with a grueling Orono ground-and-pound and a resilient Colby counter. The final five minutes of the game were fought within Colby's 22-meter zone, with

Orono repeatedly picking and going, trying to wear down the Colby defensive line. However, in an epic standoff that ended inches from the try zone, Colby stood fast and held back Orono, sealing away a tie to end the game.

Without extra time, Orono ended their season with three wins and a draw compared to Colby's two wins and a draw. Due to the tie, Colby will travel to Middlebury, VT to take on the 4-0 Panthers on their own turf this Saturday.



STEVEN DITZLER

Mack Fisher '22 and Calvin Pike '24 buckle down to tackle a University of Maine runner.

Scores of the week

<p><i>Tuesday</i></p> <p>Field Hockey</p> <p>vs. Tufts University at Tufts University</p> <p>Loss</p> <p>0 - 6</p>	<p><i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>Women's Soccer</p> <p>vs. Thomas College at Thomas College</p> <p>Win</p> <p>4 - 0</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Field Hockey</p> <p>vs. Amherst College at Amherst College</p> <p>Loss</p> <p>0 - 4</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Women's Soccer</p> <p>vs. Amherst College at Amherst College</p> <p>Loss</p> <p>0 - 5</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Volleyball</p> <p>vs. Clark University at Clark University</p> <p>Win</p> <p>3 - 1</p>
<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Football</p> <p>vs. Trinity College at Home</p> <p>Loss</p> <p>12 - 35</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Men's Soccer</p> <p>vs. Amherst College at Amherst College</p> <p>Loss</p> <p>0 - 2</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Volleyball</p> <p>vs. Rivier College at Clark University</p> <p>Loss</p> <p>0 - 3</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Men's Rugby</p> <p>vs. University of Maine at Orono</p> <p>Tie</p> <p>10 - 10</p>	<p><i>Saturday</i></p> <p>Women's Rugby</p> <p>vs. Middlebury College at Home</p> <p>Win</p> <p>41 - 0</p>

Forum

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Pen to Paper

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Email any and all submissions to *The Colby Echo's* Creative Director Mady Hand at mlhand22@colby.edu. Pieces can be submitted anonymously, if desired.

This is your chance to show Colby your writing skills!

Colby Football battles hard against top-ranked Trinity

By JULIAN CANGIETER-HERNANDEZ
Sports Reporter

This past Saturday, Oct. 23, Colby's Football Team faced off against the top ranked and undefeated Trinity College in a highly anticipated contest. Under a cold, overcast sky the Mules came out of the gates fired up and ready to prove a point to the rest of the NESCAC.

In the early drives, the Mules shut down Trinity's passing attack. Defenders broke up passes and solid tackles prevented Trinity receivers and runningbacks from gaining any yards after the catch.

Defensive back Will Nippon '22 set the tone with four tackles in Trinity's first drive and great coverage of Trinity receivers.

Colby's offense took over after the defensive hold but struggled to get anything going. Two dropped passes and no rushing attempts led to a three and out on the Mules' first drive.

Receiving the ball again after a quick Trinity three and out, Colby's offense found their groove and used a bal-

ance pass and run game to keep the chains moving.

Quarterback Matt Hersch '21 used his active feet to avoid pressure and find weak spots in the defense, running for big yards and finding his receivers, Nuri Robinson '25 and Jack Sawyer '25. Runningback Keon Smart '25 found over a third of his carries during this drive, juking defenders and finishing off the impressive 86 yard drive with a nice 12 yard touchdown run.

Unfortunately, Colby could not convert on the extra point; the start of their kicking woes for the rest of the contest.

Colby ended the quarter with Locksley Burke's '25 huge hit on the Trinity running back who fumbled and failed to recover the ball.

The Mules started the second quarter failing a yard short to convert a fourth down in deep Trinity territory after Trinity's turnover. The defense continued to be a factor, preventing Trinity from gaining any yardage and forcing a punt after a short possession.

Advancing through

the passing and running games, Colby's offense converted first downs and made their way inside Trinity's 10 yard line with two 20 yard plays by Smart and Hersch. Smart finished the drive with a short touchdown run to put Colby up 12-0.

After the touchdown, Trinity's offense marched down and made it to Colby's ten yard line only to be stopped by the defense. A big defensive hold on fourth down and one fired up the coaches and the crowd.

Heading into the half with all the momentum, Colby's coaches and players energetically screamed at one another with pride and urgency to keep applying pressure in the second half.

However, coming into the third quarter, both teams' offenses stalled. Trinity forced Colby to a first drive three and out and Trinity quickly punted after this. Colby couldn't convert on its second drive and Trinity began to make adjustments.

A series of short completions by Trinity's quarterback opened for a 30 yard pass and a passing touchdown quickly followed.

After their first score, Trinity forced a fumble on a Colby run and made easy work of great field possession with another touchdown.

A 14 point turnaround gave Trinity all the momentum and they capitalized upon it. Colby strung together a solid drive that ended in a missed field goal, and

Trinity began to dominate.

Scoring 26 unanswered in the fourth quarter and 36 in the second half, Colby's offense stalled and its defense broke down under Trinity's attacking game. Missed tackles and blown defensive coverages allowed Trinity to run all over the Mules.

Ending the game, Colby's offensive line gave in to Trinity's pressure as Hersch was sacked and gave up a fumble.

Heading into next week's matchup against Bates, the Mules must do a better job of converting kicking opportunities and continue to play hard through all four quarters.



EMMA ROSENTHAL

A.J. Mino '25 looks on as Colby's offense marches down the field against the Trinity College Bantams.

Column: Casson's Conundrums

Hobbes's moral philosophy: In defense of a vaccine mandate

By FIONA CASSON
Columnist

The COVID-19 pandemic rages on, but vaccination rates in the United States remain relatively stagnant. As the question of vaccine mandates arises, I propose we turn to the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes to seek an answer. Hobbes, a seventeenth century British philosopher, authored *The Leviathan* in 1651 during the similarly tumultuous period of the English Civil War.

The root of Hobbes's view in his desire to avoid a "nasty, brutish, and short" life and, ultimately, a violent death.

To be frank, I tend to agree with his sentiment. In order to escape this fate, which would be found in the "state of nature," individuals engage in a "social contract," thus entering a civil society under a powerful government, or *Leviathan*.

In exchange for receiving the public benefits and protection of the government, citizens must give up some individual rights for the general safety of the population. We take part in the social contract quite often in our everyday life.

For example, we refrain from drinking alcohol before driving, we put up with TSA screening at the air-

port, and we pay our taxes. Perhaps we do not always want to do the right thing, but we still forgoe our right to knock back a few brews so that we may protect other peoples' right to continue living.

The social contract extends to the public health sector. With a disease as easily transmissible as COVID-19, it is clear that our "personal" decisions in regard to this disease are anything but.

More Americans have died from COVID-19 in 2021 thus far than in 2020, showing that our current vaccination rate of 57% is not high enough to achieve herd immunity. Even more worryingly, the virus replicates more quickly in unvaccinated bodies, which increases the chance of mutations. To me, Hobbes' social contract clearly demands that we get vaccinated to protect our society.

Hobbesian ethics would go further, arguing that the U.S. government should institute a national vaccine mandate. This is because according to Hobbes, the *Leviathan's* chief responsibility is the "safety of the people, to which he is obliged by the law of nature." If you think that vaccine mandates constitute governmental overreach, consider the vaccine

requirements which are already in place in most American public schools against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, and chickenpox, among others.

If you forgot about these diseases, that's a good thing! This shows that vaccine mandates are very effective in virtually eradicating diseases.

Furthermore, some sections of the public are simply not authorized to receive the vaccine. Children under 12, those with severe allergies to vaccine components, and some immunocompromised people do not yet have the privilege of being able to protect themselves in this way. I would argue that if we are able to get the shot, and we elect not to do so, we are in fact infringing upon the rights of these people to, as Hobbes would say, avoid a "nasty, brutish, and short" life.

What is the purpose of the government if not to direct us to the proper course of action during a crisis? Americans show an admirable desire for individual liberties, but we cannot deny that our fates are linked, particularly when it comes to contagion. For these reasons, Hobbes would advocate for a state-appointed vaccine mandate to protect the lives of American citizens.



FIONA CASSON

COVID-19 update for the week of Oct. 17

By WILL BEDINGFIELD
Sports Editor

There are currently three positive cases in isolation and zero students in quarantine. Cases have been appearing one or two at a time — two on Oct. 22 and one on Oct. 18. Two of these cases were faculty and staff and the other one was a student. Five additional positive cases have recovered, bringing the total to 45 since Aug. 16.

There was much anxiety regarding Fall Break, as students left campus

to visit friends or family around the country without restriction. Despite worries, there has been no visible spike in case numbers attributed to Fall Break so far.

53,810 total tests have been administered, 306 (or 0.56%) of which have been inconclusive.

Members of the testing program receive two PCR tests per week, with available antigen testing as necessary.

There are 101,000 cases in Kennebec County as of Oct. 25, according to the Maine CDC.

The College has been at the green health code level since the start of the semester. This means ordinary dining hall capacities, face masks required within dorms, increased cleaning, and face masks required for classes and common areas when students are not eating or drinking.

Athletic competitions have all gone according to schedule, apart from team-specific outbreaks, and fall teams are looking forward to the upcoming NESCAC playoffs.



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Positive case breakdown

