

THE COLBY ECHO

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Waterville, Maine

Greene unveils new initiatives at State of the College

By VERONICA MCINTYRE
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and
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Co-Editor-in-Chief

President Greene and other faculty members spoke about new initiatives and updates at Colby during the State of the College address on Feb. 8. The meeting took place in Page Commons, and students were encouraged to attend and ask questions or share comments.

Among the discussed initiatives were the improvements made to recreational athletics programs at Colby, a division that was developed in the last several years. Greene noted that the College had added 20 staff members to the Athletics Department.

“The experience overall has been much better than in past years when club sports were not as professionalized,” an anonymous club leader said.

They credited Tiffany Lomax and Nashid Bracy for their help which has made the operation of club sports much smoother.

“The creation of a mas-

ter facilities schedule has reduced the number of conflicts between different teams and has made reserving spaces in the athletic facilities easier,” the anonymous club leader continued. “As far as moving forward, I think taking some notes from non-athletic clubs in terms of budgeting would be helpful. At the moment, club sports are not told exactly what the department can and cannot pay for ... It would make it easier for us to know the exact amount we have as a club so that we can easily budget ourselves over the long-term.”

Greene also announced important upcoming changes to COVID-19 protocols. During Jan Plan, the school had 254 student cases and 87 faculty and staff cases. In light of declining infection and hospitalization trends, the College will be testing less frequently this spring and will be lifting the requirement for masks in most situations.

Colby is also undergoing academic expansions. This year, the College has a record number of faculty members, totaling 260.

Greene highlighted his goal of creating new majors and expanding existing academic departments in the hopes of adding 60 new courses to their curriculum. Going forward, Colby is also working to ensure that faculty will be better supported with greater research funding.

Regarding the Davis Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Greene emphasized the importance of liberal arts institutions taking the lead in the field of artificial intelligence, which has been traditionally dominated by larger universities. Colby is the first liberal arts college to have a cross-disciplinary institute for artificial intelligence.

Greene also said that the money the College has invested in Waterville is fundamentally changing the city, noting that this is the first time since the 1970s that the Waterville population has increased. He spoke of the positive impact students have had on the Waterville community, citing civic engagement projects and students who work for the Waterville Fire Department.

Additionally, Greene

touched on the expansion of arts programs and facilities. He hopes to make the College a center for studying American art and envisions Waterville as a national hub for the arts crowned by the Gordon Center for Creative and Performing Arts that is set to open in the fall of 2023.

Greene also addressed Colby’s accessibility and affordability, stating that the school has invested more in this area than any other aspect of Dare Northward.

Greene also spoke of upcoming expansions to student housing. He noted that this year’s housing issues were mainly

due to COVID-19 and a related policy decision which allowed students to take leaves and come back at their own discretion. New student housing projects meant to mitigate the housing crunch will be located along Johnson Pond and contiguous to Mary Low and Coburn.

In response to a student question, Dean Karlene Burrell-McRae ’94 disputed student concerns that student-athletes are held to a different standard regarding College drinking policies.

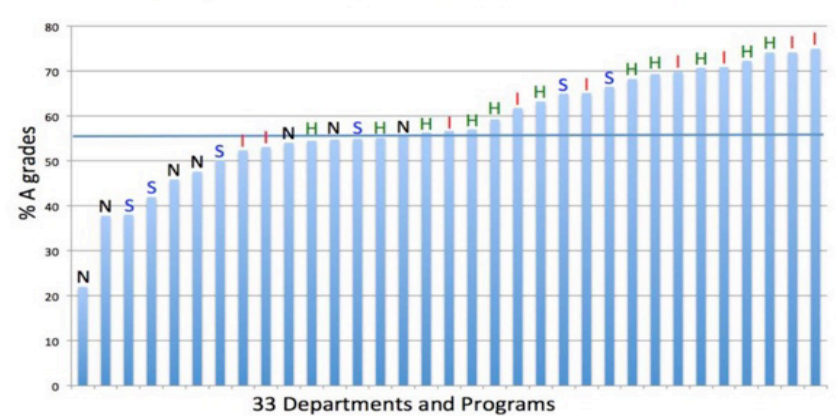
She recognized that individual coach policies may differ, as each coach is responsible for

curating a unique team culture. All, however, are aligned with the institutional goals of maintaining safety, and encouraging learning rather than punishment.

Max Schuermann ’22, captain of the Colby Men’s Tennis Team, agreed with her statement.

“I think both the College’s and Athletic Department’s policies on drinking are pretty much exactly aligned,” he said. “There are no real discrepancies that I know of ... My coach is in lockstep with Colby’s policies. He updates us when there are changes, and he changes his policies accordingly.”

Grades differ substantially between departments and programs.



Fall and Spring semester grades from 2015-16 and 2016-17 (excluding Independent Study, Honors Research, and Internships)

COLBY COLLEGE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Colby grades experience historic upward trend

By KRISTEN SHEN
News Reporter

For the past several years, Colby’s Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) has been analyzing grading policies. In 2018, they released a report detailing the College’s general grading trends as well as departmental and program trends between 2001 and 2015.

According to these statistics, there was an 11% increase in the number of A’s given between 2001 and 2015, while the percentage of A+’s has remained the same.

Sophie Xu ’24 feels that this statistic accurately reflects her experience.

“If you have enough practice, you are able to get a grade generally [in the range of] A and B, while A+ is very rare,” Xu said.

Data reported by the AAC document demonstrates an uneven distribution of grades across different departments and programs. Excluding independent studies, honors research projects, and internships – all of which do not usually use letter grading – the AAC grouped different majors into four categories: Natural Sciences (N), Social Sciences (S), Interdisciplinary Studies (I), and Humanities (H).

Comparatively, natural science majors have the lowest scor-

ing, while interdisciplinary studies majors have the highest scoring with over 50% of grades awarded being A’s.

Though the AAC revealed that there are inequities in the evaluation standard when considering disparities in grading between different academic departments and programs, some students are not concerned with the issue and tend to agree with current grading patterns.

Among these students are some that believe different subjects may be particularly accessible to certain people.

“[Though] I have heard some people mentioning that biology or chemistry is harder [compared to other disciplines], I think courses [in these departments] are easier and more friendly for me than those in other programs such as humanities,” Xu, who is a double major in Chemistry and Molecular Biology, explained.

Other students, however, did not share Xu’s experience.

“In the STEM departments it’s hard to get an A,” an anonymous student said. “My Anthropology major GPA is more than a full point higher than my Biology major GPA.”

Further, students tend to agree that it can be difficult to make interdisciplinary comparisons of difficulty.

“It is hard to access skills across different disciplines considering their distinct natures,” Laney Bagwell ’25 said. “Also, if you do get a lower GPA because you have a ‘hard’ major such as Chemistry, when you are looking for job opportunities, employers usually are aware of this issue.”

Bagwell explained that Colby’s liberal arts education provides students with the freedom to take courses in a wide range of disciplines, all of which factor into cumulative GPA. This freedom also allows students to create a schedule they feel is balanced.

Nevertheless, Natural Sciences courses that include lab components do sometimes require more work compared to other four credit courses.

Xu commented that although the overall workload in non-lab and lab courses is about the same, more in-person class time is sometimes required of students in labs.

In 2018, the AAC proposed adopting clearer standards in grading guidelines. Students generally find that their current academic experiences may not require this adjustment as they are generally satisfied with the guidelines.

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Student hunger strike highlights insufficient dining

By ELSA RUSSELL
News Editor

In his final days on campus, Walter Thilly ’22J went on a hunger strike to protest Colby Dining Services.

On Sunday, Jan. 23, Thilly made his way to the Dana Dining Hall for dinner after a workout at the Athletic Center.

“I confirmed Dana was closing at 7, as it usually closes at 8,” he recounted. “But at 6:45 the doors were being shut to the dining hall.”

Thilly and other students who had hoped

to enter the dining hall at the same time were confused.

“Fellow students started to get very upset, some of them even at the staff,” Thilly said. “I was upset that there was no communication with us and upset that Colby had allowed a situation in which staff workers were put to blame in the short term.”

After attempting to speak to President Greene in both his home and the Eustis building, Thilly went to Security and decided to take matters into his own hands.

“I asked [Security] if there was someone they could call to help the students who didn’t get food. They told me no,” Thilly said. “I was going to go on hunger strike so that this mishap would not be unheard of by the administration.”

Thilly explained that in addition to raising awareness of the issue, he also went on strike to stand “in solidarity with those who could not afford to buy dinner instead that night.”

Thilly alerted Greene and other members of

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ELSA RUSSELL

During Thilly’s hunger strike, he refused to eat in all dining halls, including Roberts Dining Hall.

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COLUMN: OPINION

Polar Patio: A Return to Normalcy

By DONOVAN LYNCH
Columnist

In November of 2020, a group of first-years came up to my friend and I behind East and West. It was a Friday evening, and we were sitting on the tan colored benches daring each other to go for a swim in the foul waters of Johnson Pond.

After we introduced ourselves and began talking, one first-year turned to me and asked: What are things normally like at Colby on a weekend night?

I answered fast, conjuring images of packed rooms, loud music, and funny coincidences. I felt like I was bragging, talking about the past as if I were remembering Big Papi's last at-bat.

But it felt exactly like that – like the life of the College had gone into retirement.

At the time, COVID-19 was booming, vaccines had yet to reach the first arm, and many in the Colby community feared for aging relatives and friends. The uncertainty in the fall of 2020 was at times unbearable – you could feel it everywhere.

Colby felt like a monastery, compelling us to show devotion and temperament. But over many hard months and many stellar vaccines, the dangers have diminished and the mood has changed.

Enter Feb. 12, 2022. As one the largest unofficial events in nearly two years, the Polar Patio saw hundreds gather outside the senior apartments for a night of dancing, mingling, and engaging with elevated surfaces – all under the dubious sponsorship of Polar Seltzer.

The outdoor party came on the back of an all-college email announcing the loosening of masking and testing requirements. It was a debutante ball for a new age.

A giddiness took over as the stream of students hiking up the well-salted paths (you owe me one, Facilities) saw the crowd for the first time. Where last year mass-socializing bordered on the subversive, here it was encouraged.

Looking around at the energetic talking and dancing between friends, acquaintances and near strangers, I couldn't help but consider

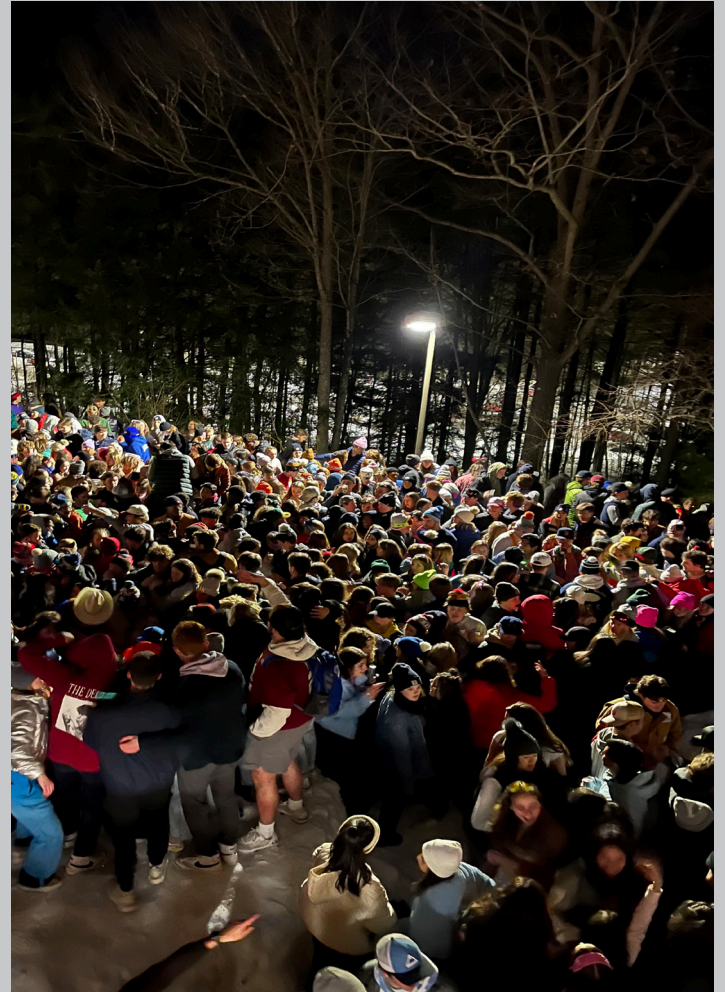
the importance of it all.

While the last few years have encouraged us to focus on the necessary, some free-flowing revelry felt essential. Better yet, Polar Patio saw attendance from every corner of the college, putting many students shoulder to shoulder with peers they had never met before.

This was a watershed moment. It stirred us to see a more expansive way of being, a way that gets you to ask questions like: Why the hell am I on a three foot block of snow in a sleeveless vest?

Polar Patio was the shock all of us needed to mark the end of a long and gradual opening of the Colby world. Where at one time we found ourselves counting heads to ten, the invitation this Saturday read "we cordially invite you, and every single Colby student you know, to the return of the Polar Patio." And it was undoubtedly a return – with many users on YikYak praising this weekend as "old Colby" being "back."

The mood was clear; a renaissance in student life is under way. This new time



ELIZA POHLE

Students gather outside of the Alford Senior Apartments for the party.

we're entering might be the best yet – more than ever we understand the pleasure of sharing a moment in the cold with everybody we know, and everybody we don't.

Colby grades continue to trend upward (cont.)

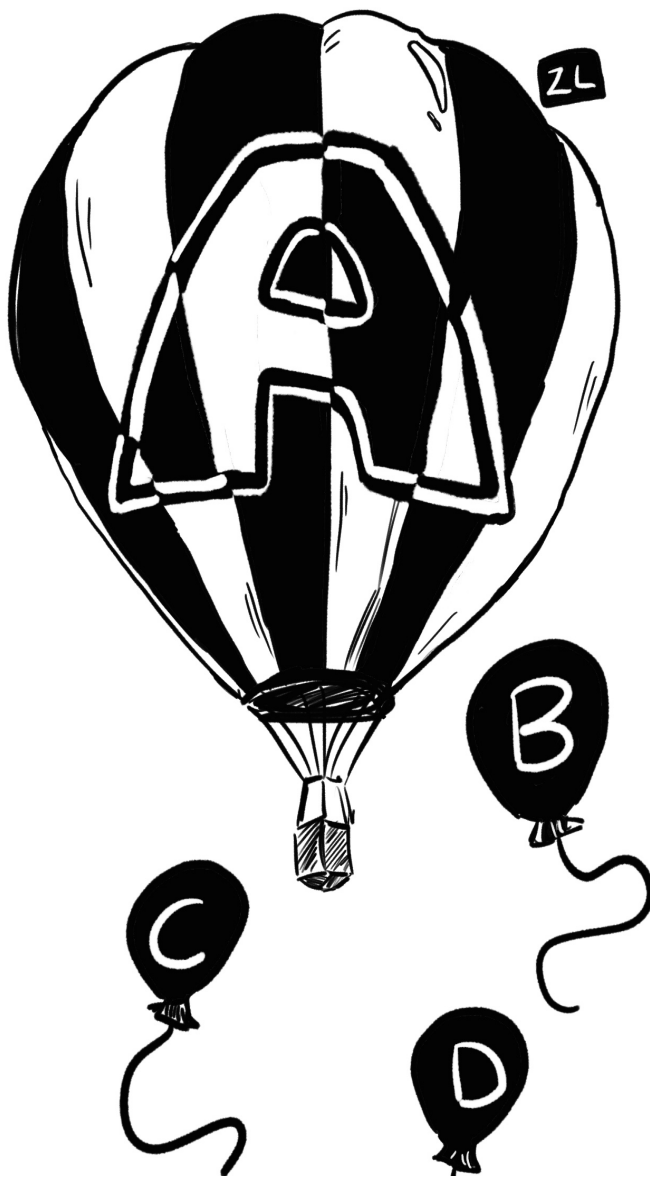
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"For most of the classes I have taken, the grading standards are very clear," Xu said. "Like what percentages of each exam or assignment contrib-

ute to the total score, and the expectation of the instructor."

"I think that like most of the professors I have had have been really clear about what their expectations were," Bagwell agreed. "It has always

just kind of been an open-door policy as well. If you didn't understand a certain grade or a certain assignment, you could always go to their office hours and talk about your concerns with them."



KRISTIN SHEN

Student hunger strike highlights insufficient dining (cont.)

Continued from Page 1

the Colby administration of his plans. Word of the strike spread quickly through the student body, many of whom were supportive of his motives. Thilly cited social media, particularly Yik Yak, as a driving force in publicizing his protest.

Thilly was able to speak with administration the following morning and agreed to end his hunger strike upon confirmation of an open conversation with Dean of Students Barbara Moore and Director of Administration and Chief of Staff Stephanie Sylvester. This meeting was held on Jan. 26 over Zoom.

Sylvester explained that the Dana Dining Hall had reached capacity on the night of Jan. 23.

"We were closing because there were no seats left," she said. "The goal was then to allow students to come through and have their meal once we did have those seats open up."

"The team didn't effectively communicate to the group that we're going to be able to get everyone in to have a meal, and

that's something that we're working on," Sylvester continued. "I apologize, because I understand that people were left frustrated."

"The dining services are here to serve you all," Moore added. "This is your home. This is where you're eating your meals. We don't want any student to go hungry. And I very much so apologize that students felt that they were turned away and didn't get dinner that evening. I do apologize and I'm sorry that that happened. We have to do better."

Moore and Sylvester outlined the feedback programs currently in place and highlighted the dining survey as particularly helpful for implementing change. They also recognized the need for additional feedback channels.

"One thing that we're going to be doing is implementing a flyer with a QR code so that you, as a student, if you're having issues with a meal or if something isn't right, or maybe something's great and you want to see more of it, you can communicate that directly to our managers," Sylvester said. "Administration will have insight to that, so

that we can make sure we get different things implemented that are being requested."

Students were then given the opportunity to raise additional dining concerns. They brought up limited hours of operation, poor wages for dining hall staff, lack of options that account for vegan and gluten-free diets, faults in the system in place to label such options, lack of healthy protein options, and raw or otherwise unsafe food.

Students also requested more transparency between the administration and students regarding the solutions to such issues and suggested additional Zoom meetings as a means of communicating progress.

"There's a real need for information and communication and ongoing follow ups and updates," Moore agreed. "I've heard that really loud and clear."

Sylvester added that the changes will take time, but that they hope to put together a formalized plan responding to the concerns raised at the meeting and detailing program updates which will be presented to students.

Security Incident Report Log

Date:	Time:	Location:	Comments:
02/01/22	12:44 A.M.	JOHNSON	NOISE COMPLAINT
02/01/22	11:15 A.M.	GODDARD-HODGKINS	THEFT
02/01/22	11:15 A.M.	GODDARD-HODGKINS	BURGLARY
02/01/22	9:59 P.M.	LOCKWOOD	THEFT
02/01/22	11:43 P.M.	OFF CAMPUS	ALARM-INTRUSION
02/05/22	1:30 A.M.	HEIGHTS	NOISE COMPLAINT
02/05/22	3:36 A.M.	WILLIAMS	NOISE COMPLAINT
02/05/22	11:06 P.M.	ROBERTS	NOISE COMPLAINT
02/06/22	2:00 A.M.	AVERILL	ALCOHOL VIOLATION
02/06/22	1:31 P.M.	MAYFLOWER HILL DR	ACCIDENT
02/07/22	10:14 P.M.	MARRINER	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ VANDALISM
02/08/22	1:00 A.M.	PIERCE	NOISE COMPLAINT
02/09/22	11:32 A.M.	MARY LOW LOT	ACCIDENT
02/11/22	12:50 P.M.	PARKING LOTS	THEFT
02/11/22	2:45 P.M.	CAMPUS WIDE	NO CONTACT ORDER
02/11/22	11:55 P.M.	SCHUPF	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ VANDALISM
02/12/22	11:41 P.M.	ALFOND APARTMENTS	ASSAULT
02/13/22	2:34 A.M.	TAYLOR	NOISE COMPLAINT
02/13/22	9:57 A.M.	AVERILL	TRESPASSING
02/13/22	9:58 A.M.	AVERILL	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ VANDALISM
02/13/22	9:58 A.M.	AVERILL	TRESPASSING

College administration relaxes restrictions as nationwide COVID-19 infection, hospitalization rates drop

By MATT ROCHA
Local News & Features Editor

After peaking in mid-January, the United States's COVID-19 transmission rate has dropped throughout the first half of February. On Jan. 10, the nation recorded over 1.4 million new cases. About a month later, on Feb. 13, it counted almost 34,400 positive test results, a decrease of about 97%. The most recent case counts mirror those recorded in early December.

The United States has seen a similar decline in its rate of COVID-19-related hospitalizations. During late January, the na-

tion peaked at an average of over 150,000 hospitalizations per day. Over the first two weeks of February, it

In early January, an average of about 1,330 Americans and eight Mainers died from COVID-19 each day.

has averaged about 92,000 hospitalizations.

While not as en-

couraging as the nation-wide trends, Maine's rates have also decreased.

In late January, over 1,000 Mainers contracted COVID-19 per day. During this past week, that number fluctuated between 830 and 950 cases, a slight but not marked decline. Like the rest of Maine, Kennebec County has seen a marginal decrease in its infection rate.

Despite these encouraging trends, neither the United States nor Maine has seen a decrease in their rates of COVID-19-related deaths. In early January, an average of about 1,330 Americans and eight

Mainers died from COVID-19 each day. Last week, about 2,600 Americans and nine Mainers died per day. That said, Maine's COVID-19-related death rate is the fourth lowest of any state.

While national institutions are waiting for more data to change their recommendations, state and local officials, encouraged by the improving trends, have begun to relax their COVID-19 protocols.

Several states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, have announced their intentions to roll back school mask man-

dates. While Maine does not have a school mask mandate, its COVID-19 guidelines recommend masking. Throughout the pandemic, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention has given similar advice.

"We hope that everyone will honor and respect the choices of those who are continuing to mask and comply respectfully with requests to wear masks at events, meetings and in other contexts,"

Karlene Burrell-McRae '94
Dean of the College

On Feb. 7, instead of extending its mask mandate for another thirty days, the Portland City Council voted to end it, a move supported by Portland Mayor Kate Snyder.

Critics have argued that the choice to end the mandate was premature, as the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) still considers every Maine county a high transmission area. The council prom-

ised that if hospitalization rates tick up again, it will consider reinstating the mandate.

The College, whose COVID-19 case counts have dropped since January, recently relaxed its protocols. In a Feb. 11 email, Dean Karlene Burrell-McRae '94 announced several changes.

Colby increased the number of people permitted at informal gatherings from 20 to 50. It also reduced the student, faculty, and staff testing frequency from three to two times per week.

The largest change pertained to the College's mask mandate. For most spaces on campus, it lifted its indoor mask mandate. Masks are still required in classrooms and laboratories, as well as in a select few public buildings, including the Lunder House and Colby College Museum of Art.

In her email, Burrell-McRae acknowledged that some community members might still wish to continue masking. She encouraged everyone to make a decision with which they feel comfortable.

"We hope that everyone will honor and respect the choices of those who are continuing to mask and comply respectfully with requests to wear masks at events, meetings and in other contexts," Burrell-McRae wrote.

In the coming weeks, the College will continue to monitor local and national data and will make more adjustments as necessary.



ZOEY LATOUR

Brain death: a new dimension of death?

By SAATHVIKA DIVITI
Columnist

Brain death, a concept distinct from traditional circulatory death (when the heart stops beating), has long been a concept difficult for the public to grasp due to the lack of adequate public education.

As defined by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Harvard Medical School, the criteria for brain death is as follows: unresponsive and unresponsive; absence of movement, breathing, and reflexes; and a flat encephalogram (essentially an X-ray picture of the brain that provides information of electrical activity); all in the absence of confounding factors that remain unchanged at an interval of 24 hours or later.

In essence, both traditional cardiorespiratory death and brain death are forms of death accepted by the medical community — the difference is that a brain-dead person, generally supported by a ventilator or machine, does not display the typical visual signs of death such as a stopped heartbeat.

In fact, this difference can raise confusion. Only 28% of family members of patients that had been brain dead could correctly define brain death.

However, debates have been ongoing on whether it is appropriate to accept brain death as death. Criticism for the concept arose in the medical and philosophical community.

It is hard for many to understand brain death as it differs from our idea of a "sensual perception of death"

and does not have a visibly defined time point of death.

From a philosophical-ethical point of view, some medical experts remain concerned that brain death could be used "as a means of pragmatically redefining death."

In other ways, stopping life support for supposedly brain-dead

In essence, both traditional cardiovascular death and brain death are forms of death accepted by the medical community.

patients may indicate an inclination to end human life for more utilitarian reasons.

From a neurophysiological perspective, some argue that brain death could not be equated to circulatory death. They reasoned that with the help of new technology and artificial support, brain-dead patients could continue to maintain vital functions such as wound healing, fetus gestation, and even sexual maturation — sometimes for long periods of time. In this case, if the body is growing and developing, they wonder how we can consider it "death."

However, abandoning the concept of brain death could serve to further complicate the medical-ethical dilemma, perhaps more so than the introduction of the concept itself.

It would result in a step backward in the progress and standards of modern intensive care and transplantation medicine. Not only would it deprive patients of the right to die, it would also reduce organ donations.

Currently, brain death is a widely-accepted concept, but controversies continue to exist. To avoid these controversies, efforts are being made by the global medical

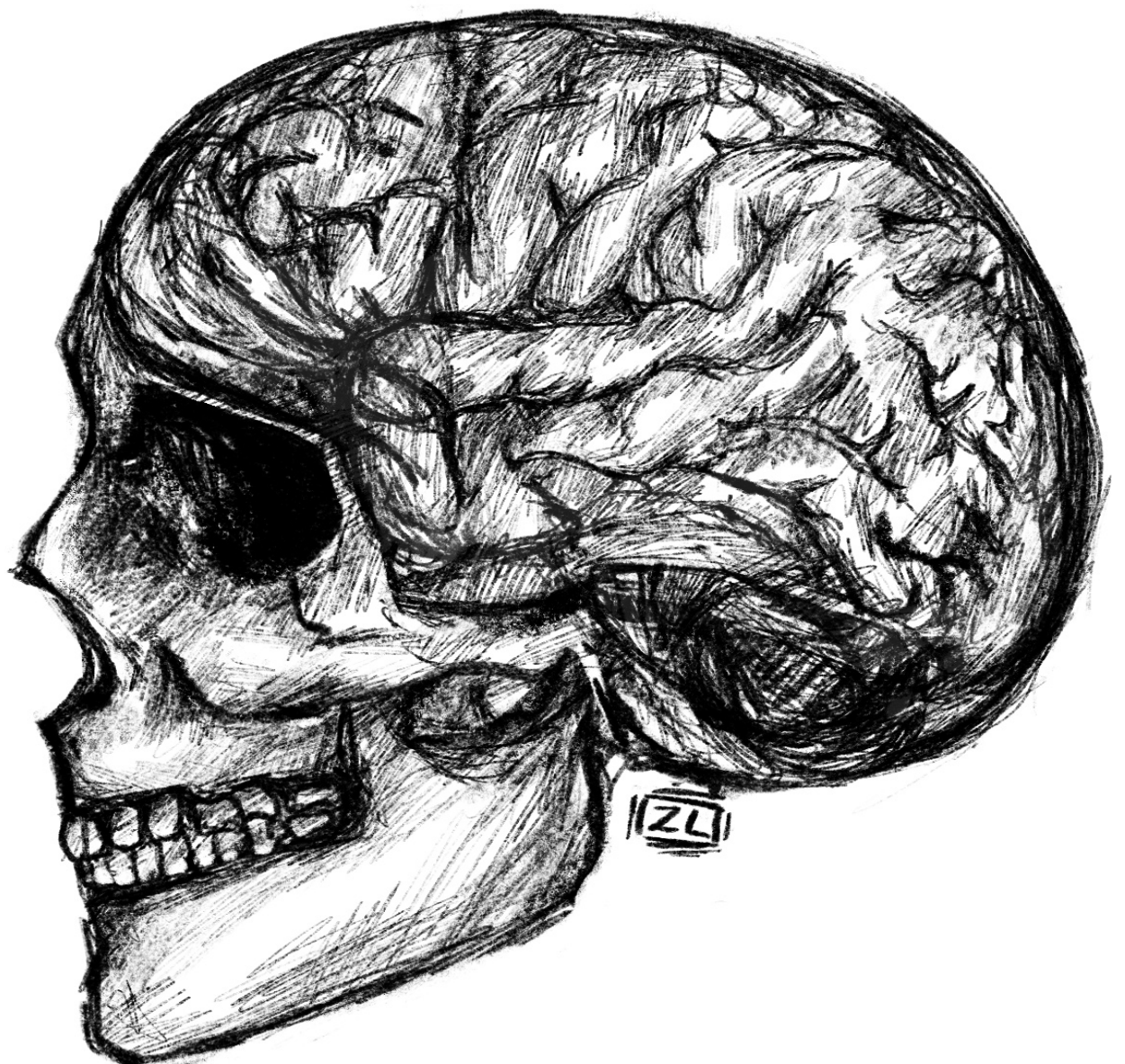
To completely resolve the debate over brain death is perhaps impossible. A social construct, it will always be subject to criticism and conflicting opinions.

community to establish uniform criteria, develop systems to ensure that brain death determination is consistent and accurate, respond to objections to the determination of death by neurological criteria, and finally improve public trust in brain death determination.

However, to completely resolve the debate over brain death may be impossible. As a social construct, it will always be subject

to criticism and conflicting opinions.

In the face of this, we must recognize that death is not just a biological process but also the permanent loss of personal characteristics such as personality, identity, culture, and values. With a growing understanding of medicine and increased scientific and technological development, the definition of death is no longer bound to a single standard.



ZOEY LATOUR

Historic inflation will force Federal Reserve's hand in 2022

By CAMERON DYER
Columnist

First a pandemic, then supply chain disarray, and an unprecedented round of accommodative monetary policy tied with massive fiscal stimulus packages. January's headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) print was 7.5% over a year ago, the highest level since 1982.

To put this in perspective, Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp would not be born for nine more years, Mary

J. Blige was eleven, and the Billboard Hot 100 included names such as Hall & Oates,

There is a great deal of society that has not experienced this level of inflation in their lifetimes.

Foreigner, and Stevie Nicks with Don Henley. Simply put, there

is a great deal of society (not to mention money managers and policy makers) that has not experienced this level of inflation in their lifetimes.

For us students at Colby, we have never known a world where the CPI reading is anywhere but right around the Fed's preferred 2% gauge.

To make matters worse, the core CPI, which excludes volatile components of food and energy, increased 6% over the last year. This represents broad inflation

across multiple com-

ponents. While the initial jump in inflation midway through 2021 was contained to "re-opening categories," attribution to this phenomenon has diminished as the global economy better learned to live with COVID-19.

Some of the highest increases are among used cars and trucks and new vehicles, which increased nearly 41% and 12%, respectively. These two categories are generally some of the calmest components of the CPI — unprecedented supply chain disruption has had some effect on these markets.

In 2021, massive semiconductor shortages, for example, forced the hand of many automakers globally to curb production and cull inventories. This shortage had a pass-through effect on the used car markets, where fewer trade-ins led to booming prices for older vehicles.

The component for shelter, which represents rent and housing costs, has increased 4.4% year-over-year.

We all have observed inflation at the gas pump, as curbed shale production in the United States along with constrained supply from the OPEC+ nations have skyrocketed the West Texas Intermediary futures price above \$90 a barrel, the highest level since 2014.

The component representing food has increased 7% over the last year. These three categories (shelter,

gasoline and fuel oil, and food) are what hurt Americans the most due to their relatively inelastic demand.

In addition, there has been heightened demand in many categories due to the fiscal stimulus programs.

Clearly, we have potential causes for this inflationary setting in the form of shortened supplies (cost-push) and an economy awash with liquidity

The bond market has been very active since the outset of 2022, with the yield on a 2-year US Treasury increasing rapidly by 90 basis points.

and monetary support (demand-pull). However, the overall effect of each factor is difficult to address.

The bond market has been very active since the outset of 2022, with the yield on a 2-year US Treasury increasing rapidly by 90 basis points. The more-commonly studied 10-year Treasury is yielding 1.96%, surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

The rapid and volatile moves across the curve have led some to say the Fed is now behind in their response, but the policy-making institu-

tion has signaled that there will be further tapering paired with rate hikes in 2022. The question now looms: when and how much?

With each month of heightened inflation, rate hikes implied by the sentiments of Fed officials and financial market participants increase. Not that long ago, the Fed's dot plot (which displays predicted rate hikes by each member of the Board of Governors) implied little to no change in policy during 2022. Now, some are calling for a 50-basis point hike as soon as March.

The Fed has all the proper tools to cull inflation — the days of Paul Volcker prove that. However, the situation of 1982 is vastly different than that of today.

The components of the CPI have changed, the global economy functions completely differently, and the methods by which Americans can consume have been altered by technology forever.

Most importantly, we are still in a pandemic. Due to the Omicron variant, it is estimated that nearly 14 million Americans missed work at some point in January. The effects on the global economy, especially supply chains, are vast and dynamic in nature.

Powell's Fed must be careful to not take too much liquidity out of an already-fragile economy. Conversely, the highest inflation in nearly forty years demands action.



ZOEY LATOUR

College Food Recovery Network combats local food insecurity with Spa leftovers

By AARON MILLS
Features Reporter

Millions of Americans experience food insecurity, a lack of reliable access to adequate, nutritious foods.

The pandemic has intensified the difficulties that vulnerable communities face in acquiring food as staffing shortages have affected community centers, schools, and shelters. Reaching those in need has been a persistent hurdle during the pandemic. Organizations nationwide, as well as those in the greater Waterville area and Kennebec County, continue to face these challenges.

In the face of these challenges, traditional food assistance organizations, namely food banks and local shelters, have searched for unconventional sources of food. One of these has been colleges, which generate roughly 22 million pounds of food waste each year. The average individual college student contributes about 142 pounds to this number.

The Food Recovery Network (FRN) has led the charge on preventing this food from going to waste. It is a large student-led nonprofit organization that partners with on-campus college dining services to collect unserved, usable food to deliver to local food banks and hunger organizations.

Since its founding at the University of Maryland in 2011, the FRN has since expanded to nearly 190 campuses, in 45 states and the District of Columbia, collecting a cumulative 5.3 million pounds of food to date — the equivalent of more than 4.2 million meals to individuals and families in need.

Michael Jimenez '23 revived the College's FRN chapter this semester. Under his leadership, FRN has partnered with the Joseph Family Spa to collect uneaten leftovers at the end of each week that would otherwise expire or be

wasted.

"A big reason I have this passion [for combating food insecurity] is because my parents really taught me the importance of not wasting food because so many people in my own community are in need," Jimenez said.

About one in four children experience food

The pandemic has intensified the difficulties that vulnerable communities face.

insecurity in Jimenez's hometown of Houston, Maine, as a whole, ranks among the most food insecure states in the country. At fourteen percent, Kennebec County has a roughly similar proportion of residents who experience food insecurity to Houston.

Jimenez has sought to make Colby's FRN chapter more involved in curtailing food insecurity and limiting on-campus waste. He set out to realize several goals for the newly revived group under his leadership.

Jimenez immediately concerned himself with membership as Colby's chapter had only one active member last year. He has raised this number to 60 with the help of his co-leader, Matthew Weindling '23.

"Through the club fair, we were able to get to 60 members with around ten highly active members. We really focused on connecting with people through getting their friends involved and it just grew organically from there," Weindling said.

Jimenez also explained his ongoing goals for members.

"We hope to expand the amount of active members through implementing some in-

centives to get current and potential members more involved in our operations, while making the wider campus more aware of us and our work," Jimenez said.

Jimenez then explained his own reason for taking up the position at the College's FRN chapter.

"It felt right to do something that is high-impact and so simple," he said in reference to how the College Dining Service produces so much food waste each week.

He also highlighted the low-level commitment of FRN at Colby.

"We only ask for about 15 minutes of our member's time on Fridays weekly to weigh and load food collected by the Spa onto trucks to be distributed locally," he added. "All of us are busy — we are Colby students; but in our organization it doesn't take too much time to have a high impact and we really hope this is something that becomes clear to students on campus."

Jimenez aspires to ex-

pand the FRN's role with his focus shifting to on-campus campaigns to reduce waste in all forms, both individually and as a community. In this, Jimenez emphasized the importance of members taking an active role.

"I'm a junior and I'm obviously not going to be here forever, so the main focus is getting passionate people to keep the organization going and getting people excited to work on this really important issue," he explained, referring to the viability of his future initiatives.

"We have already met our target of processing 60 pounds of recoverable food [primarily grab-and-go consumables] in the Spa and hope to only go up from there if possible," he said.

Jimenez also noted the personal growth he has experienced as a result of his involvement with the FRN.

"I have felt more personally able to monitor my own waste and become more vocal on issues I care about [like not

wasting food] — which includes the work of the FRN," Jimenez said.

Articulating concrete objectives for the future, Jimenez expressed he would like to expand FRN's reach to the wider Waterville area through more direct community

"We have already met our target of processing 60 pounds of recoverable food [primarily grab-and-go consumables] in the Spa and hope to only go up from there if possible"

Michael Jimenez '23

partnerships coupled with more concerted campus-wide waste reduction initiatives.

He noted his hope of

partnering more directly with residence halls on campus and to pilot wider experimental programs aimed at saving a range of single-use plastic disposables.

Jimenez reflected on the trajectory he sees for the organization and what students can look forward to seeing from the FRN chapter at the Colby in the near future.

"At this point we are still in the younger phases [since reviving the FRN chapter], there is still a lot to do, a lot of growing and with that learning as we go along," he said. "Our objective is to do as much as we can to reduce our waste and help those in need in the process — [Colby] [has] a big part in this and I hope that beyond my time [in FRN] more people will become aware of this," he concluded.

Despite the uncertainty that lies ahead in combating food insecurity beyond the pandemic, the FRN remains committed to tackling it, one meal at a time.

FOOD RECOVERY NETWORK

Hip-hop and rap take center stage at Super Bowl LVI

By TANVI IYER
Arts & Entertainment
Reporter

The Super Bowl halftime show is popular for its grand performances and iconic moments. From Katy Perry's left footed shark to J. Lo and Shakira's controversial performance, the halftime show always manages to spark all kinds of conversation. In fact, even non-football lovers tune into the performance, with the halftime show having received more viewers than the actual game in previous years.

This year's Super Bowl halftime show took place in the SoFi stadium in Los Angeles, highlighting hip-hop and rap artists Dr. Dre, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, Kendrick Lamar and Snoop Dogg. The world-renowned talent of each of these individuals generated a lot of excitement for the performance.

With a combined 42 Grammys and 21 Billboard No. 1 albums between the five artists, the show was guaranteed to be a success. These performers appeal to a wide fan base, including people of all ages, making this a performance for anyone.

One student of the College, Jayde Franklin '23 said in positive anticipation of the event, "They have a lot of good people." Moreover, considering how toned down last year's halftime show from The Weeknd was due to COVID-19 restrictions, many people were ready for a grand spectacle.

The show started with a bang as Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg performed their classic hit "The Next

Episode." Dre then transitioned into "California Love," a perfect tribute to the location.

The audience was then taken to a lower level of the stage, where 50 Cent made a cameo to perform his song "In Da Club." Mary J. Blige soon followed with her songs "Family Affair" and "No More Drama." Following this, Kendrick Lamar made his entrance, performing snippets from "M.A.A.D City" and "Alright." Next, Eminem performed a portion of "Lose Yourself." Lastly, the show ended with Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg's "Still D.R.E."

While the overall show was an incredibly exciting sing-along for the viewers, it was also a slight let down.

This halftime show felt significantly shorter compared to previous ones. Moreover, the vocals did not seem to be loud enough to break through the overpowering accompaniment.

Additionally, while the buildup of the performance was fantastic, the ending was a slight let down. It would seem most logical to include all five performers in the finale. Instead, the show reverted back to Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg while everyone else danced around them. Furthermore, Kendrick Lamar and Eminem's performances were not long enough.

One student who reacted to the performance, Caroline Beecher '22, says, "Kendrick's section was my favorite so I wish there was more of that. I also wished they had more cohesion, specifically at

the end, I wish they had tied it together."

Jared Wood '22 mentioned that he wished collaborations between the other artists and Dre were performed as well: "I wish Dr. Dre and Eminem performed one of their songs."

Considering that Snoop Dogg's early success is tied to Dr. Dre, it makes sense that two of their most popular collaborations were performed. However, Dre and Eminem also have an extensive relationship, since Dre is an early fan of Eminem's.

Despite these critiques, the show was not without memorable moments. Snoop Dogg was clearly enjoying himself as he proudly crip walked wearing a blue bandana outfit. Moreover, 50 Cent made his appearance hanging upside down from the ceiling of the stage, distracted by the dancers around him.

Lastly, Eminem made a statement by taking a knee at the end of his segment, alluding to Colin Kaepernick's protest against racial discrimination.

Anderson Paak also made a cameo as a drummer for Eminem. Finally, there were many elements of the performances that paid tribute to Compton, an iconic hub for West Coast rap.

Overall, despite its flaws, this year's halftime show did its most important job: hyping up the audience while providing a memorable performance. It is safe to say that this will not be the last time hip-hop and rap take center stage at the Super Bowl.

"The Poetics of Atmosphere": Siera Hyte's Curation of Art and Change

By JENNA BOLING '24
Arts & Entertainment
Reporter

Through the eyes of Siera Hyte, assistant curator of Modern and Contemporary Art for the Colby College Museum of Art, the sky possesses spiritual significance.

It's celestial, mysterious. If one were to look back at traditional frescos and other art from the past, the sky has always been a space artists have used to toss around ideas about deities and the afterlife.

Hyte helped to curate the exhibit "Poetics of Atmosphere" with a vision in mind: to reference specific atmospheric imagery which reflects one's individual articulation of weight, in turn informing one's experiences of environmental surroundings.

The exhibition is on display at the Colby College Museum of Art until April 17, 2022. It features the video "Cloudscape" (2005), created by Lorna Simpson, as well as several other works including paintings, charcoal compositions, and mixed media displays intentionally placed in dialogue with Simpson's piece.

"Cloudscape" centers around a single figure played by artist Terry Adkins. He stands still, side-profile in view as he whistles a tune reminiscent of a bygone time. As the video continues, Adkins becomes slowly engulfed by the clouds until his figure fades entirely out of focus.

The clip cycles over and over, and the cloud formations continue to wax and wane, creating an experience of elastic time.

Though one can interpret "Cloudscape" in many ways, Simpson's work was intended to examine the formation, perception, and experience of Black identity. The figure's fading and eventual disappearance into the clouds exhibits the way in which race and gender identity inform a person's agency or lack thereof, in turn determining their level of visibility. Simpson effectively distorts the viewer's understanding and relationship to time and space within the video.

"I think art, for one, can function as a voice or a storytelling mechanism

for the oppressed," Hyte said in an interview with *The Colby Echo*. "I think artists have the ability to speak truth to power in a way that is really compelling and pretty much unparalleled in terms of human expression."

Though art can effectively tackle a variety of important issues such as that of systemic injustice and other forms of oppression, Hyte feels that it is necessary to be more aware of the many ways the different institutions and establishments that present these artworks can warp the artist's original intentions.

"I don't think museums and art viewing spaces necessarily always do a great job of creating space for artists who are addressing those issues, who are not white, or who come from otherwise marginalized backgrounds," Hyte said. "I think, historically, institutions have not always done a good job of making space for that art to be viewed, or valuing what that art has to say, so that's definitely something in the field that is improving."

According to Hyte, Simpson's "Cloudscape" not only serves as a voice for the oppressed, but can also be viewed as somewhat of an elegy for climate change and environmental loss.

"In thinking about climate change in particular, one way to read or experience "Cloudscape" as sort of like an elegy. I think there's a real sense of loss or fading away, or this sense of disappearance within that video that I think can definitely be connected to conversations that we have about climate change and environmental loss," Hyte said.

Hyte also felt that "Cloudscape" could help guide the viewing of other works in the show, since its whistling audio remains present throughout the exhibit.

"I think the work is less directly about landscape or the environment," Hyte said, "but it acts as a really great lens to view the other works in the show, some of which are more specifically concerned with imagery of land or the environment."

Other images featured in the exhibit are likewise less directly about cli-

mate justice or loss, but still stand to reassert the presence of the vast and beautiful landscapes that make up our ecosystems and to inspire change. Cao Xiaoyang's charcoal piece, "The Twenty-Four Solar Terms: Vernal Equinox" (2019), does just that.

"It's just a beautiful image of the landscape, and something about it really captures the feeling of quietude that you can only get from being next to a really massive, overwhelming part of the earth," Hyte said. "I think that sense of connection to the land or understanding of humanity's position within an ecosystem is super powerful," Hyte said.

The Residual (2007) by Julie Mehretu is another work in the exhibit that does a great job eliciting strong feelings of connectedness and the desire for change, though indirectly.

"Through the way the show is organized, I think that the feelings evoked by those pieces become something that informs our experience of the landscape, especially because concerns around the environment are sort of inescapable and ever-present in this moment," Hyte said, "so there's no way to not read the tension within the relationships between the different works in that way."

Hyte worked alongside Kelly Thorn, Exhibition Designer, and Megan Carey, Manager of Exhibitions and Publications, to curate "Poetics of Atmosphere." All students at the College are welcome, and while a visit to the museum might sound like an intimidating experience for some, according to Hyte, there is no wrong way to walk through a museum gallery.

"Museums have the potential to be community gathering spaces and I see folks come here where it's clear they're just meeting a friend for coffee and the gallery is just a place for them to stroll together, or it's a place for a caregiver to bring their kid on a blizzarding day," Hyte said. "I think that's just as important for the campus community and the broader community as anything else."



EMMA ROSENTHAL
Students in the common room of a Hillside dormitory watch the Rams beat the Bengals in Super Bowl LVI.

ADVERTISEMENT:

Forthcoming summer exhibition at L.C. Bates Museum: Wilderness and Culture

CURATED BY MARÍA MINUESA
AND CAROLINE SCAROLA

The L.C. Bates Museum's upcoming annual summer exhibition will open on 7 May 2022. Wilderness and Culture includes over 35 works by 20 artists from Maine or with ties to the state, who work in a variety of mediums. The opening will take place on May 7, 2022 from 4 to 6 p.m. EST.

"Caged Lion" (1976-77), Bernard Langlais's monumental wooden sculpture on the lawn next to the L.C. Bates Museum, perfectly encapsulates captivity. Taking its cue from the state-wide initiative and the 2021-22 annual humanities theme at Colby on Freedom and captivity, the 2022 L.C. Bates summer exhibition invites artists to engage with the meanings that these two concepts hold for the natural world and the ways in which we conceive, represent, and imagine freedom and captivity in nature.

The artists in the show consider notions such as wilderness, cultivation, and domestication. This exhibition comprises figurative and abstract depictions of the relationship between humans and nature. For example, Janice Anthony's painting *Lost Pond*, Coombscook offers a view of a pristine pond surrounded by freely growing vegetation where one can find solitude and an escape from what Anthony calls the "busyness and production" of our society. Expressing the theme of Wilderness and Culture in a more metaphorical

way, Rachael O'Shaughnessy's *Surf Echo 3*, is a dark abstract print that alludes to the ocean's awe-inspiring vastness. In his photograph *Bridging the Wilderness*, John Meader illustrates how humans and nature intertwine as the "railroads were the industrial veins that grew through the wilderness." Lynn Karlin presents us with an image of the successful domestication of wilderness. In her photo titled *Domestication meets Cultivation*, a house cat sits next to a cruciferous vegetable head. Nina Bohlen's oil panel explores our ability to take advantage of nature in order to "beautify" or "entertain" our otherwise industrial world. Bohlen's *In the Jungle* sets a dichotomy as the natural world collides with that of human creation: a colorful vase of flowers with a tropical bird perched on it is surrounded by dark jungle vines.

As a non-traditional museum that focuses on the natural world, the L.C. Bates offers the perfect setting to explore how the dichotomy of "freedom and captivity" plays out in nature. Wilderness and Culture is the result of a collaborative effort between the L.C. Bates Museum staff and two Colby College students, María Minuesa and Caroline Scarola, under the supervision of Professor Véronique Plesch.

For more information, call 207-238-4250 or email lcbates@gwh.org



JULIE MEHRETU
"The Residual," (2007). Color sugar lift and spit bite aquatints with hard ground etching, and drypoint.

This multimedia artwork is part of the exhibition because its full tumultuous design evokes change and connection.



JOHN MEADER
Bridging the Wilderness (2021). Digital photograph.
This image of a railroad is one of 35 pieces in this Maine oriented collection at the L.C. Bates Museum.

How to fly home: a decision of feeling and reason

By CONRAD WEN Opinions Reporter

I have been pondering my plans for summer lately. I took a flight training course sponsored by a Colby alum during Jan Plan; it was perfect for anyone looking for a career in aviation. The instructors were helpful in describing every aspect of flying, including the technical aspects of aviation as well as possible career paths.

Starting a flight career seems promising. My parents were supportive and urged me to stay in the United States for the summer to explore aviation. However, I am still a little hesitant, because I would prefer to return home to China to see my family.

In general, when making a major decision, it seems logical to push away irrelevant factors like irrational emotions and transient impulses. We should focus on the present situation to find the best solution.

If I want to stay local to pursue my potential flight career, it's more reasonable to remain here for the summer, given the hefty price of a ticket and the inevitable month-long quarantine once I arrive in China. By earning myself a private pilot license, I secure myself a stable source of income — which I may very well use to pay for a flight home.

If I remain on campus,

I will fulfill my parents' wishes and prove that I am a good kid who listens to them. They will be pleased to see that I am able to live independently when they can no longer be by my side, easing my parents' anxiety over a somewhat significant life decision.

My other option is to fly back home and stay with my parents. Let us for a moment suppose that I do fly back. It makes me a disobedient son in the sense that I did not follow my parents' advice. I will have also lost the opportunity to obtain a private pilot's license. It seems that I could lose everything by one decision.

Perhaps I forgot to consider something just as important: I love my parents, and I don't want them to worry about me. This is a completely subjective thought which holds no significance to anyone but me, yet it is precisely the thought that compounds my dilemma.

The more I contemplate it, the more I confuse myself, as if I am stuck in a muddy swamp. The more I struggle with the decision of whether or not to pursue aviation, the further I sink.

My decision to remain, therefore, would increase my anxiety and homesickness. I don't know what my parents would think from across such a long distance. I am afraid that

I will further worry my parents by not being by their side and them not knowing how I am doing.

It is further compounded by the fact that it is not a problem that could simply be solved through communication because it is my very thoughts that concern me.

On one side of this issue lies my potential career path; on the other, my dearest people on Earth who I haven't seen for nearly a year.

The person with the highest stakes in this decision is me. I am stuck because I don't know how to rank the values of either choice by reason. They both seem equally important. The only faculty I am left with is to trust my instincts.

If I were to decide that I should stay, my love for my parents might seem less strong. If I feel that I love spending time with my parents enough to sacrifice this career opportunity, then I will fly back on a commercial airline, rather than stay to pursue a flight career.

But how is the value of a feeling determined? If I remain, I must accept the longing for my parents. If I choose to fly back, I give up my flight training opportunity, but I prioritize my love for my parents and my connections to them. So, perhaps I should start looking for plane tickets.

Quarry Road adventure

By MARYRITA CURCIO Columnist

For those Colby students on the Nordic ski, crew, or cross country teams, the Quarry Road Trails are a common gathering spot used for training. But for the rest of us, myself included, Quarry Roads is just a place we hear about from time to time. I decided to change that, and took an adventure to Quarry Road. So here is your guide to everything you need to know about Quarry Road so you can seem like a seasoned pro when you get there. It is definitely worth a visit!

From campus, Quarry Road is 1.7 miles away, which is a 30-minute walk or a 4 minute drive. Once you arrive, there is a little brown yurt that has all the rental equipment or anything else that one would need for a successful outdoor adventure.

Quarry Road is known for Nordic skiing but offers so many more activities. The trails can be used for downhill skiing (which is a new feature

this winter), backcountry skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing, and dog walking.

When I arrived at Quarry Road I opted for snowshoeing. I had only been Nordic skiing once so snowshoeing seemed like the less daunting option, a decision I'm very glad about.

Quarry Road has rental Nordic skis for the student price of \$10, and snowshoes are free of charge to rent.

There is a window at the Yurt, from which all the rental gear is checked out. Before the pandemic consumers could go into the yurt to rent gear but now all transactions happen through the window.

There was an older man and woman working the Yurt, who were both very friendly and gave helpful instructions. After I told them that I was a novice and was unsure what path to take, the man went to get me snowshoes, and the woman grabbed a map of the trails to point me in the right direction.

She showed me which trail to snowshoe on and told me to look out for

the youth ski race that was going on. She told me I shouldn't run into any of the kids skiing, as they were on another path.

The man had me sign out the snowshoes and then the woman gave me the map which I tucked in my pocket as I headed off to find the path. There were a lot of people out on the trails and I stopped an older couple, who helped point me in the direction of the path.

I ended up snowshoeing for over an hour, and the whole experience was invigorating. The path was beautiful and quiet, taking me along the river and through the woods. It was easy to navigate, and I did the loop and then returned the snowshoes to the Yurt. My friend came to pick me up at the trailhead and we headed back to campus.

The overall experience was amazing and I would highly recommend all Colby students to visit at least once before graduating. Being in Maine comes with both pros and cons, but having the opportunity to explore Quarry Road is definitely one of the pros!



Quarry Road provides maps of the cross country ski routes for visitors during the months with snow.



WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Unmasking for the start of the spring semester

By MOLLY GEORGE Arts & Entertainment and Opinions Editor

Spring semester involves a lot of slush. From the bitterly cold start, trekking across campus can be a challenge. And just as the days start to get longer and warmer, everything continues to get busier. Given the messy weather, spring is a welcome opportunity for routine. Dean Karlene Burrell-McRae sent an email on Feb. 11 about the "re-

markable start to the spring semester." Past spring semesters have been messier. For most of my college experience, winter has meant more COVID-19 cases, more isolation, more braving the cold than usual because it's the safest place to socialize. The benefits of this policy include more ski days and hikes and adventures, which is a definitive highlight. People tend to spend time at the beginning of the semester maximizing winter fun, before everything starts to melt.

And meltdowns have happened before — just as everyone is getting back and getting settled and getting out of the brief arrival quarantine, there can be an outbreak. I don't think I'm alone in expecting an unfortunate increase in cases just when things start to feel safe. Being sent home for a worldwide lockdown my first spring semester and quarantined at the start of my second spring, we have to be ready for anything, so I was gearing up for another pandemic semester. College in the time of COVID -19 has involved a sustained potential of losing in person interactions as we used to know them. I haven't not worn a mask in class in two years, unless it was over Zoom, which flattens my personality onto a screen rather than covering my face. Both options are a weird way to go to school, but I am undoubtedly used to them.

Just this past Friday, the decision to minimize masks came earlier and more absolutely than I expected given recent COVID trends. But my surprise is more closely related to what I'm used to in a spring semester at Colby. Quarantine clichés aside, masks have become normal over the years. I'm so used to the trials and tribulations of

going to a small private liberal arts college in a pandemic...of course the things we've grown accustomed to are not so terrible in the grand scheme of this event we are realistically all tired of talking about. But since the situation is always changing, there is always something to talk about.

Masks are helpful in many ways — a subtle strategy to keep my face extra warm between buildings, as I know many people have come to realize. They can be an accessory as much as a necessity, but now that they are much more optional across most of campus, I wonder if it will remain socially acceptable to keep a cozy mask over your nose (or at least chin) while we get used to the freedom of wearing our faces. While it's exciting that we get to be more open around campus and get rid of the closed-off feeling of masks, the enthusiasm feels tempered with an obvious adjustment, because now unmasking is something new too. Seeing the full faces of anyone around campus buildings is a little jarring, in a similar way that not meeting someone without knowing what their whole face looks like was disorienting (and really still is). But rather than returning to no masks like we never had them, this unmasking is like a fresh start.

The transition matches this moment in the spring semester where we get to adjust to new schedules and get organized. This optional unmasking makes me feel like we can relax into the semester. Though rules may seem ambiguous and masks may or may not be missed, unmasking feels like spring. It's all a little messy and definitely exciting — a spring cleaning of sorts.



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Men's Hockey maintain top conference position after tough week of competition

By ROHAN SINHA
Sports Reporter

Colby Men's Ice Hockey scraped through a series of close games, coming out the other side with their top spot in the NESCAC Rankings still intact.

After postponements due to winter storms, the team started off the week of Feb. 6 at home against Amherst. Applying the pressure early, the Mules outshot the Mammoths in the first period but were unable to establish a lead.

Through the second period, Colby continued to put shots on goal, but Amherst started to fire back. The Mammoths broke the deadlock shortly after with the only goal of the night coming in the seventeenth minute.

Alex Bourhas '23 won the faceoff to begin the third period and kickstart an aggressive push to tie up the game. He would finish with fourteen faceoff wins on the night, providing a consolatory standout individual performance as the Mules failed to wrestle the win away from Amherst, losing 1-0.

After the tough loss to Amherst, the Mules hosted Middlebury on Feb. 8. The Panthers arrived with only one

conference win this season. However, they came into the Jack Kelley Arena set on beating Colby, and spoiling Colby's first seed standing.

Middlebury fired quickly out of the gates, demanding four saves out of Colby's goalie Andy Beran '24 before scoring just 1:48 into the period. Colby struggled to offset the early deficit, failing to convert on two power plays against the confident Panthers.

The second period started off similar to the first, with the Panthers punching home again 1:16 into the period, but this time around Colby landed a response just nineteen seconds later thanks to a goal from Brian Sanzone '22.

Austen Halpin '22 helped the Mules land the one-two and tie up Middlebury with a goal forty five seconds later. Colby managed to kill two penalties and close out an otherwise scoreless second period.

Looking to justify their top spot in the conference and send Middlebury back to the basement, Colby came into the third period hungry for a winning goal. Sanzone, who kickstarted Colby's comeback earlier in the game, provided a Middlebury with a power play opportuni-

ty early in the period. The Mules defended the mismatched opportunity, but Sanzone soon linked up with fellow goal scorer Halpin to assist John McElaney '24's game-winning goal. The Mules managed to protect their impressive record with the exciting 3-2 comeback win, now looking towards a trip to Middletown, Connecticut.

Colby faced second ranked Wesleyan Feb. 11, looking to knock their closest competitors off their heels in the standings. The Mules' offense established itself early, with a goal thirty-eight seconds into the first period from Michael Morrissey '22. Colby's attack found the back of the net again in the ninth minute with a goal from Justin Grillo '22, and the defense supported their momentum, killing two penalties.

Wesleyan began to test Beran's consistency by firing more shots on goal and ultimately converting a power play in the fourteenth minute. Wesleyan continued to wrestle control of the game from the Mules into the third period, with a tying goal 8:41 in. The Cardinals looked to put Colby on the opposite side of a 3-2 comeback win, but they failed to convert

a power play at the end of the period.

Heading into an overtime period featuring a three versus three matchup, Colby looked to stay focused and secure a result, but the Mules' offense could not nail the game-winner. Beran's composure capped off a night of twenty-seven saves individually and a 2-2 tie for the Mules heading into the next day's match-up.

The next afternoon, the Mules remained in Connecticut for a matchup with Trinity, another NESCAC force looking for a late-season grab at Colby's top spot in the confer-

ence.

Colby put two shots on goal early in the first, but Trinity's early pressure pulled them ahead of the Mules with a goal 6:28 into the period. Colby, hungry to clear the deficit, established a back and forth with the Bantams until Trinity converted a power play in the final minutes of the second period.

Trinity, looking to seal a tight game, and Colby, looking to fit another game-winner into the week, traded shots, each struggling to find the net well into the third period. After the Mules' penalty kill, Jack Sullivan

'24 scored an unassisted goal, leaving six and a half minutes for a crucial game-tying goal. Late pressure from Colby's offense could not pull the Mules back into the game, and Colby left Connecticut with another unsatisfying result following a tightly contested matchup.

The Mules plan on leaving the losses behind as they head into the last week of the regular season, defending their home rink and the first seed heading into playoffs later this month by taking on Tufts Feb. 18 at home and Connecticut College Feb. 19, also at home.



COLBY ATHLETICS

Colby Men's Hockey duels Wesleyan for a ricochet puck after an errant pass from the Mules.

Scores of the Week

Sunday 2/6
Men's Squash
vs. Hamilton College
at Hartford, Conn.
Win
6-3

Tuesday 2/6
Women's Basketball
vs. Bates College
at Bates
Loss
62 - 75

Friday 2/11
Men's Nordic Ski
at Dartmouth Carnival
Classic
Placed
9 (of 11)

Friday 2/11
Women's Nordic Ski
at Dartmouth Carnival
Classic
Placed
5 (of 11)

Friday 2/11
Men's Alpine Ski
at Dartmouth Carnival
Classic
Placed
5 (of 11)

Friday 2/11
Women's Alpine Ski
at Dartmouth Carnival
Classic
Placed
6 (of 11)

Friday 2/11
Men's Basketball
vs. Wesleyan University
at Wesleyan
Loss
70 - 87

Saturday 2/12
Women's Squash
vs. Connecticut College
at Clinton, NY
Win
5 - 4

Saturday 2/12
Women's Squash
vs. Wesleyan University
at Clinton, NY
Loss
4 - 5

Saturday 2/12
Women's Basketball
vs. UMaine Fort Kent
at Fort Kent
Win
76 - 40

Women's Hockey sweeps the Camels

By ROHAN SINHA
Sports Reporter

Colby Women's Ice Hockey came into last week looking to add onto an impressive 13-3 record with two games lined up Feb. 11 and Feb. 12 against visiting Connecticut College. The Mules have made a statement this season, securing the number two spot in the conference behind undefeated Middlebury.

The Mules kicked off the weekend with a strong first period Feb 11, hammering shots on goal early but failing to take advantage of two power plays. Colby's offense demanded twelve saves from Connecticut College's goalie, but the Camels managed to step it up in the second period.

Both teams fought to hold each other scoreless and kill a penalty apiece through the second piece, holding the matchup in a gridlock. Nina Prunster '22 supported the Mules with nine saves that period as her side continued to test the Camels' goalie. Anna Staton '25 led the period's offensive efforts for Colby with four shots on goal.

The Mules finally managed to crack the game open 8:15 into the third period with Jillian Mazzocca '23's ninth goal of the season coming off an assist from Meg Rittenhouse '24 and Staton. A

power play opportunity gave Colby a goal, and six minutes later that lead grew with a goal from Lily Wisniewski '25. The goal, assisted by Stephanie Lane '22, marks the first-year's first in her collegiate career.

As the Mules began to cruise following a tight start to the matchup, Abby Wick '25 found the back of an empty net, burying the game in the final minute, with an assist from Madi Aumann '23. Prunster provided nineteen saves in net for the Mules, securing a comfortable 3-0 shut-out victory at home. The Mules handled business in the third period to ensure the final result reflected their strength and confidence heading into the second match up.

The Camels came out renewed the next afternoon, testing Prunster early with shot after shot on goal to start the first period. Colby managed to suppress any potential momentum from the Camels by finding themselves a power play opportunity 7:46 in, but they were unable to convert. Colby demonstrated they were still the same team as the night before, the second ranked team in the conference by responding with pressure. However, both teams struggled to score, and each failed to convert two penalties in the first period.

Colby broke the tie 10:22 into the second period off a power play with Georgia Pettygrove '25's first collegiate goal. Wick provided the assist, followed up five minutes later with another goal from Rittenhouse to establish a 2-0 lead for the Mules. Rittenhouse, recently named NESCAC player of the week, proved her worthiness off an assist from Lexi Cafiero '22, who had earned player of the week honors just the week before. The Mules managed to establish a 2-0 lead before the second intermission this time around, heading into the third period in a much more comfortable position.

In just the third minute of the period, Cafiero put the Mules up by three off another assist from Wick. Unfortunately, just two minutes later the Camels would manage to kill the shut-out for Prunster, who would finish the night with an impressive twenty-eight saves. Connecticut College could not muster up a comeback against a strong Mules side as Colby finished the weekend with a 3-1 win.

Colby prepares to host Amherst for two games Feb. 19 and 20, as the Mammoths sit just behind the Mules in conference standings. Colby awaits the games with a comfortable 15-3 record, looking to cap off a stellar season.

Pen to Paper

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Men's Basketball falls short in senior game against Tufts



COLBY ATHLETICS

tunity to see from the sidelines how to best support his team next season.

"I want to put [my teammates] in a position to play to their strengths. I've got to focus on keeping the energy high. This year, I've definitely been an energy-guy due to my knee injury and then concussion," Richard said. "I haven't touched the floor like that this year, so I have to keep positive energy because it's easy to get into an exhausted attitude."

Families and friends came out to support the team in their last regular season game of the season, hoping for a final win before heading into the playoffs.

Historically, Colby has struggled playing Tufts in the past and this game was no different. From the opening tip-off to the final buzzer, contact was a heavy presence on the court. The referees let the players battle through contact and the game took place mostly in the paint.

The game was very close after the first half, ending 26-22. There were five lead changes, but Tufts finished with the advantage despite neither team shooting efficiently. Tufts had made just two more field goals than Colby but had shot ten more attempts to get there.

Both defenses played well, but there were plenty of missed opportunities on both ends. Colby and Tufts got good looks for shots under their patent offenses, but neither team could

find the bottom of the net. They were both under 30 percent from the field, and their three point percentages were both below 15.

"Matt's been a great leader, especially by example, he's always putting in work. He's always down to ease the tension with a joke or something like that. It's fun to watch him perform and have a good time on the court, so I'll definitely mis those aspects of him."

Hanna had a number of flashy passes in the half that got the crowd going. Jonah Obi '23 had a monstrous dunk and a block that turned heads, and Jack Lawson '25 was on fire, scoring a quick six points for the Mules in consecutive possessions.

In the second half, both teams improved their shooting percentages, but Tufts still kept the advantage, physically willing themselves

to victory. The Jumbos also had the edge in free throws with 19 attempts compared to Colby's eight.

Tufts ability to take contact and draw fouls was a testimony to their dominance throughout the game. They only allowed Colby to have the lead for three and a half minutes early on in the game, though they were never able to develop a large advantage.

For every Colby missed shot, Tufts had a response, and the Jumbos controlled the glass well. They had 12 offensive rebounds compared to Colby's three, giving them plenty of second chance opportunities to score.

At the end, Colby's desperate efforts to close the game fell short. With two minutes left in play, the Mules were swarming. They ran a well-executed press that caused a few Tufts turnovers, but it was too little, too late.

Ultimately, Tufts won 61-53, a disappointing end to the Mules' last regular season home game.

Lucas Green '23 had a great game, scoring a game high 19 points on 13 attempts. He was 4-7 from three and hit a pair of clutch triples that almost resulted in a Mule comeback.

Lawson also played very well, adding 12 points of his own on top of five rebounds and three assists.

Both players will continue to try and keep up their high-level play in their next outings to finish this year's season.

Men's Basketball shoots from beyond the arc against the University of Maine at Farmington.
By JULIAN CANGIETER-HERNANDEZ
Sports Reporter

Colby Men's Basketball took the floor against a solid Tufts team in a Senior Day thriller this past Tuesday Feb. 8.

Heading into this game, the Mules sported an 11-10 record, having won six out of their nine home outings. Tufts had a similar record — 10-9 — but won only three out their nine away games. Colby celebrated their guard

Matt Hanna '22, the only graduating member of the team and his four-year career was forever stamped into Mules history.

Before the game, guard Jack Richard '25 spoke during Senior Day celebrations of his departing upperclassman.

"[Matt's] been a great leader, especially by example, he's always putting in work. He's always down to ease the tension with a joke or something like that," Richard said.

"It's fun to watch him perform and have a good time on the court, so I'll definitely miss those aspects of him."

Regarding the night's gameplan, Richard had some insight into the team's mindset.

"We want to make them play our game, make them play fast and try to run them out of the gym," he said.

Richard is ready to step up and deliver in the years ahead. After being out for most of the season with injuries, he had an oppor-

Colby Women's Swim and Dive come up empty in NESCAC Championships

By WILL BEDINGFIELD
Sports Editor

Colby Women's Swim and Dive wrapped up their regular season and invited the remaining NESCAC teams to Waterville for the NESCAC championships. The weekend-long event spanned Feb. 10 to Feb. 13.

This past championship weekend was the College's first time ever hosting the 24 event series. The Mules have never won the championships in the event's 20 year history. Notably, Williams College has won 19 of 20 championships and is currently on a seven year winning streak — with regional rivals Amherst College breaking the previous 12 year streak in 2013.

Competing in categories including Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Individual Medley, Diving, and Relays, the Mules looked to shake up a history of difficulty and challenge the dominant Ephs. Notably, Ann Tolan '23 ranked top three in Freestyle at last year's championship weekend.

The event kicked off at 7:00 p.m. with an 800 meter Freestyle Relay, the only event of the evening. Colby's first relay team placed

tenth. Tufts, Williams, and Amherst, the giants of the competition, took the podium and in that order.

Day two of the competition saw several more events take place, and despite dominant performances from Williams, Amherst, and Tufts — among others — Colby snuck in a few top three finishes.

Tolan, of last year's fame and ready to lead the Colby squad next year, placed third in the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 23.20 seconds, just .13 milliseconds behind first place Ella Riccio from Bowdoin. The one meter diving competition saw Eleanor McGrath '24 place third, edging out a number of competitors.

At the end of Friday Feb. 11's competitions, Tufts stood in first place, Williams took second, Amherst third, Bowdoin fourth, and Middlebury rounded out the top five. Colby failed to podium in another event, marking the end of competition for a number of seniors.

On the third day of competition Williams edged out Tufts, coming back from an 18.5 point deficit to a 7.5 point lead over the Jumbos. The final competitions, however, would prove if

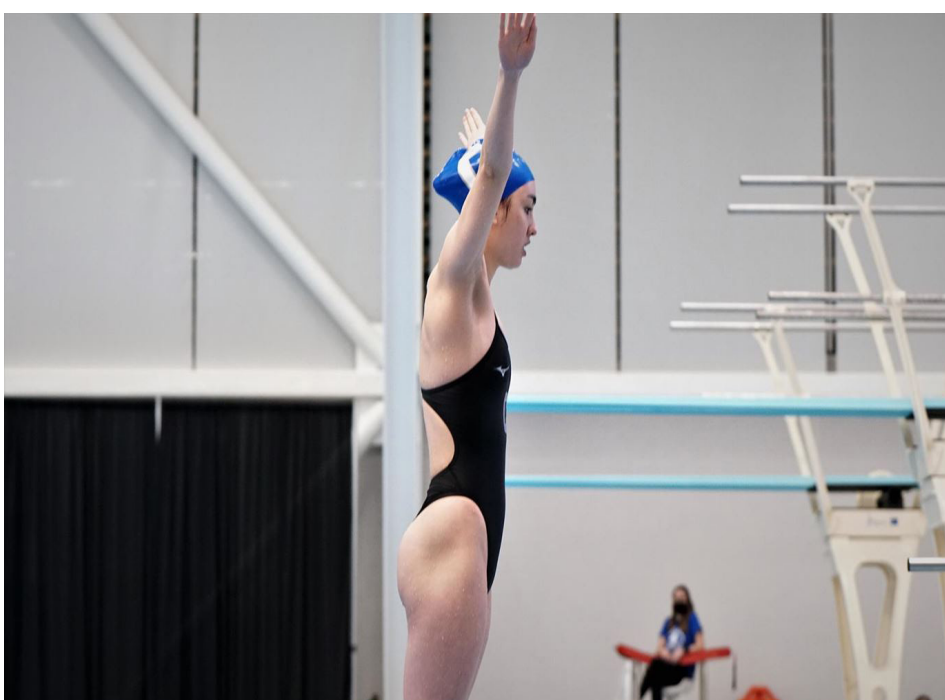
Williams could extend their winning streak or if the Jumbos could win their first ever NESCAC championship.

On the final day of competition, Williams extended their 7.5 point lead to 30.5 points with key wins in the 1650 freestyle and 200 backstroke. However, after Tufts' victory in the 100 freestyle, setting a pool record of 50.52 seconds, and a number of other podium finishes, Tufts took a 30.5 lead as the number of events wound down.

Williams fought back, reasserting the depth and dominance of their program. The Ephs swept the 200 breaststroke with a one-two-three finish. The lead continued to shift through more diving competitions, but when it was all cut and dry Tufts stood victorious.

With a 400 freestyle relay team up to task, Tufts clinched the title and set a pool and NESCAC meet record of 3:22.46.

This Sunday, Feb. 20, the NESCAC Invitational will be held at the Harold Alfond Athletic and Recreational Center, and the weekend after winning athletes will compete in the NCAA regional qualifier.



COLBY ATHLETICS

Colby's Eleanor McGrath '24 squares up for a dive in last weekend's NESCAC Championships.



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