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Matthews is a Model for Artists

I was delighted to see the profile of Professor of Art Harriett Matthews (Q&A, winter 2010 *Colby*).

When I read your piece on mentors (fall 2009 *Colby*), Harriett sprang to mind. I was reminded both of her long tenure and of the profound effect she has had on so many students. Some of us are in Maine, so we have the opportunity to periodically exhibit with Harriett. This past summer I participated in the annual University of New England Sculpture Invitational, which included Harriett as well as Ed Twilley '84: two Colby graduates exhibiting with their former teacher.

Studying with Harriett at Colby definitely helped prepare me for my career. The discipline and rigor she expects from her students is clearly evident in the example as a sculptor and teacher. Harriett stresses the importance of curiosity and vision in an artist but also the necessity for persistence and hard work.

Harriett was adept at recognizing the individual strengths and unique qualities in her students and encouraged us to delve into them further. Over the years I've come to recognize how much Harriett has positively influenced my own work as a therapeutic art teacher in the mental health field.

Life as a working artist is not without its challenges, but I am forever grateful to Harriett for laying the foundation for that choice and for providing her own inspiring example.

Carolyn Treat '82
Portland, Maine

Essay Clarified Afghanistan

Thank you for the essay by Ayaz Khan Achakzai '09 (Viewpoint, winter 2010

Colby). In a few short columns, he shed more light on the Afghanistan/Pakistan dilemma than I've seen in the print, broadcast, and cable media combined in years of reporting. And his discussion of the Durand Line (the British-imposed border through Pashtun territory creating what are now those two countries) highlights the time bombs planted long ago by colonial stupidity and injustice and the larger problems we create and re-create when we view borders as something real.

Imagine outside forces redrawing the U.S.-Canadian border through Mayflower Hill "dividing" Colby in two. After a lot of noise and protest, things would likely settle back to normal with people crossing this international boundary at will—until, of course, some outsider came in, put up fences and a border post, and insisted that any attempted crossing without official permission (from the outsiders) was "illegal" and that those making the attempt were criminals. If that sounds farfetched, pick almost any border in the world and trace it back to its origins, and you'll find the analog.

And for those of you who, like me, were children of "the Sixties," the term "Taliban" translates (if long-ago memory serves) as "students."

Andrej Thomas Starkis '70
Andover, Mass.

Facts Counter to Ziv's Comments

As an official publication of an academic institution, *Colby* has a special responsibility to make sure that articles it publishes are supported by facts.

I am most concerned about the statement by [Oak Fellow] Hadas Ziv ("Oak Fellow Advocates for Marginalized Residents in Israel," winter 2010 *Colby*), "The Israeli occupation is unjust. When we victimize someone it takes a toll on the victimizer. ... We are losing solidarity in Israel. ... We control, we oppress, and still we don't have the society we want."

On a subject as sensitive and important as Israeli policy toward West Bank and Palestinian people living there, it is vitally important that any statement about this policy be supported by facts. Otherwise, people who read what she says who know little if anything about

Israeli policy, Judaism, and the Jewish people may form the wrong conclusion.

What does Ms. Ziv mean by "occupation"? What does she mean that the "occupation" is "unjust"? What does she mean when she says that Israel is "the victimizer"? What does she mean when she says that Israelis "oppress" the Palestinians in the West Bank? She makes very serious accusations about Israel without providing any factual evidence to support them.

I am also most concerned about the title of the article. "Marginalized Residents in Israel" gives the false impression that Israel does not care about Palestinian refugees and Arab Bedouins living in Israel. One of the three pillars of Judaism besides prayer and study of the Torah is Tikun Olam, or repairing the world, as evidenced most recently by Israel's lightning-fast help to the earthquake victims in Haiti. From Tikun Olam comes the basic Jewish value of Tzedakah or charity.

I note the article on the preceding page, "Mitchell Perseveres for Peace." Former United States Senator George Mitchell's efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are not helped by Ms. Ziv's factually unsupported accusations about the government of Israel nor by the misleading title of the article. Inflammatory remarks hinder the peace process and may even stop it in its tracks.

Dr. Stephen Schoeman '64
Westfield, N. J.

Ziv "Simplistic" on Israel

The article by Jenny Chen '12 on Oak Fellow Hadas Ziv (winter 2010 *Colby*) caught my attention. Over the years Ziv's organization, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, has done much good. Yet for Ms. Ziv to maintain that "We control, we oppress..." is rather one-sided and simplistic. If the fundamental right to good health is to be accorded to all, so should the fundamental right to exist be respected by all parties. With friends like her who speak of the "Israeli occupation," Israel had better sleep with one eye open.

Guy T. Filosof
Professor of French, Emeritus
Sarasota, Fla.