

Colby



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Dispatches

Gerry Boyle
Colby College

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From the Editor's Desk



In most ways, Colby is a fairly timeless place. Yes, the campus has evolved and is bigger and better. Yes, the students and faculty seem younger with each passing year. But for the most part, I feel like I still could plunk down in class—with Peter Harris, Ira Sadoff, Phyllis Mannocchi—and begin where I left off 25 years ago.

But there are times when it seems like not only the College but the entire culture has changed. Tackling a story on music file sharing was one of those times. It seemed clear enough. Look into the ways students get music off the Internet, and examine the issues that have arisen from that.

Everybody now knows about Napster, don't they?

I have a Luddite streak, sure, but how complicated could this be? If kids can do it . . .

The first clue that the story might be a technological challenge came in the first interview. In a booth in the Spa, a senior began to talk about file sharing and downloads and P2P. Less than a minute into his discourse, he paused. He smiled gently and, like a doctor about to break some bad news at bedside, said, "I don't know how much you know about computers but . . ."

Not as much as I thought I knew, but with the help of several patient students, instruction from Ray Phillips in Information Technology Services and advice from younger colleagues (one diplomatically directed me to a Web site called howstuffworks.com) I began to get the idea. It seems the world is one vast web of data lines, instantaneously (or close to it) connecting computers to the most astounding collection of information in the history of mankind. This happened when some of us weren't paying attention. Look quick, because what is cutting edge today will be tomorrow's obsolescence.

Of course, all of this technology changes the way we live, work and study. Today's students can access more information in minutes from their dorm rooms than we could in a month in the "unwired" library. Internet searches yield unforeseen and not-so-long-ago unimaginable results. File-sharing software allows you to rummage through the computers of people you'll never meet, copying files of music you'll never pay for.

That's one issue raised by our runaway technology train. For help with that we go to ethicists and philosophers (fortunately Colby has a supply of those as well) and find that the most useful ethical guideposts have been around for centuries. For this story, philosopher Chesire Calhoun enlisted a predecessor, Immanuel Kant. He said we should always act on that maxim that you would be able to follow as a universal law of nature. If everybody downloaded all their music from the Internet, would that be okay? No, Kant said, or would have if he'd ever heard of Napster. If downloading were a law of nature, you'd have no music industry to download from.

An 18th-century view of music file sharing. That much of the story was perfectly clear.

Gerry Boyle '78, P '06
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Abigail Wheeler '04 ("Far and Near," P. 18; "Now What? P. 10) has written for *Audubon* magazine as well as several Maine newspapers. An English major and creative writing: poetry minor, Abigail

is on the editorial board of the *Pequod*, Colby's oldest literary magazine. She hopes to go into writing or publishing.



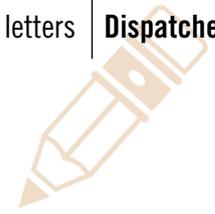
Sara Blask '03 ("Far and Near," P. 18; The Last Page, P. 64) spent the past winter as a dogsledding guide in New Hampshire's White Mountains. She has written for *The Burlington Free*

Press and *Houston Chronicle* and freelances for various publications, including *Colby* and *Collegian Travel and Adventure*.



David Treadwell ("The Gift of Music," P. 36; "Casting About," P. 52) is a freelance writer who lives in Brunswick. He has had articles published in the alumni magazines of Bowdoin and

Connecticut colleges and Brown University.



Letters

Carolyn Anthony inspires

I was extremely inspired and relieved to read “Freedom Fighter” (winter 2004 *Colby*) at this critical time in our nation’s history. Ms. Anthony speaks for many of us when she says she is “acutely aware of the nature of the opponent she has chosen to engage and that, in some ways, it would be easier to say nothing.”

“It is difficult to organize opposition when the assault [on civil liberties] is subtle and incremental,” she said, “but it is vital. If you don’t do it now, you will lose the ability to do it at all. It is like the way Nazism took over Germany. It was so subtle at first nobody noticed. . . .”

A New Hampshire woman who founded a Protestant religion at the turn of the 20th century wrote in the preface to her denominational textbook: “The time for thinkers has come. . . . Contentment with the past and the cold conventionality of materialism are crumbling away.”

I take her words to heart when pondering Patriot Act perspectives. Ms. Anthony did not equate The Patriot Act to Nazi Germany. She equated the subtle and incremental assault on civil liberties that is going on across America today (with implications for the white majority in addition to minority populations who are more familiar with certain systemic breaches) to “the way Nazism took over Germany.”

I suggest a read or reread of Nobel Prize-winning *The Captive Mind* (1953), in which Czeslaw Molosz analyzes the way that *any* ideology can take over *any* nation, and how it does so one (willing or naive) constituent group at a time.

Fear, ignorance and apathy are the ingredients that ripen a nation’s readiness for despotism and they do so by impeding or sedating individual reason and righteous action until it is “too late,” as many Germans discovered to their horror and lifelong grief.

I admire Ms. Anthony’s moral courage and strength of character and support her every effort to keep her audiences awake and the incremental assault on their civil liberties at bay. I also commend those in Skokie and the

state of Illinois that sustain and strengthen her vital contribution to this precious and precariously balanced “republic” of ours.

Lisa Wormwood ’84
Medford, Mass.

Patriot Act Fears Premature?

At least for the present Mrs. Anthony’s fears (“Freedom Fighter,” winter 2004 *Colby*) may be premature. On the news Jan. 27, it was mentioned that of about 1,700 claims, queries or supposed abuses of the act, all but two were found to be incorrect. And a few weeks ago John Ashcroft had said no libraries had been checked.

I imagine a problem could arise because users in libraries are using the library Internet connection so their identity cannot be traced. Some libraries are supposedly having sign-up lists for Internet time and users have to be cardholders of that particular library. I asked at our local library and that’s the case there: users must be card holders.

Perhaps Mrs. Anthony is seeing possible situations instead of realities.

Howell Clement ’48
Kalispell, Mont.

On Technology and Tyrants

Normally when I receive my alumni magazine I flip through it, maybe skim a little, and then put it aside. This time I found it electrifying. I was extremely heartened by your article about the librarian’s fight against the USA Patriot Act. I intend to make copies and send it to all my reps.

I commend you for taking a clear stand as to the dangers we are facing through the act. I fear that we in the United States are already well along the path taken by Nazi Germany, only this time the consequences for inaction will be far worse. Although the evil will of tyrants is the same today as it always was, advanced technology permits that evil far more scope and subtlety, far more power to do harm. Computers, RFID, insertable biochips, frequency weapons and the like confer powers that members of the Gestapo could only imagine. Please don’t let this article be

the last on this subject. I can’t tell you how heartened I was to see a good article on the subject in a “non-radical” publication.

Mary Cupp ’69
Falmouth, Maine

A Boost for Franco-Americans

How good to hear of the rebirth of pride in the Franco-American community of Waterville. As a student from French Canada I was surprised and pleased to discover my own family namesakes in Waterville in the 1960s. But Monsieur Chabot makes his point only too well about the self-effacing nature of his community, when he says French has been around for three hundred years in North America. Three hundred?

Ma foi Grégoire! Champlain founded the settlement of Port Royal, in “Acadie” in 1605, three years before Jamestown, and, mon vieux, he followed up with Québec in 1608. Our pride simply won’t allow a century to disappear so easily. Vive la langue! Vive la culture de nos ancêtres!

And keep up the good work. Surely this current wave of English domination is only a passing thing.

Michel Picher ’67
Toronto, Ont.

Polar Bears or Polar Fleece?

I really liked the cover on the winter 2004 issue of *Colby* but could not decide if it was a picture of 1) students dressed for Waterville winter headed for class between Mary Low and Miller Library or 2) the ultimate in Jan Plans.

Debby Berry Denniston ’61
Nassau, N.Y.

Navy, Not Coast Guard

I read with great interest the article “Breaking the Ice” (winter 2004 *Colby*). However, I would like to correct one error.

The author states that the *Edisto* and *Burton Island* were U.S. Coast Guard ships participating in Operation Windmill in 1947-1948. I was the damage control assistant on

the *Burton Island* from 1965 through 1966, and it and the *Edisto* were U.S. Navy ships, not Coast Guard vessels. The Navy decommissioned both ships in 1966 and transferred them to the Coast Guard at that time.

Tony Kramer '62
Burr Ridge, Ill.

Eliminate Athletic Recruiting

While I'm pleased to read that President Adams and others are working hard to improve student-athletes' academic standing ("Intercollegiate Sports and the Athletic Ideal," winter 2004 *Colby*), I can't help but be dismayed that recruiting is still part of coaches' jobs. Given that NESCAC and Division III schools in general are not supposed to give athletics the priority that Division II or Division I schools do, why not remove the recruiting process entirely? What's wrong with running every team solely with "walk-on" athletes?

Let me suggest two reasons to eliminate recruiting. First, it opens the sports programs up to students who are skilled but not monomaniacal. Among other advantages, this could help avoid the social and intellectual divide between lettermen and non-athletes. Second, Colby is not in the business of preparing athletes for pro careers. Despite this, we all hear high school seniors say, "I'm going to this-or-that school to play (some sport) for them." That's a dead-end approach to their college career.

This is not to suggest that applicants' athletic accomplishments be ignored. They simply should be given the same emphasis as, for example, musicianship, debate or photography. None of the latter skills are ever actively recruited.

Carl Witthoft '77
Cambridge, Mass.

Challengers a Source of Hope

I am writing in response to the article "Race-Oriented Events Raise Awareness and Objections" (winter 2004 *Colby*). As I read it I was both hopeful and saddened: hopeful because there are still some people on Colby's campus who are still willing to challenge the concept of race and racism.

I graduated from Colby College in 2000. I was the president of SOAR (Society Organized Against Racism) from 1998 to 2000.

Letters Welcome

Colby welcomes your letters. Send them to Gerry Boyle, editor; *Colby* magazine; Office of Communications; 4181 Mayflower Hill; Waterville, ME 04901, or by e-mail to mag@colby.edu. Length should be limited to 300 words or less. *Colby* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity.

I remember pushing the campus to begin to examine the ways we see each other and the way we see ourselves. It is nice to see the passion and the promise are still very much awake on the hills of Colby.

I am saddened because Colby has to have the same dialogue year after year. Students have to have the same discussion to make them aware of racial differences and the struggles that students of color encounter. [President] Bro Adams was right in hoping that Colby graduates will be stronger, wiser and more self-assured to deal with moral (and social) issues in a diverse society . . . I know I am, thanks to my experiences at Colby.

Kenya Sanders '00
Bronx, N.Y.

Flag Swap was an Affront

I was deeply disturbed to read in the article "Pride & Prejudice" (summer 2003 *Colby*) that in May 2002, one of Colby's "Gay Pride Week" activities was to "temporarily" take down the American flag in front of Miller Library and replace it with the rainbow flag of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

This act of disrespect is an affront to every veteran and patriotic American who has ever attended Colby. It is a sad day when a group of students is more proud of their sexual orientation than they are of the flag, which symbolizes the sacrifice and courage of those who have fought to preserve the freedom they so obviously enjoy.

Cathy Palmer Smith '80
Boscawen, N.H.

Drawbridge on the Moat

I enjoyed your piece about James Sullivan's book *Over the Moat* ("Love Bridges a Cultural Divide," winter 2004 *Colby*) and I look forward to reading it for more than just the obvious reason.

Jim Drawbridge '66
Holden, Mass

Not Your Father's Magazine

Each issue I read *Colby* with amazement. Alumni magazines, including the one my father received when I was a kid, were always dry, with a few notes on sports on campus, a bit about the faculty and a word or two of campus update. Mostly one read about who died or married and the class news. It served to plug fund raising. Now—wow! It is filled with interesting articles of important matters and gives students an opportunity as well. Congratulations and thanks.

Nancy Weller Brown '54
Appleton, Maine

Polish that Magazine Cover

I would like to say that I enjoy very much receiving *Colby* magazine. Yet there is one thing about the magazine that consistently makes an impression upon me: this is the bland (perhaps unsophisticated) presentation that the cover makes. The name of "Colby" would be made proud to take on the font of the College's letterhead or even of the heading of the school's Web site. Surely, the "Colby" of the front cover of the magazine is of a different—and to me—less desirable font/layout. Also, why shouldn't the title of the magazine read, say, *Colby College* or *Colby Magazine*, or *Colby Alumnae*, et cetera? I think that these suggestions for titles carry more meaning. They say what the publication is. I hope my suggestions make sense; I am just interested in making the publication shine a little brighter.

Jeff Butler '87
San Francisco, Calif.



Gleaned from the campus newsletter, FYI

Exemplary Service Learning

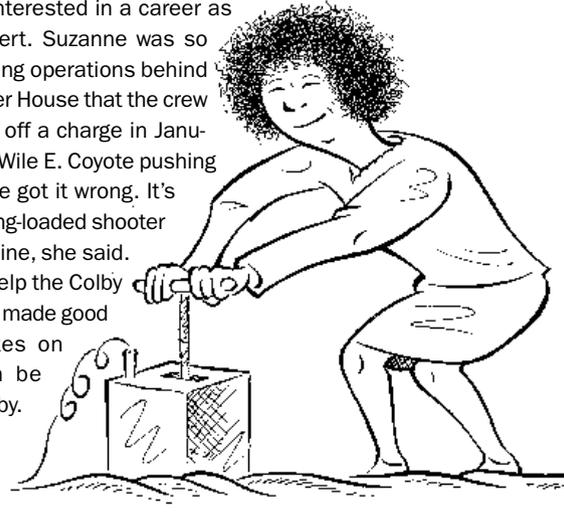
On February 26 **Mark Tappan** (education) was honored by the Maine Campus Compact at the State House in Augusta as a recipient of the 2004 Donald Harward Faculty Award for Service Learning Excellence. Awards were presented by Gov. John Baldacci to Mark, Sue Fickett of St. Joseph's College and W. Bumper White of the University of Southern Maine; Lewiston-Auburn College. Mark was honored for incorporating service learning into all his classes for the last eight years and for being a strong advocate for service learning.

Service, In Spanish

When **Priscilla Doel** (Spanish) served as senior interpreter for a medical mission to the Dominican Republic for two weeks in January, she was on a team with **Michelle Farrell '01** (for the second time) and **Julie Guibault '08** (who'll be enrolling next fall). The group, out of USM, spent two weeks in Fusimaña de Lajas taking health care to very isolated, very underserved villages, and they saw as many as 130 patients a day. Priscilla called

Demolition Doyenne

Suzanne Jenkins (admissions), who is thinking about retiring next year, says she's now interested in a career as a demolition expert. Suzanne was so attentive to blasting operations behind her office in Lunder House that the crew invited her to set off a charge in January. If you picture Wile E. Coyote pushing the plunger you've got it wrong. It's more like the spring-loaded shooter on a pinball machine, she said. With Suzanne's help the Colby Green project has made good progress. Updates on the project can be found at www.colby.edu/colbygreen.



the service learning experience "wonderful" for everyone involved—"very intense, at times very emotional."

Truck Talk

Anybody notice that "Lenny, from Belgrade, Maine," who closed out *Car Talk* on NPR on February 7, sounded a lot like our own **Lenny Reich** (science, technology, and society)? The Lenny on the radio had gotten into some automotive trouble hauling a too-large sailboat with a too-small vehicle and was

seeking Tom and Ray's advice on what he should get for the job. "You need a 10-year-old pick-up truck," they told him. Since our Lenny is a historian of technology who specializes in the history of transportation we can't believe that he would have tried to pull a too-heavy trailer. But he did.

Longstaff Honored

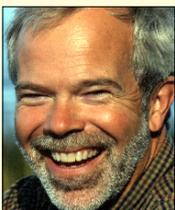
The Bangor Theological Seminary got it right in January when it gave **Tom Longstaff**, Crawford Family Professor of

Religion, emeritus, the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus/a Award for Specialized Ministry in Teaching. Tom, a 1963 seminary grad, was honored for his distinguished career in the classroom ('63-'03 at Colby), service on Colby's technology and race and racism committees, archeological exploits in Sepphoris, service as a "non-parochial Episcopal priest" and scholarly publications. It's been a long and auspicious journey from Winthrop, where he grew up, through UMaine, Bangor Theological, Columbia and four decades on the faculty here.

Our Piece of the Corps

With 17 Colby graduates in the field for the Peace Corps during 2003, Colby again ranks among colleges contributing most volunteers to the effort. This year Colby ranks 22nd among colleges and universities with fewer than 5,000 undergraduates, tied with Smith College and Rice and Wittenberg universities. Tufts, Wesleyan and Middlebury also appear in the list. Last year we had 18 volunteers and were ranked 17th; two years ago 22 volunteers put us second.

Colby Update: Kent Wommack



The conservationist who pioneered sweeping land-protection measures for Maine is leaving the U.S. to lend his vision and skills to his counterparts Down Under.

Kent Wommack '77, who graced the cover of the fall 1999 issue of *Colby*, has stepped down as executive director of The Nature Conservancy in Maine to start a Nature Conservancy chapter in Australia, the *Portland Press Herald* reported in March.

Wommack changed the way that land is protected in Maine when he orchestrated the

conservancy's purchase of 185,000 acres along the St. John River in 1998 for \$35 million. The organization hasn't looked back.

With deals that included a \$50-million loan takeover that protects an area known as the Katahdin Forest Project, Wommack and his group have preserved more than 600,000 acres in Maine in the last five years alone. Under Wommack's leadership, the Maine chapter of The Nature Conservancy has raised \$80 million in private money for land deals.

Wommack is noted for his negotiating skills and his acknowledgment that there is a place in conservation plans for traditional

land uses, such as logging and hunting. Admirers say Wommack's legacy will stand alongside that of Gov. Percival Baxter, who donated Baxter State Park, and George Dorr, whose money and influence resulted in Acadia National Park.

"I think that Kent is going to rank as one of the great figures in the history of land conservation in the state of Maine," Leon Gorman, grandson of L.L. Bean, told the *Portland Press Herald*.

Wommack, who was raised in Cincinnati and came to Maine to attend Colby, planned to move to Brisbane, Australia, with his wife and three children.