
LETTERS

Hall presidency appointments

Every year, the Student Government Association president and vice president-elect are faced with making appointments to various campus positions including hall presidencies for the dorms in which no one ran. To fill the spot, we began with a campus-wide e-mail inviting anyone interested to apply. Now that the decisions have been made, we wanted to make sure the student body remained informed on the salient questions of whom, how and why.

First of all we wanted to publicly thank the more than 20 people who applied for these spots. In addition to e-mailing us about their qualifications and interest in the position we had the opportunity to sit down with all of the applicants and meet them face to face.

The decisions were difficult as everyone was qualified, but we are

excited about and confident in the people we ultimately selected. If the rest of SGA is comprised of individuals as qualified as these five, the student body will be well represented next year.

Sarah Getchell '04 will be president of AMS, Greg Lusk '06 president of Dana, Sarah Schleck '06 president of Williams, Meghan Gallery '06 president of Grossman and Sarah Kaplan '06 president of Treworky. These involved, informed, responsible and civic-minded members of the Colby community are extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to represent their dorm on Presidents' Council. We look forward to working with them and the rest of the elected representatives in the coming year.

*Derek Taff '03 and Josh German '03
SGA President & Vice President-elect*

Students need parking lessons

Hey you—you with the white SUV which was parked in the Roberts parking lot the other day—did you get the note that was left on your windshield? Something to the effect of: "Learn how to park your car!" I'm not afraid to admit it; I left that note. I'm not trying to single you out; I just didn't have enough paper to leave notes on 50 percent of the cars in the lot.

Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against SUVs. And I know the rows in the Roberts parking lot are close together. But this fact does not excuse taking up three parking spaces. The problem starts when one person parks rather crookedly. Then everyone else in that row is forced to compensate by parking uncomfortably close to the other cars or by crossing a few lines.

In the winter, we rightly let it slide. It is difficult for some cars to drive up and over those enormous snow banks,

and nobody can see the lines anyway. But now it is spring; there is no snow in the parking lot. Nevertheless some Colby drivers continue to park horrendously. Honestly, who taught these people how to park? We've seen that it is certainly possible for all cars, even the biggest of the SUVs, to fit into the allotted spaces. Some people manage to do it; why can't everyone else have the same respect for the parking lot?

The result is inevitably annoying: Roberts ends up with fewer parking spaces, so people are forced to use commuter parking spaces or head to a different parking lot. Students, especially those who work or teach during the day and drive back for classes, are consequently late for class. Also, security quickly penalizes those who utilize commuter parking even when there is no other alternative.

The College could just make another parking lot, but I wouldn't be a fan of another increase in our already-

hefty tuition. Plus, why should Colby compensate for a few students' lack of driving skills? So be considerate and learn how to park your car.

Justin Burner '05

Posse complains don't hold water

I am writing to express my disappointment with the column written by Greg Lusk in the Echo (April 10). What bothered me the most about Lusk's column, was that not only was it written in such an overwhelmingly negative tone, but he also successfully perpetuated the stereotypes and misinformation that I believe holds Colby back from becoming a campus that is committed to honoring difference.

In his article, Lusk reports that the Posse Program is a program that "specializes in bringing overlooked inner-city kids to Colby." This statement is absolutely false. Posse is not a program

created to place unqualified kids into elite schools. It is a program to place intelligent and capable students from multi-cultural, urban environments into colleges with a mostly homogenous atmosphere. Students are sent in groups of 10, after months of leadership workshops as a support system for each other and to create change together on college campuses. Posse is not a scholarship based on race or financial need, it is based on leadership ability. Posse defines diversity beyond racial lines—which is what we all need to start doing on this campus.

I don't know if Lusk has ever talked or associated with anyone from Posse, but the 10 members of Posse that I have had the fortune of knowing are some of the most capable, intelligent, motivated, open-minded and awesome people I've met at Colby, let alone in my life. I am certain they could have gone to any col-

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lege of their choosing. Unlike Lusk, Posse students are committed to changing the social climate of this campus. Secondly, Posse students are from all over New York City—but I guess that would constitute “inner-city” for our overwhelmingly close-minded suburban consciousness here on the Hill.

When Greg wrote, “the Posse Program...has already had 10 percent of its participants leave,” he failed to mention that the program currently has 10 students enrolled here, one of whom has taken medical leave for this semester and will be returning in the fall. Furthermore, Posse students have retained a graduation rate of 90 percent—a rate equal to or higher than the

national averages for the most selective institutions of higher education.

Lusk blames the administration for the “failing” attempts of diversity. However, I think we should look elsewhere. Diversity is not about statistics or categories; diversity is about creating a campus that welcomes all who wish to be a part of it. I believe that creating a warm atmosphere is not a job left to the administration, but it is the job of every person who is associated with the school—most importantly the students. We are the ones who are living here, so why rely on those who only work here to help foster a diversity friendly atmosphere? I feel that it is our responsibility to make our classmates, teachers, dorm mates, friends and people we just pass on the pathways feel welcome. We all

are students at Colby College so why separate and segregate ourselves?

Greg, it's easy to complain, but it's easy to find solutions as well. If you think the school can spend its money more effectively than flying “rich kids” to campus, why don't you effect some change on this campus and make some positive suggestions to the administration. Feeling like an outsider as a conservative on campus is how a lot of GLBTTQ students or students of color feel here as well. “Be the change you would like to see in others,” said Gandhi. Well, Greg and whoever else may be reading this letter right now, be the change you would like to see in Colby and better yet, the world!

Arielle Adams '06