

SGA hosts panel on Ridgeline Woods

By Katie Roberts
News Editor

In an effort to set the record straight, the SGA sponsored an informational meeting Tuesday night on the development of Ridgeline Woods.

Director of Operations George Whitney hoped that the forum would "give an in-depth understanding of what we did." Whitney was one member of a seven-man panel representing the various parties involved in the project. Also seated at the panel were architect Steve Nelson, landscape architect Aaron Stein, civil engineer Gary Fern, Vice President of External Affairs Will Melton, and President and Vice President of the Inter-House Council Chris Oliviero '96 and Todd Barnes '96.

SGA President Mohan Renganathan '96 made it clear from the beginning that "as far as the college is concerned, the decision [to build on Ridgeline Woods] has already been made."

Only two of the present social houses have decided to move to the new location thus far, however development of the area will continue to include up to eight houses and a party barn. Priority was given to social houses, but the buildings may be dorms, special interest houses or other social organizations, but will ultimately be home to 240 students. As the student body increases over the coming years, this area will be important in providing necessary housing.

Although 12 other sites were examined for possible development, this area was chosen for its "great proximity to the center of campus and the great views it offered to the west and northwest," explained architect Nelson. Having determined that the area had no historical significance, plans continued.

Town residents, faculty, staff and students attended the meeting, voicing their concerns on pedestrian and vehicular traffic, impact on

the residential area near the site, effects on the environment and the direction the development would follow.

Alex Lee '97 questioned what consequences the plans will have on Adirondack View, a residential road located closest to the woods. The panel responded that a number of options will make travel on Adirondack View obsolete. Vehicular traffic will use a new road off Route 125 leading to a parking lot at the foot of the ridge.

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Community celebrates fall season



Carla Naumburg

Face painting, clowns and square dancing at Septemberfest helped the college community celebrate the beginning of fall. See story page 14.

Shuttles transport students to houses

By Adrienne Yun
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association, in association with the Inter-House Council, campus security and the college administration, has taken measures to implement a "safe rides" program at Middlebury College.

The concept of shuttle buses transporting students between social houses and their respective

dorms is not a new one. In the past several years, proposals for such program have been raised as a possible prevention of on campus accidents.

In the spring of 1995 the SGA, under the new leadership of Mo Renganathan '96 and Anthony Civalé '96, took steps towards execution of this proposal. During the summer, both spoke with President McCardell concerning the safe

rides program. They were pleased with the positive response on the part of the administration towards this proposal.

In addition, Civalé noted that the parties involved — SGA, IHC, campus security and the school administration — worked well together to put safe rides in action. "They were all very enthusiastic... I hope that the quick manner by

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Council convenes to set agenda for school year

By Jennifer Burrell
Staff Writer

Members of the Community Council met Monday for the first time

this semester to begin outlining the issues they will address in the upcoming year. The council, comprised of representatives from the administration, faculty, staff and student body, exists to facilitate communication among all segments of the college community and to provide an opportunity for each to share equally in the decision-making process regarding non-academic issues of mutual concern.

Anthony Civalé, vice-president of the Student Government Association and co-chair of the Community Council, anticipates a "huge year for Community Council and for Middlebury College" and looks forward to the council's "role in shaping the future of the College." Discussion regarding goals for the year focused on several issues.

Growth of the college was the first topic addressed. Last spring, the Board of Trustees voted for a gradual increase in the size of the student body from 2,000 to 2,350 students over the next ten years. The agenda of the college for the coming year centers in large part on planning for the implementation of this change and its impact on the college community as a whole.

Civalé believes that "this will be

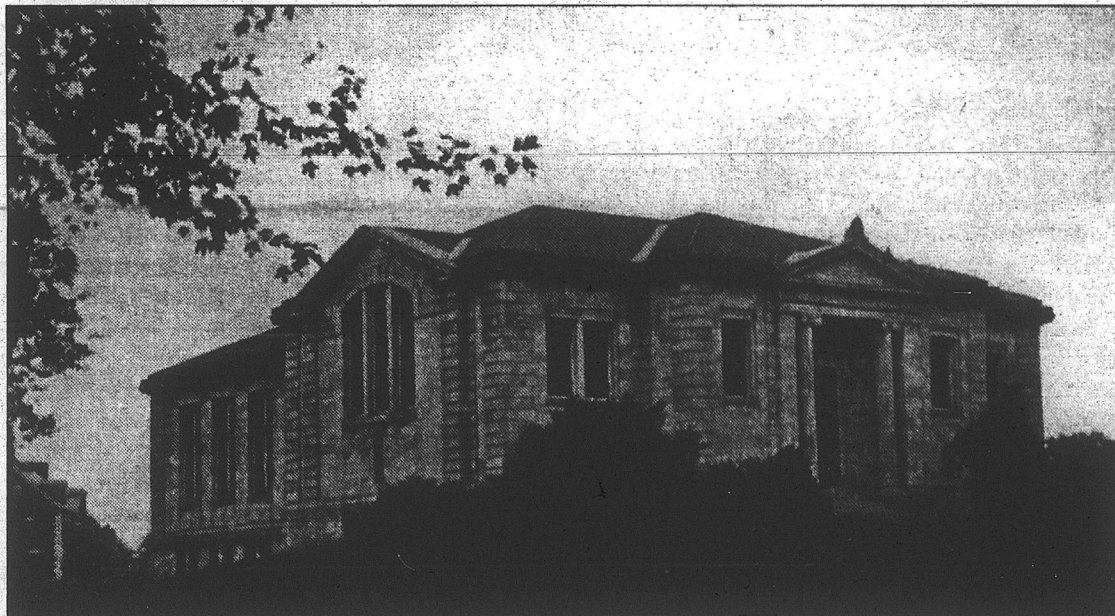
the most important issue any college committee will be dealing with this year."

The primary focus of the council's efforts will revolve around concerns related to growth, including renovations, academic life, technology and student life. Civalé acknowledged the role of the members of the Community Council in planning and making recommendations to President McCardell as lending them a "unique opportunity to review and evaluate everything that Middlebury does; to make Middlebury a better place to be. Because Community Council is the only committee comprised of members from the administration, faculty, staff and student body, it acts as a great forum to discuss issues that will affect what Middlebury is like in the year 2005."

Civalé then raised the issues of parking and a "pedestrian campus." The Environmental Council released a memo in the fall of 1994 to the college community expressing concern regarding "excessive and unsafe traffic on campus" and offering several suggestions to begin solving the problem.

After receiving feedback on these recommendations from various college committees and organizations, the Environmental Council drew up a final proposal advocating a shift to a pedestrian campus, which was forwarded to

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The original Egbert Starr Library, dedicated July 3, 1900

Courtesy Photo

'College of choice' seeks first-rate library

By John Turner
News Editor

Whether they go grudgingly or voluntarily, few Middlebury students can avoid regular trips to Egbert Starr Library to tackle reserve readings and research papers. As the library's growing collection of books and other materials makes the existing facilities increasingly crowded, the college is beginning to plan for the library's future.

Last year, the college formed a Library Planning Committee, which conducted a survey of students and faculty last spring, and met regularly over the summer, visiting the facilities of several other nearby institutions.

Recently, the committee issued a preliminary report and has been conducting a series of open meetings with concerned faculty, students, and staff.

The Evolution of Starr Library

Officially, the library is actually older than the college itself. A student borrowed *Sons of Ethelwolf* on

October 6, 1800, three weeks before the college received its charter. The library was, of course, considerably different in the early years of the college. The collection in 1810 numbered a little over 500 books, and the library was only open one day per week. The library was housed in Old Chapel after

its completion, and was moved in 1881 by President Hamlin to the north end of Painter Hall.

Egbert Starr Library was the first marble building on campus, and it has housed the library since its construction in 1900. The initial building was much small-

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The Changing College:
The first in a series
on the future of
Middlebury's facilities

Inside...

Sophomore challenges merits of single-sex organizations and ideologies on campus and off.

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Arts

R.E.M.'s lyrics reveal overlooked profanity in its musical catalog.

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In Depth

A cross-section of students offer praise for their favorite musicians.

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The Campus is printed on recycled paper. It is also recyclable.

Admissions teems with new energy

By Ryan D'Agostino
Managing Editor

The Emma Willard House is full of new energy this school year, with a new director of admissions, a newly-created director of enrollment planning and a younger staff that says it's ready to begin the road to a larger student body. This summer Geoff Smith, who directed Middlebury's undergraduate admissions office for four years, became interim associate director of admissions at the University of Vermont.

John Hanson migrated from associate director to interim director of Middlebury's admissions office, and Michael Schoenfeld became the college's first director of enrollment planning. His position was created in the wake of the Board of Trustees' decision to expand the size of the student body to roughly 2,350 over the next 10 years.

In addition to these changes at the helm of the office, the college has hired four recent Middlebury graduates as admissions counselors. Two counselors left last year; those two were replaced and two more were added. The staff now includes Sara Boisvert '95, Ian McCray '95, Beth Whitney '95 and Jean Andersson '94.

Schoenfeld outlined his position

as someone who works closely with the president and with the rest of the admissions staff in effort to increase total enrollment while ensuring that the caliber of students is not diminished.

"Quality can be sacrificed if you're not careful," he said this week. "We need to maintain and increase quality while we increase quantity. It's not just a matter of adding applicants, because if they're not qualified, that doesn't help."

The four new admissions counselors will travel to high schools around the country, help read applications and host open houses for perspective students, among other responsibilities. Each counselor travels a total of six weeks; the addition of two more counselors thus increases the comprehensive travel time by 12 weeks. Boisvert believes this is an essential component of the plan to increase the annual yield without detracting from high academic caliber.

"We have to get the Middlebury name out there more than it already is. There is definitely a focus; we know what we have to do in terms of what our yield has to be. We know what the number of applicants has to be," said Boisvert.

She added that the college's de-

cision to switch from its own, customized application to the widely-used Common Application will help greatly the effort to attract more applicants.

Students who wish to apply to Middlebury will no longer be daunted by the necessity of filling out an application that cannot be duplicated and sent to any other school.

Schoenfeld also said that his office is very interested in studying why students accepted to Middlebury choose to go elsewhere.

"Oddly enough," he said, "part of my job is to see who doesn't come to Middlebury. If we're losing kids to other schools, we need to find out why."



Carla Naumburg

Mike Schoenfeld, director of enrollment planning for Admissions

Forum invites discussion on woods

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A road from the parking lot closer to the houses may be used by students at the beginning and end of the semester when moving in and out of their rooms.

The second road will also be used for emergency entry and construction traffic. The parking lot, required by zoning laws, will accommodate 180 cars, but planners hope that most students will walk to the houses. An additional lot

providing handicapped parking will be situated near the Geonomics Institute.

Paved walking and biking pathways skirting around the Geonomics Institute and running parallel 100 feet off Adirondack View will provide additional access.

The panel assured residents that they want to keep Adirondack View as it is now, unaltered by new traffic patterns or development. Nelson explained, "We made it economical to get from one place to another; it would be hard to avoid the planned paths." Students would have to go out of their way not to use the paths.

Stein stressed that in analyzing and planning the site, their "goal was to maintain as much of the existing woods as possible."

The landscapers determined that some areas of the woods had suffered considerable wind damage or housed unhealthy trees. Working around wetlands, steep slopes and setbacks, the planners attempted to utilize these areas as much as possible and to keep construction on the pristine areas of the woods to a minimum.

Rigorous efforts will be made to save trees larger than ten inches in diameter. Smaller trees will be re-

planted elsewhere. "Saving existing vegetation is a priority," Stein added.

The college has worked with the town in the planning stages of the proposal and have gotten approval from the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.

To proceed with the project, the college will meet for a third and most likely final time with the town Planning Board on October 18. The college requires the blessing of the town in order to file for state permit under Act 250, a permit which will allow them to begin development.

Whitney hopes to have approval by the end of December and anticipates breaking ground on the first two houses in March or April 1996. If construction stays on schedule, the houses will be completed by September 1, 1996. No estimated cost for the project has been determined.

Visits to the site guided by the architect, consulted biologist and landscaper of the project will be offered this Thursday at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. and on Friday at 10 and 11:30 a.m.

Tours will last about 90 minutes and will convene on Proctor Terrace.

Council sets agenda for coming year

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the Community Council for its review this fall.

The proposal was presented to the Community Council on Monday by Steven Rockefeller, chair of last year's Environmental Council, who asserted that "the pedestrian issue is not a new idea." It is part of a larger set of recommendations, compiled by the Environmental Council and presented to President McCardell, entitled, "Pathways to a Green Campus." The report of the Environmental Council addresses three major concerns: safety, the quality of life on campus and the environmental impact of car traffic. Recommendations in response

to these concerns include the assignment of all student, faculty and staff cars to specific parking lots, the blocking of specific roads on campus to reduce traffic, work with the town to restrict parking and improve safety along College Street, and an increase in parking enforcement.

The council acknowledged that "while many people support a pedestrian campus in principle, there is also an understandable reluctance among students, faculty, and staff to give up parking and driving privileges."

Rockefeller urged, however, the importance of a pedestrian campus in light of the planned in-

crease in student body size, which would increase campus traffic.

Community Council acknowledged the complexities of the parking problem and the "pedestrian campus" issue. The council voted in favor of a recommendation to President McCardell calling for more information regarding parking and the possibilities for a pedestrian campus, from Wallace Floyd, a campus planning firm hired last spring to take inventory of the Middlebury campus.

Community Council expects to address several other issues over the course of the year as well, including recycling, the campus pet policy and dorm damage.



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Single-sex ideology alienates student

My mother always told me that honesty was the best policy, and to be honest I wholeheartedly dislike the idea of fraternities and

Nicola Smith '98

sororities. Perhaps, like me, you went to a high school whose students thrived on the fact that there were single-sex secret societies. There were clubs that invited you to chug a 40-ounce bottle of malt liquor, eat dirt, be beaten with a paddle so you couldn't sit for three days afterwards or undergo various other humiliating acts before you were admitted. Perhaps, like me, you thought these actions were an illogical way of displaying affection and allegiance to friends. Perhaps, like me, you saw not only blatant sexism, but also racism and classism displayed in these groups. Perhaps, like me, you wanted to see a brighter alternative when you arrived at a place of higher learning.

My upbringing led me to believe that there are alternatives to subjecting oneself to the rituals and sworn brotherhood/sisterhood in order to feel worthwhile. Although I am not an avid fan of the social house scene either, I am willing to accept that they are in a better position to provide a less restrictive and less sexist atmosphere when compared to the more exclusive "other." However, getting down to the nitty gritty, the real reason I disagree with single-sex societies is because the groups start to get a feeling of self-impor-

tance and interfere in societal progress merely because of strength through numbers and intimidation. It becomes an American Freemasons, you're-in-if-you-know-the-secret-handshake, "I got you babe" kind of stand-by-me-because-we-drunk-and-vomited-together group. Maybe fraternity/sorority members feel my rejection of their societies is merely jealousy. But, I don't think so.

So what put me on my high horse and got me going on this

public office.

They say the best way to make a person look foolish is to quote what they say. Senator Livingston is quoted as saying "limiting... freedom of association on your campus with a federal taxpayer subsidy should be avoided at all costs." The federal tax subsidy is actually given unconditionally, but if that isn't a good enough argument for Senator Livingston, I wonder if the fact that the money is used towards both the "need-blind" policy of Middlebury as well as towards research grants would suffice. And if that doesn't work, I would ask: as a female, am I gaining freedom when I am denied entrance into a group due to my sexual

composition? There's a little bit of a discrepancy in that argument.

I am further amazed that he feels Middlebury is limiting, rather than augmenting, freedom of association on campus through social houses. I am even more amazed that a political figure at the opposite end of the United States can possibly have comprehension of what a private institution in Middlebury, Vermont, is trying to achieve.

Do you see the irony or is it just me? It's a pity there are not more people who pay that kind of attention to national affairs as well as Senator Livingston does to ours. The former DKE member is our own example of how traditionalist societies can infringe on private attempts to move towards

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I am amazed by the fact that a man who is willing to threaten use of political power because someone upset his DKE brothers can hold such a public office.

topic? I read the article last week about our friendly government official Senator Robert Livingston. Social houses have been a major topic at Middlebury, and what a way to start the year; the front page dedicated to yet another problem arising from beer clubs. I don't know about you, but I was disturbed by the audacity and thoughtlessness of his remarks and decided it was time to speak, or write, as the case might be. As most of you probably read the article — it was on the front page after all — I hope I am communicating to an audience as amazed as I am. "Amazed about what?" you ask. I suppose one could say I am amazed by the fact that a man who is willing to threaten use of political power because someone upset his DKE brothers can hold such a

near & far

by Dan Mucha '96 and Shenna Bellows '97

**This week:
Shenna Bellows**

The term "feminazi" pisses me off. To connect feminism with Nazism is more than decrying the militancy of certain feminist activists. The Nazis were veritable exterminators in their pursuit of racist and nationalist expansion. As far as I know, no group of feminists have murdered thousands of people. I see no reasonable comparison between the two. Yet men and women who profess themselves to be "for equality of the sexes" and "certainly not sexist" use the term "feminazi" frequently to dismiss this or that feminist "wacko" — women with strong personalities such as Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, or even Hillary Clinton.

So what are you afraid of? Feminists?

I'm a feminist. And I'm not burning my bra or castrating men or engaging in midnight witch ceremonies. I don't hate men, although I have dated a few jerks. But then, I've met female jerks too. Unfortunately, I do not even belong to the Coalition for Feminist Consciousness, and I've never taken a women's studies class. I don't even mind if someone wants to open a door for me. So what makes me a feminist?

My dictionary defines feminism as "a doctrine that advo-

cates or demands for women the same rights granted men, as in political or economic status." That is more than an adequate definition of my philosophy. I think it's wrong that women are paid less than men on average for the same occupations. It's sad that we have eight female senators in congress when our country is roughly 50 percent female. Above all, I do not think that men are stronger or better emotionally or mentally. For these reasons, I am a feminist. If you aren't a sexist, you should call yourself a feminist too, regardless of your gender.

Is it anger you fear?

Well, maybe there's a lot to be angry about, for some women, if not all women. If you don't understand, I can't enlighten you. But I've been angry before too. Perhaps it was when I was told that "girls don't do math and science" and "girls don't play the trombone" or that my high grades were due only to the fact that "girls develop more quickly than boys." Yes, I had very wise elementary school teachers that told me these things. God is our Father. Man means human. When the gender of the noun is not clear, use the masculine form "he" rather than "one" or "he/she." And according to all the fairy tales and glamour maga-

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Coalition to Save Ridgeline Woods outlines goals for the year

Jeff Inglis '95

To bring the college community up to date on the events of this past summer regarding Ridgeline Woods: plans submitted by the college to the town of Middlebury prior to the August 2 Planning Commission meeting are for up to eight social houses and a party barn. On the plans themselves, as drawn and labeled by college-employed architects, the houses are labeled "social houses." Each of these houses can potentially hold 30 people, for a possible total of 240 people living in the planned development of Ridgeline Woods. The college has proposed these as a unit to be developed over time, but to be approved all at once, this autumn, by the town Planning Commission. There are three buildings on the immediate-building slate: two houses and the party barn.

There were 31 people at the Planning Commission meeting, of whom at least one was an alumnus of the college (myself), six were students, six were college-employed architects, one was a college staff member, three were current college faculty, and the remainder were town residents, no more than three of whom were retired college faculty or emeriti. All but the seven who were there as part of their jobs (architects and staff) opposed the plan. Speakers from the audience

were not necessarily members of the Coalition to Save Ridgeline Woods.

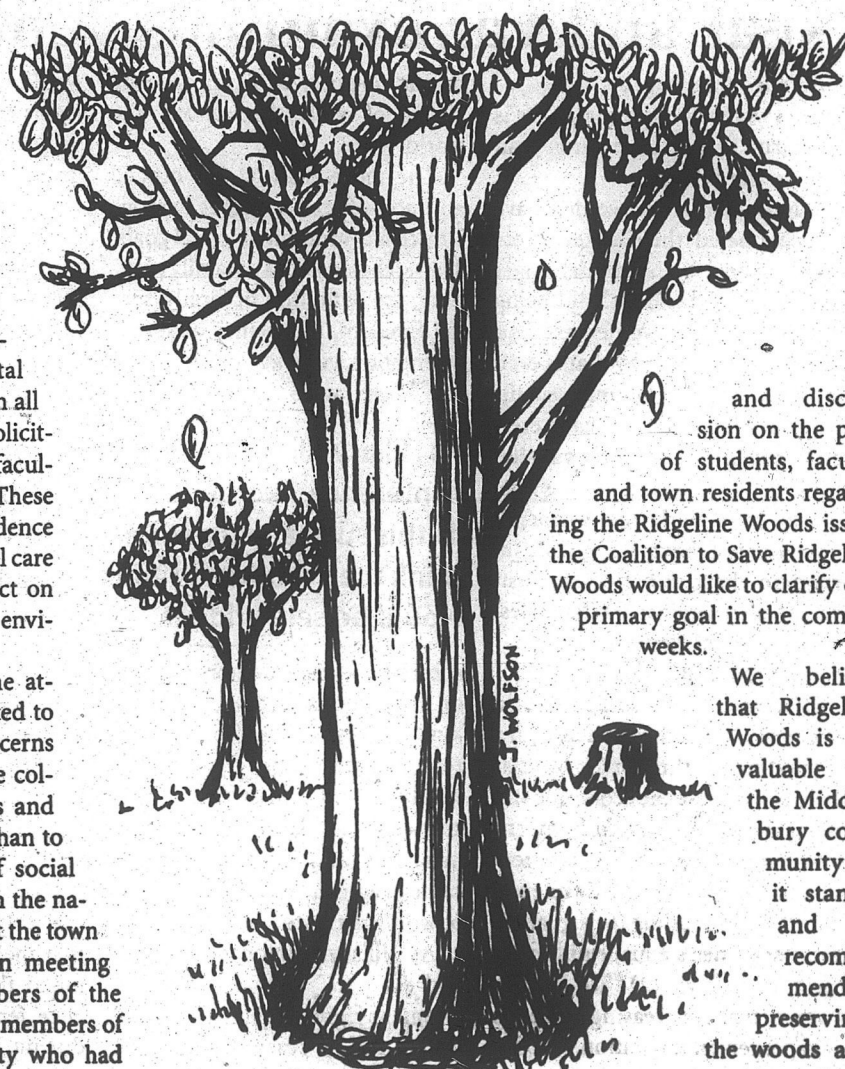
The case I made before the Planning Commission on August 2 argued what I believe: that the plans of the college, as currently proposed, have an undue adverse impact on the character of the area and the natural setting of the woods. The college's current plan has not taken into consideration the environmental guidelines offered from all sides, nor even those solicited by the college from faculty, staff or students. These plans do not offer evidence of having taken "special care to minimize the impact on the Ridgeline Woods environment."

The majority of the attacks on the plan related to traffic and parking concerns and the policies of the college towards students and social houses, rather than to stereotypical views of social houses. The attacks on the nature of social houses at the town Planning Commission meeting were made by members of the town community and members of the college community who had

not, and have not, chosen to associate themselves with the Coalition to Save Ridgeline Woods.

**Liba Pejchar '97
John-Alex Mason '98**

After a summer of hard work



and discussion on the part of students, faculty and town residents regarding the Ridgeline Woods issue, the Coalition to Save Ridgeline Woods would like to clarify our primary goal in the coming weeks.

We believe that Ridgeline Woods is invaluable to the Middlebury community as it stands, and we recommend preserving the woods as a

protected natural area. We oppose all development in Ridgeline Woods. If a plan were proposed to build a dining hall, library, or block draw houses instead of social houses we would be equally opposed to all development. From our perspective, the issue is not the future of the social houses, but the future of the land.

Middlebury College has presented the town planning commission with a plan to construct up to eight social houses and a party barn in Ridgeline Woods. This plan is unacceptable in our opinion.

The Coalition's primary concern is the destruction of valuable wildlife and plant habitat and the elimination of a recreational and experiential learning resource. The college should invest time in this 14.5-acre plot to reap the rewards of having a diverse piece of wild land within the boundaries of the main campus.

At the first Planning Commission meeting, college students, faculty and town residents spoke out against the development plan citing these and other issues. With student, faculty, staff and town support, our goal is to send the college back to the drawing board to come up with a building site that would better suit the needs of the Middlebury community.