

The Campus

Opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the official position of the College. Signed columns, letters and articles are the responsibility of the writer.

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Steve Early, Editor-in-Chief

Editorial

The Blackout: Living for the Future

The black-out staged last Thursday by opponents of the Vernon nuclear plant had little impact on the power companies in the state. Yet the protest was significant in its symbolism. It dramatized the fact that people who want to halt pollution and preserve the environment must begin by examining — and changing — their own habits as consumers.

Some students here have already been affected by the developing consciousness of ecology and ecological relationships. They demand returnable bottles instead of disposable ones, wash their clothes with low-phosphate detergents, "recycle" their leaflets, fill their gas tanks with "lead-free" Amoco, install pollution control devices on their cars, and, in some instances, stop driving altogether.

There are, of course, definite limits to what a few conscientious individuals can accomplish. The habits of millions of Americans remain unchanged; the majority, as at Middlebury, cling to their material possessions. (See Kenan Baldrige's letter on page 10.)

The organizers of the black-out realize, though, that the only way to limit construction of nuclear plants, with their tremendous capacity for pollution and destruction, is to limit the demand for the additional power they are designed to provide. The power companies justify their plans for more reactors on the grounds that public power needs are rapidly increasing. People who want fewer atom power plants will have to get along with less electric power.

The black-out, then, was an experiment in living on a reduced scale. For many students, no doubt, the whole thing was more of a lark than a protest — an opportunity to sit around with friends, listen to records, and groove on the candle-light. But it is important that affluent Americans somehow get used to the idea of doing without. (Blacks, American Indians, Chicanos, and lower-income whites already know how.) They must learn to become smaller rather than bigger consumers because soon the pattern of consumption in this country is going to have to change — not only to preserve what remains of our national environment but also to allow a more equitable distribution of resources throughout the world and to prevent the depletion of all the world's resources.

As Dr. Van Vleck points out in his excellent article in the Spring issue of the Middlebury News Letter ("Only Population Stabilization Can Save our Quality of Life"), "The wealthier the individual, the more resources he uses." The same applies to nations. By the standards of most of the world, America is a fantastically wealthy nation. While constituting less than 7% of the world's population, the American people each year consume about 60% of the earth's consumable resources. According to Van Vleck, "Estimates indicate that the average American uses from 25 to 100 times more power, minerals, water, and natural resources than the average person in India" — and our rate of consumption is increasing! When countries like India "begin to use these raw materials at increased rates to produce finished products for themselves, our own industrial output will have to be sharply curtailed."

Most Americans probably do not welcome the prospect of sharing what they have with the rest of the world (living on less so others may live on more), or preserving what belongs to all so that all will have something on which to live. The alternative is ecological disaster — just as the alternative to reducing the demand for electric power is the proliferation of nuclear powered generating plants.

t Earth Day

Eco-Activist Urges Student Car Restriction

Bart Hall, chairman of the Environmental Quality Group, urged last Wednesday that the College "restrict partially or completely student ownership of cars" in order to control air pollution. Hall recommended the move in an unscheduled speech at the afternoon Earth Day observances in Mead Chapel.

He suggested that the College restrict cars to seniors or any other students who can prove a definite need for having one. Hall also proposed that the College further restrict cars to those vehicles "which are listed by the manufacturer as getting better than 20 miles per gallon," and have the most advanced emission control device possible.

Speaking of the day's talk on pollution control, Hall said, "This sort of country

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Urges Car Ban

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club we've got here is a pretty good place to begin, because for the most part we typify the convenience market that is screwing up the environment in this country and on this planet. We are buying some sort of short term ease, pleasure, comfort, whatever you want to call it, and we're paying for it with some sort of long term disaster."

"The frivolous use of cars here unnecessarily uses up metal, rubber, plastic, gas oil, electricity and considerable amounts of nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide, etc., into the air we breathe," he continued.

Hall pointed out that when he was a freshman the only students allowed cars were seniors, and "most everyone else could take a ride with a senior, or take a bus, or get out and hitchhike. And now everyone who wants, except students on financial aid, and perhaps they're the ones who need one, can keep a car on this campus if they pay a \$25 fee. And I think this set up is wrong."

"I am convinced we do not need our cars as much as we say we do. Maybe it's a convenience, but we don't need them."

"This school is a country club, as I look at it, because we fail to take responsibility for our own messes. We eat a little bit of our food at Proctor or the SDU's and somebody else cleans up. We buy stuff at the Crest Room and somebody else cleans up the trash, or we dump it on Proctor Terrace. We mess up our rooms and expect someone else to clean them up. We waste electricity because someone else is paying for it. We buy soda in throw-away cans and the janitor takes care of it. I think these ideas should be changed and as quickly as possible."

He urged a replacement of the current cola dispensers to the returnable bottle type, a cutting down on power consumption, reuse of paper cups in the dining halls, reading of magazines and newspapers in the library to cut down on discarded paper from personal subscriptions, and return to paper rather than plastic ice cream dishes in the Crest Room.

Letters To The Editor

Anti-Blackout

To the Editor:

After a less than successful Earth Day, Middlebury students have once again demonstrated their capacity for hypocrisy. I am referring to the "black-out" which was supposed to protest the Vernon power plant.

Following a middle-of-the-week candle light supper (the purpose of which seemed less to protest the power plant than to conceal the food served us) I proceeded to indulge myself in sixty minutes of world and national news in the TV lounge of Batt. North.

Blackout

Unfortunately, I was unable to indulge myself for very long since I was twice asked to view the news in a blacked-out room (which, I am told by doctors, is an unnecessary strain to the eyes), and once asked to turn off the news completely to "protect pollution."

During a commercial (which, I confess, might better have been turned off) I availed myself of the facilities provided for men in all women's dorms, only to find myself, in the middle of my efforts, starting into complete darkness: someone had taken it upon him- (or her-) self to insure that we all followed his (her) idea of protest, and the fuse-box was raided. Whether or not we agreed, of course, was not important. It had been decided for us.

Upon returning to my dorm this evening, I discovered my hallway in similar darkness. After some calls to the service building and Dean Peterson, and with the help of a flashlight, it was discovered that someone had again "tink the fuse-box" — once again, rather arbitrarily. (This episode was repeated again during the writing of this letter).

Hypocrisy

In their fervor to protest pollution from the Vernon plant,

Middlebury students embarked upon one of the "biggest acts of hypocrisy known to this school. Certainly, a complete blackout, if agreed upon in advance by all, could have been a meaningful symbol of protest.

But the carnival-like atmosphere that prevailed ("Well, there isn't enough light to study, so we might as well have a party"), and the rather arbitrary manner in which the black-out was effected doesn't exactly coincide with what might be called "concern for the 'quality of life,'" and certainly not the rights of others.

Prove Concern

What, may I ask, is the purpose of denying oneself (indeed others) information of the world around us and "essential activities?" What is the purpose of turning off exit sign, hallway, stairway (and bathroom) lights when people are using them?

Enough Lip Service

If Middlebury students are really concerned with the amount of electricity used here, then I suggest that they prove their concern by turning down their 440 record players (which will not only reduce the power demand, but will considerably reduce noise pollution as well), unplugging all the privately owned refrigerators, hotplates, super-duper, four-track stereo tape outfits, electric hair-dryers, etc., refusing to use the kitchenettes in the dorms (sorry, no hot midnite snacks, no cold beer — in aluminum cans), and not buying electric can openers, toothbrushes, or razors.

If Middlebury students are really concerned with pollution, then I suggest that they stop buying Corvettes, Porches, XKE's, GTO's, Mustangs and other high performance cars (which contribute significantly to noise, heat, and air pollution), stop littering all over (just

check Proctor Terrace any night stop buying soda pop and beer in aluminum cans, stop wasting food (it all goes into Otter Creek) and stop adding to the general air and noise pollution by paying lip-service to its abatement.

I am not suggesting that everyone drive VW's or drink kool-aid, but certainly a little less talk and a lot more action is necessary to use a trite phrase, "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones."

Until Middlebury students are ready to prove their concern with real action, I would appreciate it immensely if they would respect my rights as a thinking individual — and leave the necessary lights on: I have to study so I can do something about pollution.

Thank you,

Kenan Baldridge
Thursday night, April 23, by
candle (power) light

Necessity knows no law and it's the game with extravagance.

Star Salad

To the Editor:

While the Choir was in Hartford recently, a few connoisseurs were discovered requesting the recipe of a star shaped molded salad which disappeared only seconds before the rest of the pre-concert dinner. For those interested the recipe has been obtained for Nancy Bantle Shipman's Star Salad.

2 packages strawberry jello
2 cups boiling water
healthy dash cinnamon
1 package frozen strawberries — set aside 1 cup strawberries and mix with 2-3 cup sour cream and spread on partially thickened jello, refrigerate and unmold.

The truly beautiful music and the talented and personable choristers who sang it were greatly appreciated and we thank them for coming to Hartford.

Sincerely,
Judy Phinney Stearns '56

Every man can't be the best, but every man can do his best.

Croquet

To the Editor:

Addressed to the readers of Frontiers:
I would like to inform you that the photograph on page thirteen of this year's Frontiers, though attributed to me, is not mine. The image did indeed originate in my camera, but it was drastically cropped without my knowledge or permission; and furthermore, had any permission been sought, it would not have been granted. I doubt that the editors would ever seriously consider altering or truncating a poem, so matter what the editorial necessity; it is unfortunate that they do not have equal respect for the integrity of the visual image.

Frank Gohlke

Small is the world's principal source of the incense resins frankincense and myrror. It was known to ancient Egypt as the "Land of Aromatics," according to National Geographic Society.

Colman Defends Phys. Ed. Proposal

Continued from page 8

ness of their program. Amherst is conducting a year's experiment of a half required-half optional program and is not yet prepared to evaluate it.

In going further afield, we found that Franklin and Marshall had conducted an experiment recently to see to what extent students would participate in Physical Education activities on a voluntary basis.

Convenient Scheduling

"It might be pointed out that this period was scheduled when there were no classes of academic instruction and came at a time just prior to lunch," so that the student would not be harried by another class immediately following his exercise period. "A total of 16 class periods were given in the various sports listed. In the final tabulations, ten students reported for instruction or supervision."

that any worthwhile program would have to have some gentle shove, some incentive — especially for those who lack confidence in themselves or are reluctant even to try new things — or order to survive as a program.

If one reads the proposed plan carefully, the "requirement" aspect is very light indeed. It can be fulfilled in several ways, i. e. instruction, approved independent programs, exemptions by demonstrating skill at or above the intermediate level, to a degree by inter-collegiate sports participation, or by combinations of all of these. Choice of activity, method of approaching the activity, and time is left up to the student.

There will be some of course, who will be capable of "exempting" out of the program completely within the first week of arrival of campus. Others may

seems to indicate that frustrations and aggressions can be relieved under conditions of vigorous physical activity.

Now, we look in the time to build some degree of skill — so necessary for later employment and to form habits of healthy recreation for later life.

In 380 B.C. Plato said "Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being, while movement and methodical physical exercise must accompany and condition mental training."

In the mid-20th century, Karl Menninger, noted psychiatrist, said: "There is considerable scientific evidence that the healthy personality is one who not only plays, but who takes his play with a degree of seriousness."

Disordered Personalities

Furthermore, there is evidence that the inability and un-

Tenure Quotas

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Steve Early, Editor-in-Chief

Helping to Make G. M. Responsible

Recently the anti-war movement and various consumer and environmental action groups have begun to concentrate on a new target: corporations which profit from defense contracts, produce defective consumer goods, or contribute to the pollution of the environment. The focus of their activities has been the annual stockholders meeting; their weapon, stock proxies. Reform-minded Churches, colleges and individuals who hold shares are asked to pool their proxy votes in an effort to force discussion of the company's policies — and hopefully change them — at the annual meeting. The approach has no guarantee of success and is hardly very radical (though one of its big promoters is "radical" agitator and community organizer Saul Alinsky.) It calls for working within the system and, in no way, represents a real challenge to the great concentration of corporate power which, in Andrew Kopkins words, "is at the heart of America's un-democracy."

Judging, though, from General Motor's response to the Campaign to Make General Motors Responsible, one would think that the proxy fighters were out to nationalize the auto industry. "Campaign GM" is a group, sponsored by Ralph Nader, which is currently collecting proxy votes for two proposals that will be considered at GM's May 22 annual meeting. (The company initially tried to exclude the measures from the official proxy statement it sends to all shareholders; the Securities and Exchange condition ruled that this was illegal.)

One of the proposals would create a public committee — with access to the corporation's records — to investigate and report on GM's past and present efforts to produce cars with minimum pollution and maximum safety. The other would add three representatives of the public to the company's board of directors. (The new members proposed by "Campaign GM" are former Presidential consumer-affairs advisor Betty Furness, distinguished biologist Rene Dubos, and Washington minister, Rev. Channing Phillips.)

The purpose of both proposals is to expose General Motors to greater public scrutiny and insist that it take into account the many social consequences of its decisions. In this effort, "Campaign GM" supporters have been active on a number of campuses in an attempt to win university support. American colleges hold at least 1.3 million shares of GM stock; Middlebury owns 7,683. The college community here, if it is truly committed to environmental action, should back the campaign and urge the trustees to vote Middlebury's proxies in favor of the reform proposals. "Urge" is unfortunately all we can do, because Middlebury is a corporation also and the trustees are the corporation. Hopefully, the board will not adopt the position taken several years ago by Harvard President Nathan Pusey, who haughtily told his students: "We don't use our money for social purposes."