

Editorials

Energy must be first concern

We urge fellow students to consider rationally the closing of Middlebury College over Spring Break. In an age of dwindling energy resources, the College must evaluate its levels of consumption and strive to conserve when possible. Spring Break is a logical time for conservation measures in that 95 percent of the student body leave campus. For the one hundred or so students who do remain, Starr and Painter would provide ample space for housing.

Two years ago, the College removed Starr and Painter from the steam heating system by installing electric hot water heaters in those dorms. The rationale behind the change was to shut down the steam plant completely and thus save both energy and money. The change reflected a concern that too few students remained during Spring Break to warrant keeping all dorms open.

We acknowledge that some students will be inconvenienced by the dorm closings. But when we scrutinized the situation in a larger context, we concluded that this energy conservation measure will cause far less discomfort than many imagine.

Some contend that the dorm closings will lead to students being evicted from their rooms for a week. Others argue that there will be no net energy savings obtained by closing the dorms, when one takes into account energy used in transporting students from campus. In both cases, we find this reasoning flawed because statistics show that most students leave campus anyway.

While we do not approve of the unilateral manner in which the change in heating systems was made, and are further disturbed by the recent administrative announcement that Starr and Painter will be the only dorms open during Spring Break. Student input must be solicited in a decision which affects student life.

Despite the method through which the above decisions were formulated, we must delay the dorm closing policy until next year. Students who draw rooms in Painter and Starr have a right to know, in advance, of the possibility that another student may reside in his or her room for the vacation period.

We believe the Energy Council proposal is a good one; the College should close most dorms during Spring Break as another means of conserving energy as well as appearing in the *Wall Street Journal* again.

JLG
KMH
DAR

Correspondence

Complaint quota

TO THE EDITOR:

The complaint quota at Middlebury is overflowing beyond all bounds of reason and responsibility.

The quality of the meals is constantly criticized, but there is no press given to the criminally extravagant amount of food wasted at each one.

Minor adjustments to accommodate effective energy conservation elicit exaggerated claims of hardship and inconvenience, while the private over-consumption of water, paper, and electricity goes without evaluation.

Addiction to comfort is a dangerous and destructive habit when it inhibits the acceptance of economy measures proposed for the health of the world.

Better to be agreeable, and thus constructive, because the world is magical when you expect good things.

Positively,

EMMA MAYER

Energy critics rebutted....

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in disappointed response to the letters from Al Wagman and George Maderosian which criticized the school's Energy Council. They shiver at the prospect of inconvenience contending that the school's policy is "illogical and selfish". They shudder over classroom temperatures, citing

energy conservation efforts as a "Money Saving Mania." At one particularly brilliant point, Al displays his sharp awareness of the energy problem by saying, "Enough of this energy stuff." Great Al.

Although George and Al pay homage to the privacy of Middlebury Students, a good point, the underlying beliefs and attitudes in these letters are ones of unconcern about energy. These efforts are not "selfish" but your immediate outrage over them certainly is. These efforts are not "to save precious energy dollars," but to save precious energy. Wake up! If energy conservation efforts are met everywhere with George and Al's blatant lack of cooperation, perhaps Al Jr. and George Jr. will be forced to go to school in Texas, where they would be nice and toasty.

Conservation has to start somewhere. Would sacrifices be made, not for our selfish wellbeing which you two refer to so often, but for the well being of our children be such a great burden? Again, I admire your concern over the privacy of students, but instead of exercising the fine art of criticism, exercise your minds for possible alternatives.

As for me, the new Alumni house wouldn't be a bad lodging were I forced to stay for a break.

Thank you

DAVE FISCHER '82

...and Energy policy defended

TO THE EDITOR:

As one of the two student members of the Energy Council I feel compelled to respond to the

letters from George Maderosian '81 and Alan Wagman '82 in last week's *Campus*. I would like to clarify some of the misunderstandings concerning the issue of closing most of the dorms over spring break. I am appalled at the hostility with which this proposal has been received. I will not suffer to lay the blame for this animosity on any one person; it seems to be a result of either misunderstandings or emotionalism.

The reasoning behind the proposal to close all the dorms other than Painter and Starr is fairly simple. The campus runs on four steamlines. The line leading to the library, the Science Center, and Warner Science includes Painter and Starr. Even if the entire campus were to shut down, this line would necessarily be kept open as it is vital to the maintenance of the animal laboratories in Warner Science. Keeping only this line open will result in a minimum of 75 percent savings in the area of steam production. So far so good.

Now come the fine details which seem to cause the problems. Perhaps implementation of this conservation effort is not feasible for this year because of the imposition on the residents of Painter and Starr as well as on the students required to remain on campus. If the plan is postponed provisions can be made for the drawing of rooms in Painter and Starr taking into consideration those students who know they will be required to stay on campus for spring break. Based on the figures from the spring of 1980, Painter and Starr are more than adequate to house the roughly 100

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students involved. Only 107 students remained on campus last year. This number can be reduced to close to 85 students by coordinating the calendars of the Middlebury public schools and the college, thereby eliminating the teacher education students.

It seems ludicrous in this age of dwindling energy resources to maintain a dorm for three or four people. Last year more than half the dorms were maintained for less than three people in each building. This waste cannot continue. I firmly believe that if the shut down is anticipated and provided for in the manner mentioned, conservation can easily and with little inconvenience be effected. Students who cannot anticipate their academic, financial or athletic needs for spring break can be housed with the residents of Painter and Starr remaining on campus or in convenient resident's rooms. This should only include a very small number of people. Students who violently object to use of their rooms can draw other dorms. It would be great if this plan could be put into operation this year, but I sympathize with the residents of Starr and Painter and the students who must remain on campus who were not forewarned of this action. Therefore I suggest the compromise of waiting one year and working out any problems in the meantime. I hope communication about these energy issues can be more effective in the future. I would also like to let students know that I am their voice on the Energy Council and they should feel free to use me as such.

Sincerely,

JANE TRAWICKI '82

Midd brats

TO THE EDITOR:

I had to laugh when I read the letters in the last issue of the *Campus*. Bluntly, I must say this school is full of rich spoiled brats whose sheltered, luxurious lives have permanently warped their sense of values. This can be readily proven by the fact that if one luxury is denied them, it is as if their whole lives will come apart at the seams.

Poor, poor souls who must put up with lack of heat. What this school is doing is good — we must be shown that energy is not to be taken for granted. How horrible to have to wear sweatshirts and jackets to dinner! Let me say that I grew up without luxuries and I've always had to wear coats around the house during the winter. My parents set the temperature according to government requests — just as Middlebury is doing. You can survive; sure it may take a little giving — a little sacrifice on your side which is obviously something NEW to you — but it is possible. If we are all concerned about the future — our future — we should sacrifice comfort now. Altermity week should be a year round sacrifice — the way it was here that week, I believe is the way it should always be.

Poor, poor souls who must move into Starr and Painter over Spring Break. Your spoiled rich attitudes flair up quite well as you complain "But my parents paid for living facilities." Let's face it — you rich preppy slobs care more about a damaged diamond bed post than all the energy that this school could save. Let's also be honest — those who stay will go out of their way to respect the property in the room they are in. Really, it's only a place to sleep. No one's going to steal "everything from the

room." Alas, upperclass rich values again appear. "Who's responsible for any damage?" You people are so worried about material goods and shining every last penny you have. I hope Spring Break does go as planned; it will teach people about sharing, integrity, and the need for less indifference.

While I'm on the topic I must add that these preppy clodhopping needs that trod through this place makes me sick. Hey, I'm sorry; I don't have alligator underwear. Get real people. This world consists of physically dirty poor souls who'd do anything for that ripped pair of Jordache jeans you so casually dispose of.

I've seen the problems in this world. I've been abroad and lived where rice was a treat and water an unheard of drink. I've learned to be less ignorant of worldwide situations — to care for others instead of just myself. I've seen hunger, cold, and lack of clothing and shelter. But these people go on living and love keeps them together. If they can do it, Middlebury people can surely do it. "The toast is cold here." What some people would do for that cold toast.

Also I'm compelled to add that the work program around this place is a joke. These people with on-campus "jobs" have no idea what a job really is. I hate to break your goiny little, bubble folks, but in most jobs you don't just stand around or do your homework — you really work. But how would you know? The most you've ever done is watch the maid dust.

The people in this school have to learn about life and reality. Not everything comes to most people so easily. Break your shells, open your eyes and realize how good you have it. Then maybe you spoiled brats will stop whining.

Respectfully

P. OORAND CONCERNED

Policy defended

TO THE EDITOR:

Last week's *Campus* published three letters objecting to the proposals and actions of the Energy Council and the College administration. Two mentioned extremely low temperatures in Proctor and certain classrooms, and all three objected to the policy of closing down all but the necessary amount of dormitory space over the Spring Break. Mr. Marderosian, who insists that he gives the Energy Council "every benefit of the doubt" finds the Council's policies "absurd," while Mr. Wagman finds them "overly zealous" and an anonymous writer has threatened to go to the extreme of moving in with Oscar Robertson, wherever he now resides.

Let me say first that that it is not the Energy Council's policy to lower room temperatures in classrooms or dining units below 65 degrees F during normal periods of use. If the rooms get too cold, something is wrong with the system. To get it fixed, please, please call our "Hot Line" number: 388-6376. We have tried to make this clear in all our Energy Memos, but I guess it does not hurt to say it again. Please don't confuse breakdowns in the system with Energy Council policy.

As for the second matter, the Spring Break, I don't consider it an absurd policy, and I am even more certain that it does not violate the U.S. Constitutional rights possessed by Mr. Marderosian or other students. Assuming that the Constitutional argument is not to be taken seriously, I will speak to the

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reasonableness of the policy. We have chosen Starr and Painter Halls for Spring Break occupancy because, following an agreement reached two years ago, they were equipped to heat hot water electrically precisely for this purpose. This policy resulted from a study indicating that only 107 students elected to stay on campus over Spring Break. That is roughly 5% of the student body. The largest group of students residing in any single dormitory was in Starr Hall — 17. Only one other dorm had more than 6 students in it, and 18 dorms had 3 students or less. The College would save over \$10,000 per year if these students all were housed in Painter and Starr. These two dorms will accommodate 135 students. In other words, there is plenty of room in these two dorms to accommodate all students who want to stay on campus. (There could be even more if we coordinate our Spring Break with the local schools so that 20 or so interns in Teacher Education were not required to stay on campus that week.) The sparse occupancy of other dorms over the past years has been not only wasteful, but downright dangerous with regard to the safety of the occupants and the possessions of student residents, particularly as unauthorized strangers filter into the open dorms to occupy some of the empty rooms in the nearly empty buildings.

There is, to be sure, some inconvenience in moving for a week, but I would see this as no more of an inconvenience than packing up and travelling home. In fact, in future years this could be held to a minimum as most students who plan to spend Spring Break here could draw rooms in Painter and Starr knowing that these are the dorms that will be kept open over Spring Break. And, certainly, to meet Mr. Wagman's objections, we could put the valuables of students who turn their rooms over to others into safe storage.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL J. LENG
Chairman, Energy Council

Midd brats

Help out

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to address some comments to the letter in the Nov. 20th *Campus*, which was unfortunately left unsigned, entitled "Midd Brats." I agreed with your premise that the whole Middlebury community should become more concerned with efficiency, yes, to the point of personal sacrifice. I find it unfortunate that in trying to convey your message, you alienated more people than you convinced. Fitting people into a category which describes but a small percentage of the population immediately places people on the defensive and their ears close. Most of Middlebury students are "advantaged," yes, and few have ever seen or faced real hardship, but most of them have not grown up surrounded by maids dusting.

I think students are becoming more aware of the need to save, but because of the way things have been for our generation, we have difficulty understanding the need for personal sacrifice. It is time for us to realize this need, and we need strong, clear, arguments for it. I hope all were not too angry to miss the letter, by Professor Leng, which followed yours. I hope if nothing else, in light of the rises in tuition costs, the savings that could be utilized will encourage students to realize the soundness of the efforts being made to save both energy and money, including closing dorms over break. I admit in contrast to severely underdeveloped nations, the "sacrifice" students would have to make is minimal, but this is 1980 in a country where not just Middlebury students but a whole generation has never experienced personal hardship. It may only be a small step, but it is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, man moves better in small steps than he

Priorities set

TO THE EDITOR:

How fortunate we are to have one so deprived as P. Oorand Concerned to set us straight in our priorities. How wonderful that a person who has sacrificed so much can somehow manage to go abroad and tell us about the "problems in the world" while many of us "rich spoiled brats" spend our vacations at home trying to get together the money to come here. How benevolent of one who doesn't even have "alligator underwear" to be willing to sacrifice personal loss of property for the greater good of saving energy. It warms one's heart just to think about it.

How inconsiderate of those "preppy clodhopping nerds" to worry about their personal belongings in the face of an energy crisis. How trivial it is that the Dean of Students recently warned of an outbreak of thefts on campus. How thoughtless of those of us who would have a hard time replacing a single textbook to express a desire for protections from theft. It shames me greatly to have been a part of it.

JOHN MONAGHAN '81

Confused values here

TO THE EDITOR:

There is only a grain of truth in the letter of Nov. 20th entitled "Midd Brats," but it is an essential one. We are remonstrated for having misplaced values. In fact our values are confused.

We value an honest day's work and its just reward. By reward we mean time for ourselves, for recreation or leisure. We consider recreation and leisure to be one and the same, or equally good. Here lies our error — particularly here at Middlebury. There is no nexus between leisure and recreation. Recreation, or relaxation, is associated with work. We do the former so that we may continue the latter. Leisure is an altogether different animal. We do, or we should, value the activities of leisure because they distinguish high culture from its opposite. Theoretical physics is an example of pure leisure. Without leisurely activities of this kind, there can be no distinction between civilization and mere society. But leisure requires wealth. Men and women at leisure cannot hold a job. Thus we rightly value wealth neither for its own sake nor for recreation, but because it is a prerequisite for civilization. When we do otherwise, we are justly remonstrated.

STUART FROSS '81

Ready for Mt. St. Helens, Hurricane Allen, Love Canal.

Red Cross: Ready for a new century.

Insulting

TO THE EDITOR:

Last week's (Nov. 20, 1980) letter from that individual calling himself "P. Oorand Concerned" was more than interesting for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the signature. Clearly, he/she is not especially concerned about anything except condemning every other member of the student body. This letter was an insult to the intelligence, values, and morals of all who read it.

Ignorance abounds in POC's tirade: Low are "upperclass rich values" shown in being concerned for one's own possessions? Those Starr and Painter residents whose rooms will be occupied over vacation have a genuine right to be concerned. If POC lived in either of the dorms in question (which he obviously doesn't) such a comment would not have been made.

POC's comment about the work program is equally absurd in that it ignores the fact that *someone* must do those easy, standing-around type jobs. In fact, most food-library-paperwork jobs bear much resemblance to real-life jobs, most of which are a drag because they are so boring. Also, those who have such on-campus jobs are on financial aid — they don't have a lot of experience at watching the maid dust.

The very sincerity of POC's letter must be questioned when one considers his comment about "preppy clodhopping nerds" criticizing the style of clothing one wears has absolutely no constructive or meaningful attribute whatever. Every college-prep high school has its share of "preppies" — so what? How does POC know the fathers of these preppies don't donate thousands of dollars to such causes

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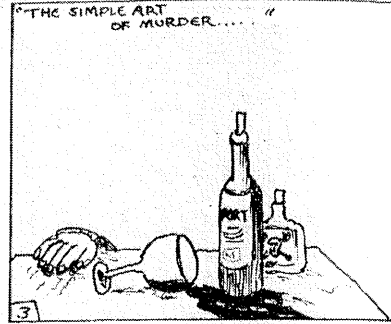
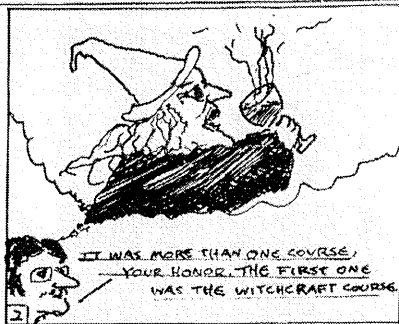
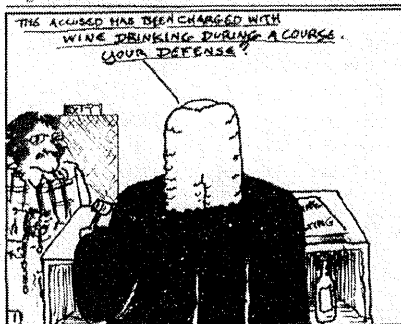
as CARE, Visra, and the United Way every year?

Lastly, POC's comment stating that we have no idea about the "real world" exemplified that it is, in fact, POC who has no conception of reality. My roommate, for example, spent last summer shoveling phosphate wearing a gas mask. My best friend worked 12 hours a day working with the Missouri Pacific Railroad laying tracks in 100 degree heat. Although my job wasn't nearly as demanding, there were plenty of backaches, sore feet and there was just plain tiredness. We *do* work, and we do know that we've got it good. College is an investment, Mr. POC, so that we can, hopefully, learn enough about the problems of the world someday to solve them. Like it or not, the responsibility rests with me and you. I guess POC can't feel it.

TOM VAN SANT '84

**ENERGY.
We can't afford
to waste it.**

U.S. Department of Energy



Editorials

College drinkers assume responsibility

Vice President for Academic Affairs Nicholas Clifford objected to faculty/student drinking in College classrooms at the January faculty meeting. We resent Clifford's suggestion to examine drinking in seminar classes, and suggest that he direct his efforts toward more pressing concerns.

The Vice President's announcement that classroom drinking is evident seems to indicate an underlying interest in controlling the academic activities of College faculty and students. The presence of alcohol in an educational environment may, in fact, provide a setting conducive to personal trust. The professor and students are placed on an equal level in their mutual decision to drink responsibly.

Seminar participants should be free to consume alcohol in College classrooms or private homes if they so choose. No legal statutes should prevent alcohol consumption since all students and professors have attained legal drinking age in Vermont; freshmen who may have not turned 18 years of age are rarely enrolled in upper level seminars.

We may assume that everyone involved in a seminar would be responsible enough to control their consumption in a learning environment. Vice President Clifford must realize that these individuals are attempting to communicate effectively and would not drink to incoherence.

JLG
DAR

The *Campus* welcomes letters to the editor and will try to print as many as possible in each issue. We cannot publish, however, letters containing personal attacks or profane language. We reserve the right to edit letters, and they must be signed with an address, although names will be withheld upon request. We also cannot print correspondence addressed to another party. Send letters to Drawer 30 or bring them to the *Campus* office in Hepburn Annex no later than 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Correspondence

Strong stand

TO THE EDITOR:

The College's boycott of Cottrell and Leonard last year was the result of considerable conversation and investigation, starting last fall. I think our stance was considered and responsible. The action was not a support of unionization per se, but rather was support of the striking worker's plea for better working conditions. It seemed to us in the Community Council consistent with the kind of stance Middlebury and other schools have taken through the Sullivan Amendment in South Africa — that is, using our financial clout to "persuade" companies to improve working conditions and practices. It is dangerous and controversial ground for us and should be trod warily. We don't really have the resources to conduct objective investigations and are thus prey to well organized factions. In any case I do not support the editorial position that we order only

from unionized companies. We have, in my opinion absolutely no right to interfere in the internal political affairs of the companies with which we trade.

ERICA WONNACOTT
Dean of Students

Get going!

TO THE EDITOR:

I am the parent of a Middlebury student writing to comment on the closing of all dorms, during Spring vacation and any other vacations, except the buildings necessary to house the students remaining at the college.

I find it almost impossible to believe that this has not been accomplished years ago. The idea of keeping a dorm opened, heating it, etc. for a handful of students seems to be a luxury the college and our country can ill-afford.

Yes, there will be inconveniences — i.e. 1) people will have to move out for a week, 2) other

students will have to "share" their room for a short period. I believe these are just minor inconveniences when considering the cost and energy waste involved if this is not accomplished!

I have to believe I speak for most parents when I say, "Get on with it — the time is long past due!"

Sincerely

RUTH M. REECE
Dayton, Ohio

Just desserts

TO THE EDITOR:

Aren't we fortunate that there are rich people in this world to stifle the outbursts of ill-informed poor people? Normally, I wouldn't have reacted at all to P. Oorand Concerned's recent attack on upper class customs, but as a responsible member of polite society, I feel that Miss Concerned's views must be set right. Miss Concerned stepped dangerously out of her bounds and really knows very little of gracious assault and, apparently, self-control. Concerned's Nov. 20 violent outpouring of pent-up frustrations concerning the upper class says little for the lower class for which she is a spokeswoman and, if anything, Miss Concerned is just one of those misinformed radicals that cause upheavals worse than the problems they scold.

Miss Concerned has, understandably, found it impossible to cope with the advantages of upper class society — the "beautiful people," what we have, and what we stand for. Imagine the cultural shock of coming to Middlebury College after having lived in the squalid slums all of your life! It must be truly an overwhelming and unpleasant experience for the poor girl to try to adopt the customs and values of the opulent class to which she is so foreign. Personally, I cannot see putting oneself through such torture. There are, after all, plenty of trade schools and requisite-free vocational institutions open to the less fortunate of this world which might be better suited to the needs of Miss Concerned. There, she would be able to identify more comfortably with her kind, and wouldn't have to worry about well-dressed people who know that high fashion enhances personal image and betters the possibility of career success. And

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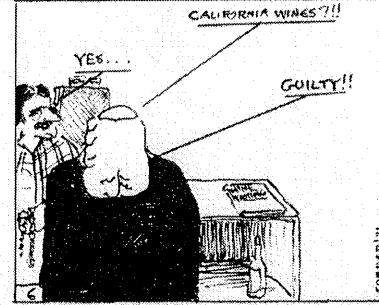
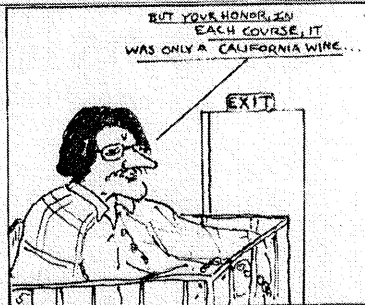
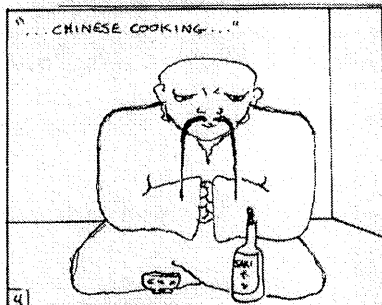
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why shouldn't we be conscious of dressing well? If we can afford the luxury of high fashion, then we have every right in the world to take advantage of that privilege. Miss Concerned has no conception of such a privilege, so she mustn't ridicule those that do, unless, of course, she delights in advertising her jealousy.

Regarding Miss Concerned's prattle about cold toast and chilly rooms, she is no doubt revealing her own home conditions. Wealthy people are used to fine living conditions which include comfortable rooms and hot toast. Our complaints may seem too petty for Miss Concerned, but she must realize that when we are denied hot toast at a comfortably warm room, it would be the equivalent of her being denied her daily apportionment of farback and dried crusts, or when her slumlord refuses to repair the leaky tin roof which covers her slum dwelling.

And the unmitigated grief of Miss Concerned when she tried to convince us that we have no conception of what a job "really is"! Narrow-minded pauper that she is, all she sees are campus jobs up here, which are designed to be less demanding. Maybe she would like to work twelve hours a day laying railroad tracks in 100 degree heat, but she'd be the only one.

Finally, I must insist upon no future outbursts like the one on Nov. 20. Higher society does not welcome, nor will it tolerate chidings of its folkways from misdirected sources. The upper class has earned its way to the top; we are entitled to a rest, and Miss Concerned best not forget it!

Cordially,

RICH N. LOVETT

Rich protest

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in protest to the Midd Brats letter which first appeared on Nov. 20, 1980. First of all, I'd like to say I am wealthy — that is my family is wealthy. I see no reason why wealth, as a quality, should be condemned so vehemently by Mr. P. O'Rand Concerned. I like living well. I paid Middlebury \$8000 and I expect to live well here. Yes, I expect heated rooms, and hot fresh toast. Yes, I care if someone else were to sleep on my mattress when I wasn't there. We each pay for a room each year — not for a ticket to play musical rooms. My parents worked hard to get where they are. They show that in America we all have the chance

to get somewhere. I like being well off, but that doesn't mean I don't care about anyone else. We give to Unicef every year. If Mr. P. O'Rand Concerned is intimidated by everyone's wealth, then maybe he shouldn't be here.

A. WILSON '82

Less bratty

TO THE EDITOR:

As the author of the Midd Brats letter, I feel compelled to write once again to clear up some matters. First of all, I'd like to apologize for the tone of the letter, if it did indeed alienate and insult people. However, I must stick to my belief that Middlebury people have a lot to learn about life and reality.

When I was young my parents, peace corps volunteers, travelled to many underprivileged areas of the world. As a result I grew up to a while witnessing the hardships of people, particularly in India. These people know no luxuries; they know hard work — 18 hours a day — to put a few crumbs on the tables for their families. They have no conveniences — no electricity — no bathrooms — no soft beds. I doubt they'll ever experience the American lifestyle. But I've seen the people — and underneath their hardships and sweat they've proven people can be happy under these conditions. Their tying bonds happen to be love, integrity, and sincerity as well as a heck of a lot of caring. And all I ask is that Middlebury people realize this and make some small personal sacrifices (saving energy for one) for the sake of our future. Our lives must not be governed by an incessant dependence on oil. So let's be a little less warm to rid this dependence.

Wealth is a good thing; I agree it may be one prerequisite for civilization to continue. But being wasteful because one is wealthy is selfish and uncaring. Be you rich or poor, the fact is the every situation is not too bright. Everyone must save. I urge everyone to please observe Peak month — not only from 4:30-9:00 p.m. but all day long, everyday, every week. It's the least we can sacrifice.

As Miss Luginbuhl asked in her letter, I will support the mandatory work problem. Thus, everyone shall learn about sacrifice (one hour of time) to help a community — the rich and poor alike.

May I also add that since Middlebury is such a small school, the students here must learn a little

trust. If there were none we'd be in sad shape. Next year when people move into Starr and Painter over break there is going to have to be this trust. Yes, Mr. Monaghan ("Priorities Set") the energy crisis is more important than needless worrying about perfectly safe personal belongings. Those who are worried can meet with the person moving in ahead of time to get to know each other. This is a simple solution.

Finally, I'd like to urge everyone to go to the Adirondack House and see brochures relating to the Peace Corps. Maybe then, some of you may even sacrifice two years of your life to help a group of people.

I hope I've shown that I am not concerned with "condemning every other member of the student body." I'm concerned with helping the student body to burst its bubble of ignorance and realize that everyone should make a sacrifice.

Respectfully once again,

P. O'Rand Concerned

Sleazy sales

TO THE EDITOR:

For the past several years, the captains of the Middlebury mens squash club have been selling Squash International rackets to team members and Middlebury students. As head of this year's squad, I opened up an account with the company and began advertising at various locations on campus.

Early this week, I was informed that my account had been closed. When I contacted the company, I was informed that it was the work of our local monopoly — Skihaus. According to the owner of Skihaus, one of the Middlebury "students" ripped down one of my posters advertising prices 33 percent less than theirs and sent it to the company. As a result, the two businesses collaborated and conspired to close my account, allowing Skihaus to maintain its monopoly of the squash racket market. Shady, unethical practices such as this allows Skihaus to continue ripping off the people of Middlebury by charging outrageous prices.

Most of the Middlebury residents and College students are unaware of Skihaus' sleazy business practices. In the future, please try alternatives before being engulfed by the Skihaus rip off.

MITCHELL BROWN '82

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News Analysis

By Jane Jarcho '82

Everybody seemed a little happier, everybody seemed relieved with Monday's news of the imminent release of the 52 American hostages held in Iran since Nov. 4, 1979. The 443-day ordeal seemed, in its last two weeks, to always be on the verge of an agreement, but all were afraid to claim too hastily that the end had come. After 14 1/2 months of negotiations, filled with many ups and downs, the final technicalities were being settled as the hostages waited in Teheran airport to be flown to freedom.

All sorts of reasons have been offered as to the final compelling factor that brought about the accord. Ronald Reagan's assumption of presidential power, Iran's damaging war with Iraq, and the seemingly endless negotiations carried on by the Carter administration are the primary three offered. The answer, of course, is a combination of these and other factors. The importance and lesson, though, of the hostage ordeal and final agreement comes from an understanding of these pieces.

How much of an influence did Reagan's impending ascent to the Presidency play in reaching an accord? There is little doubt that the Iranians, not to mention the Algerians, did not wish to negotiate with the Reagan administration. His undiplomatic "name-calling" of the Algerian go-betweens as "barbarians" left many pondering Reagan's political acumen. The Iranians must have realized that under Carter's hand they would achieve their real goal — to take control of the seven to nine billion dollars of the late Shah, which had been frozen in American banks. To not arrive at an agreement while Carter was still President would only have ensured more long months of negotiations, with no promise of a better settlement. The Iranian's desperate need of funds, because of the war with Iraq, influenced them to resolve the crisis with Carter, while the deal still looked favorable.

The most credit belongs to the Carter administration, which on the whole dealt admirably with the situation in Iran. Under election pressure, deep-felt humanitarian concerns, and trying to negotiate with an unpredictable party, Carter tried various policies, finally settling on an unpredictable one. It is tragic that the only people to die in the crisis were soldiers on an ill-planned "rescue mission." But given the unknown variables surrounding the issue, the rescue mission was perhaps not as large a mistake as it appears in hindsight. Carter and his aids did not know how to best deal with the unstable, internally strife-ridden Iranian government and even, in the early stage of the crisis, the Iranian leaders' influence over student captors of the 52 Americans. The initial strategy — to try to reason with the Iranians on the basis of international law — was useless. The pendulum swing to trying to "bully" the Iranians with economic sanctions and military moves similarly met with no success. Finally, Carter had to use a "carrot-and-stick" (rewards and punishments) strategy to progress towards a settlement.

This form of negotiation is inherently up-and-down. The U.S. would offer a deal including Iranian demands, and would often be met by conflicting views in Iran. It is to the Carter administration's credit that they patiently continued on this path despite many setbacks. The offer was accepted and finalized when the situation seemed to be peaking from the Iranian perspective. But the U.S. never gave more than it wished. Of course, Reagan's inauguration on Jan. 20 was the time pressuring factor in the final accord. It was through negotiations and not military or "bullying" tactics that an agreement was reached.

There are many lessons to be learned from this crisis. The most important one, though, is in danger of being misconstrued. U.S. foreign policy should not turn towards a dangerous militaristic path. Perhaps we should present a stronger image to the world, but the hostage ordeal should have taught us that that is not enough. Reagan's foreign policy should try to combine the best of Carter's patient negotiating practices with the new nationwide desire to stand firm and strong. This should not be interpreted as a return to interventionist tactics. Instead, the U.S. should let the world know where it stands, and follow policies that reinforce this picture. In these times of varying political climates we must respect differing views. That need not translate into having ourselves stepped-on.