

The Middlebury Campus

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NO. 1

Frosh Women Get 'Unofficial Guide' College Rules Due For Criticism, Reform by Mixed S. L. Commission

An "undocumented paper" on contraception was among the usual school calendars and advertisements received by freshmen women in their campus mail during orientation week. The letter, which in some cases included a sample male condom, was unsigned and was unauthorized by the college administration.

Citing the dearth of literature on contraception in the college library, the author went on to give information ranging from the prices of certain contraceptives to alternatives open if pregnancy should occur.

The letter advised girls seeking prescriptions for birth control pills to assume a married identity and visit a doctor in Burlington or Rutland — not Middlebury. Bus schedules to those two places were also included.

Commenting on the accuracy of the information, Middlebury's new medical director, Dr. William Parton said that "apparently someone did a great deal of research." He remarked that one section on miscarriage-inducing injections was misleading in its implication that any "big-city doctor" could give them. "It's not as simple as that," he said. "Although therapeutic abortions may be performed, there are legal require-

ments for them and it's not as simple as going to a big city doctor and asking for one."

However, Dr. Parton described the medical information given as "on the whole, very, very correct."

Dean of Women Mrs. Elizabeth B. Kelly expressed mixed feelings concerning the letter. She had reservations about the language used and commented that perhaps the communication, mailed as it was during

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By JAMES TROMBETTA
Editor

The formation of a new Commission on Student Life intended to examine and generate reform in every facet of student life at Middlebury has been announced by President Armstrong. The Commission, with a mixed student-faculty-administration membership, had its initial meeting yesterday.

In a letter released to the Campus, President Armstrong called upon the four students,

three deans and three professors who compose the Commission to carefully re-examine the "conventions," "customs" and "rules" of the College community "to see whether these make sense as guidelines for student life today." The President emphasized the importance of student participation on the Commission, commenting that it was impossible for the College to ignore the "impact" of the "modern world" on Middlebury students.

The student members of the Commission are Francis Chin, Gilbert Kujovich, Susan Shattuck, all '69 and Barbara Ottlinger '70. The administrators include Dean of the College Dennis O'Brien, who will chair the body, Dean of Men Bruce Peterson and Dean of Women Elizabeth Kelly. Faculty members on the Commission are Howard Munford, professor of American literature, Frederick Cabot, associate professor of English and Rudolph Haerle, associate professor of sociology.

De-escalation

Dean O'Brien told the Campus that the commission would meet weekly throughout the fall for about two hours. O'Brien defined the Commission as an attempt to "break the unfortunate pattern" in the Administration's dealings with students, that is, "petition, pres-

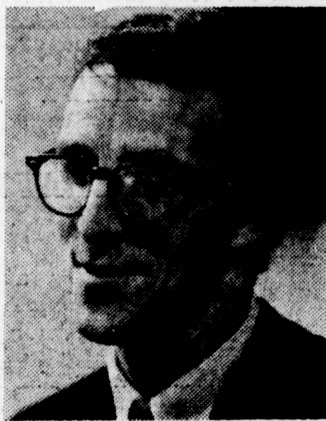
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The Promised Waste Land

By JEFFREY DWORKIN
Editor Emeritus

"... a fat body without a soul" — such is our destiny according to author and naturalist Peter Matthiessen, as the beauty and purity of our nation's wilderness resources are destroyed by man's greed and neglect, "if we ourselves do nothing but take drastic stands at cocktail parties."

America's current dilemmas, including conservation, civil rights, and the war in Vietnam, are all "crying out for a new



Matthiessen

environment" the most important question today to man's future. Describing the "gulf se-

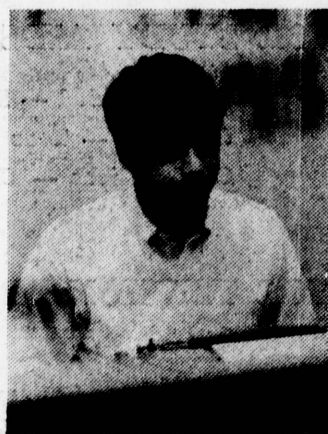
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Trombetta New 'Campus' Head; Succeeds Dworkin

James Trombetta, former news editor, has been unanimously elected editor-in-chief of the Campus for the coming semester by the paper's editorial board. The election followed the resignation of Jeffrey Dworkin, last year's editor.

Commenting on the necessity for his resignation, Dworkin cited a six-course load this semester and the college's compulsory physical education program. As to Trombetta, his choice for his successor, Dworkin expressed "overwhelming confidence" in him saying, "Assuming there is no tampering this year with the newspaper's constitution and the free speech it is permitted, Jim will run a fine newspaper." Dworkin will continue with the paper as an occasional contributor.

Staff members were unanimous in their praise of Dwor-



Trombetta

kin's efforts. One editor commented, "He waged a bitter and unrelenting campaign against hypocrisy wherever he saw evidence of it. We will miss him."

Trombetta has served on the

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Arab-Israeli: War: Shaky Peace, Same Problems

By DAVE FRANK

Editor's Note: The author spent the months of July and August in Jerusalem studying, and touring the country.

Normality has returned to the Middle-East. Egyptian troops have resumed shelling across their northern border and Syrians sporadically trade fire with Israeli border-patrolmen in the Golan Heights. Moshe Dayan has returned to his old hang-out in downtown Jerusalem, the King David Hotel, where he flashes his toothy grin and flirts with pretty American tourists. The number of people on the streets of that city carrying submachine guns drops

off noticeably every day. Arab spokesmen have reaffirmed that their policy is not to recognize Israel as a nation and negotiations over the conquered territories are impossible.

The causes for conflict have not been resolved and the protagonists expect another confrontation will occur. However the nature of this will be quite different from that of June '67. Israel was only fifteen miles wide at its narrowest point, and the symbol of national unity, Jerusalem, a peninsula into Jordan. Defense was based on the complete success of an initial strike; there was no room to fall back and regroup.

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politics, a new vision in America," he told a capacity Wright Memorial Theatre audience last Friday in the first meeting of a two-day conference entitled "Our Future Environment." The conference was jointly sponsored by the college and the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Matthiessen, author of the best seller *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*, shared Friday's lectern with Allen Morgan, executive vice-president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Morgan, like Matthiessen, emphasized the preeminence of the conservation problem to America, calling "the quality of our

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A Fat, Soulless Body...

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parating knowledge and wisdom," Morgan said, "technology has, in essence, deluded modern man with the illusion that he is master of everything he has made."

Science No Panacea

Morgan was highly critical of what he saw as a widespread tendency in our society to trust the solution of our major ills to technology. The result of the "science-can-do-anything" philosophy has been, he said, the scant heed paid to warnings of ecologists, one of which being that in fifty years man will, at the present rate, make the earth uninhabitable.

In a set of sparkling color slides, Morgan emphasized the effects of "the re-engineering of our countryside," especially in its affect on our supply of clean water. The public, he said, is "ecologically illiterate," and he attempted to show conservation as both of aesthetic and economic benefit to the public.

To this reporter, it was unfortunate that Mr. Morgan included slides showing homes in beautifully wooded areas with the appeal that such homes were worth several thousand dollars more as a result of their surroundings. Yet he is accustomed to addressing city councils, civic groups, and, in general, audiences in which he probably feels more comfortable with the conservation - is-good-business approach. For it is man, he pointed out, who has often tampered with nature for economic gain.

'Human Values'

In closing, however, Morgan stressed that preserving our natural environment offers "something tremendously valuable to the human spirit and mind. These are human values."

"It is a fundamental obligation of our generation to keep the beauty of our natural environment so that tomorrow's

generation can go trout fishing if it wants to."

Mr. Matthiessen's more eclectic approach to the problem of conservation had a strong sociopolitical foundation. Citing stark figures of the forecasted baby boom, he said that "by 1985, despite technology, world famine will be wide-spread. Already real famine is as close as the Mississippi Delta."

Reticence in Rome

The government has offered no more than "timid" counsel on the birth control dilemma. "The chronic cowardice of Congress for fear of losing the Catholic vote will one day seem worse than the burning of Vietnam," he said. "The world can no longer wait for the old men in Rome."

With especial attention to the polluting of our air, Matthiessen showed the yet-to-be-utilized clean exhaust system for automobiles an example of "industry's lack of responsibility to the people who made them fat." Industry, he claimed, is "permitted to run the show in Washington."

He, like Morgan, called for an aroused citizenry to take the control of our resources "out of the hands of greedy amateurs."

And he hoped the young would not go underground, in regard to conservation, in the manner in which they have in rejecting the military and business establishment values. "In becoming passive, people forfeit the right to protest."

Canyon Crisis

Saturday afternoon, preceding a panel discussion and seminars on The Future Environment of Vermont, Sierra Club executive director David Brower screened a new film by the Sierra Club aimed at preventing the construction of either of the two dams being considered for the Grand Canyon.

The Club's non-profit, tax-free status was partially rescinded recently by the Inter-

nal Revenue Service following an advertising campaign also aimed at "saving the Grand Canyon," including one ad entitled: "Should we now flood

the Sistine Chapel so the tourists can get closer to the ceiling?"

Brower made the plea "that man's ability to control and wisely use his tools should catch up with his ability to fashion them."

DTO In Phase-Out

In June of the last school year, Delta Tau Omega drew up a unique plan for its future, known simply as the DTO Plan. Working in co-operation with the administration, the brotherhood laid out a phase-out plan to operate in the following manner:

No later than February, 1969, DTO will cease to exist in its present form. At this point, brothers will be given several alternatives as to living arrangements. The foremost proposal concerns the College's projected co-educational social and eating units. A group from DTO will move en masse into one such unit at its completion date.

There were several reasons for so radical a decision. On a practical level, the physical plant at DTO is vulnerable to the stiffening college standards

regarding fraternity buildings. The decision to phase out finally rested on the belief that money need not be continually poured into a fraternity system faced with ever-increasing problems in the near future.

It is the contention of the DTO Plan that an active and vital student group must be prepared to use the social and eating units to their fullest potential. The administration has made clear that social regulations will be at least as liberal in the new units as they are presently in fraternities. The administration also has no desire to be bogged down in operational problems, and student control of the social and eating units will be welcomed.

The step in a new direction has not been enthusiastically greeted on all sides. Sophomore rushees were reluctant to

take the plunge, as is witnessed by DTO's pledge class of seven. The plan has met with apathy in DTO itself. However, many students have expressed interest in the plan. Many at DTO hope that an increasing number of Independents and fraternity men will join the DTO group in planning and carrying out what they feel to be an exciting departure from the Middlebury status quo.

Dr. James I. Armstrong, president of the college, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree at Princeton University's 220th commencement exercises in June. Pres. Armstrong, an alumnus and former associate dean of the graduate school at Princeton, was one of 10 persons so honored.

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