

Study faults college recycling effort

By John Doty

The Environmental Council recently issued a report that takes a critical stance concerning Middlebury College's recycling program.

The report suggests that the college hire a paid recycling coordinator, establish a school policy to purchase recycled products, and implement a composting program to improve its efficiency.

According to the report, entitled "Recycling and Composting at Middlebury College," Dartmouth, the University of Vermont (UVM), and the University of Maine at Orono (UMO) all have recycling programs superior to Middlebury's current program.

The report states that "Middlebury recycles about 7-10 percent of its waste stream [whereas] Dartmouth and University of Vermont have recycling rates ranging from 30-40 percent of their waste stream."

In addition, Dartmouth, UVM, and UMO all have full time recycling coordinators and composting programs. UVM plans to expand its composting program which "will divert 70 percent of their waste from the landfill."

The report also finds that "Middlebury College spends twice as much money to recycle a ton of material (\$133/ton) as to deposit this material in the landfill (\$63/ton)." According to the report, Middlebury College spends an average of "\$44,820 a year

for landfill costs."

However, Thomas Carr, assistant professor of economics, said that the landfill Middlebury College uses will close this year due to a state law which forces the closing of unlined landfills. Therefore, the cost of dumping waste will increase to between \$85 and \$95 per ton.

In addition, Carr said that there are legal implications to recycling. If the college does not implement a sufficient recycling program, it can be fined by the town of Middlebury, which mandates recycling.

One reason the current recycling price is higher than the landfill price is the heavy cost of the current recycling vendor; therefore, the report suggests the college "explore alternative vendors that will collect our recyclable materials."

The report was written by Heidi Van Winkle '94, who worked for Carr this summer to evaluate Middlebury's current practices and draw up recommendations for the future.

Van Winkle suggests the college institutionalize the recycling program, start a pilot composting project, sell its cardboard and white paper recyclables, and buy recycled products. To institutionalize the process, Van Winkle suggests that President John McCardell issue a general policy statement asserting that recycling is an important goal of the college. She also encourages the college to hire a recycling coordinator,

show a slide show about college recycling to all incoming first-year students, and actively promote the recycling program.

Carr has studied the economics of environmental issues and suggests the college invest part of its endowment in
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College aw

By Mary Maxham

The Charles A. Dana Scholars for this academic year were recently announced by the college administration. The scholars, all sophomores, are: Stephen T. Engle, Rachel A. Fernandes, Dumith H. Fernando, Jacob P. Kritzer, Yeshe Choden Lama, Laura D. Madsen, Merri N. Mathews, Trystan N. Phifer, Sayra D. Pinto, David E. Rundio, Rezwan F. Sharif and Wei Sun.

This week the college also nominated four students to represent Middlebury in the competition for Watson Fellowships. Seniors Amanda



Recycling

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energy conservation. The rate of return is actually quite high, according to Carr. Dartmouth already borrows from its endowment for state-of-the-art renovations.

rules. There were 34 votes for the agreement not being broken, with 13 that believed it was broken, in addition to five abstentions.

Rita Glavin, president of the SGA, was disappointed with the meeting and believed that the decision was rushed. "The delegates should have gone over the material more closely and discussed the issue amongst themselves," she said. Dudley Winthrop '94, a member of the Community Council, believed the SGA meeting was one-sided, saying, "the administration really didn't have much of an opportunity to state their case." Emerson had no comment on the meeting or the decision, but believed that "the people who were participants in the agreement represented what happened accurately and honestly without exception."

Reis was happy that the SGA confirmed his belief that the agreement had not been broken by his fraternity. "I hope we can continue to exist in harmony with Middlebury College without maintaining any ties to the college itself. If we leave each other alone, I don't see a problem with [our existence]," said Reis.

Cochran believes that "if a fraternity conducts itself well, and is not a nuisance off campus, then I support the option [of off-campus fraternities] being available."

In a special closed Community Council meeting October 26, the available information was examined. According to Emerson, the meeting was closed "in order to work through all the information. Essentially, we wanted to involve everyone on the council in what would normally be done by a subcommittee. The meeting served a good purpose in acquainting everyone with the facts."

Winthrop concurred, saying that the meeting "was more of a working session than a meeting. It was just for everyone to get the facts straight." There were no motions and no votes at the meeting, but the Community Council will meet again in regular session on November 9 to decide on a number of questions regarding the agreement.

John McCardell, president of the college, issued a memorandum to the Community Council asking them to examine several questions raised by the off-campus fraternity debate. He is concerned about the validity of the November 1990 agreement and any specific violations of the agreement's terms. In addition, he wishes to know exactly which parties are bound by the agreement and how the agreement will be enforced now and in the future. McCardell plans to meet with the Community Council after he receives their report.

ventions.

Dartmouth also funded its renovations with the support of its local power company. The utility spent over \$150,000 to subsidize Dartmouth's renovations. Carr suggests Middlebury actively seek the support of its power utility, arguing, "if we wait too long, the political winds might change and they won't be as willing to subsidize the project."

Arthur Thorne, assistant director of the physical plant for engineering and utilities, said that Gifford, Hepburn, Starr, Painter, Voter, and Pearsons, as recently renovated buildings, have cost-effective compact fluorescent lighting, upgraded heating systems, water-saving faucets, improved insulation, and other environmentally friendly devices which reduce energy consumption.

Thorne also said that the incandescent lighting in Starr Library, parts of the SDU's, and the upper floors of Stewart and Allen have been replaced with fluorescent lighting that "consumes less energy."

The Environmental Council, previously called the Energy Council, plans to pursue issues concerning energy, recycling and composting, and education this year. They are working on "putting together an entire package of recommendations to present to President McCardell," said Carr.

One general recommendation, according to Carr, would be that the "college pursue coordination with the town." The Addison County Solid

Waste Management District is a government entity set up by state law in Act 78 designed to cite landfills and establish county-wide recycling programs.

Honors

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qualities, but have limited financial resources, the option of a college education.

The students were pleased with being chosen. Phifer was "very surprised and honored" and Jacob Kritzer said, "I feel that it's an honor and it gives me confidence in my abilities as a student. I'm only a sophomore...I know what my grades are but I'm not really sure what that means. At least now I know that I'm going in the right direction."

The Dana Foundation also supports professorships at Middlebury. The foundation awarded \$250,000 as a challenge grant and the college raised funds to match it in 1966. The grant's income supplements the four Dana Professors' salaries. The professors are George Saul, Kim Sparks, Victor Nuovo and Marjorie Lamberti.

When asked about the Dana Scholarship program, College Professor of Biology George Saul said, "I think the program is an extremely useful and valuable one for recognizing the accomplishments of student scholars." About the professorships, he stated, "various members of the faculty are chosen by the administration on the

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