

# Midd.'s E.Q.

By Leslie Virostek

Middlebury's Environmental Quality group, known as EQ, is a relatively little-known organization on campus. Most people know vaguely that this is the group that collects newspapers for recycling, but recycling is not all there is to EQ. Members want to educate themselves and other students on such environmental topics as acid rain, energy conservation, and the preservation of wildlife. According to the president of EQ, "Often significant legislation about these issues comes up, but people don't do anything because of their ignorance. Once they know the facts, they can, for example, write to a representative to influence environmental legislation."

The EQ members educate themselves by reading current literature on environmental topics, and by attending lectures and conferences. For instance, last spring three EQ'ers attended the annual New England Environmental Conference at Tufts University. There, they were able to listen to such

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prestigious lecturers as U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy from Vermont and Dr. Noel Brown, the executive director of the United Nations Environmental Program.

In order to heighten student awareness with respect to environmental concerns, EQ has invited lecturers to speak at Middlebury. For example, last year EQ sponsored a lecture by Monty Fisher, a well-known figure on the Vermont Environmental scene and an expert on Lake Champlain. Last year EQ showed the film "No Nukes." This film documents a series of anti-nuclear power protest concerts. This year, EQ intends to sponsor lecturers and show more films that focus on environmental issues.

According to Strekalovsky, EQ hopes to become an even more visible and active organization in the future. More support and involvement from the College community is needed. Strekalovsky says, "Vermont has long been a state which emphasizes the conservation