

# Establishment of Women's Center cannot be justified

by Kevin Marshall

For once, Middlebury has the opportunity to deliberate without regard for money. In considering a possible Women's Center, the monetary donation of Alison Fraker's parents along with the books offered by Jacqueline Onassis eliminate the objection that we lack funds. At the same time, it does not require that we have any center at all. Opportunity is not obligation. If a Women's Center is inherently a flawed idea, then no amount of offered money would justify it.

A Women's Studies Center would house Women's Studies-related facilities, along with many women's interest organizations such as Artemis and SOS. Putting aside the legitimacy of Women's Studies itself, what necessitates that certain majors receive privileges beyond others? What requires that women's organizations receive unique treatment and facilities? Past, as well as present, "oppression" of women is often offered as a justification. Then

it is inexcusable that we have no Jewish Center. No group has suffered more in history. But upon what basis can we halt there? To be just, we should add at least Gypsies, Zulus, American Indians and Blacks, and as no true Midd student could forget, Tibetans.

Certainly religion has offered one of the greatest reasons for being oppressed (and oppressing.) Hence, we need a Christian Center, a Muslim Center, a Buddhist Center, an infintium, or at least, a Religion Center. What is the standard? If we permit unique facilities for religious and women's groups, how can we deny them to other groups on campus?

Some may suggest that we do not need Gypsy, Zulu, Indian, or Buddhist Centers, since few students attend Midd. Are numbers then the standard? Must a group with a claim be sufficiently numerous in order to have it satisfied? That seems to defeat the purpose. Shall we grant a harmed group privileges only if it can yell loudly enough?

If oppression is the standard, we must satisfy an infinite number of demands.

Also significant is this institution's nature. A liberal arts school purports to follow the theory that by studying varied topics a student may unearth

limited number of such attempts in the future.

We are an academic institution. A demand for a Women's Center is a political demand, as Dean Lindholm admitted while addressing the Women's Union. Since political claims of

by finally breaching the Highway 125 barrier. They also toppled female-only curfews. Co-ed fraternities have been the latest success. The whole goal has been inclusion. Women have succeeded in their agenda by suppressing the differences between men and women.

Yet having won, we now amazingly hear women wishing to return their prize, to retreat. Dissatisfied with their immense success at gaining access to the same school, library, dorms, and frats, they now demand the separate facilities for which for so long they have fought.

Please, do not patronize us by saying that men are welcome at the center. No one honestly foresees a flood of men desiring access to it. Male Women's

Studies majors will remain an anomaly for years.

I have heard that women need "a room of one's own," a place where they can feel safe. I am not sure what dangers lurk in the common library, or in the current headquarters of SOS, Artemis, etc., but if their claim is true, then perhaps we should resurrect sororities, or even recreate men's and women's halves of campus. The logical end of this new, contradictory crusade would send all women to Smith or Mount Holyoke.

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truth and meaning and also adapt better in life.

It discourages, or at least ought to discourage, specialization and separation. A Women's Studies Center battles this fundamental principle. Christening both a major and an interest group with a separate library, separate meeting places, and separate locations for related clubs, chokes the liberal spirit and, since we have no standard for such claims, invites an un-

justice are infinite, so will be demands for their appeasement as the school's spine weakens. Do we wish to learn or to please everyone?

The whole history of women, at Middlebury cries out at the contradiction which would be the Women's Studies Center. In 1882, women gained inclusion into this school. Soon after, women gained equal inclusion in the library. In the 1960s women desegregated the school

## Homosexuality is unnatural and evil

by David Upham

I am writing to respond to the opinions published in last week's Campus which were critical of my letter from the previous week's issue. I would like to clarify my views.

Yes, I do believe that homosexual acts are contrary to both the physical and spiritual nature of man; they are both unnatural and intrinsically evil. Moreover, the orientation towards performing such acts is abnormal. In not making these views explicit in my letter, I was in no way trying to conceal my beliefs from the readers. Rather, I was hoping to appeal to those readers who may not necessarily agree with my opinions, but who support my right to express them. Furthermore, the purpose of my article was not to defend my beliefs concerning homosexuality, but to demonstrate that the college's harassment policy threatens free speech.

The harassment policy does

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not clearly protect expression of opinion. Although it allows for "classroom discussion" of homosexuality, the sexual harassment posters on campus clearly list "negative comments concerning sexual orientation" as a form of intolerance which will not be tolerated at Middlebury College. I see no reason why the expression of opinions opposed to homosexuality should not be published. In fact, the purpose of these policies is to do just that. The policy's stated purpose is to "maintain a campus environment where bigotry and intolerance have no place." Words such as "intolerance," "bigotry," or "harassment" are

obviously quite vague. What they mean would be determined by those implementing the policy. Undoubtedly, Professor Moss speaks for the bulk of the faculty and the administration when he says such opinions are

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rooted in "naked hatred and intolerance."

Under similar policies at other colleges, students have actually been prosecuted for their expression of "politically incorrect" beliefs concerning homosexuality. In classic totalitarian style, they have been subsequently forced to take classes of re-education and to publicly renounce their views. Have we any reason to believe that similar punishments will not soon be imposed on the "politically incorrect" at Middlebury? Are there not many at the college who look with an envious eye towards those more "progressive" institutions which have done just that?

The college's harassment policy does not truly allow for discussion. It would seem that the only way the PC movement would tolerate the discussion of "politically incorrect" beliefs would be if they were presented in the classroom as the ideas of the silly, intolerant past, and certainly not as ideas to be taken seriously by the enlightened people of the modern age. One also gets the impression that if a student were to present such views as his own, he could certainly not do so in such a forceful manner that would suggest that the current PC orthodoxy concerning homosexuality is, in fact, wrong. The PC discussion is no discussion at all.

Furthermore, the question as to whether homosexuality constitutes a mental disorder does, in fact, remain a point of contro-

versy within the field of psychology. Although the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of disorders, the decision was not without its critics. In a subsequent sample poll, 69% of

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A.P.A. members held that homosexuality is "usually a pathological adaptation." (Joseph Dileo, Homosexuality: The Questions, p. 101) In fact, many have argued that the decision was based not upon scientific grounds, but upon a sort of PC consideration: "The decision...marks a time in psychiatric history when a scientific society, ignoring scientific evidence, yielded to the [politi-

### Raven

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Club, and the team has thus far been forced to cancel one scheduled game pending a final decision by the administration. The problem is that the administration should hold no influence whatsoever on the fate of the Middlebury Lions Rugby Football Club, nor do they have the right to link students' actions off campus with their lives on campus.

The Lions Rugby Club is completely self-sufficient, having no fiscal or legal ties to Middlebury College, yet the administration continues to meddle. It seems the College is not content with dictating student life on campus, and like a glutinous jelly doughnut fiend is scrambling to get all it can. "Legalities be damned!" seems to be the battle cry of this College, as they attempt to restrict anything and everything which they do not give explicit approval. Beware, ye Freshpeople, for it will only get worse in years to come.

cal] demands of a militant, zealous group." (Samuel Hadden "Homosexuality Classification" in Psychiatric Annals, April, 1976, p. 46.) Perhaps it has been similar intellectual coercion within academia by certain PC groups, which creates the false impression that "no one with a degree in psychology" would contend that homosexuality is a disorder. Nevertheless, during winter term, a psychology course discussed this issue seriously. Let us hope that such discussions will not be banned in the near future.

### Proposal

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Committee, and it will be reviewed. All proposals must be submitted 42 days prior to the occasion, and all AGSATI decisions may be reversed by me, Dean of Arbitrary Decisions.

Because promiscuity leads to an abundance of missed early morning classes and decreased study time, the administration and my friend Pope John Paul II have helped me design the following parietal regulations:

*Middlebury College has changed from a liberal arts institution to a liberal institution. Something must be done before we offend out neighbors, alumni over 60 and the town and state authorities.*

1) By the December 31, 1992, all Middlebury dormitories will be single sex. Married students may apply to CABR (Committee Against Bad Reputations) for married housing. They must present a marriage license and get a blood test prior to the committee review.

2) All doors must be kept ajar the width of a calculus book at all times. A student visiting a student of the opposite sex must sign in with a hall monitor, and a three-foot-on-the-floor policy will be strictly enforced at all times. (Those with medical problems preventing this must have a certified letter from a

physician.) Coed visiting will be allowed from noon until 3 pm Monday, Tuesday and the third Friday of every month.

3) The distribution of free condoms and reproductive literature from the health center will cease immediately. It is widely known that teaching youngsters about sex just makes them want to go out and have it. And distributing birth control... need I say more?

4) Classes wishing to discuss phallic symbolism in literature must first consult the

musical tastes and sleeping patterns, aiding me in the design of a college music policy.

1) Since the only hours during which no one in the town of Middlebury is asleep are Thursdays from 3:25 to 3:42 pm and January 1st from 12:01 to 12:08 am, these are the times during which students may play music.

2) The music students may play at this time must be reviewed by a close personal friend of mine, Tipper Gore.

3) At no time may any fraternity even think about music that includes humming by fraternity members and the use of Walkmen.

4) Obviously, bands and stereotypes are out of the question. Students may own a phonograph or an 8-track cassette player. A copy of Barry Manilow's Greatest Hits is free to every student, and will be available from me, Dean of Arbitrary Decisions. Since the playing time of this collection is under three minutes, it may be played at any time.

Of course, there are many issues that have not been addressed here, such as dress codes, lights out times, off campus privileges and biology field trip permission slips. All of these will be addressed by me, Dean of Arbitrary Decisions, in a meeting open to all college students, where I promise to listen to all of your suggestions, and discount each and every one of them. I look forward to seeing you there.

