

The Middlebury Campus

Founded 1905

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Setting precedents

The following is an excerpt from James Maddox's opening night address to the Bread Loaf School of English in June 1989. In it he discusses Director of the school Paul Cubeta's retirement last January. Mr. Cubeta was also a part of the Middlebury College community. He was a long-time teacher and held the College Professorship of Humanities. He also served as Dean of the Faculty between 1967 and 1970, and was Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1970 to 1976. From 1976 to 1979, he was College Vice President.

Mr. Maddox is to be praised for his discreet candor in speaking of someone who is highly respected in the Bread Loaf and Middlebury communities. He touches on an extremely sensitive issue with honesty and with genuine concern for all individuals affected.

Members of the Bread Loaf community believe that Mr. Maddox's address was an essential factor in the School of English's continued atmosphere of trust and openness. In contrast, Middlebury College's continued silence on the matter has created an atmosphere conducive only to rumor.

The Campus emphatically states, as it has in previous editorials, that this issue is one that merits the utmost sensitivity and compassion, for all involved. Further, those parties should be protected from unnecessary harm. However, there are larger issues involved that warrant wider attention.

The Campus sincerely hopes, for the sake of the Middlebury community, past, present and future, that the administration understands this and will take Mr. Maddox's words to heart:

This opening night has always been in the past what I hope it will be for the most part this evening—a festive event. I have to begin, though, with some words that I find difficult—and yet necessary—to speak to you. All of you who are not first-year students would have been surprised a year ago to hear that I, instead of Paul Cubeta, the long-time director of the School, would be standing here this evening, and administering the School of English this summer. Paul Cubeta, as you almost certainly know, retired from the directorship of the School, effective on January 1 of this year. Regrettably, Paul left the directorship in the aftermath of events that were very painful to some members of the Bread Loaf community. Several people were hurt in the events preceding Paul's retirement; I bring this matter up instead of silently passing over it, in order to express my own and the School's concern and respect for those people. Paul himself will not be visiting the Bread Loaf campus this summer. For those of you who may be dismayed or distressed by news of Paul's retirement, or feel that for any other reason you need to consult about it, I would invite you individually to have a conversation with me in the Director's office over the coming weeks. It is quite possible that some members of the community would find your questions painful and intrusive, and so I would ask you to have the goodness, insofar as possible, to confine your questions to me.

Biographical information provided by the *Dictionary of American Scholars*.

LETTERS

Are you a SCAMmer?

To the Editor:

In response to the opinion published by Caitlin McCarthy entitled "SCAM: Making a mockery of the system," we would like to begin by stating that the three proposals regarding the Student Course Appraisal Manual (SCAM) which were discussed at the Student Government Association meeting on Sunday, October 1, did not originate with the SCAM Committee. The SGA contacted us after SCAM had been put on their agenda at the suggestion of an SGA member. As those of us who were at the SGA meeting remember, Ms. McCarthy made her opinion quite clear but was opposed by the majority.

Contrary to what Ms. McCarthy suggests, SCAM is not "a symptom of something gone awry in our education," but rather something that has gone right. It is the voice of the students. These students were selected by our Office of Admissions as being intellectually qualified to attend Middlebury; however Ms. McCarthy seems to be insinuating that our opinions are not good enough. We should not be expected to simply settle for what we are given. To trust the College to take

care of us, unquestionably, is not what Middlebury has taught us. We, as responsible students, should be able to make educated decisions in choosing classes based on more than just a simple course description.

The purpose of SCAM has always been to provide students with another source of information to help in the course selection process. On page 2 of our manual we state that it should be used in conjunction with the official course catalog. There is nothing wrong with considering the opinions of other students when we select our classes. Ms. McCarthy criticizes us for publishing an opinion poll and abetting the "apathy and homogeneity" on campus; however, we feel that she is carrying things too far. If a course is of unsatisfactory or superior caliber, should not the entire campus be made aware of this? We never hear what is said on the evaluation forms that are submitted to Old Chapel.

In conclusion, we would like to know, do you, Ms. McCarthy, fill out your SCAM questionnaires?

Michael Campbell '90
Karen Thayer '90
SCAM Committee Chairpersons

Not delighted with Delorie

To the Editor:

Re: Rob Delorie's "Perspective" of September 29th's Campus:

Things we were happy to do without last year:
—cold Molson
—burgers and 'za at Hamlin
—hanging out at DKE
—best friends on the planet...the kind you can boot with
—Rob Delorie

Speak for yourself.

Juliet M. Sampson '90
Anne G. Truslow '90
Barbara L. Matusik '90
Alexandra G. MacGowan '90
Carolyn Kuebler '90
Elizabeth Monson '90

To the Editor:

Last week you ran a column by Rob Delorie entitled "Perspectives: Just a simple date." As far as I could

gather, the piece was supposed to shed a little light on relationships at Middlebury and in general. However, it turned out to be a rambling, self-centered answer to a Dear Abby letter that was never written. By dragging on for twelve paragraphs about how people shouldn't worry so much about relationships, Mr. Delorie pretty much sinks his own journalistic ship of opinion. If it's no big deal, why waste half a page bullshitting about it? I'd much rather read some insight into the minds of Middlebury students in general than hear about one isolated case of abnormal testosterone production. Contrary to what Mr. Delorie's Middlebury experience has been, not everyone is on this campus with the sole intent of finding a mate, long term or otherwise. I resent having my college career reduced to a four-year jaunt in a post-pubescent breeding ground. Save it for *Wild Kingdom*.

Travis Chance '92

To the Editor:

Of course the CIA is not the coolest group of cats on the globe. However, fellow collegians, let us not allow ourselves to discriminate just because we think we are morally superior. Freedom is a two-way avenue. Just because the "liberal left" wants to voice its concerns about the human violations the CIA wreaks upon mankind, let us remember that some boys or womyn[sic] might want to work for this organization. Do not infringe upon their rights. Would not you be upset if the "big 'oak' righty conservatives" infringed upon your career decision to be a Greenpeace activist. Protest is admirable. Consuming all the interview

spots is an infringement on human beings' rights to access info. Even if the nazi womyn[sic]-hating baby burners interviewed on campus, we should uphold our ideals of freedom by allowing whichever person the chance to hear their rap. Freedom works for all. There can be no conditions placed on freedom of speech. As we all know, book censorship, seatbelt laws, the drinking age, record ratings, and movie ratings are all infringements on personal freedom. The "liberal left" has no more right to infringe than the "Tipper Gore/Jerry Falwell right" on our personal freedoms.

Mike McGinn '90

Letters Policy

The Middlebury Campus is glad to accept letters to the editor and solicited opinions. Letters and proposals should be submitted to The Campus, Drawer 30 or to the Campus office in Hepburn Annex by Monday of the week of publication. The letters and articles published do not necessarily represent the opinions of the College or student body.