

'Extras' weigh down students going home

By Gene Swift

As the end of the year rolls around, students at Middlebury inevitably encounter various difficulties which extend beyond the simple realm of "How am I ever going to get all this work done in two weeks?"

Those fortunate enough to have their own vehicles here have probably forgotten what it was like back in September to lug all those "precious necessities" of college life from the streets and parking lots to their rooms.

The students without their own transportation have the additional problem of guilt — the guilt connected with making those parents, siblings, aunts, uncles or friends who helped "load in," carry the same stuff back out again.

Of course, there is always the complication of "added baggage": The "must haves" and "great deals" acquired from the numerous local shops and pesky mail-order companies.

If one is the particularly studious type, there are all the books from three semesters of classes; if a student has spent a semester abroad, there are souvenirs and mementos from foreign lands far too precious to leave behind at the end of finals.

All in all, even the most diet-conscious student can gain almost a hundred pounds in the 9-course meal Middlebury calls the "academic year." This can pose a problem to any and all with hopes of making it home, wherever that may be, with all of their possessions intact.

There are several standard solutions to this problem. With cooperative family support, cargo trips can be made before finals actually strike, providing a chance to scale down the contents of the average dorm room. The problem with this

plan becomes clear when deciding what possessions are essential for the last weeks of school; many "extras" become invaluable in dealing with early-May stress.

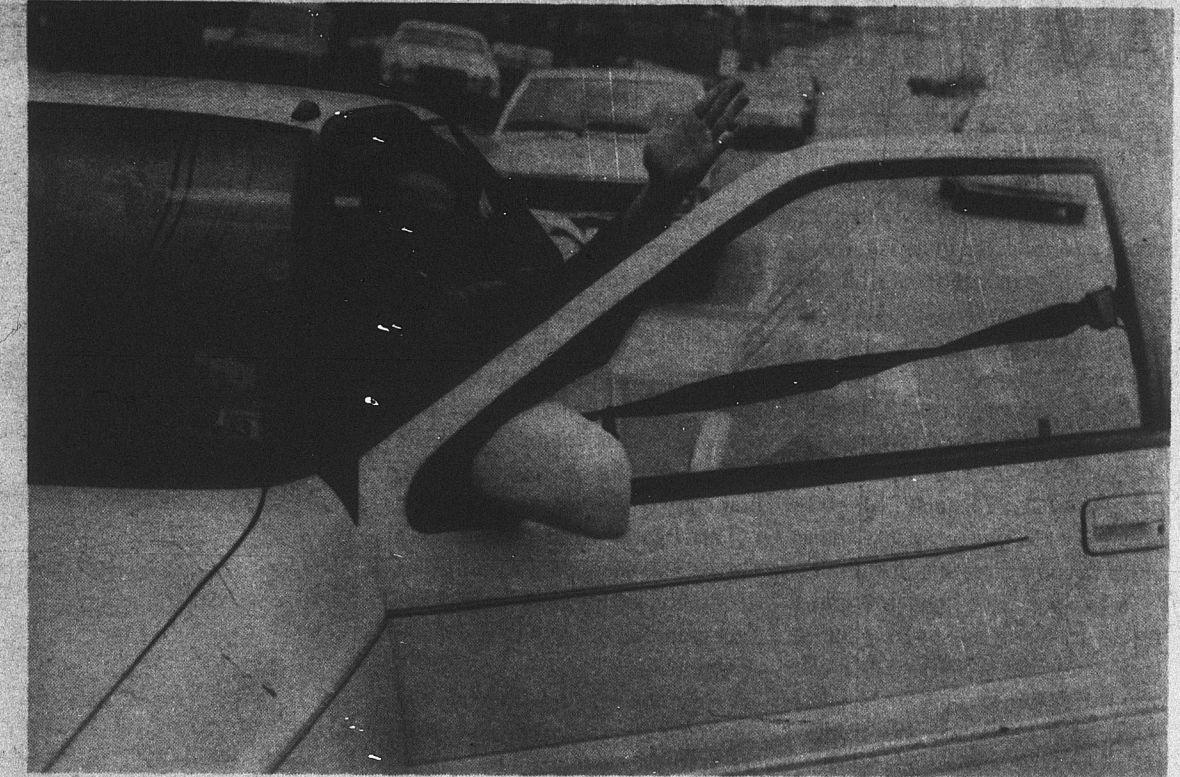
There is always the option of storage, unless, of course, one is a graduating senior, in which case leaving anything behind in a modified Middlebury barn could make commencement seem only partially achieved.

For those students not graduating, storage facilities around Middlebury provide an excellent way to keep those "college items" (rugs, carpets, microwaves, furniture, fridges, futons and frames, etc.) at college, especially if a group of students go in on the rental-venture together. When only one key is handed over, however, the problem becomes determining which individual is the most responsible of the bunch — the student who will be least likely to leave the key behind come September.

Shipping is always a possibility, but any student not from the Northeast, who has had any experience with the Middlebury Post Office, McCullough mailroom or the infamous "White Metal Building" near Stewart will surely be quick to tell the bittersweet tale of "the day I shipped my stuff." One cannot change the laws of physics, and simply put, stuff plus more stuff equals a sum-total more massive amount of stuff. And mass, as most know without reference tables, is expensive when carried by the professionals.

There are a few little-known alternative methods for lightening the end of the year load of such stuff, which may prove useful knowledge for those about to cope with "getting rid of it all."

1) Garage sale: Go to the bookstore and purchase a mess of little white tags, then mark everything



Tiffany Claffin

Students usually accumulate a wide variety of "extras" which prove difficult to transport home.

extraneous with a random price you feel is worthy. By the time you've dumped your excess baggage into the laps of your friends, you will have enough spare cash to at least buy a beer and forget about all those things your friends will probably just throw out when they pack up for home.

2) Give always: Let's face it. Students at Middlebury, on the average, have far too much of everything while there are many who would really like/need a little more. Go to the library, browse through some Marx/Engels, and then just start equally-distributing the wealth. Start with the truly needy and the truly needed; give the extra pairs of jeans away, the unwanted beer tees, and last year's Polar Fleece to those who can't afford L.L. Bean or dorm-wandering peddlers. Then, give away those questionably-acquired neon beer signs to your envious neighbors and let them deal with the questions.

3) Raffle: Sell tickets and use those old psychology texts as the grand prize. Again, the pocket money gained from this method

will undoubtedly prove useful — perhaps to help pay the tolls for the drive home or the shipment/storage costs for those things too good to sacrifice.

4) Abandonment: This is highly frowned upon by the employees of the Physical Plant, but looked forward to by those students who work for Custodial in order to stay in their rooms for commencement.

If in packing the car you discover you can't fit everything, try to leave the most truly bizarre possessions behind. This is an excellent opportunity to get rid of those cassettes and CDs you just couldn't leave at home, but didn't listen to all year long.

5) Gifts: A variation on "give always," the gift option should be used strategically to make friends and influence people. Go on out, buy some wrapping paper, and use those practically new possessions for your own personal gain. This requires some advance planning in order to match the perfect gift with the perfect recipient, but that's the nature of all gift-giving occasions.

6) Stow-away: This is an oppor-

tunity to get close to those students who live close to you. While someone from your region is packing his or her car, start a casual conversation (perhaps with a gift, see #5) and surreptitiously slip something into the back seat.

Then, once home, you can stop by your friend's house and watch as he or she tries to explain how your possession found its way to his or her home.

7) Cramming: The option chosen by most departing students, cramming involves the discovery and exploitation of every centimeter of a vehicle's free space. Those spare-tire compartments beneath some trunks' false bottoms are perfect for socks, sneakers, bedding and other small squashables. Glove compartments are good for many small things, including gloves. Never forget to take advantage of the ledge just inside the rear windshield; what's behind you can't usually hurt you, and when it does, there's generally not much you could have done about it anyway, so plug up that space, let go of your feelings, and "use the Force."

Lifechance heightens awareness about pro-life movement

By Elizabeth Del Colliano

A few years ago, Dave Upham '93 looked around and realized that students against abortion had no voice on Middlebury's predominantly liberal-minded campus. In order to create awareness about the pro-life cause, movement, and ideas, this enterprising student formed Lifechance.

The group is comprised of roughly thirty members, although there are only six active members.

These six do show their support often by eagerly taking part in a number of demonstrations furthering their cause. The more publicity there is about their message against abortion, the better it is for the pro-life cause.

Some of the demonstrations have become a tradition for the group. Every year, Lifechance travels to Washington D.C. for the March for Life, where they walk through the streets of Washington strongly advocating the promotion of height-

ened awareness that expresses their views and attitudes on abortion honestly. Many find this march to be inspiring when they are able to form alliances with their supporters.

To underline the importance of the march, the protestors picked a specific date that would mean something to the coalition of pro-lifers.

This particular date is one that acts as a symbol for all they disagree with, a symbol which they feel clearly disdains the sacredness of life.

That is why the March for Life occurs on or around January 22nd, the day when *Roe v. Wade* was passed.

Yet the organization does not only take part in national events when it comes to the anti-abortion cause. They bring their message home to the college, in a way that interacts with the townspeople as well.

Every October in Middlebury, Lifechance takes part in

"LifeChain" — a gathering of pro-lifers who stand out in the town, holding signs that read "Abortion kills children!" in order to promote their message. They feel that this is

Wyatt also feels that the police can be judgmental when it comes to their organization.

Whenever there is mention of Operation Rescue at a clinic, the police cars swarm in to make arrests.

a peaceful yet forceful way to impart their messages to all who will hear what they have to say.

Many of the responses from the demonstration that the group received were positive (such as a thumbs up from passers-by), but

negativity was equally apparent. Tonya Eza '96 comments, "One guy just leaned out of his car and yelled 'Wrong!'"

Eza affirmed that the group as a whole believes that life begins at conception, and that abortion therefore kills an unborn child. However, there is dissension within Lifechance when the discussion turns to the more complicated issues of pregnancy from rape and incest.

Eza notes that these issues are "tough ones to call," and that in the aforementioned cases abortion would be a viable option. Her Lifechance colleague, Sarah Wyatt '95, disagrees.

Wyatt maintains that a life is still a life, saying that "It's still not right to kill the baby." She does acknowledge the opposing arguments in these cases as having validity.

However, she also believes that if she were to go along with their line of thought then she would be contradicting her original statement

that life begins at conception, and that taking that life would be morally wrong, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy.

There is also dissension within Lifechance when it deals with the issue of groups such as the highly-publicized "Operation Rescue."

Eza does not agree with the group, known best for its radical methods of dealing with abortion clinics and the women who wish to enter them.

Eza states "They haven't done a whole lot politically, if that is one of their goals. For example, when George Bush was president, there was a ban on medical research done on aborted fetuses. Clinton has reversed that. Has Operation Rescue been able to do anything?"

Eza believes that they bring "bad publicity to the cause" which does nothing to advance the agenda of more peaceful pro-lifers.

Once again, Wyatt is in opposition
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A&W receives high praise for service and greasy food

By Edward Y. Soh

There are many signs that spring has arrived at Middlebury. The trees are blossoming, the grass is turning green, one can eat meals on the terrace of Proctor and the A&W on Route 7 south of Middlebury has opened.

As a restaurant critic, I have to admit that I am biased towards the A&W. It has been my springtime hangout of choice since I first discovered it as a first-year, and I have since become a regular customer.

So it was with great joy that I found out that it had opened for its spring/summer 1994 run a week ago.

To first-years and those unfamiliar with the institution, A&W is one of those mysteries of life. From the time that Middlebury students first arrive in September, it remains boarded up, looking almost abandoned. Then, like a butterfly, it comes out of its cocoon to share its beauty (and good food) with those who are fortunate enough to realize what it has to offer.

Driving up to the A&W, it becomes clear that this is no typical fast-food joint.

First of all, there is no customer seating, except for a couple of picnic benches. And unlike other restaurants, the servers come to your car. To those unfamiliar with the

concept, the servers walk around the parking lot, take your order at your car, bring your food there and pick up your trash when you leave. If you are lucky, you can sometimes get a server that will come and go on rollerskates or rollerblades, but most travel on foot.

The menu is not that complex, and there is a general theme that pervades. This theme is grease. Admittedly, I have spoken out vehemently against grease in the past ("The Panda House Serves Up Grease and Disappointment"). The difference in this case is that I expect grease at the A&W, and that's exactly what I got.

The grease from which one can select includes burgers and other fried foods. Burgers and double burgers can be ordered with cheese (mozzarella and American), bacon and in a barbecue style.

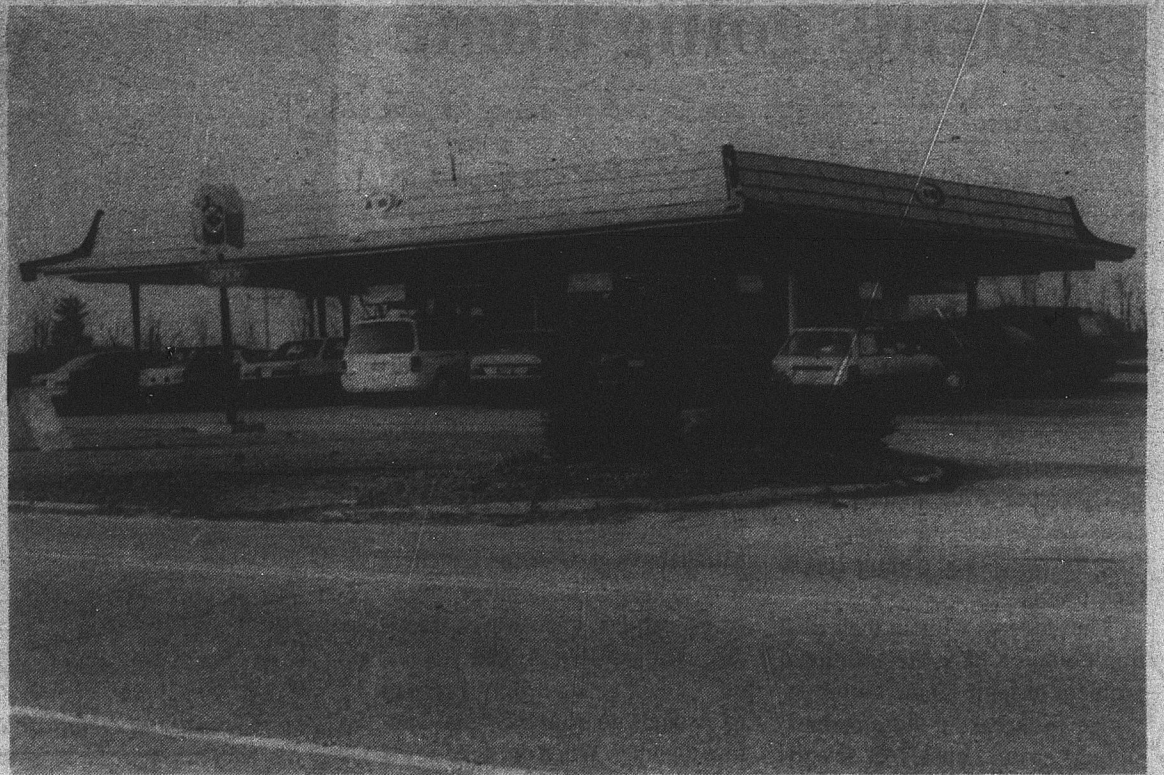
Very simply, they were heavenly.

Other entrees include chicken, shrimp and clam dinner baskets, hot dogs (with chili, cheese or on a stick), chicken fillet, fish fillet and tuna fish sandwiches, chicken

fingers and falafel.

The hot dogs are tasty, as are the chicken fingers and tuna fish sandwich. I would stay away from the chicken fillet sandwich if possible, since the chicken fingers are much better.

They did not have falafel in the



Tiffany Ceflin

Although A&W has high prices, it offers excellent and entertaining service, with food to match.

A&W
Drive-In Restaurant

Food: ☆☆☆
Service: ☆☆☆☆
Atmosphere: ☆☆☆
Value: ☆☆☆

Out of four stars
Phone: 388-2876

Four stars: outstanding; Three stars: excellent; Two stars: good; One star: fair; None: poor

kitchen as of last Saturday, but they promised to get it soon.

All the entrees they offer also come in a basket, which also contains cole slaw and fries. The cole slaw is excellent, but the fresh cut fries are even better.

Along with their onion rings, the french fries/onion rings one-two combination is probably the best in the business.

What sets A&W apart from the rest is that one can find complete satisfaction without grease. How is this accomplished, one might ask?

A&W also has a great dessert menu, consisting entirely of ice cream.

One can get a creamie (what Vermonters call soft ice cream), ice

cream sundaes and cones, milkshakes and the phenomenal banana split. All of these offerings are great, especially the banana split.

Finally, I will cover what has made A&W famous: Root beer and the root beer float, served in large, heavy glass mugs.

Even if you never have the desire to go to A&W, please go and get a root beer float. You will not regret it.

The service at A&W is great. Where else can one go and get rollerskating servers, or food that is placed on a tray that hangs from your car window?

I have to admit that it isn't great for your wallet. Stick with ordering things in baskets if you can. The fries and cole slaw are worth it.

For example, a bacon cheeseburger is \$2.40 alone, or \$3.80 as a basket. Other values include \$3.25

for a banana split, and \$1.85 for the large root beer float. Finally, if you are a big fan of root beer, you can get it straight from the tap. Prices start from \$1.50 a quart, up to \$3.75 for a gallon.

I have to heartily recommend a trip to A&W. You may not particularly care for the greasy fare, but there are other options that more than make a visit worthwhile.

If you do decide to go, do me a favor and don't steal the mugs. If you really want one, buy it and save the owners some grief.

Finally, if you want the food but can't wait for the time it takes for them to make it, call ahead and they'll have it waiting for you when you arrive.

Overall, A&W is the perfect outing for any day, any time. It is truly a treat to experience the fantastic service and great food.

Lifchance heightens pro-life awareness

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tion. She had personally taken part in Operation Rescue demonstrations in Philadelphia, and said that violence was not on the agenda for the group.

She talks about her experience, saying "We just stood there, singing and saying prayers. It was actually the Pro-Choice Escorts who were violent, and verbally abusive towards us."

The Pro-Choice Escorts are groups of pro-choicers that help pregnant women enter abortion clinics when the doors are being blocked by groups such as Operation Rescue.

Wyatt admitted that the group that she was with was indeed blocking the doors to one particular clinic. She then commented "That's when the escorts would get violent."

Wyatt also feels that the police can be judgmental when it comes to their organization.

Whenever there is mention of Operation Rescue at a clinic, the police cars swarm in to make ar-

rests.

When the situation is reversed, however, the reactions are different. Wyatt angrily explained, "The pro-lifers were holding a prayer meeting inside a church, and a group of pro-choicers began blocking the doors, not letting anybody inside. The police were informed, but they never showed up. They never came."

Wyatt's anger reflects the heated nature of the issue of abortion, which has forced even the traditionally apathetic to take passionate sides. Lifchance has often heard from the "other side" of their cause at Middlebury.

Eza reports that many posters that Lifchance put up to increase awareness of their cause were ripped down, or defaced.

She responds, "I know this is a liberal pro-choice campus. But there is a lot of intolerance that causes juvenile behavior. Instead of defacing our posters, they should just put up their own, explaining what their position is and why."

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