

Unknown assailant attacks student near Twilight Hall

By Todd Capute

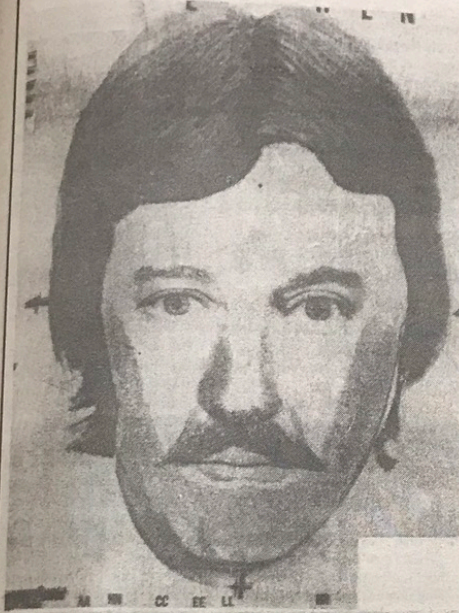
A female Middlebury student was assaulted Tuesday night near Twilight Hall, but managed to escape unharmed.

According to Director of Campus Security Peter Chenevert, the woman was walking from Twilight Hall to the campus at approximately 1:40 am, when she was approached by a man who attempted to trip her.

The suspect is described as 23 to 24 years old, approximately 5'10" tall and 165 to 170 lbs, with dark hair, a mustache and sideburns. The student was able to get away and phone Campus Security after kicking her assailant in the shin.

Security officer Rodney Grant responded to the call and the student was questioned by Campus Security as well as the Middlebury Police Department. According to Chenevert, the Department has a suspect and will pursue the case. Chenevert urges the college community not to walk alone at night.

A similar assault took place in May of 1988, when senior Anne Moses was able to flee a knife wielding assailant after stabbing him in the thigh with his own knife. The attacker was convicted of assault and attempted kidnapping this September, and will be sentenced later this month.



Middlebury Police composite of the suspect

Tillinghast discusses liberal arts education

By Randy Welner

Professor of History Pardon Tillinghast disagrees with the view that an excellent liberal arts education stems from the respect students have for the knowledge of their professors.

Tillinghast has instructed Middlebury students for the last forty three years. He has consequently seen the college in its many phases of development and holds strong views as to what a liberal arts education should be.

"Liberal arts education should be a series of cheerful fights," said Tillinghast, speaking from his office on October 30, "Today there is a need for hot topics."

The question of what a liberal arts education should be has been somewhat of a hot topic itself lately. Trying to establish the value of such an education can be extremely difficult, as there are as many different ideas about "good" education as there are educators.

"[A liberal arts education is] anything to do with training the mind without specialization," said Tillinghast. "Specialization deals with techniques, and that is too specific."

Finding new things to do and gaining new experiences are key ingredients in the educational process. Getting students to do that,

however, can sometimes be a difficult task Tillinghast said.

"Students today are more passive, yet at the same time they are more demanding," Tillinghast commented. He continued, "The TV generation has bred students who are willing to sit back, but are not afraid to affirm their rights to a good education."

This passivity has led to the claim by many students that college seniors know nothing at the end of their undergraduate years. Tillinghast believes this is an extreme position that is not necessarily true.

"Good students learn to deal with the problems that face them," he said. "Learning is an undefined process, and no one may truly gauge how we best impart knowledge."

Tillinghast described the idea of "controlled energy," a means by which a professor opens up a loosely organized forum in which the students may debate. By creating this type of atmosphere, Tillinghast said, the students may better develop themselves.

Certain factions of the educational world are also questioning the validity, or necessity, of such fields as Women's Studies, Central American and Minority Studies. Labeled "Victim Studies" by the Dartmouth Review, these areas have drawn much (continued on page 4)

Sexual harassment hearing creates questions of responsibility Handling of 1988 case raises concerns among those involved, community members

By Paul Gould and Wendy Bagwell

In the course of a two-month investigation, The Campus has gathered certain details of an October 1988 sexual harassment hearing that involved the long term director of the Bread Loaf School of English. The hearing resulted in the abrupt retirement of the school's director, Paul Cubeta.

The Campus has corroborated the following facts:

•During late October and early November of 1988, four young men, who were students of Paul Cubeta at Middlebury College and assistants to him at Bread Loaf, appeared before the Committee on Reappointment to state grievances addressing alleged incidents of sexual harassment initiated by Mr. Cubeta.

•According to Mr. Cubeta and others involved, no verdict was delivered concerning the charges. Shortly after the hearing, Mr. Cubeta announced his retirement as the director of the Bread Loaf School of English, effective January 1, 1989. However, he accepted another position on the Bread Loaf administration as director for development. Effective July 1, 1989, Mr. Cubeta ended more than twenty-five years of service to Middlebury College by resigning his professorship.

The Middlebury College administration has refused to comment on any circumstances surrounding the hearing. College officials cited a principle of upholding confidentiality in matters concerning individual members of the college community.

"It's difficult, because when one looks at sectors like confidentiality in particular cases, one sometimes finds

it hard to understand why the larger principle is applied, or even what principle is at stake," said Middlebury College Provost John McCardell. "And yet a violation of principle even at the outposts makes the core sooner or later vulnerable."

When asked whether such a principle of confidentiality could be harmful when the situation affects parties other than the individual in question, McCardell said, "In the end you simply have to rely on your own judgment. That judgment is fallible precisely because it is human."

Most members of the Middlebury and Bread Loaf communities have refused to comment for attribution. However, some people intimate with the proceedings agreed to comment under the condition of anonymity.

One of the students who aired grievances at the hearing said he believes that the college has handled the situation badly. "Obviously, the outcome of the hearing was a farce because nothing really happened," he said. "They retired him as Director of Bread Loaf. He shouldn't have been the Director of Bread Loaf for quite a while."

In addition to directing the Bread Loaf School of English, Mr. Cubeta was a College Professor of Humanities until his retirement. Beginning in 1967 he held various administrative positions, including dean of the faculty, and vice president for academic affairs. Bread Loaf offers one of the most prestigious graduate degrees in English, largely due to the work of Mr. Cubeta. The majority of his former colleagues and students agree that Mr. Cubeta's contributions to the academic community at Middlebury College were

invaluable, and that his scholarship in English literature, specifically Shakespeare, is unparalleled in his field.

One faculty member said Mr. Cubeta's departure was "a shock, like a death. There was a lot of feeling for an outstanding professional career that was just—terminated."

OUTCOME OF HEARING REMAINS UNCLEAR

While participants in the hearing agree that the college did not deliver a verdict at the conclusion of the hearing, there are mixed views of what the hearing ultimately achieved.

One faculty member believed that considering the seriousness of the hearing, the results were inappropriate. Referring to the fact that Mr. Cubeta retired with a full pension and remained on the Bread Loaf staff, he said "Cubeta should have been given a booby trap and instead he got a consolation prize—it exposes the kind of old-boy corruption of an institution such as this."

One student who claims to have been harassed by Mr. Cubeta and who testified at the hearing, believed the proceedings to be a success, despite the time that had lapsed since his encounter with Mr. Cubeta. He cited Mr. Cubeta's retirement as the most effective way to deal with the situation.

"It wasn't until years after the incident that I found out that there were others involved," the student said. "Under the circumstances, I think the college handled it extremely well. After the first accusation, they moved on it quickly."

Another student who testified, however, is skeptical about the outcome of the hearing. "I'm still uncertain as to what the results of the

hearing were," he said, "in that I never knew what happened to Paul Cubeta, and I was entitled to know that. The only thing I found out that happened to Paul Cubeta was that he was reappointed to a new position and given some sort of pension."

And according to Mr. Cubeta, that is exactly what happened. In an interview this week, Mr. Cubeta asserted that the absence of a verdict at the close of the hearing was clear proof of his acquittal on all charges.

"Clearly to me," Mr. Cubeta said, "the fact that there wasn't an outcome is an indication that the council did not find me guilty."

Further, Mr. Cubeta emphasized that his retirement was not related to the hearing, but was the result of other factors. He cited stress and the desire to engage in other professional activities, including working at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C. as reasons that moved him to opt for the college's early retirement plan.

"I had been planning for some time, for personal and professional reasons, on retiring a year early," Mr. Cubeta said.

HANDLING OF THE SITUATION

College President Olin Robison was out of town when The Campus tried to reach him for comment this week, but Director of Public Affairs Ron Neif was confident that Mr. Robison would not be likely to comment.

"The policy of yesterday is the same as the policy as today," Neif said. "That is, on personal matters, the college will not comment."

While highly-placed college officials maintained their administrative vow of silence, others in the Bread Loaf and Middlebury communities chose to address Mr.

Cubeta's departure. James Maddox, who replaced Mr. Cubeta as the director of the School of English, confronted the questions which surrounded Mr. Cubeta's retirement in his opening night speech to students last summer.

"Regrettably," Mr. Maddox stated, "Paul left the directorship in the aftermath of events that were very painful to some members of the Bread Loaf community." He continued, "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."

Mr. Maddox invited any "dismayed or distressed" member of the community to individually meet with him.

Similarly, Chairman of the Middlebury English Department Edward A. Martin spoke of the situation in a letter sent to English majors on Tuesday.

"Since interest in [Mr. Cubeta's] resignation has become so widespread," Mr. Martin wrote, "I want to address the issue of information about this matter." He said that his feelings about the rights to privacy of all those involved prevented him from explaining the circumstances any further. He did add, however, that English majors, "as readers of literature would sense and comprehend perhaps better than others" the tragedy of "what has happened." Like Mr. Maddox, Mr. Martin offered to speak to students with questions privately.

The shrouded treatment of Mr. Cubeta's retirement has affected others as well.

Administrative Director of Bread Loaf Hugh Coyle said he re-

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