

**The Middlebury Campus - October 20, 1989 - Editorial**  
**NOTE: Date on the print version is wrong**

## 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*.