Choosing Greener Cleaners and Personal Care Products

by Sierra Murdoch ’09 and Jack Byrne, Campus Sustainability Coordinator

How often do you stop to read the labels on your toothpaste or hand lotion? And on that rare occasion, do you find yourself stumbling over words you either can’t pronounce or haven’t seen since high school chemistry?

Chances are, the Environmental Protection Agency hasn’t heard of them either. Each year, the EPA grants approval to 90% of all new chemicals without restrictions - and they’ve tested the toxicity of only 25% of the 82,000 chemicals used in the US.¹ Some benign, but many harmful, these chemicals pervade every aspect of our modern lifestyles. They are in the food we eat and the cars we drive, the fabrics we wear and the products with which we clean.

But many do not realize that, as customers, we have a choice beyond the cost and quality of a product - a choice to purchase items made from safe and healthy materials. On October 19th, Middlebury staff, faculty, and students will have the opportunity to learn about the choices they have in regard to cleaning and personal care products on an individual as well as institutional level. The event will kick off the beginning of an effort to boost the College’s leadership in sustainability and environmental stewardship by encouraging broader use of environmentally sound and healthy cleaning products and by working towards the development of green purchasing policies and practices. The series is co-sponsored by the Department of Environmental Affairs, Staff Council, Office of Facilities Services, Human Resources, and INFORM, a national non-profit organization that has worked successfully with industry to eliminate and reduce toxic pollution.

The day will begin with a seminar for custodial staff on green cleaning products. Carol Westinghouse, a representative from INFORM, will speak about the current shift towards green products in the cleaning industry, costs and benefits of the products, and the industry’s future directions. She will also discuss the current use of green cleaning products on the Middlebury campus. Members of the custodial staff from Rhinebeck School in New York will then present on their experiences in switching from traditional to green product use.

Following the seminar, Laurie Rich of INFORM will speak for the lunch-time (continued on page 2)

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• Choosing Greener Products
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Faculty Grants

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Barbara Hofer has also received a fellowship from the Associated Kyoto Program which will help support her academic leave in 2007-2008. She will teach a course titled “Cultural Psychology: Japan and the U.S.” for the AKP program at Doshisha University in Japan and will carry out research on culture, cognition and beliefs.

Midd Points Online

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Finally, students, staff and faculty will have the opportunity to talk with experts about the ways in which cleaning products can harm human health, learn about alternatives to these products, hear what the college is doing to address such issues, and share personal concerns and ideas on how we can keep our homes, offices, and dorm rooms clean and healthy. This final event is open to all Middlebury community members, and refreshments will be served.

In working together on the event, the Department of Environmental Affairs and INFORM hope to inspire the college to make informed decisions about cleaning products in the interest of individual and community health. For more information contact Jack Byrne, Campus Sustainability Coordinator at 802-443-5043 or jmbyrne@middlebury.edu.

1 David E. Duncan, The Pollution Within, National Geographic, (October 2006) 122.

Buy Snow Bowl Passes in October

The staff/faculty price for Snow Bowl season passes are $135 for an individual and $270 for a family this year, but you’ll save on the amount of tax you pay by purchasing them in October. The taxable amount is based on the difference between the general public’s cost and your cost, and because the tax rate increases significantly after October, you can save by making your purchase in October. Passes are on sale in the pro shop at the golf course from 8-5 daily, or can be purchased by calling x5125 or on line at www.middleburysnowbowl.com. Accepted methods of payment are cash, check, VISA or Mastercard. A MIDDCCARD ID number must be provided to make the purchase.

Check our website for pictures of the major trail work taking place on Ross and Allen!

If you are looking to mix it up and eat something other than yesterday’s leftovers, there are many sites where you can dine on campus. All menu items and daily specials can be found on the dining web site. On your web browser, type: go/menu. Look under the headings of Dining Hall Menus or Retail Operations Specials at the top of the page. Forms of payment accepted are cash, debit and credit card or departmental charge.

Retail Operations include:

- Redfield Proctor -- All inclusive buffet $7 per person. Chef Bob Lawton creates and cooks the menu.
- The Grille and Juice Bar -- A full ala carte menu to choose from.
- Rehearsal’s at CFA – Re-opened in September with new menu options.
- The Golf Course – Through early fall, enjoy the views of the mountains outside.
- Wilson Café at the Library -- Get your lunch to go here.
- MiddXpress -- Our convenience store has many grab and go options.

Dining Halls:

- Atwater, Proctor or Ross -- $7 per person.
- FIC Freeman for Language Tables -- Please check with the language departments for availability/space.

Ann Craig Hanson, Dean of Student Affairs and Susan Campbell, Dean of the Faculty encourage faculty and staff to join students for lunch or dinner in the dining halls in keeping with the goal to strengthen the College’s academic community. This provides a wonderful opportunity to meet students informally, carry class discussions to a shared meal, and to foster relationships between students and all members of the college community. They wrote: “If, as a member of the faculty or staff, you would like to join students in your class, an advisee, a member of your commons, or a student who serves on a committee with you, you are welcome to accompany them to the dining halls in Proctor Hall, Ross Commons, or Atwater Dining Hall for lunch or dinner. Simply invite the student(s), and then when you arrive at the dining hall, you will be asked to sign in. This year, we are not using the identification swipe card system. Instead, you will print your name and department on a charge slip and list ‘code 9’ on the slip. You are the guest of the College.” The Deans ask that you limit your meals in the dining room to one meal per week, and that you do take a student or students with you (rather than going with staff or faculty colleagues).

Optimal Health Initiative

Symphonic Lunch

Relax and listen to a symphony while you eat your lunch! This month, we will be listening to a recording of Brahms’ 1st Symphony. Bring your lunch and enjoy!

Wednesday, October 11th 12:15 Library 201
New Employees

Robert Pickett
3rd Cook

Tim Parsons
Horticulturist

Rise Wilson
Assoc. VP for College Advance.

Sarah McCague
LIS Graduate Intern

Katie Clagett
LIS Graduate Intern

R. Judson Watts
Kitchen Utility Worker

Sharon Greene
Asst. Prospect Researcher

Lynn Cameron
Custodian

Laurence Purdy
Maintenance Welder
Classifieds

Classified ads are free for members of the staff, faculty, student body, and alumni of Middlebury College. Ads must be submitted seven days prior to the publication date. Please send your ads to: Classifieds, Midd Points, HR, Service Building, or via Outlook to: Middpoints Editor (electronic submissions preferred).

Real Estate

For Sale: Building lots, East Middlebury. Village water, underground electric, telephone, cable. Private gravel road, designed septic. 3 of 5 lots left; sized .5 acre and larger. Weekdays 388-2502.

For Sale: House in Cornwall. Recently renovated 19th century farmhouse with garage barn & shed, 3 BR, hardwood floors, wood-burning stove, perennial gardens, lots of windows, other pretty features, new septic, new heating system. $319,500. Call 462-2191 or x5064.


For Rent: 2 BR apartment, located in an ideally-situated home in downtown Middlebury. DR, study, living room, laundry, garage, large deck, ample storage. Rent $1,100/month includes all utilities with exception of electric. Month to month or short-term lease possibilities. Walking distance to schools, shopping and the College. No smokers. Contact 462-3609.

For Rent: E. Middlebury apartment. Well-located, small and charming 1 BR apt. for quiet, responsible tenants(s). Private parking, Riverside garden. References, good credit history. 388-0085.

Auto


For Sale: 2002 Subaru Outback Wagon Limited: 4 cyl, auto, AWDL, wintergreen exterior with tan heated leather seats, dual sunroofs, power drivers seat, PW/PL w/ keyless, AC, cruise, CD & tape player. We are the original owners that have carefully maintained the car, including recent brakes, tires, 02 sensors & struts. 111k, mostly highway miles. NADA $16,000; asking $11,495. Email jcarroll@middlebury.edu or call (802) 989-9439.

For Sale: 1970 Spinet upright Kranich & Bach piano in good condition. Hundreds of dollars below bluebook, asking $700. Call Yolanda at 388-3867 or e-mail prigo@middlebury.edu.

For Sale: Officially licensed NFL JETS Jacket, never worn. Men's large. $25, OBO. Call Toni at x2035.

For Sale: Chest, 6-drawer (birch) - $250; Chest, 5-drawer/split top drawer (birch) - $250; Book shelf (oak) - $30; Corner "cockpit" computer desk - $75; King platform 12-drawer Mission style captain's bed (pine) - $300; Twin bed frame, headboard, and mattress (practically new) - $200; Cooper Weather-Master S/T2 185/60R15 snow tires (studded – used 1 season) - $100; Inazone 242 whitewater kayak (includes paddle/spray skirt) - $400. Mack x2328 or mroark@middlebury.edu.

Multi-Family Yard Sale: Saturday, October 7 from 9am-2pm at 287 Rolling Acres in Middlebury (off Quarry Rd - look for the signs). Wicker furniture set, kayak, TVs, wood dining table, lamps, small appliances, home fixtures, framed prints, ceiling fans, dart board, and much more.

For Sale: Vermont Castings Vigilant wood stove. Best offer gets it. Call Jeff x5207.


For Sale: Skis! Rossignol 9X Oversize; brand new skis (one ski still in its plastic shrink-wrap). Size = 160cm; Sidecut = 109-68-92; Turning radius = 16m. Bindings are Rossignol Axial 100s; have been used for about one and a half seasons, and have some cosmetic scratches on them. These skis retail for $900 without bindings. I am looking to sell these for $500 with bindings. Please contact Bill Mayers at wmayers@middlebury.edu or x2006.

Wanted


Rental House Wanted: Are you going away over Christmas? Want to make some extra money by renting your house to skiers (no young children) from December 23 – December 28? At least three bedrooms needed. Contact Peggy Nelson: mnelson@middlebury.edu or x5301.

PlayStation2 or Xbox Wanted: in good condition. Needed for DDR exercise/dance program. Call Toni at x2035.

Child Car Booster Seats Wanted: I am looking for just the seat part (not the back) of booster seats for children 4-7, any condition. I'll be happy to pick them up. Contact Alex x5608, or adraper@middlebury.edu.

Wooden Swingset Wanted: Used but in good condition. Please phone 388-1308.

Bagged Leaves Wanted: Gardener/goat owner will pick up your bagged leaves for use as garden mulch and goat feed - they love dried leaves - it's their version of potato chips! I can pick up in Middlebury, E. Middlebury, New Haven, Bristol, Weybridge/Waltham area. Please call me at x5577 (home - 453-3600) or send email to knutson@middlebury.edu.

House Sitting Situation Wanted: Mature, responsible, experienced adult student will care for your home, plants, and pets. Excellent references available. Call Jim at 462-2191.