

MIDDLEBURY
COLLEGE



COMICS

Volume: 2
Issue #1

THE KEY TO SUSTAINABILITY



Dear Middlebury Students,

By now you likely know that Middlebury College has a well-earned reputation for being a leader in putting the idea of sustainability into practice. It's visible in the way we design and build our structures, the way we manage our waste, how we heat and power the campus, what we teach in and out of the classroom, our purchasing of food and goods, and much more.

This graphic novel provides a closer look at our achievements and how they came to be. As you'll see, much of our progress has been born out of the healthy relationships among our community of students, faculty, staff, trustees, and others. At the core of it, our achievements come from you, me, and us working together to address our big challenges. It is this effort as a community of applied learners that makes the greatest difference.

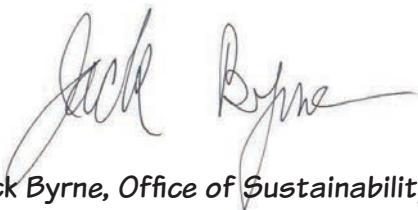
Sustainability can be a vague notion because it is such a big idea. To some, it means being 'green' and keeping within the regenerative capacity of the earth. It can also mean being socially just and meeting present needs without diminishing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. To others, it is a set of best practices like reducing, reusing, and recycling; cutting meat consumption when possible and eating more vegetables; or biking to work. These kinds of practices are important and make a difference in creating a sustainable future when widely used.

However, in our rapidly changing world today's best practice might not be tomorrow's. This requires us to be aware of change and to create new rules and practices for getting to a more sustainable future. Here are some principles we use to guide our thinking about sustainability. I hope they will contribute to advancing your own evolution as a leader in sustainability learning and action during your time at Middlebury and long after:

1. Sustainability is human-centered — health and happiness are essential to sustainable communities. How we care for and protect the bounty and solace nature provides is key to our own well-being.
2. Sustainability is systems-oriented — things are connected and work together often in ways that are not obvious. Foreseeing the dynamics of a change we make in one part of a system with respect its other parts help us make better decisions.
3. Sustainability focuses on efficiency and the elimination of wastes — there is no value or benefit when wasting energy, water, natural resources, money, time, or human engagement.
4. Sustainability is about the future — our actions have impacts over time and on future generations. We need to learn from our past and carefully consider the long-term consequences of our choices.

This graphic novel is about the sustainability journey we are all on. Thank you for your efforts to make it a successful one — past, present, and future.

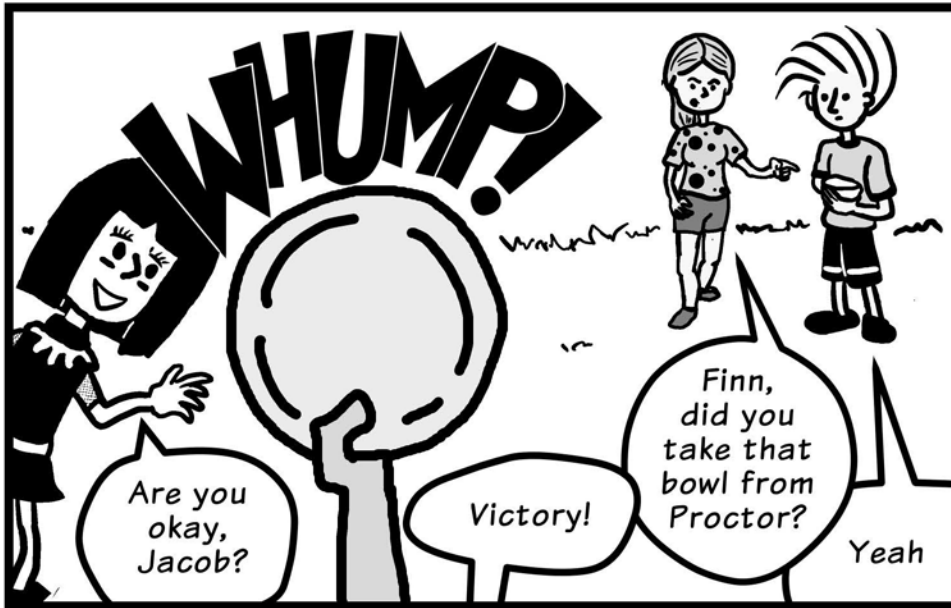
Sincerely,



Jack Byrne, Office of Sustainability Integration

Four Middlebury students play frisbee in front of the Davis Family Library, unaware of the adventure that lies ahead!





Are you okay, Jacob?

Victory!

Finn, did you take that bowl from Proctor?

Yeah

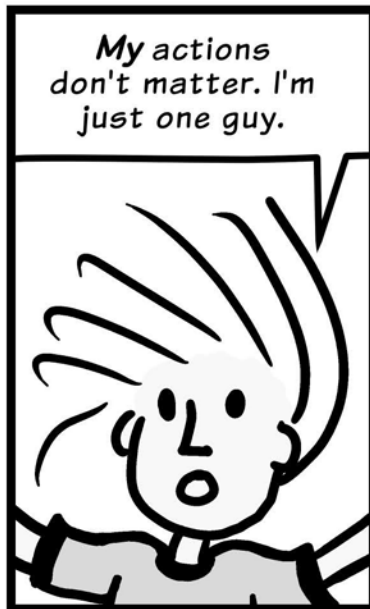


What are you going to do with it?

I don't know. Toss it?



What a waste. That's disgusting.



My actions don't matter. I'm just one guy.

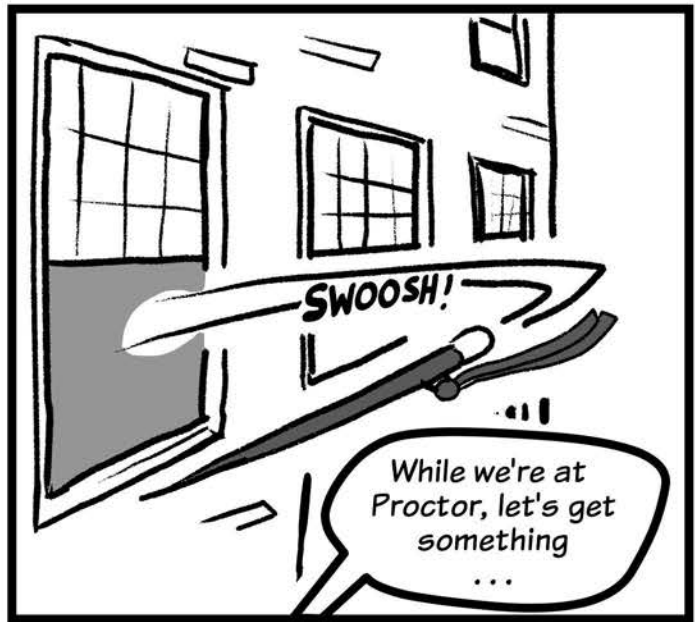
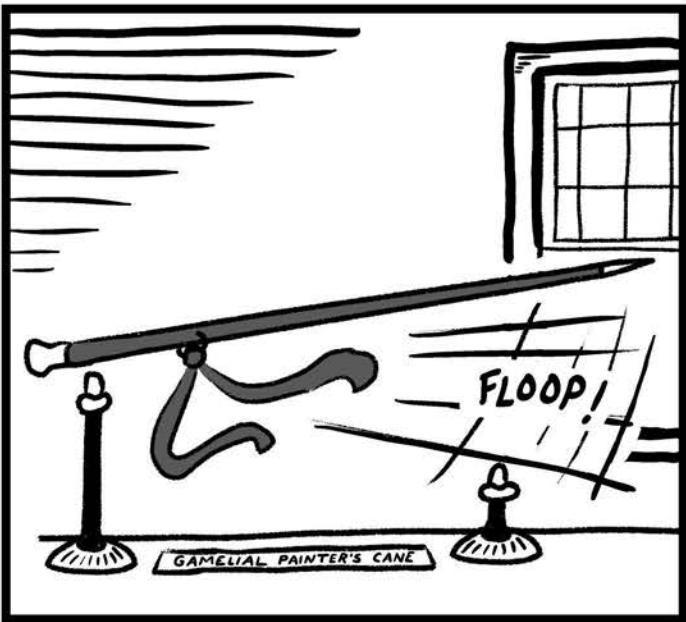
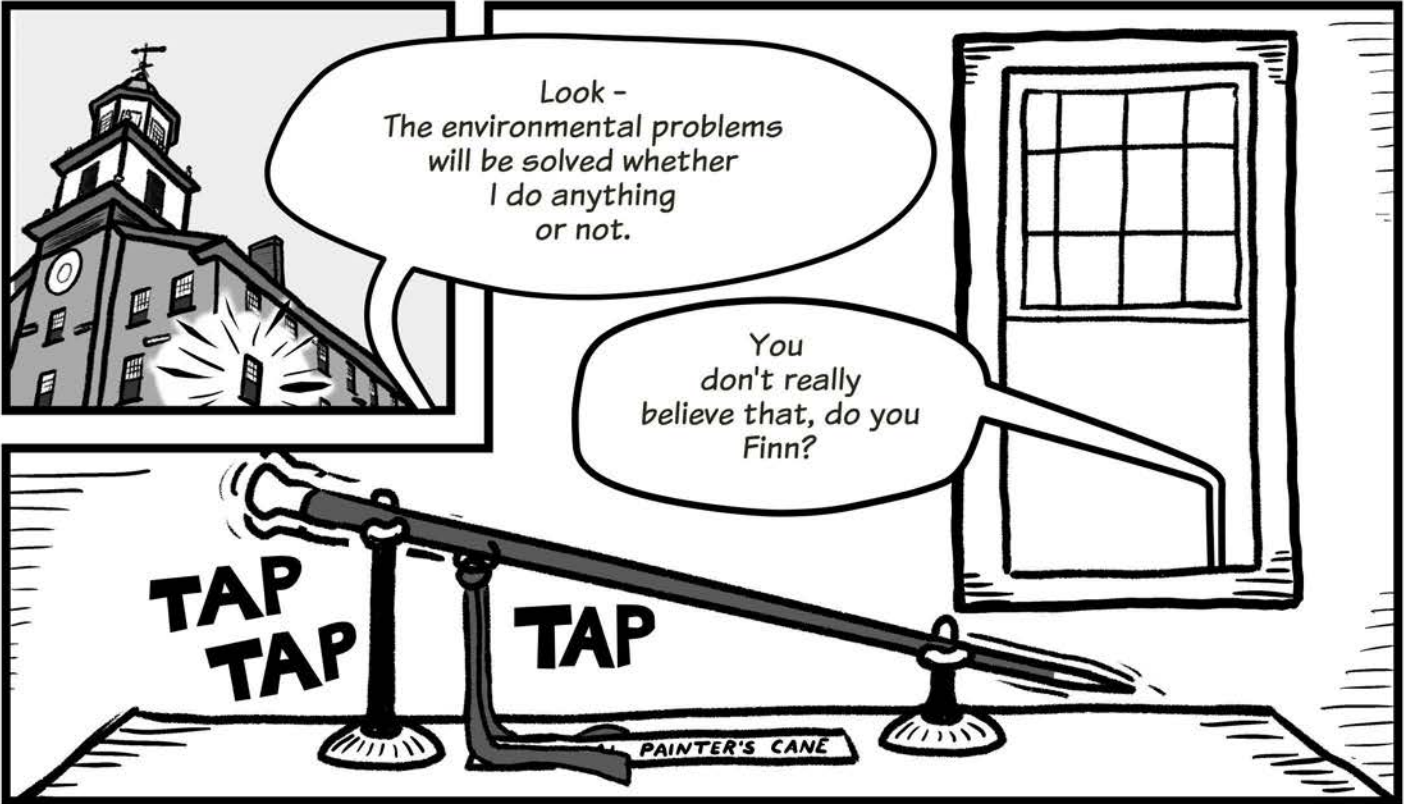


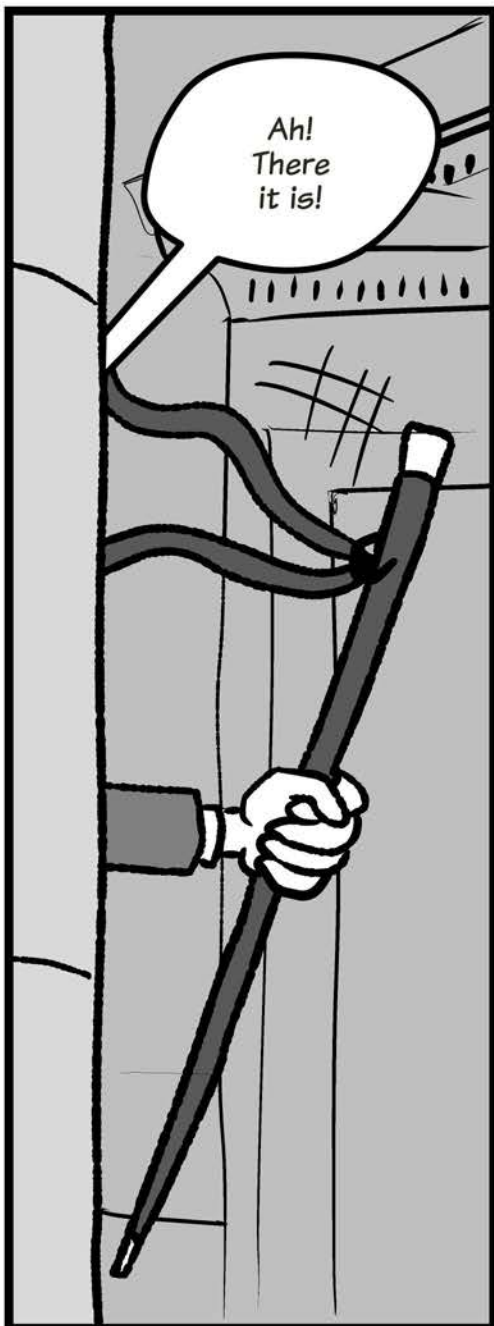
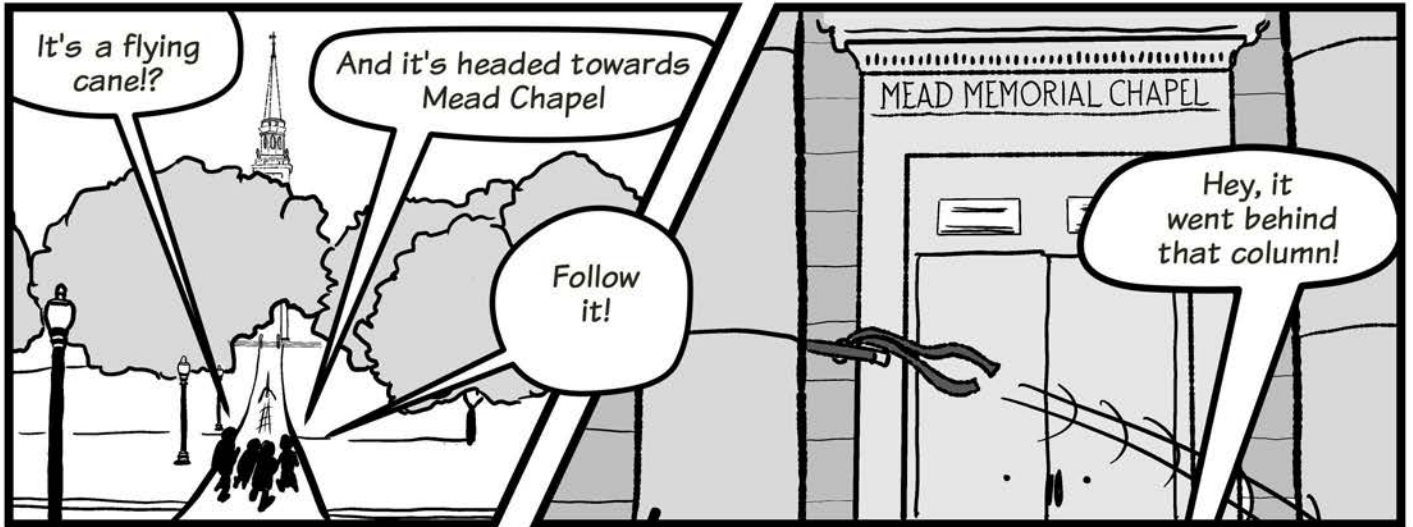
We all matter, Finn! Besides, Middlebury's about sustainability. That's one of the reasons I came here!



Let's take that bowl back to Proctor.

Oh look, the College is celebrating 50 years of environmental education and leadership this year!







Uh, Who?

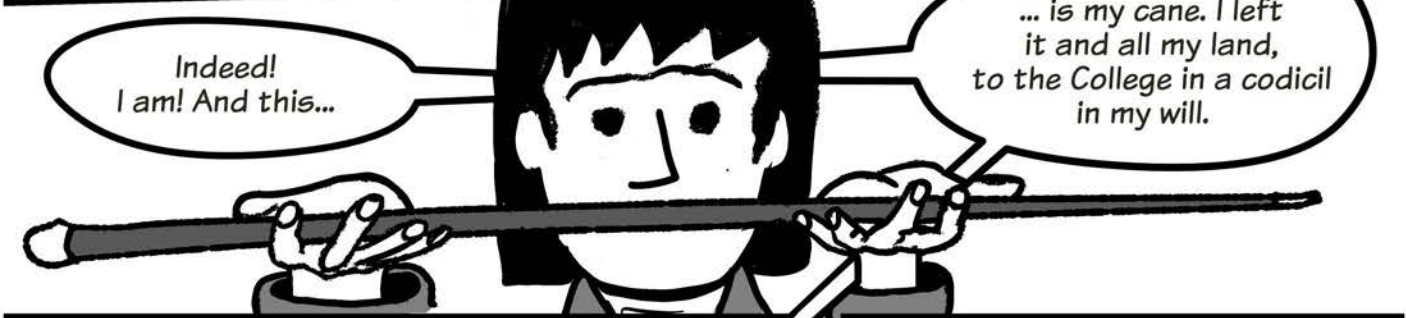
You mean the Gamaliel Painter - like Painter Hall?

The one and only

Hey! Weren't you... I mean, aren't you, one of Middlebury's founders?

Indeed! I am! And this...

... is my cane. I left it and all my land, to the College in a codicil in my will.



But I return from time to time, when I'm needed. *This* must be a very special time because the cane summoned me. But where am I?

Why, I'd recognize that roofline anywhere! That's my Hall! I'm at Middlebury College!

But there are so many buildings... It can't be, unless...



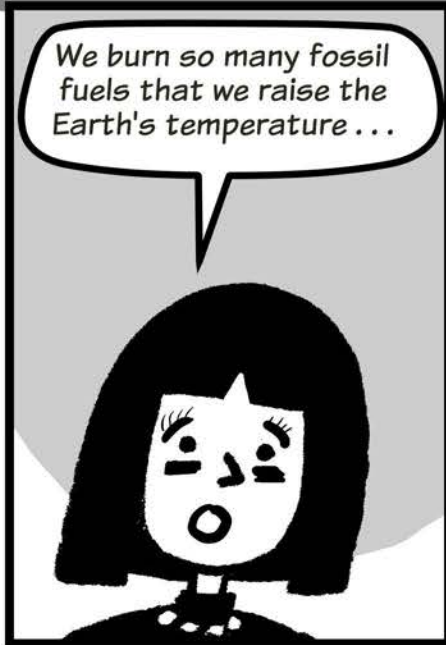
What year is it?



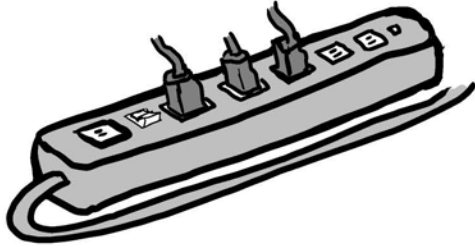
It has called me to this time and this place seeking...

The Key to Sustainability!





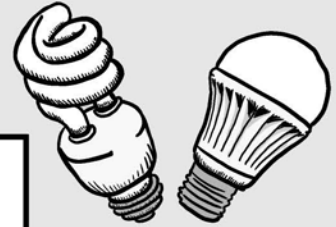
We can unplug our charging cords and electronics when we're not using them, or use a power strip switch to prevent phantom loads!



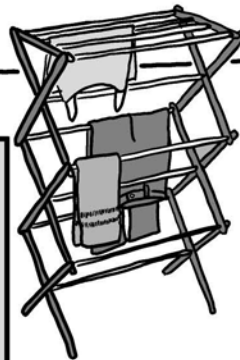
We can set the power and sleep options on our computers!



We can use compact fluorescent or LED light bulbs!



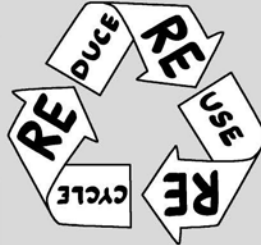
We can air-dry our clothes!



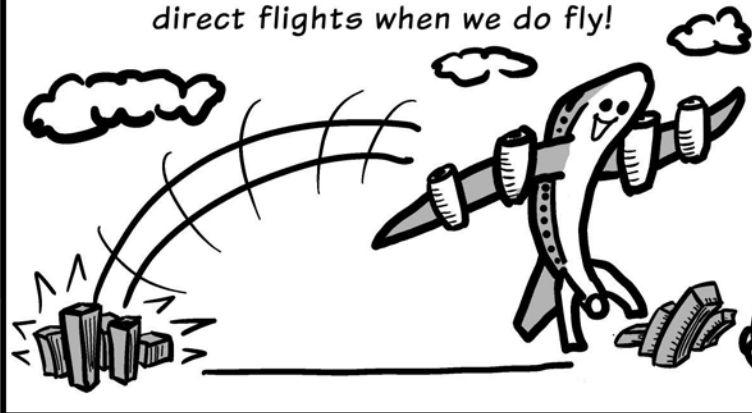
We can turn off lights and fans when we leave our dorm rooms.



We can



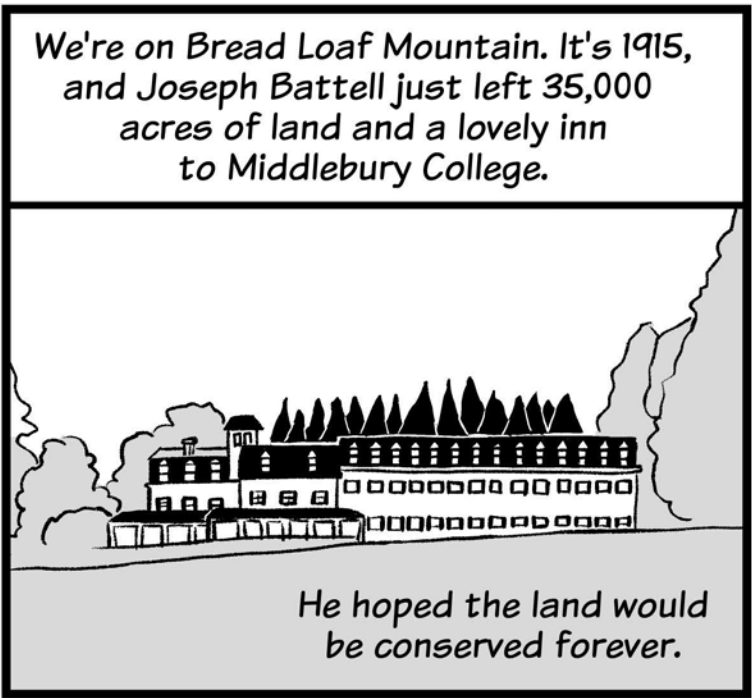
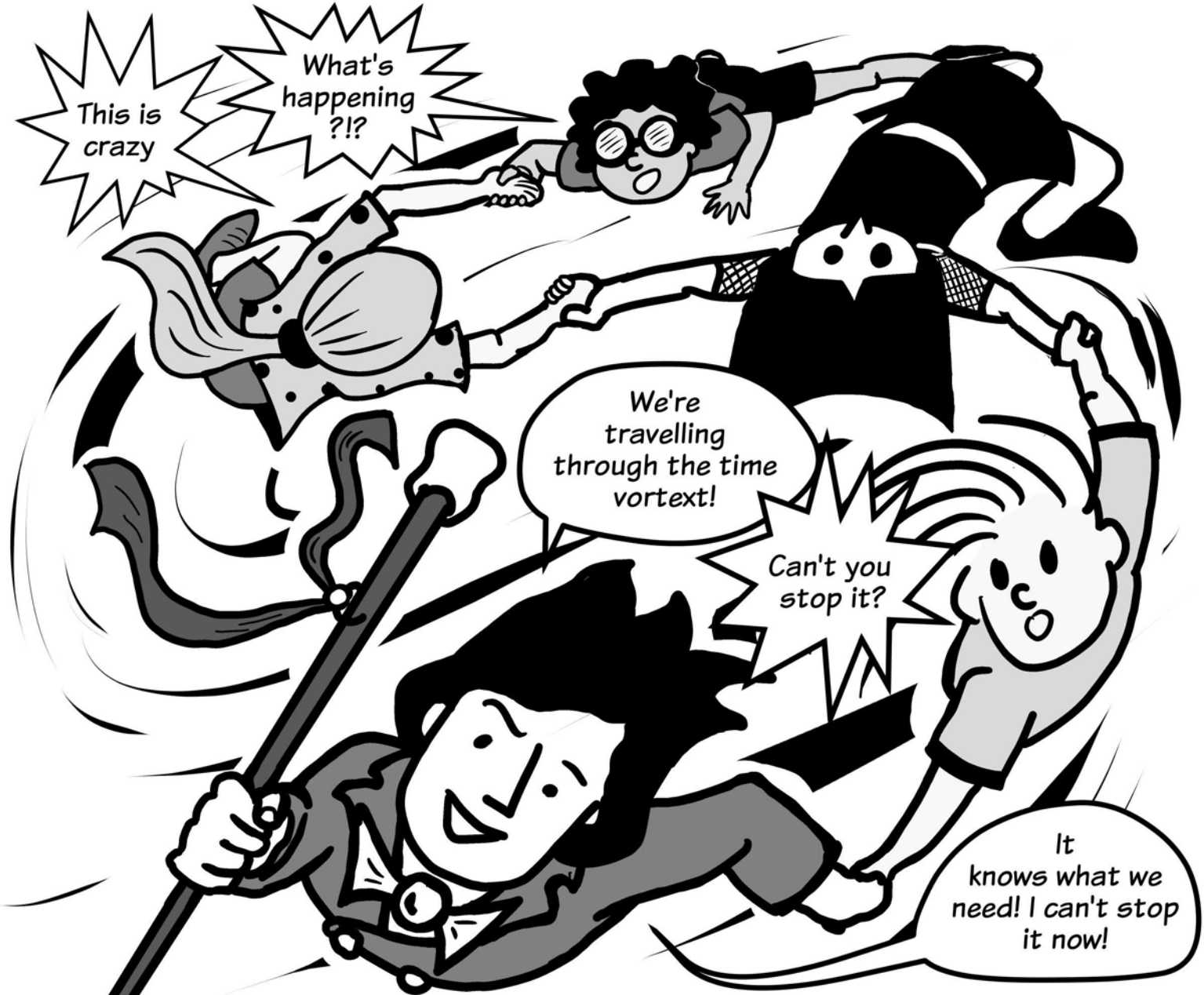
We can limit our air travel and use direct flights when we do fly!



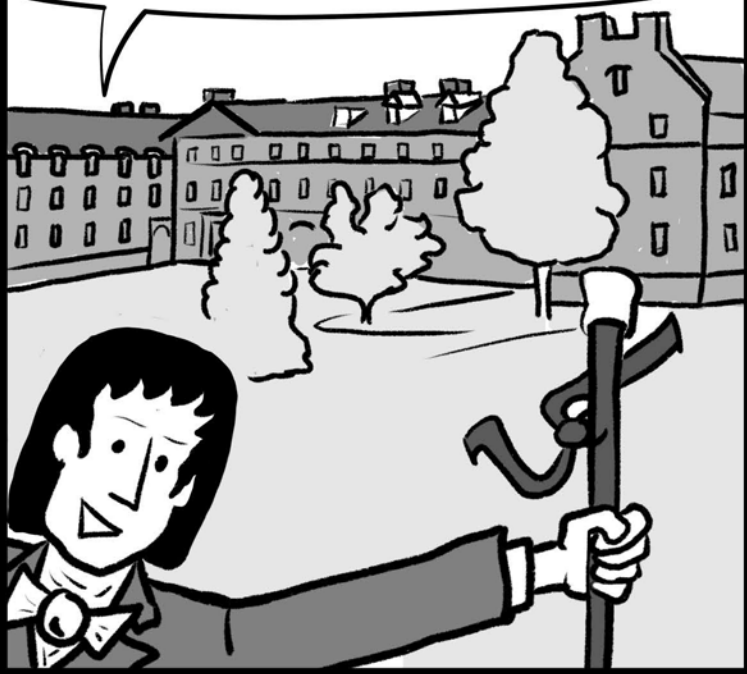
All those things make sense, but how are we going to grapple with our larger sustainability issues?







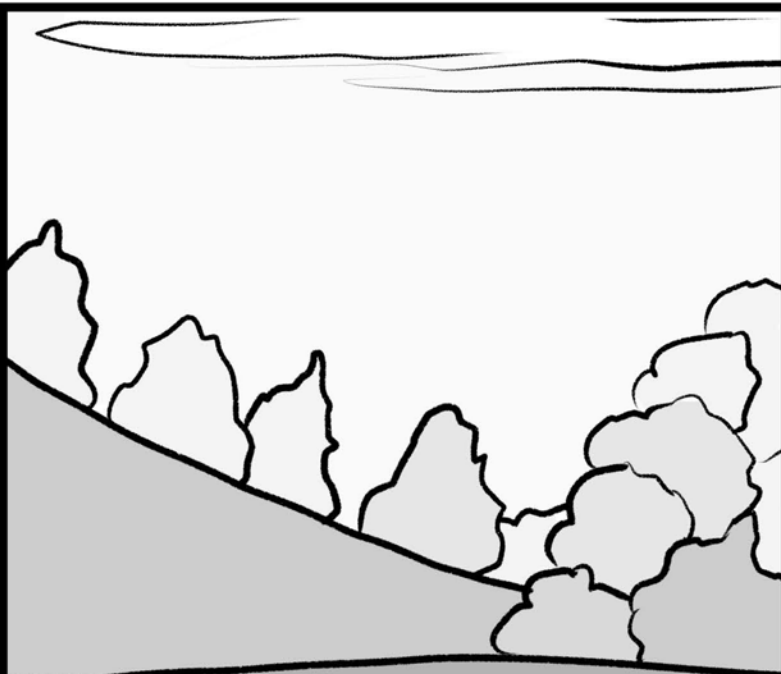
In the 1930s and 1950s, the College sold some of those 35,000 acres to the U.S. Forest Service, and used the money to build Forest Hall. The Forest Service turned the land it bought into a Wilderness area.



The land Middlebury kept became the Breadloaf campus, where the Breadloaf Writer's Conference began in 1926.



In 2014, Middlebury started the Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference there.



And in 2015, the College fulfilled Joseph Battell's wishes, by conserving the rest of the Battell property, and now it will remain undeveloped for future Midd students and the public to enjoy.

Wow! I guess a strong connection can be forged between people and places, and each can inspire the other!



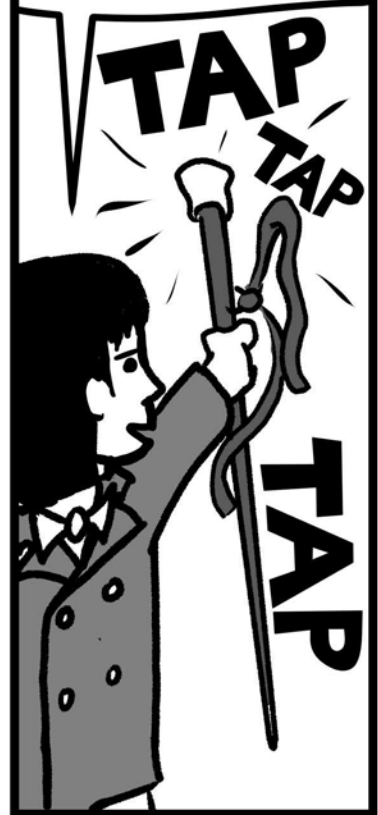
See, Finn? Just one guy made a big difference, just by leaving his property in a will — a wilderness area, an environmental writing conference, and conserved land!

Well, he was wealthy, and a college trustee. We're just students!



It's tapping again! Hold on!

TAP
TAP
TAP



When are we now?

It's 1970, and members of the student group Environmental Quality are circulating petitions to limit snowmobile use in wildlife refuges and hiking areas.





EQ went on to address a host of issues – protesting tire incineration, combating water pollution in Otter Creek



And they asked fellow students to live more simply, hosting candle-lit dances and dinners.

In the early 80s the Energy Council urged the College to conserve energy by cutting back on heating in academic buildings over the weekend, and closing some buildings earlier during holiday breaks.

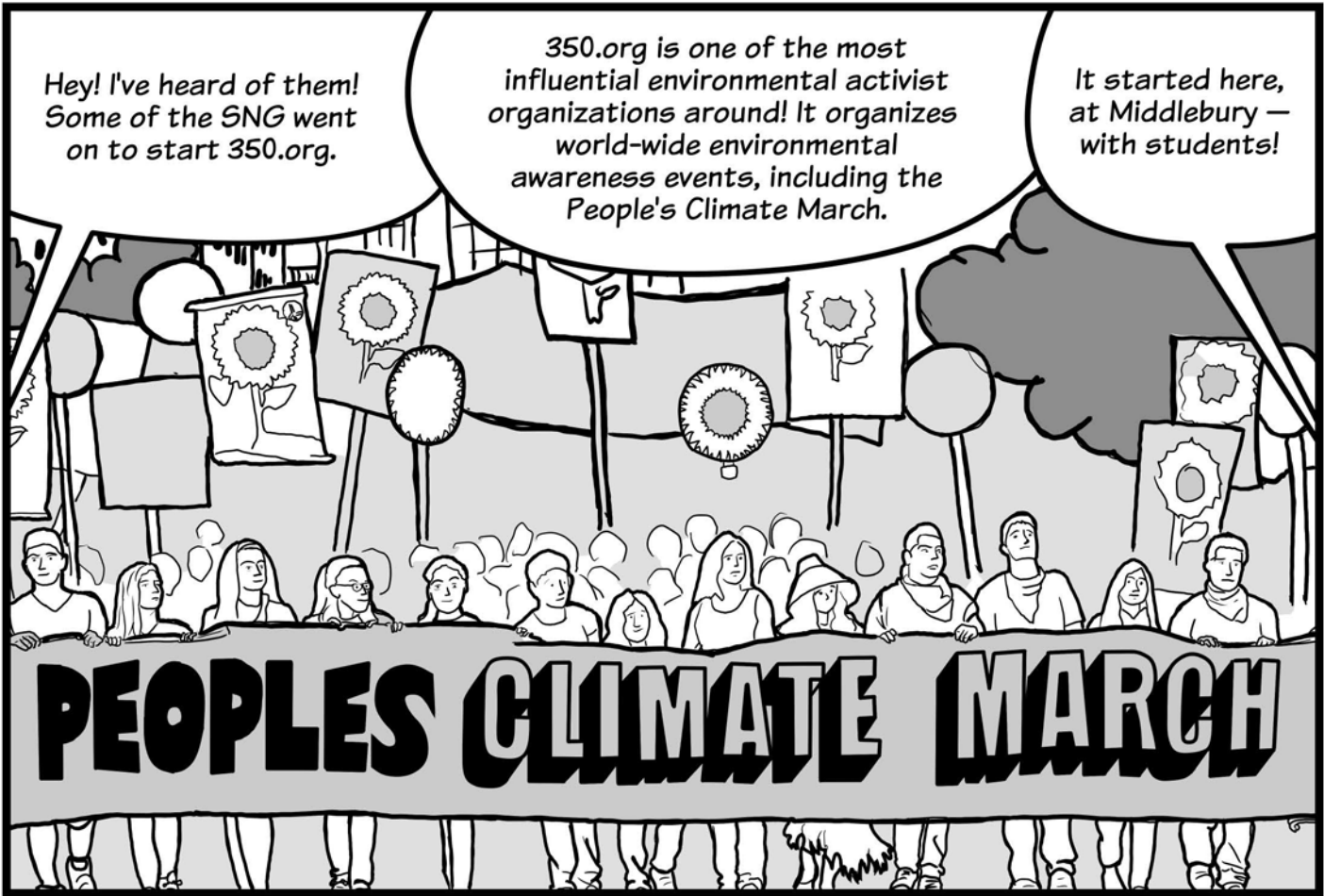


Hey, the College does things like that even now! The dorm temperatures are set and energy efficient lights are used all around campus!



Who are these people?

It's 2005, and this is the Sunday Night Group, a collective of Middlebury College students who meet each Sunday to discuss sustainability issues.

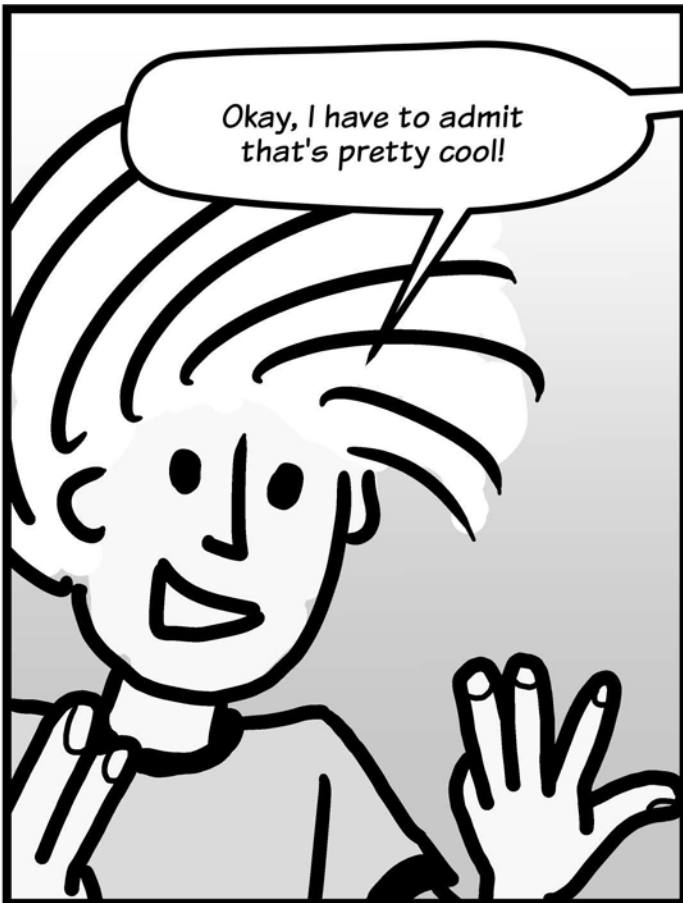


Hey! I've heard of them!
Some of the SNG went
on to start 350.org.

350.org is one of the most
influential environmental activist
organizations around! It organizes
world-wide environmental
awareness events, including the
People's Climate March.

It started here,
at Middlebury —
with students!

PEOPLES CLIMATE MARCH



Okay, I have to admit
that's pretty cool!



Where are we now?

It's 2001, and students are
helping start the organic garden.



Wow! Look at it grow!

We're heading through the years, and the garden is growing more and more food. Now the food grown here is served in the dining halls!



Look! Those solar panels just sprung out of nowhere!

Actually, they came out of a recommendation from a class and were installed in 2012 as part of the College's effort to improve sustainability on campus.

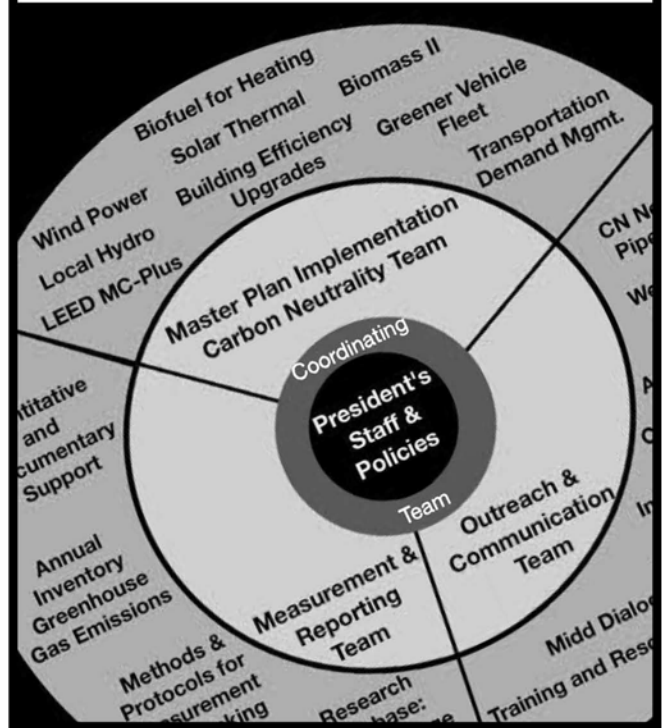


It's so strange, these changes seem so random!

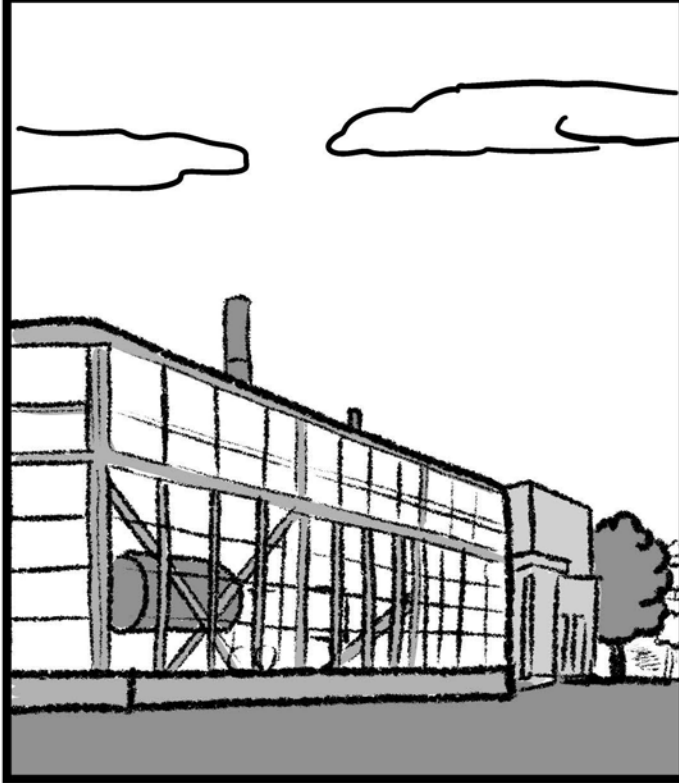
The cane's tapping again! Hold on!



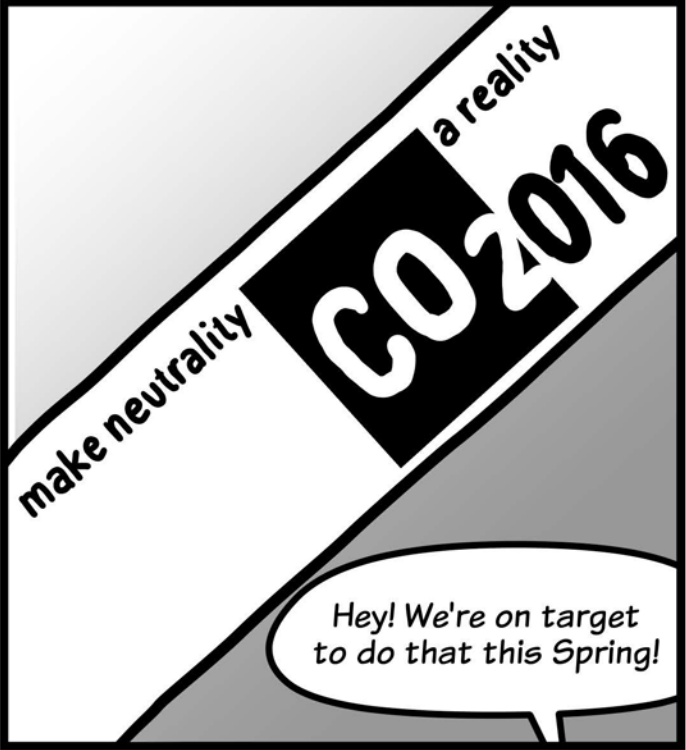
And one year later, the Trustees adopt a specific carbon reduction goal — 8% below 1990 levels by 2012! But it didn't end there!



The Biomass plant, which burns local, sustainable fuel, was approved in 2006



The students kept working, and here in 2007, the Trustees adopt a goal of carbon neutrality by 2016!



And in 2008, a year after the Franklin Environmental Center received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Designation, the Trustees included sustainability as a cross-cutting theme in the College's Master Plan!



In 2014, the Summer School of the Environment was started, and Midd built the LEED Platinum certified Squash Court!

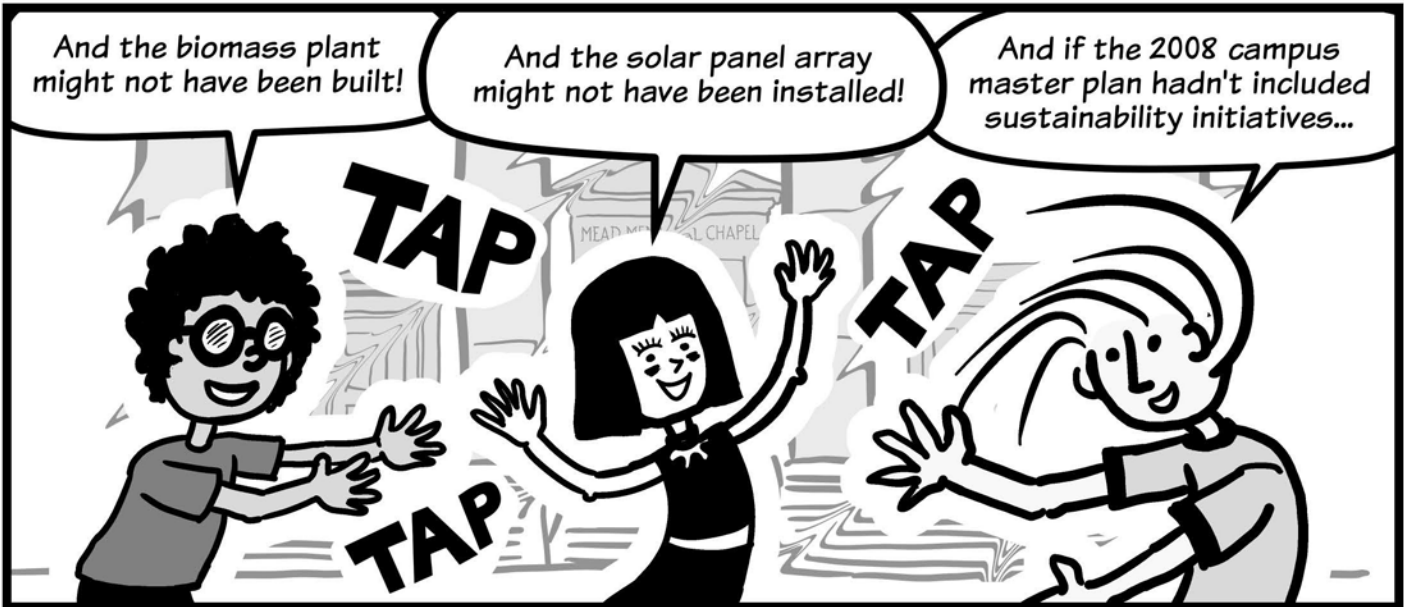
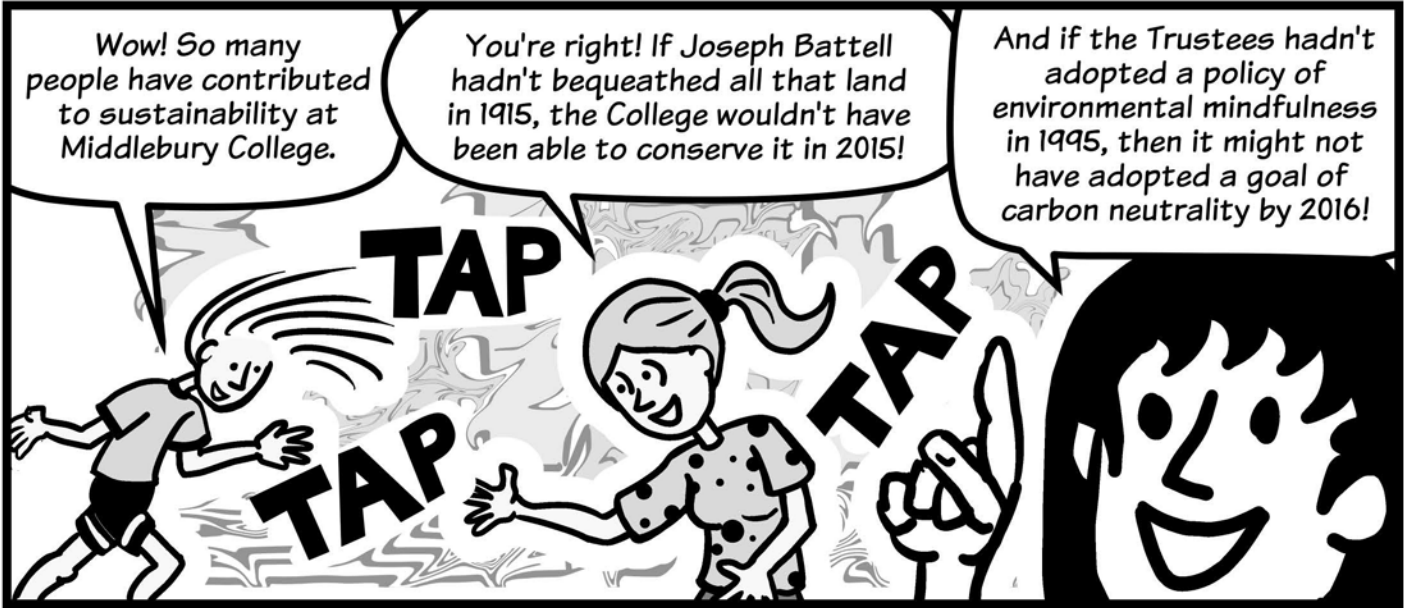


That's amazing! From little steps like holding candle-lit dances in the 70s all the way to carbon neutrality today. Change DOES happen and it often begins with *students!*

And now, with new President, Laurie Patton at the helm, Middlebury stands ready to do even more!

Middlebury has the distinction of placing environmental stewardship at its center.

A sense of place has always been an asset to a college, but it is now a moral obligation to the environment as well. Here at Middlebury place matters. As Wendell Berry once put it, "Here, in this place, I become who I am meant to be."

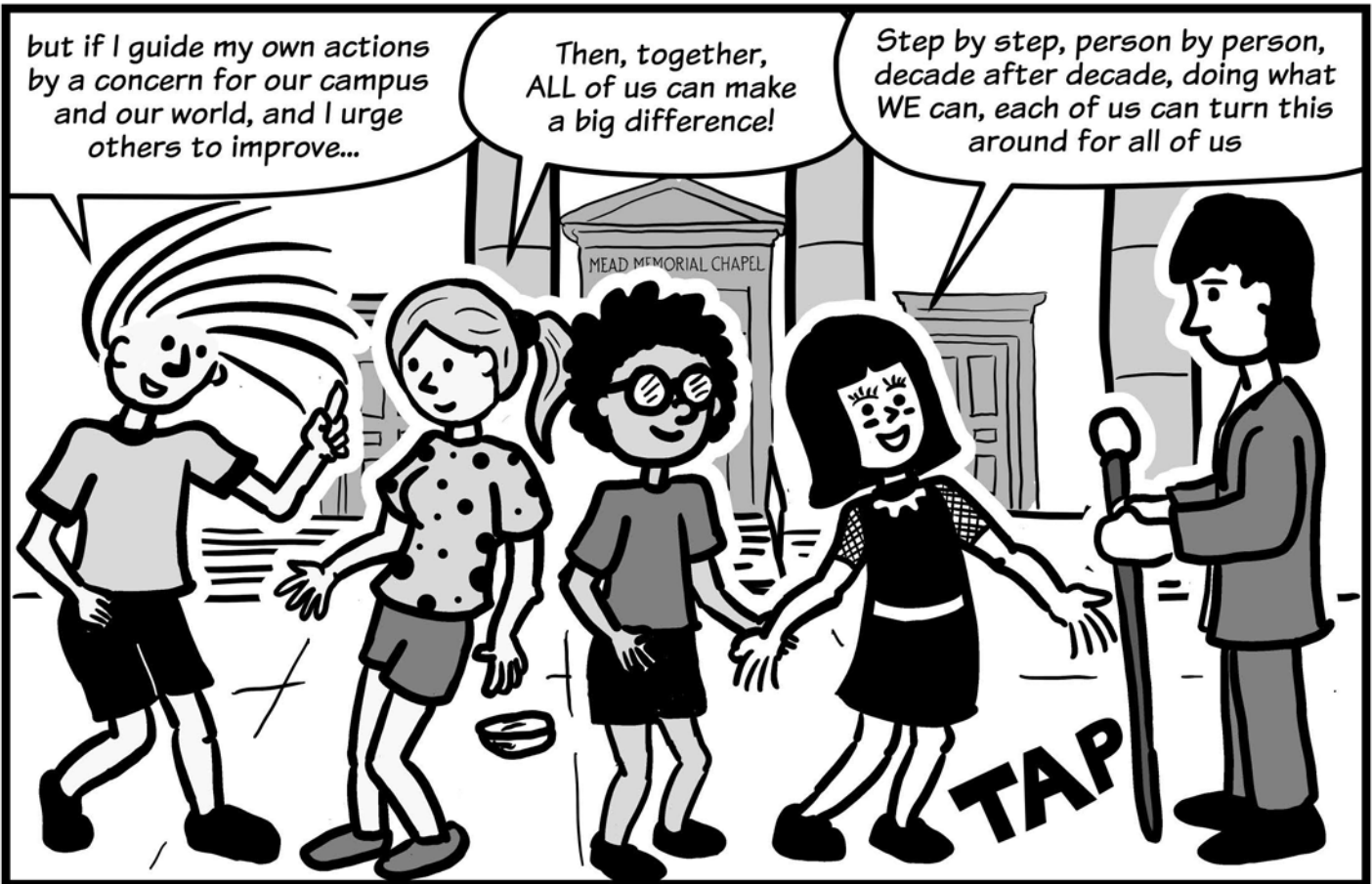




and 350.org inspires world-wide action for climate change!



I see what you guys are saying. Sure, I'm just one guy ...



but if I guide my own actions by a concern for our campus and our world, and I urge others to improve...

Then, together, ALL of us can make a big difference!

Step by step, person by person, decade after decade, doing what WE can, each of us can turn this around for all of us

TAP

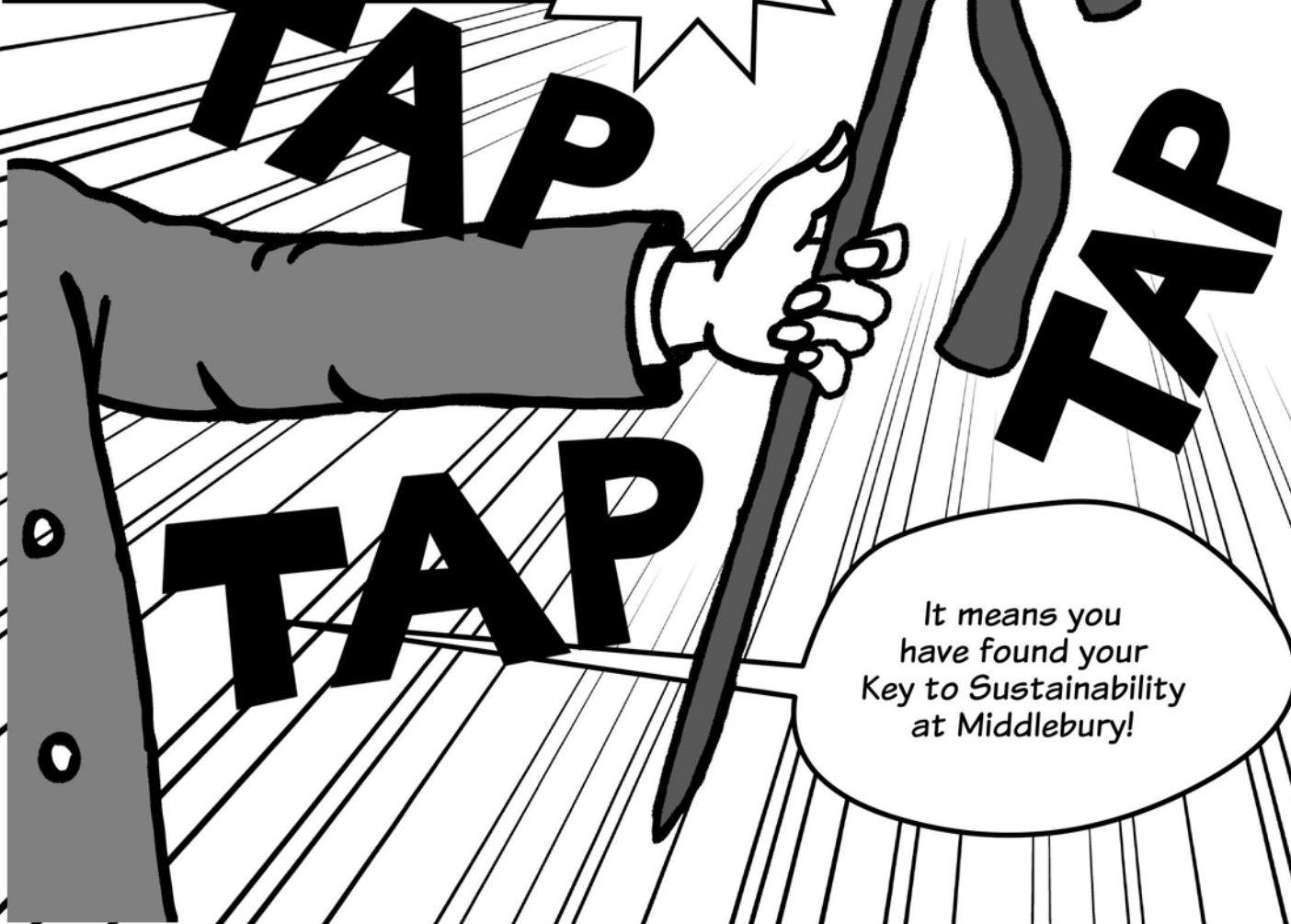
It's the things WE do *today*,
that build the foundation
for true success in the future,
and although we might not be there
yet, we WILL get there, if we
take action NOW.



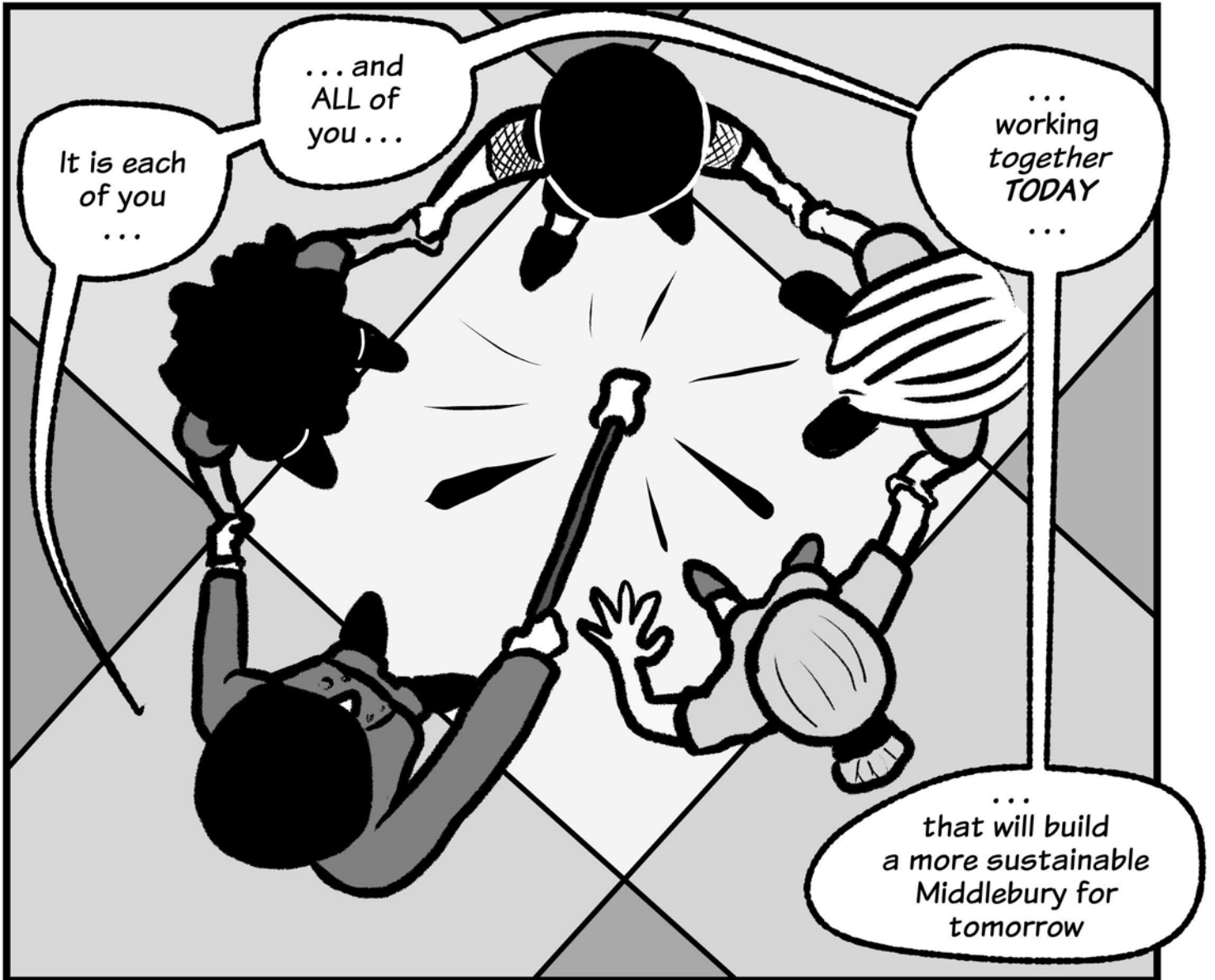
The cane is glowing
so brightly I can barely
look at it!

And
it's tapping
louder than ever
before!

What does it
mean?



It means you
have found your
Key to Sustainability
at Middlebury!

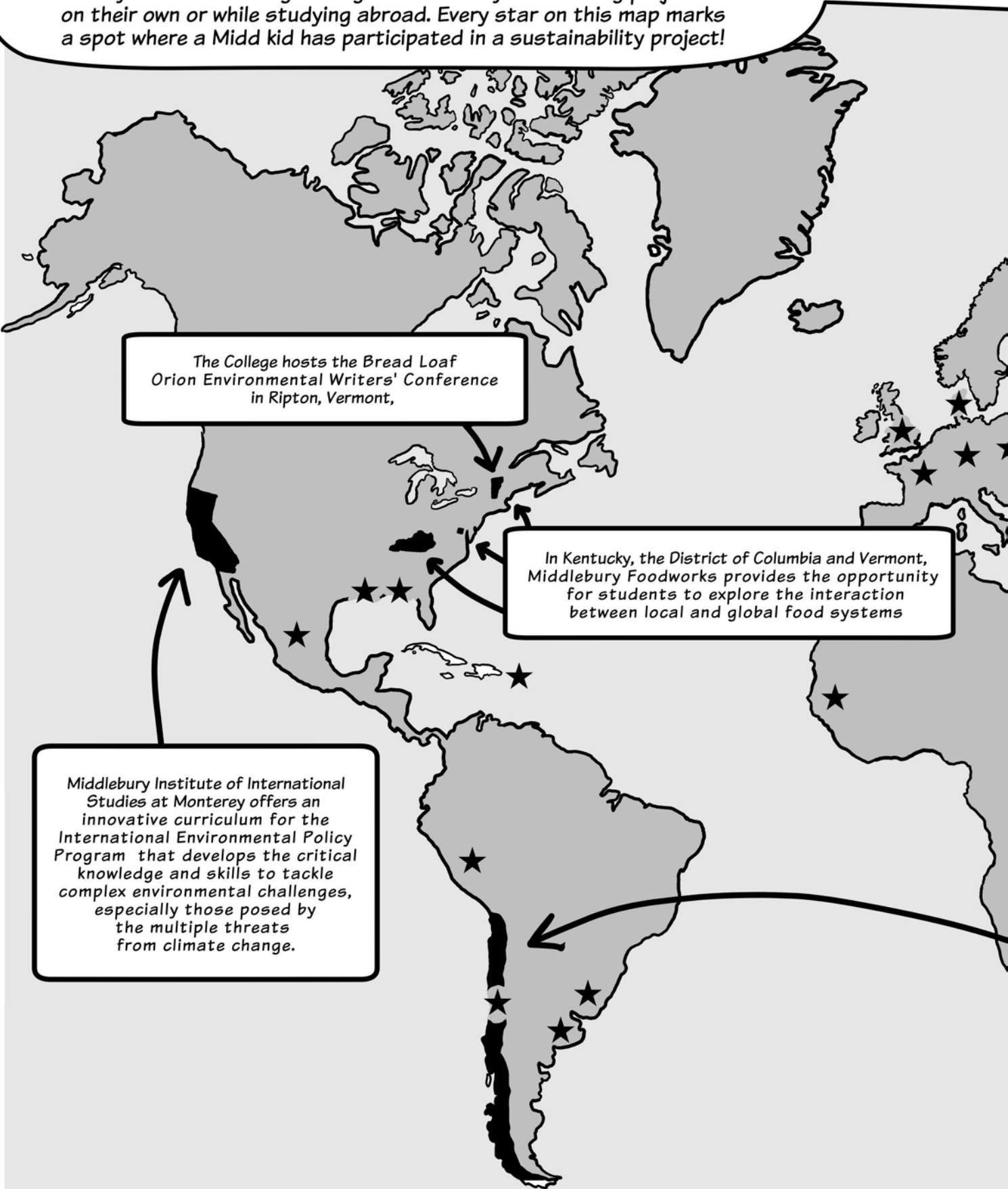


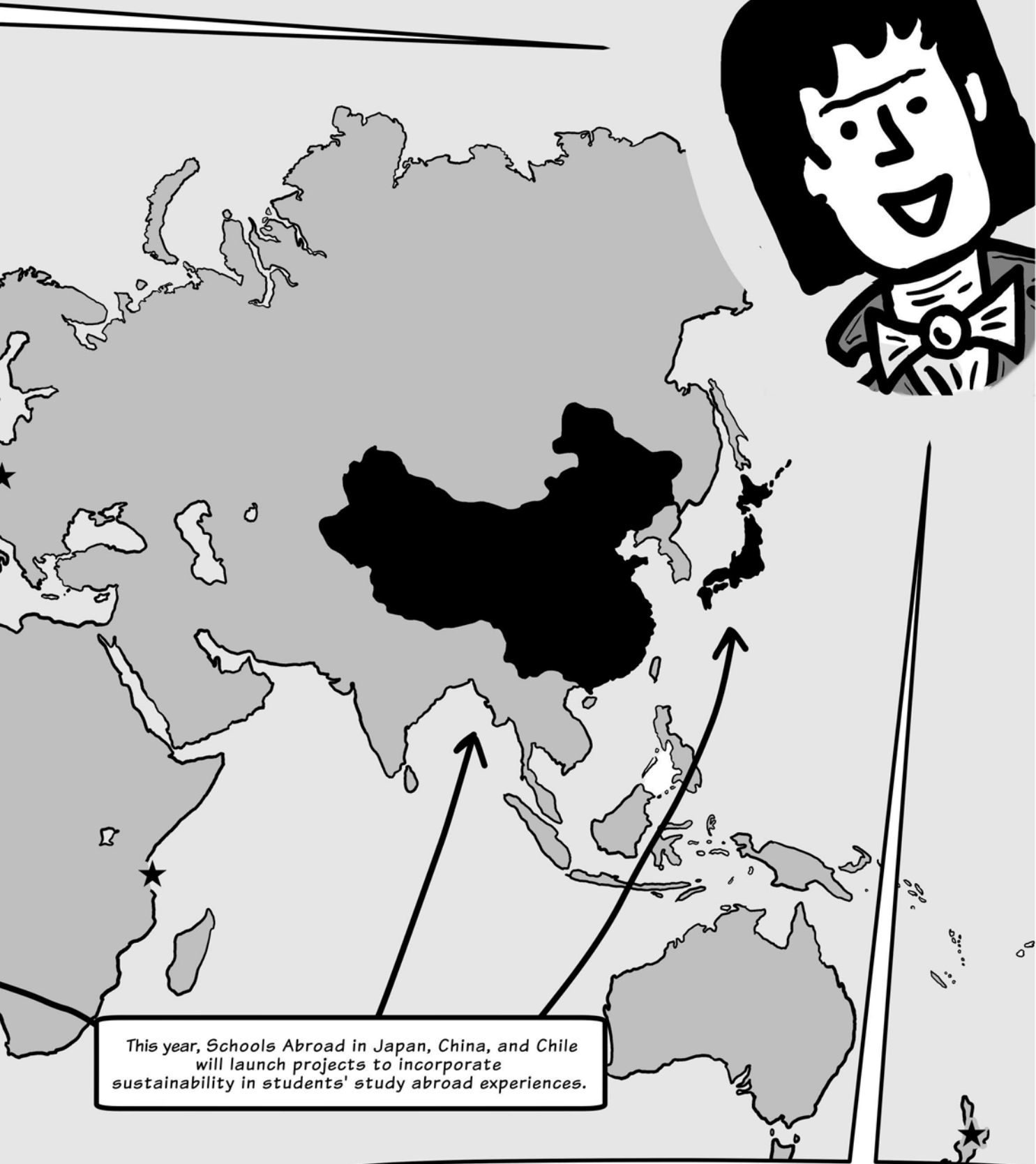
Your Middlebury sustainability community stretches all over the globe, making change wherever its members happen to be. Midd students even have an impact around the world during their four years at the College. Many students have gotten grants to carry out exciting projects on their own or while studying abroad. Every star on this map marks a spot where a Midd kid has participated in a sustainability project!

The College hosts the Bread Loaf Orion Environmental Writers' Conference in Ripton, Vermont,

In Kentucky, the District of Columbia and Vermont, Middlebury Foodworks provides the opportunity for students to explore the interaction between local and global food systems

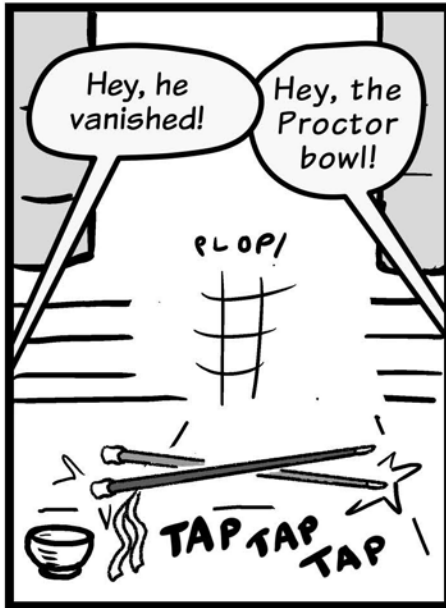
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey offers an innovative curriculum for the International Environmental Policy Program that develops the critical knowledge and skills to tackle complex environmental challenges, especially those posed by the multiple threats from climate change.





This year, Schools Abroad in Japan, China, and Chile will launch projects to incorporate sustainability in students' study abroad experiences.

The Middlebury Community will always be there to work with you, in your efforts today to make the world a better place tomorrow.



"Gamaliel Painter's Cane" (1917)

Verse 1:

When Gamaliel Painter died, he was Middlebury's pride,
A sturdy pioneer without a stain;
And he left his all by will,
to the college on the hill,
And included his codicil cane.

Chorus:

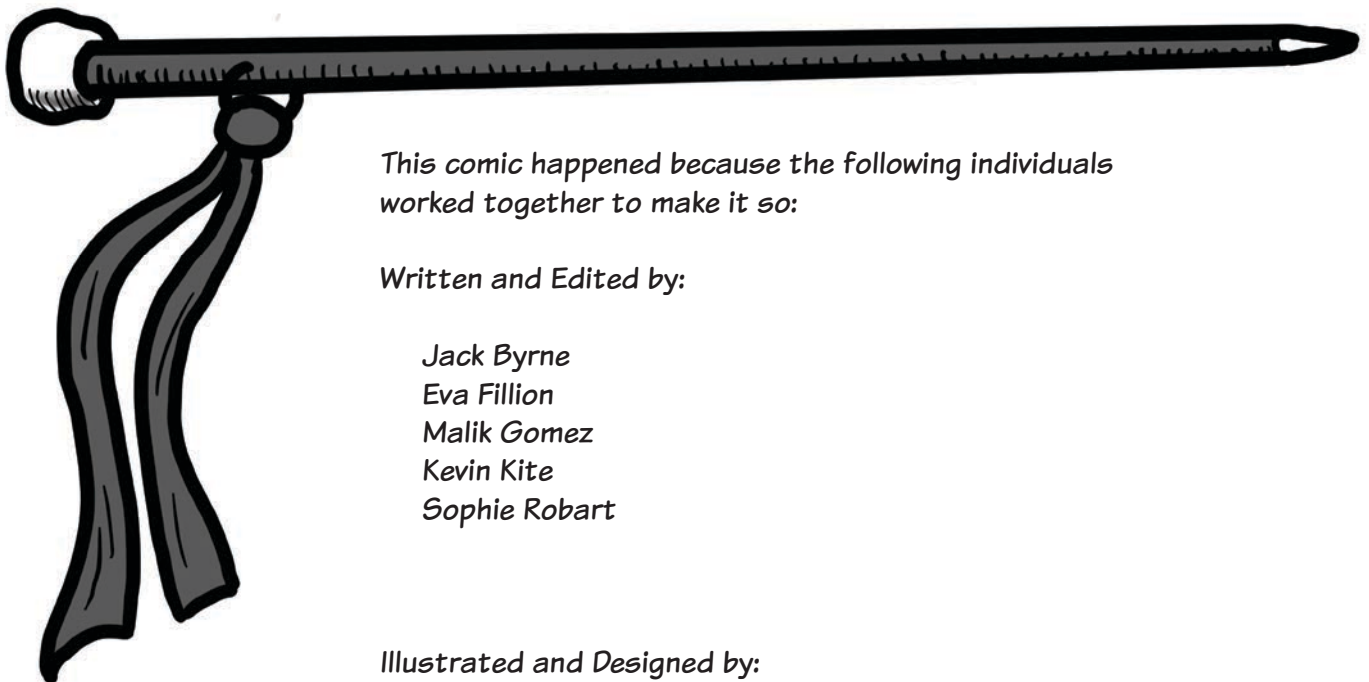
Oh, its rap rap rap, and it's tap tap tap,
If you listen you can hear it sounding plain;
For a helper true and tried, as the generations glide,
There is nothing like Gamaliel Painter's cane.

Verse 2:

Oh, his blessed bones are hid 'neath a marble pyramid,
For ever there in honor to remain;
But he built us Painter Hall,
noblest monument of all,
And he left to us his courage in his cane. (chorus)

Verse 3:

So let every son of Midd strive to do as Painter did,
Let him cultivate his muscle and his brain,
When there's studying to do
or a center to go through,
Let him summon up the courage of the cane.



This comic happened because the following individuals worked together to make it so:

Written and Edited by:

Jack Byrne
Eva Fillion
Malik Gomez
Kevin Kite
Sophie Robart

Illustrated and Designed by:

Kevin Kite & Inkfal Studios

SO WHAT CAN I DO?

There are tons of ways to get involved with sustainability at Middlebury College . . . and you can start by stopping into the Office of Sustainability Integration.



From there you can learn about on-campus clubs and opportunities such as:

- Real Food Challenge
- Organic Farm
- Socially Responsible Investing
- Bike Shop
- Environmental Council
- Campus Sustainability Coordinators
- Sunday Night Group
- Weybridge House
- Solar Decathlon Houses
- Office of Sustainability internships
- Recycling Center volunteering

visit go/sustainability for more information

To find out more about getting involved on campus, contact the Office of Sustainability Integration:

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Middlebury | Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest
Office of Sustainability Integration

make neutrality a reality

CO₂2016

go.middlebury.edu/2016