

To the Editor.

President Ian Baucom smartly dispensed with the college's nagging and financially draining problem of the Monterey Institute. Let us hope that he will now quickly resolve another piece of inherited unfinished business: Restoring the Mead name to our chapel.

President Baucom's predecessor, Laurie Patton, led a covert cabal to sully the good name and exemplary character of John Abner Mead, who donated the money to build the chapel. Patton and her secret committee concocted a fictitious narrative about Mead to justify erasing his family name and his contribution to the college. The only thing transparent about this shameful proceeding was their virtue signaling. A full and fair airing of the facts has now clearly exposed their shoddy scholarship and their narrow minded motives.

The Mead family have sued the college, asking to have the name restored, and their case, led by former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas, is now before the Vermont Supreme Court. It should not have to end this way, with attendant unfavorable publicity for Middlebury College. With wisdom and humility President Baucom can settle this sorry case and right a grievous wrong to the reputation of an honorable alumnus and generous benefactor of Middlebury College.

John M. Lord, Jr

Class of 1967