

## A starting point

BY WATTS DIXON  
Guest Writer

I write this not to condemn anyone's chosen lifestyle or to advertise my own, but rather to present information that many people may find useful. My hope is that this information will surprise some people and incite them to take action.

I realize that there are many well-intentioned individuals out there who would like to uphold certain ethically and environmentally sound ideals in their lives.

I pass no judgment on the level to which they take these ideals and would merely like to aid them in their endeavor, for the best intentions are often rendered moot by the presence of ignorance.

Knowledge is power... who can deny the truth in these words? We are forever at the mercy of others if we choose to let ourselves stagnate. Being college students, we are all very wise. We know many, many things. But do we know something as simple as the origin of the food we eat? Where it came from? How it came to be? At what cost to the environment and to others? When you buy a product, do you know who actually manufactures it?

As it is, by blindly consuming what is handed to us, we could be heartily supporting the very things we attempt to fight when we join an organization devoted to social justice or environmental protection.

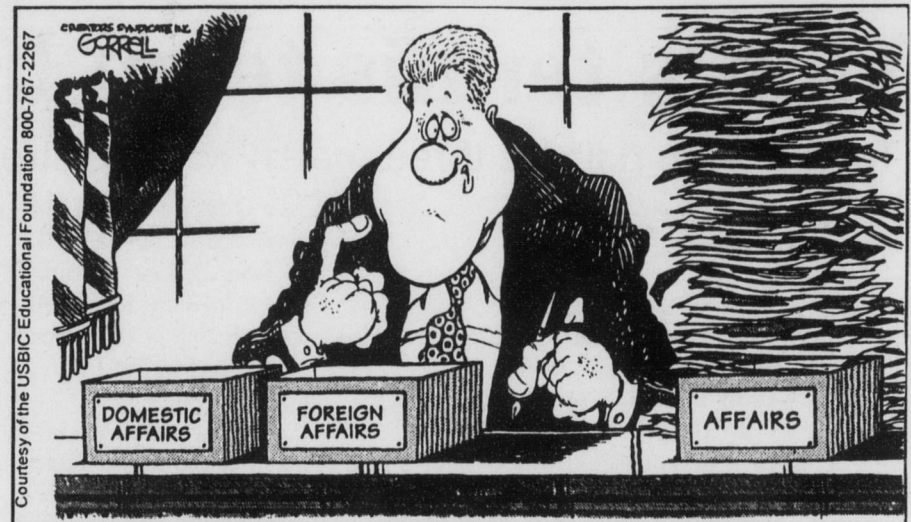
As students, we tend to rationalize our ignorance, claiming to be too busy

with our countless scholastic priorities to donate time to such exhaustive outside research. But can we comfortably fall back on such a weak argument? Personally, I care infinitely more about how my personal actions affect the environment and people around me than I do about coaxial and noncoaxial strains in rocks, an integral part of my geology major. I propose then that we all make a conscious effort to know the consequences of our actions as consumers. We have the power to say, "Now your product represents practices that I detest, and I will not partake of it or anything else you manufacture." It is crucial that we realize this power and use it.

Now I present you with a starting point. This is a pitiful fraction of what is out there, and I urge readers to take the initiative and find out what else is there is.

1) 90% of all cheese, unless marked otherwise, contains an enzyme called rennet which is taken from the lining of calves' stomachs. Thus, in a very real sense, most commercial cheese is not even vegetarian. There are, however, cheeses available that do not contain rennet, many of which are organic as well. These are available at all natural food stores and some large supermarkets (The Super Harris Teeter).

2) The following is a list of companies (and in some cases sub-companies or products) that still engage in animal testing for cosmetic purposes: Procter and Gamble (Crest, Pantene, Tide, Vidal



COURTESY OF THE USBIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Sassoon, Cover Girl, Jiff, Noxema), Colgate-Palmolive, Bic Corporation, Clorox, Johnson&Johnson (Neutrogena), S.C. Johnson and Son (Dracket Products), Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Andrew Jergens Co., Lever Brothers, Chesebrough-Ponds, Helene Curtis Industries, and Reckit and Coleman. Gillette has allegedly stopped all animal testing.

3) The following are all owned by either RJR-Nabisco (the maker of Camel cigarettes) or Philip Morris (the maker of Marlboro cigarettes). Thus, when you purchase any product manufactured by the companies mentioned below, you are, in turn, supporting the tobacco industry (and consequently aggravating my allergies, which can be unpleasant for everyone): Kraft, Maxwell House, Jell-O, Miller, General Foods, Oscar Meyer, Post, Kool-Aid, and Nabisco.

4) Coors Beer not only funds anti-homosexual groups such as the Concerned Citizens (a group pressing for the

reinstatement of criminal penalties for homosexuals), but it has been proven to have violated labor laws and toxic emissions laws. In addition, Coors is a blatantly racist establishment. William Coors, one of the brothers who runs the company, once said that if blacks thought that it was unfair that their ancestors were "dragged here in chains against their will... I would urge those of you who feel that way to go back to where your ancestors came from, and you will find out that probably the greatest favor anyone ever did you was to drag your ancestors over here in chains, and I mean it!" Later, in the same speech, he remarked that blacks "lack the intellectual capacity to succeed."

I have so much more to say, but hopefully I have said something that has ignited a fire in at least a few minds. If you have questions, please call me at x3908, and I will gladly point you to some helpful resources.

## Guilford College: love it or change it

BY JACOB NOBLE  
Staff Writer

Sometimes when one raises issues within their own institution, that institution will retaliate in defense. I am now beginning to feel what that attack is like.

Some have labeled me an instigator or rabble-rouser. Others have proclaimed that I am a traitor to the institution and Quaker principles.

Students now question my approach, saying that I am too intimidating or pessimistic. One student recommended that if I have so many problems with the school, I should just leave. I soon began to think, this cannot be the only student who feels this way towards me. I have been receiving nasty looks for months, and there are probably others

who think the same, but do not have the courage to engage in conversation with me.

For a while transferring was something I began to contemplate, but then something happened. While reviewing documents for a research paper I was writing I came across a transcript for an interview.

Mr. Wei Jingsheng, a Chinese dissident, had been imprisoned in China for over 20 years due to his pro-democratic literature which had been distributed throughout the country. Mr. Jingsheng was now free and talking with the media.

During a radio broadcast he was blasted by a caller from Japan and Mr. Jingsheng was then accused of "tarnishing" China's image. To this Mr. Jingsheng

responded by saying their is a difference between government and country and that "one can attack one without attacking the other."

This is what I am doing. When it comes to an academic setting, I love Guilford. For the most part, my professors have been great. What I have taken from them is something I will never forget. As for my friends, they have always stood by and accepted me for who I am, instead of molding me into something I am not.

I am staying at Guilford because this is my home. This is where I chose to pursue my education. Yes, I could go somewhere else, but I want to stay here, and since I am here my voice counts. If just one person agrees with me, then I must not be entirely wrong. I have no

problem with the interior; it is the exterior which has me uneasy—the false sense of community that has been exhibited. To leave would be a cop-out on my part, one, which would do nothing to make me a stronger person.

With all of this talk about people who want me to leave I am reminded of something Colman McCarthy, a man for whom I have a great deal of admiration, told me. He said that during the 60's and early 70's his outspokenness against the Vietnam War would often result in others attacking him. The comment most often delivered to Mr. McCarthy by these "patriotic" Americans was the standard "Love it, or leave it." To them Mr. McCarthy would always riposte "No, love it or change it." As one can see, my choice has been made.