

Staff Editorial

Guilford rethinks the meanings of trash

In his Jan. 19 speech, activist and advocate Van Jones explored how the ideas of social justice and environmental justice are inextricably connected and reliant on each other. It was a fitting tribute not only to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but also to Guilford's renewed sustainability efforts, Green at Guilford.

As it turns out, it is also sage advice to the Guilford and Greensboro community currently debating the reopening of the White Street Landfill on the outskirts of northeast Greensboro.

The landfill may not seem immediately relevant to the Guilford community, but every piece of waste we throw away contributes to the trash and, by extension, the cost of hauling that trash to a landfill out of town. According to some, if the White Street Landfill is reopened it will cost the city less money. It will also go against the wishes of many residents in the area.

Van Jones spoke about social inequalities stemming from environmental injustice because of the effects it has on different populations based on class status and racial inequality. Some members of the community feel that there would be no discussion of opening the White Street Landfill if it was located westward, in higher-income, historically white neighborhoods.

Environmental and social injustice is not just a problem outside of Guilford. Every member of our community makes environmental decisions that not only affect the Earth but also the people living on it, and the debate over the White Street Landfill is a good example.

Guilford has now started placing "landfill" signs on the trash cans around campus as a way to remind students where their trash is going. It might not be a direct nod to the White Street Landfill debate, but it is a reminder that our daily actions affect more than just ourselves and our local environs.

Another way to remind the community of waste impact is Recyclemania. Because of this, the college has tried to find as many ways as possible to use compostable and recyclable options for waste management.

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Jim Dees said in a recent article, "When we're not composting, one full dumpster weighed six tons. When we are (composting), it weighs 1,800 pounds."

With the option to compost, all of the food from the cafeteria is now recycled back into the environment. Focusing on being green may be more expensive at times, but it helps the environment.

We also have a responsibility to be aware of local issues that address the values our community holds dear. The reopening of the White Street Landfill is a complex social and political issue that affects many in the Greensboro community. As garbage-producing residents of Greensboro, our stake in this is more than personal. It's rooted in our awareness and dedication to both environmental and social justice.

Finding a cure for Bieber Fever



By Laura Devinsky
STAFF WRITER

He currently stands at about 5 foot 7, with music that make girls' hearts throb, and a mop of hair and smile that makes girls swoon. Did I mention he's only 16 years old?

This teen heartthrob is better known as Justin Bieber. He is the cause of the worldwide phenomenon known as Bieber Fever: an obsession with his baby-face looks, soft eyes, girl-like voice, and everything else about him.

Excuse me, ladies, can't you find a real man? Because I know I can.

As popular as his music is, according to Billboard.com, none of Bieber's songs have made it to number one, though his album "My World 2.0" made it to number one on April 10, 2010.

I truly don't understand what makes girls love Bieber. As the protégé of Usher, he has some big shoes to fill. At the Grammys, the two collaborated in a performance that was rather impressive, but Usher still stole the show with his dance moves.

Bieber is just another teen sensation, part of the trend towards younger and younger performers trying to make it big.

Bieber collaborated with Jaden Smith on one of his most recent songs, "Never Say Never." Smith is only 12 years old.

The biggest difference between Bieber and Smith is that Smith had the stardom of his parents, Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, to help him jump-start his career. Bieber relied on YouTube.

Bieber's upcoming documentary "Never Say Never" and his recently published memoir "First Step 2 Forever" are about his journey to stardom in his short 16 years of existence. But really, what is there to say? Perhaps the moment that changed his life forever and brought him under the wing of Usher, and maybe about the intense work that goes into producing a show, but really, those are nothing.

Is this something that we are going to continue to see? Will the industry continue showcase younger and younger entertainers?

Usher wasn't discovered until 1994 — at the age Bieber is now — after being on "Star Search." His first album helped him onto the scene, but he didn't achieve superstardom until years later.

Unlike Usher, Bieber had the happy help of the Internet to make it big.

Wannabe pop stars are searchable on YouTube, and they either become a pop-culture sensation or total jokes. Bieber's case is obviously the former.

His YouTube page boasts millions of views, and his Facebook page over 20 million fans, and both numbers are still climbing.

I'm happy to say that I am not one of the millions of girls who have fallen prey to this Bieber Fever phenomenon.



GRAPHIC BY ELAINE KELLOGG/GUILFORDIAN

Letter to the Editor

Dissatisfied student questions mandatory meal plan

I am a freshman here have experienced some problems with the dining services here. I became a vegetarian at the end of September last year when the food was great. However, the quality in the cafeteria declined as the semester wore on and continues this semester. Recently, I have been getting stomach aches and digestive problems every time I eat at the cafeteria.

I try to eat at the vegan station but they are not open during the weekends. And many times there are zero options available among the omnivore line, and if there are any options they aren't published clearly.

Even the omnivores are having problems eating the food at the Cafeteria.

With all of this in mind, I have been driven to the idea of buying my own food and cooking it myself. But how can I if I must have a meal plan? Why must I pay over a thousand dollars for a meal plan that I will not use? Even more so, why take off the lowest meal plan (15 meals a semester)?

I heard that the reason for requiring a meal plan is because Guilford needs the money from all students so they can support the type of dining that students will appreciate.

If that is so, why make it mandatory for all, instead of asking the students to support the dining department with the future changes by voluntarily signing up for plans from the college, and allowing students to change their meal plans mid semester if they like the food being served?

And why, of all places, are the meal plan changes at the bottom of a page about additional housing information?

If this is an important issue, you would think that there would be a blurb or a link at the top of Guilford's main page.

Cayce Burch, first year