

## Staff Editorial

### Electricity and soy sauce: acting environmentally- conscious on the go

Here's a sobering fact: Americans create 250 million tons of solid municipal waste per year, according to the National Resource Defense Council. That's about one and a quarter tons per person, per year.

And not all of our waste goes to a landfill; have you ever considered the water that just flows through the pipes while you wait for the shower to warm up, or the heat that seeps out the gaps around your dorm room window?

When we're not paying electricity bills or throwing away the packaging for our food, it's easy to lose sight of how much waste is created at Guilford.

That's why every spring, Guilford participates in Recyclemania, a program that measures how much waste is generated and how much is recycled.

That's also why residents of the North Apartments and theme houses have caps on the amount of electricity they can use, why the dining hall composts its food waste, and why Guilford makes an effort to buy recycled and compostable products when possible.

Simply sitting back and assuming that the school will do everything it needs to in order to mitigate the waste we create isn't enough, though.

What do you do with the endless packets of soy sauce you get when One Wok delivers your food — just throw them away? How many of us are guilty of turning on the TV, then getting distracted and leaving it on while we visit a friend down the hall — or worse, go to class?

These seem like small actions, but they add up. One of our college core values is stewardship, and that includes stewardship to the earth. We should all make an effort to use our planet's limited resources responsibly.

Whether that means taking only one hamburger in the Caf when you're not sure you can eat two, or simply recycling this Guilfordian when you're done with it, spend a few moments today trying to actively reduce the amount of energy, food, plastic, heat, aluminum, water, glass, or any other resource that you use.

The planet will thank you for it.

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REFLECTING GUILFORD COLLEGE'S CORE QUAKER VALUES, THE TOPICS AND CONTENT OF STAFF EDITORIALS ARE CHOSEN THROUGH CONSENSUS OF ALL 16 EDITORS.

THE EDITORS HOPE THAT THE STAFF EDITORIAL REFLECTS THE CONTENT OF THE PAPER WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING AND REPRESENTING GUILFORD COLLEGE'S CORE VALUES.

## Guilford remembers Angus, the free spirit



BY JAMES WILLIAMSON  
STAFF WRITER

"In remembrance of Angus Armstrong McLees, class of 1992. At Guilford, Angus was a rugby player, honors student, philosopher, beer drinker, tree climber, resident advisor, and friend. After graduation he joined the Peace Corps, studied religion, became a djembe teacher, arborist, husband and father. On this campus and in the world, Angus lived the Guilford tradition of constructive action to make both better places. May his warm and generous spirit run naked through this majestic wilderness. Peace and Love."

Just before the hilltop that overlooks Bryan Hall rests Angus' memorial. Angus' rock is a Guilford gem tucked by the corner of Milner dormitory and Founders Hall. Some students stroll past it and discover the awesome description of a man who embodied the true Guilford student, while others see the memorial as just a big rock.

"I pass this rock every day and I'd never read it," said first-year Kyndall Kelly, "but it looks like he knew how to party and study."

Small memorial plaques and tall paintings exist all around campus. Angus has the rock.

"That's the king of rocks," said senior Jamie Sisk. "Usually people get plaques, he got a rock. I wonder what the geology department thinks about that."

The inscription describes to us a man who flourished in the many spheres of Guilford, whether it was academia, socializing, Community Senate, or athletics. Angus had an ability to balance life's variety of fields. He was a renaissance man.

"I remember that Angus would bring out the best in his teachers," said former Guilford Professor of Philosophy Tom Powell. "If he didn't understand a concept, he would keep

asking until he would understand. He helped me raise my game. I knew that if he wasn't getting it, I wasn't doing my job."

Angus' seriousness of purpose never weighed down his demeanor.

"He was hugely fun," said Mark Sparling '92 in an email interview. "I remember sliding on the icy slick roof of the gym with him late at night (there may or may not have been several bottles of King Cobra involved) ... He's one of the few people I've met louder than I am. He was never malicious, mean, or in any way caused harm (although his intensity could at times be overwhelming). He enriched the lives of everyone around him."

To complement the rock, Angus' friends dedicated a white oak tree. The tree grows while the rock remains permanent.

"We picked the rock and tree as classic symbols of strength and resilience, and life and growth," said Sparling. "The rock was intended to be large — not a small brick with a small plaque, but something as large as Angus was in personality and physique."

Perhaps the tree will provide enough shade so that a student and Angus can relax together.

"Maybe one day you would be able to sit on the rock and eat a sandwich," said Glenn Lissner '91.

Like Angus, one could be a remarkable athlete and at the same time write an honors thesis in French or liven up the party atmosphere and engage in Community Senate.

Are current students cookie-cutting themselves into particular expectations of certain majors or athletics? We must ponder whether Guilford students are generally losing the Angus spirit — a spirit of openness and diversity.

"I don't know if anyone could run naked through the majestic wilderness," said Sisk. "That takes a special person."

Angus Armstrong McLees died of an illness on Oct. 7, 2003.

He exemplified a lightness of being and to us today represents a kind of genuine student essential to Guilford's quirkiness.

"He was a rare combination of all of the best of people: tolerant and giving, combined with all of his mental and physical gifts, a total lack of ego, and his work and play hard ethic and positive attitude are still inspiring," said Sparling.

We need more like Angus.

"It's important to have people like Angus everywhere," said Vance Ricks '92, associate professor of philosophy.

As Angus signed his letters: Peace and Love.



Angus McLees (left) inspired all he met while a student at Guilford. Friends planted a tree and placed a rock so his memory would live on in this community.

## Letter to the Editor: RA response

IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR PUBLISHED SEPT. 30, 2011

Even though we're only six weeks into the school year, a lot has been going on. From attempted assaults to the (recently apprehended) flasher on campus, it is understandable that students might be wondering: what is the school doing to keep us safe?

One of the earliest lines of protection for on-campus protection is your

local resident advisor. RAs are hired to not only host awesome hall programs and build community on campus, but also to monitor their halls and residents, enforce college policies, and ensure

student safety.

As RAs, we exist in a sort of no-man's-land. We are more accountable than our residents, but without the commanding authority of the administration. It is understandable that there are often tensions between residents and RAs, but it is important that students recognize the position we are in. No RA wants to document infractions—we just want

to make sure all students are acting responsibly. It isn't our job to "get people in trouble." It's our job to keep people out of trouble.

We are not your enemies. We are not spying on you in case we need to report to TASC. We are not waiting outside your door at 10.59 p.m. to make sure you respect quiet hours. We are not recording

everyone we see smoking outside of a smoking area. We are just doing our job. We are students, just like you.

So instead of walking the other direction when you see an RA, try making friends. Drop by a hall program just to say hello. You might be surprised to find out that we can be pretty cool, too.

The RAs of the North and South Apartments

A CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS LETTER IS A MEMBER OF THE GUILFORDIAN STAFF.

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