

STORIES BY ABE KENMORE  
GRAPHIC BY ALICIA HANCHOCK

**Khanaqin, Iraq:**

Suicide attacks shook Iraq on April 28, killing 50 people days before the national elections. The worst attack occurred in Khanaqin, north of Baghdad, when a bomber killed 30 and wounded 50 others at a Kurdish rally, Al Jazeera reports. Other attacks were tied to Sunni militants, who bombed polling places while disguised as police and military personnel. April 30 marks the first national election in Iraq since the withdrawal of American troops.

**Arkansas, USA:**

Tornadoes ripped through the South, with the largest carving a 30-mile-long path through Arkansas on April 27. It was just one of 30 tornadoes in seven states that were spawned by a massive storm system, according to The Christian Science Monitor. In Arkansas, the storm killed at least 14, left over 10,000 without power and destroyed the headquarters of the state's Game and Fish Commission. According to meteorologists, more storms and tornadoes are brewing and may wreak havoc later this week.

**Chibok, Nigeria:**

Armed with knives and machetes, parents of 230 schoolgirls kidnapped almost two weeks ago marched towards the camps of the Islamist militants responsible for the crimes. After two days of trekking through forests, the parents turned back when locals warned them that the militants heavily outgunned them. On April 14, the insurgents kidnapped the girls, ages 16-18, after overpowering government guards outside their school. "We pinned our hopes on the government, but all that hope is turning to frustration," Danuma Mpur, chairman of the local parent-teacher association, told The Guardian.

**Manila, Philippines:**

President Barack Obama concluded his trip through Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines with a press conference on April 28. During the conference, he announced increased sanctions on Russia, defended his decision not to send military aid to Ukraine and advocated for diplomacy in Asia. "Why is it that everybody is so eager to use military force after we've just gone through a decade of war?" said Obama according to The New York Times. On his trip, the president also met with families of the victims of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 and sunken South Korean ferry Sewol.



## Fossil fuel divestment movement gains momentum

BY ADITYA GRAG  
STAFF WRITER

Twenty-six religious institutions, 22 cities, two counties, 11 colleges and universities, 19 foundations and several other institutions have committed in some form to divest from fossil fuels.

Characterized as "the fastest growing divestment movement in history" by an Oxford University study, the Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign is calling upon institutional leaders to divest themselves of any funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds.

The opposite of investment, divestment is the act of getting rid of unethical stocks, bonds and other investment funds. "Divestment is a movement that aims to draw publicity and attention to specific practices," said Gurney Professor of English at Harvard University James Engell in an email interview with The Guilfordian.

"It is less about creating immediate financial pain for fossil fuel corporations and more about aligning institutions' investments with their values," said Jenny Marineau, U.S. field manager for 350.org, and Jay Carmona, national divestment campaign manager for 350.org, in an email interview with The Guilfordian.

350.org is a global climate change movement and website launched by Bill McKibben and is responsible for the Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign.

Past successful divestment campaigns have helped end apartheid in South Africa and changed social attitudes towards tobacco.

A major focus of all of these divestment campaigns: College campuses.

To many, it is paradoxical that universities around the nation have endowments invested in and so heavily reliant on fossil fuel industries, often the same universities that claim to be pioneers in clean energy development and sustainability. As noted by the Fossil Free campaign, "it makes no sense for colleges to green their campuses but not their portfolios."

Students across the nation are rallying around this cause. With an endowment of over \$30 billion, a major target of this

campaign is Harvard.

In a statement released by President of Harvard Drew Faust, the college's anti-divestment stance was evident. "While I share their belief in the importance of addressing climate change, I do not believe that university divestment from the fossil fuel industry is warranted or wise."

Faust went on to present a number of arguments against divesting, including the financial risk and not wanting to use the university's endowment as an instrument for political change.

"Harvard is a large, complex institution, and people in it have a variety of views," said Engell. "It will take education, information and persistence to change the investment policies currently in place."

Chuck Collins, senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and co-founder of Wealth for the Common Good agreed.

"Changing the status quo, especially around investment policies, always encounters resistance," said Collins. "It's an inherently conservative arena."

Other colleges and universities around the nation are facing a similar battle — balancing financial needs with their social and ethical responsibilities.

"Making any sort of change is going to take a very intentional, long-term plan," said junior Julia Draper. "If done intentionally, we can reduce the financial risk of investing ethically."

Along with senior Tom Clement and sophomores Lily Collins and Marek Wojtala, Draper examined Guilford College's endowment portfolio and is currently working to promote greener investments.

As the students realized, taking a position on divestment is often complicated by the distribution of a college's investments.

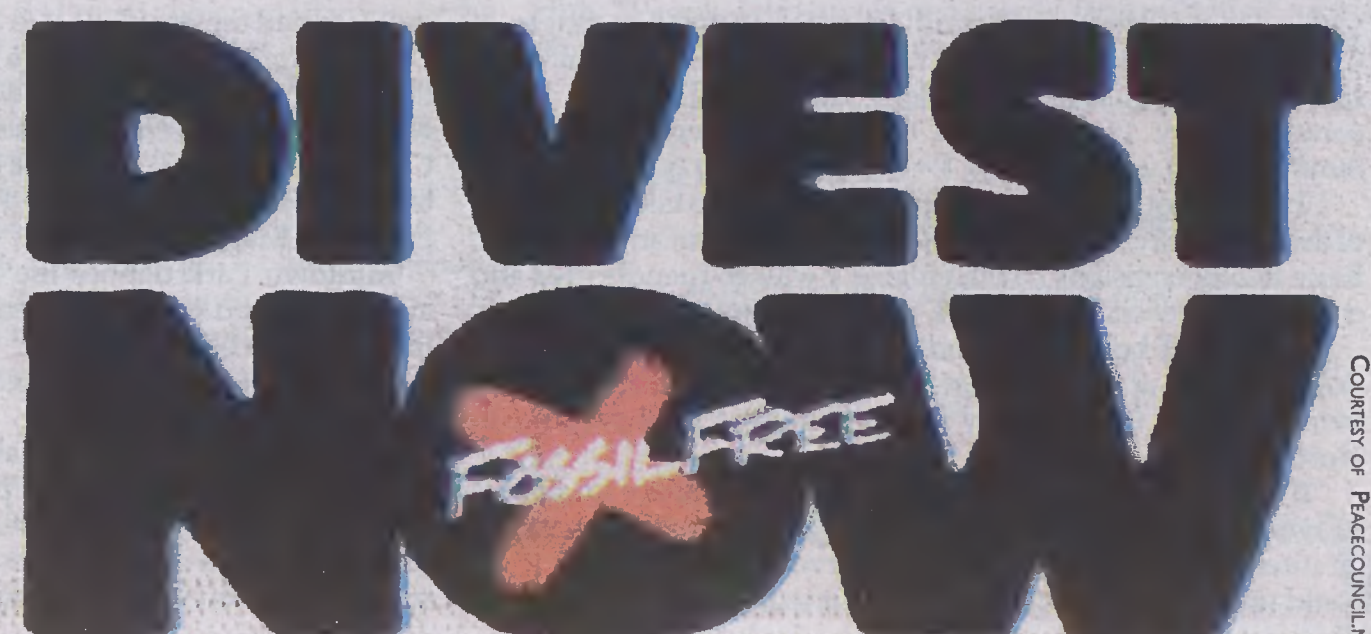
"About \$7 million of Guilford's endowment is invested in fossil fuels," said Draper. "But those fossil fuel companies are grouped into index funds with other companies, which make divesting complicated."

However, as demonstrated by the Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign's most recent victory — convincing Pitzer College to divest its \$124 million endowment — the

movement is growing.

More institutions are finding creative ways to divest and maximize returns.

To many, the question now is not whether the campaign will survive, but rather, who will join next?



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