

Letters

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Recycling

To the Editors,

This is an open letter to the Guilford College community. In his 1981 inaugural address, Dr. William R. Rogers outlined five pressing issues that he challenged society to face in this century: population, just distribution of

resources, problems of the environment, consequences of the electronic revolution, and psychological anomie. It's a pretty tall order. Further, we all have to sit through classes and listen to the professor lecture about the horrors of nuclear war, world hunger, mass poverty, juvenile delinquency, a host of other

social ills, pollution, and urban decay.

Most of us, I would hope, share a concern for these global problems. Yet, where do we fit in? When we contemplate the impact a single individual may have on these forces, seemingly distant, difficult to grasp, and out of our hands, we feel powerless to effect change and action appears futile or not worth attempting. Is there, then, nothing we can do?

Addressing at least the environmental problems, Biophile Club of Guilford College (an organization which has traditionally dealt with the relationship between man and his environment), believing that the combined efforts of many are more powerful than those of the component individuals, has attempted to combat this apathy through the instituting of a campuswide recycling program.

Let me state from the outset the importance of this matter. Recycling is one of the soundest environmental practices known. It both saves energy, and conserves the earth's finite amount of resources. We may one day be able to recover asteroids from space to supply our metals, but until this future time, we must conserve available supplies. Further, there is a limited amount of land for use as landfill to bury the tons of garbage we generate, most of which is recoverable. Half of all garbage is paper in one form or another, and another 25% are metals, mostly cans. Recycling means landfills don't fill up as fast and land can be put to better use. Already this is such a problem in places like New York City that garbage must be hauled out to sea, an immensely expensive proposition.

For the moment, Biophile is concerning itself with the recovering of newspapers and aluminum cans, two very easily recyclable materials. There are currently boxes in all the dorms on campus on each floor that are clearly marked for this with the Biophile logo. (If there is any doubt as to which cans are acceptable, it must say something like All Aluminum - Recyclable, or

All Aluminum Can on the side. Also the bottom of non-aluminum cans has a dull, rather than shiny appearance.) Think about this: melting old cans down saves 95% of the energy it takes to process the equivalent amount from raw ore, and for each ton of paper recycled, twenty trees are saved. Hopefully these boxes will not be abused and/or used for trash in general. Collections are made weekly.

I realize we all have "more important" things to think about (this writer included) being in college than what happens to the garbage out in the hall. It is so easy to put the problem out of our minds - it merely requires we don't think about it. The adage "out of sight, out of mind" seems to apply here. However, I'd like to issue a challenge to each one of you to force yourself into a higher consciousness. Break out of the narrow confines of your immediate environment of time and space and look to the long term, to the problems this planet will face, as Dr. Rogers states, in this century and beyond, and accept your responsibility to them. Recycling may only be a small part of this, but its importance cannot be overlooked. A few other things to consider: it takes just a second to take just one napkin from the dispensers in the cafeteria rather than grab a handful, which will be wasted. Not turning the knobs tightly after a shower means wasting several hundred (yes, hundred) gallons of water per day not to mention the energy it took to heat it. The simple act of taking a few extra steps down the hall to deposit the cans from last night's party and last week's newspapers seems trivial, but its implications are significant. When multiplied on a campuswide or communitywide scale for that matter, it becomes powerful.

Sincerely,
Emily C. Bonk
Biophile Club

Indians still being shafted

Campus Digest News Service

Things have been rough for native Americans since the coming of reservations, but for the nation's 750,000 living on reservations today, life's becoming even rougher.

Reaganomics cut a number of government jobs in January, adding to staggering unemployment like the 60 percent out of work at the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota.

Lack of work contributes to other problems at the nation's 260 reservations: housing waiting lists, a shortage of medical staffs, and alcohol and drug abuse.

Reaganomics hopes to lessen the hurt by luring private industry to the reservations, a proposal which is met with divided optimism by both businessmen and Indians.

Fund-Raising

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more for their services.

Philanthropic support affects education before students reach the collegiate level, too. California schools are depending more and more on fund-raising since the state Supreme Court ruled that equal amounts should be spent on students and Proposition 13 reduced property tax funds. In California, 123 private foundations are involved in money-making for schools.

Some of the benefits realized by schools from fund-raising include buying computers and other technologically advanced equipment, keeping alive "luxury" courses such as those in music and art, preventing layoffs, and maintaining activities and programs in general.

Many people are asking, in these times of increased private support for even public institutions, whether fund-raising will widen the gap between rich and poor school districts—perhaps changing the nature of public institutions themselves.





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