

Our Backyard: take action

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Photo Editor

This entire semester, I have addressed problems of the environment—sewage disposal, toxic waste disposal, extinction of a species, overuse and abuse of common lands—all of which are complex problems with complex solutions. Often it feels like there is nothing that one individual can do. In fact, in last week's article, I quoted Garrett Hardin as saying that there is no technical solution to the problem of land abuse. No technical solution in that there is not an easy solution; that changing the laws and rules does not work. That the only hope of a solution lies in a fundamental change in the attitude of the people. The individuals' change might amass and result in a change in attitude in the populace, which only then can bring change and the solution of environmental problems. This change in attitude, as has been

my experience, comes about first by awareness and then by actions. Here are some small, simple things that you can do that might ignite a change in attitude.

First, awareness...

—on the next nice day, walk to a nearby destination instead of driving (such as a record store or a grocery store).

—decide to become more knowledgeable about a controversial environmental issue.

—discuss this topic with a group of friends

—decide to take a walk through a local wooded area (like Guilford College lake or the Greensboro arboretum). While on your walk, observe the fauna and flora. Observe the insects, small flowers, and mushrooms, the birds, the trees, the mammals. As you reflect on each one, think about its chances of survival if its natural habitat were destroyed or polluted.

—visit a nearby sewage facility or landfill and ask to tour it. Find

out where all those wastes really go to. This might surprise you.

Now, to action...

—for one week, recycle everything that comes into your house-apartment-dorm room. This includes newspapers, magazines, junk mail, bottles, plastic and cans. You may discover that it is so easy, that you will decide to continue it.

—write two letters. Write one to an elected official about an environmental issue. There are plenty to choose from. Recent topics of concern are the Clean Water Act and "takings" amendments (zoning for land use). Write the other letter to the editor of a local newspaper and express your opinion.

—at least once, carry your own shopping bag to the grocery store.

—select an unsightly section of roadside that is safe to walk alongside and resolve to pick up all litter for the length of a football field.

—convince someone else to do the same, or share that experience with them.

HOLDER

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What do you see as the biggest challenge for Guilford in the next 10 years?

One of the biggest challenges is the capital campaign (fund-raising). Putting it together, deciding proper goals. We need to get faculty salaries up to the top level with the national standards. We have good faculty, but we need to be able to attract good replacements when we need them. We also need more funding for financial aid and the science building, which all means we need somewhere around \$75 million. It's doable, especially if we can get the message out to alumni.

Also, we need to need to make sure students get their money's worth and that Guilford puts out a product worth the money students and parents pay. The most important group on campus, after all, is the students.

Finally, we must make use of technology. How do you use technology available to significantly improve the classroom and to raise

the level of motivation? We need more personal computers in more areas across campus. We can even bring in a guest speaker on a TV screen using technology. Guilford's got to use this technology to meet the rising demand and continue to provide education with a human touch. This can increase human interaction if handled correctly. **What's your personal goal here? What gives you satisfaction in your job?**

In coming to Guilford, I now have the opportunity to have an impact in the areas we discussed. That's exciting to me. I have the opportunity to get Guilford the resources to move towards technology with a human touch.

It's an exciting challenge. I can be a part of helping here because of its size. I walk across campus, and I see a difference at with students at Guilford. They love this place. I want that to be known to prospective students so Guilford will attract other good, caring students. Guilford can make a difference for students who want to make a difference.

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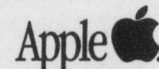


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