

A wiser way

When I was growing up my dad would scold my brother and me for leaving lights on in rooms where we were not: “Who left this light on?!” he would bellow, sending each of us into our best and most dramatic shoulder shrugging “I don’t know.” Looking back, I’d like to think that my father was an energy conservationist way ahead of his time. But his follow-up question was always, “Do you think I’m made of money?” So obviously, he was more concerned about what he referred to as his “light bill” than with saving energy or the planet.

Things were different back then. I can remember my parents waiting in long gas lines during the energy crisis of the 1970s, but the people I knew never talked about the need to develop alternative fuel, to preserve resources or protect the environment the way they do now. I vividly recall the leisurely Sunday-afternoon drives in which my brother and I would climb into



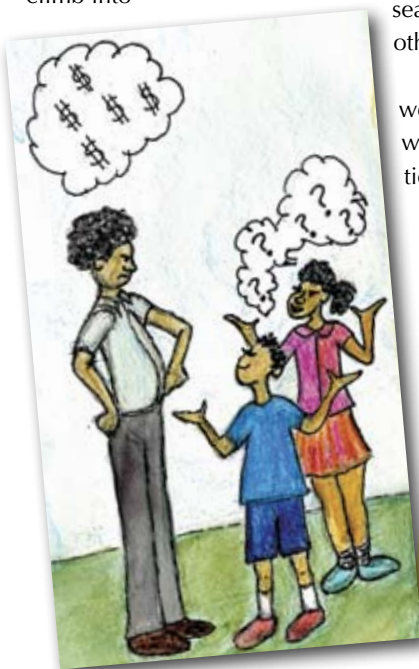
Illustrations by Sandy Coleman

the back of the family pickup truck with our dog Bruno and ride around with our parents. That was our entertainment—just riding aimlessly around along the Gulf Coast, the cool breeze licking at our faces. (By the way, there was no concern for the safety of two children riding in the back of a truck *sans* seat belts. But that’s a whole other story.)

Things have changed. And we’re all learning to change with the times. Future generations are depending on us to be

mindful of the need to protect resources and the environment. This year, the Wheaton community has been embracing that fact in a major way through the many sustainability efforts carried out by students, faculty and staff. We all have been working together on many eco-friendly measures—from increasing the recycling bins on campus to making buildings more energy efficient. Two graduating seniors stepped up in a big way to underscore sustainability by spearheading the planting of an apple orchard (see story on page 9).

Alums also have been part of the wiser way of doing things. At their urging, the theme of this year’s Reunion was “green.” In that spirit, hundreds of paper folders were eliminated to save trees in favor of a one-page information sheet. A single all-purpose meal ticket was printed instead of several different ones. Goodie bags were made of recycled material. And alums added to the available locally grown food by planting vegetables on



a nearby farm as a community service project.

It is only fitting that the *Wheaton Quarterly* join in. We are proud to announce that the magazine you are reading is now printed on recycled paper, thanks to the efforts of our art director Barbara Dill P’92 and designer Michael Kurgansky.

And what perfect timing. This issue of the magazine includes a story and a speech that focus on the history of the college as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding. Wheaton has survived and thrived all of these years through the collective making of wise decisions. Going green in the magazine is just one more way of repeating history.

Also in this issue, we profile Robertson (“Rob”) Gile ’00 and poet Gardner McFall ’74. Gile is a foreign affairs officer who is playing an important role in sustaining the nation by helping to develop security policies that protect it. McFall, looking at her life through the lens of a childhood life-changing moment, has written a libretto commissioned by Seattle Opera. 

What’s on your mind?

The *Quarterly* welcomes letters to the editor on topics you’ve read in these pages or on other topics concerning the Wheaton community. Please address your letters to:

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