

# Recycling needed at UNLV

By Shawn Black Snider  
Staff Reporter

With the celebration of Earth Day 1990, not only was the interest concerning pollution, waste and recycling reawakened, but also the controversy as to how and when improvements in these areas would be accomplished.

"UNLV at present has no set policy regarding recycling," said John Amend, director of the physical plant department. Amend is working with Vice President of Administration Harry Neel to initiate a program on campus.

"We are currently looking into available options and are very interested in getting one started as soon as possible," said Amend.

Federal regulations have mandated that all government facilities institute a recycling program. While this does not as of yet affect UNLV, officials agree that it is a matter of time before it will be required here.

According to Mary Ann Carpenter, the community outreach coordinator at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this is one reason why she has been pushing to get some kind of a program started.

Amend said he is in discussion with a new company regarding setting up an aluminum recycling system. UNLV would be the pilot program for the newly formed company, Al-Pal, Inc.

Al-Pal would collect only aluminum cans, which would be bagged in aluminum trash can liners, and be sent to a processing plant to be used to make pallets. These pallets would be rented out to various

industries, and a portion of the money received from the rentals would return to the university employees.

Rob Rosenthal, general manager of KUNV, is an active proponent of recycling and has been working to get a program started on campus. He has not been met with much support, he said, and he is disheartened at what he sees as a lack of foresight on the part of many individuals.

"I have approached student government on several occasions about setting up a recycling program and having the money collected go toward scholarships," Rosenthal said. "Bob Ackerman, vice president of student services, is willing to back a plan. Student government says it's a good idea and they would look into it. That was a year ago."



Yellin File Photo

Rosenthal is pessimistic about the proposal from Al-Pal. He cites Al-Pal's untried record and its narrowness of scope in selling aluminum for pallet construction only.

"It seems to me," Rosenthal said, "that we are only looking into this because we think we will have to and we're not keeping all the factors in mind."

Amend agrees that recycling will probably be mandated by law soon and suggests that, even if the plan falls through, at least some sort of program will be set up.

"We are in the embryonic stages of the development of this plan," Amend said. "We will have to see how this pans out."

An active recycling program is working at EPA offices, which are leased from UNLV and are located near the Desert Research Center.

"We have an active recycling program here of which I'm very proud," Carpenter said. "We have recycled 14 tons of paper, glass and aluminum just since November."

This program involves sorting the recyclable products and the initial purchase of the bins. Collections are then taken care of by a recycling company.

"Any program takes some work," Carpenter said, "but if it's kept simple and flexible, it will work and the benefits are innumerable to the environment."

Carpenter said that she would be happy to assist UNLV in instituting some kind of program and has offered space at their complex for placement of the bins.

## Departments start to recycle at UNLV

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Although there is no comprehensive recycling program on campus, there are some individual projects which are on-going.

At the computer and engineering centers, where a lot of paper is generated, some secretaries are collecting the used paper and donating it to different schools and charity paper drives.

The residence halls have aluminum collection bins placed around their facility.

Residential Life Director, Terry Piper, worked last year with Rosenthal on a recycling project/fund raiser at the residence halls to benefit Opportunity Village.

"We left the bins in place after the benefit and have since just had a passive program," Piper said. "We have collected 104 pounds which I see as a positive sign since little effort was made to promote them."

Piper plans to continue the collection campaign which donates ten percent of the proceeds to Opportunity Village, with the rest staying in the dorms.

One section of the campus that is responsible for a large portion of paper generated is the Yellin' Rebel Newspaper. At present, the paper is thrown out.

"We obviously need a recycling program here at the paper," said Richard Crow, editor of the Yellin' Rebel. "I would be very interested in getting one started and then networking with the other departments in carrying it throughout the school."

"The recycling question is a big concern," said President Robert Maxson, "and it is precisely why UNLV, in cooperation with the governor's office, held a recycling seminar, Tuesday, August 14 at the Thomas and Mack Center. Discussions covered the need for such programs and how to implement them."

"Recycling is very important," Maxson said, "and just one part of a greater environmental concern."

## Poll: Americans favor stiff laws against pollution

Pollution threatens the quality of American citizen's lives, and most favor a tough counter-offensive that would outlaw disposable diapers and cancer-causing pesticides, a poll has found.

Media General-Associated Press survey found respondents favored an array of tough new restrictions, including bans on foam plastic fast-food containers and excessive packaging of consumer products.

Of those who live in neighborhoods where recycling is not mandatory, nine in 10 said they would support such a rule. And nearly seven in 10 supported creation of an elected statewide post to enforce environmental law.

Overall, the survey found a continuing high level of concern about the environment. Three in four respondents said anti-pollution laws are too weak, and about as many gave local, state and federal government negative marks for protecting the environment.

Strong support also continued for air-pollution measures that have been suggested in California, including strict emission controls on power plants and bans on household aerosol prod-

ucts, charcoal-lighter fluid and non-radial tires, which release rubber into the air.

Toxic-waste disposal remained the greatest priority, with 65 percent saying it required "urgent government action no matter what the cost." The related matter of drinking-water pollution got the next highest priority.

The poll found strong support for trash reduction measures that proponents say could ease pressure on clogged landfills. Among those results:

Eighty-eight percent favored "restrictions on product packaging to reduce trash."

Eighty-four percent favored a ban on foam plastic containers such as the ones used in fast-food restaurants.

Seventy-one percent supported a ban on disposable diapers.

The poll also found some participation in the ethical shopping movement. While a strong majority said they make purchases "mainly on the basis of price and quality," 19 percent said they consider the manufacturer's record on the environment.



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