



Committee to propose plan for recycling at UNLV

by Gena Atkinson
Reporter

An ad hoc committee has been formed whose purpose is to propose a recycling program for the UNLV campus. This committee is composed of select students, professors, and officials within the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I believe this committee has been formed to get information ahead of time and to make an informed decision about any recycling plan that will be enacted in the future," said John Amend, director of the Physical Plant.

The idea of initiating a recycling plan for the entire university campus has been promoted in the past by the EPA. Last November, the EPA mandated its own recycling program and began receiving hundreds of inquiries about recycling from the public as well as UNLV students. Rob Rosenthal of KUNV began a recycling plan at KUNV in hopes of providing a model for the rest of the university. However, this plan was met with opposition by university officials because the sorted trash was considered a fire hazard.

"Recycling is not an interest so much right now because of the tremendous 12 percent growth and the necessary building and hiring of faculty. Dealing with the bureaucracy is difficult and takes time," Rosenthal said.

Amend, a committee member, said that the prospect of future legislation making recycling mandatory as well as the publicity and public awareness recently about recycling has been an indirect cause of the committee's formation.

"UNLV should be willing to jump in and participate and be a leader in the recycling endeavor," Amend said. However, many questions must be answered before any recycling plan can be enacted.

The first step on the committee's agenda, to have a waste stream analysis which is a study of waste production, will answer the first two questions: "How much waste does UNLV produce?" and "What can be recycled?" Trash in UNLV's dumpsters would be separated and the actual volume of each waste would be recorded, making it possible to identify what can be recycled.

It is possible that a source reduction will then be enacted, looking at how garbage is produced and cutting the unnecessary wastes.

Recently the EPA has applied this source reduction concept by replacing thousands of individual memos with several bulletin boards to communicate with its employees. This approach has condensed 6,000 pieces of paper into only 864 each month, said Maryanne Carpenter, EPA.

"It is important to keep in mind that each ton of paper saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water which is enough to provide water for one home for one month," said Carpenter, executive

director of Southern Nevada Clean Communities.

The second step for the committee, stated Amend, is to send two members to a national convention. The two day seminar will bring the ideas of campuses throughout the nation that have already implemented recycling programs to one location. UNLV's representatives will be able to apply other universities' experiences toward a recycling program at UNLV.

"Anything that is recyclable is not considered trash," said Carpenter.

Can refuse, then, be turned into profits?

Although Carpenter has sug-

gested that the recycling proceeds go toward scholarships for those interested in the Environmental Studies Program, Amend has said, "At best, the university hopes to break even. It's a balancing act."

Profits are not the focus of the newly formed recycling committee. Environmental education is the main objective. The committee is following Earth Day's suggestion to "Think globally, act locally."

Carpenter applauds UNLV's efforts, and said, "Congratulations to UNLV. Education begins with the young, who have the ability to make a difference in this world."

Local auto dealers keep deal with Athletic Department

by James DeRusso
Reporter

After a meeting of the Las Vegas chapter of the Nevada Franchise Auto Dealers Association, local car dealers have decided to stick behind the UNLV athletic department, and not pull their cars from the school's Courtesy Auto Resource System (CARS) program.

The threat of the car dealers to pull out arose after the local dealerships became disturbed by UNLV's recent handling of the trade out policy which is currently under review.

"There is no warmth anymore," said Jim Chaisson Sr., owner of Chaisson Motor Cars. "I'd just as soon pay for my own tickets. I'll probably save money."

In exchange for loaning their cars to the Athletic Department,

dealers received a certain number of tickets for both UNLV football and basketball games depending on the number of cars loaned.

Interim Athletic Director Dennis Finfrock was able to convince the local auto dealers to stay with the CARS program during the Dealers Association meetings.

"Dennis reassured us that everything would be equitable," said Chaisson.

The CARS program is an important part of the athletic department, as it allows them to make greater use of their allotted funds, and its loss would hurt the department's attempts at recruiting new members for athletics.

"It's valuable to us because it is part of the package we use to recruit coaches," said Finfrock.

The loaned cars are used as an incentive as the athletic department attempts to hire the best possible coaches and department members. Along with a monetary amount, the use of a loaned car is an advantage when trying to recruit against the rest of the country's schools.

This practice is not done just at UNLV, but throughout the country at both the professional and collegiate level. Trading the use of loaned cars for tickets or free advertising is a common occurrence.



Yell Photo / Robert Anderson

Nothing like back East - Autumn has come to Las Vegas but you couldn't tell by the trees on campus.

Two U.S. campus blasts create question about UNLV chemistry

by William Holt
Staff Reporter

College Press Services reported two more blasts in campus chemistry buildings, one in Hazard Community College, Kentucky, and the other in Purdue University in Indiana. The explosions at both campuses caused classes to be canceled.

Purdue's explosion involved the misuse of a chemical called Nitrocellulose, the material commonly known as "gun cotton" or "flash cotton." Boyd Earl, professor of chemistry and chair of the chemistry department at UNLV, said that the misuse was a result of drying the chemical in an oven instead of in dry air. The explosion made doors blow off hinges and glass shatter.

Hazard's explosion resulted in \$100,000 worth of damage because a chemical called phosphorous ate through its protective

container and was exposed to air.

No explosions have occurred at UNLV, but the chemistry department was contacted about the safety of their facilities.

Earl said that the vast majority of these accidents occur during experimental research. Most of the courses at UNLV have more instructional settings than research settings. When experiments do take place, they are very structured and have been tested.

"Students have to be supervised. We haven't had any serious accidents," Earl said.

The only accident that Earl said he could remember was either in 1977 or 1978 when a student was taken to the hospital because of facial burns. However, that student was back the next day for classes.

"Experiments are designed to minimize the hazards. In the past 20 to 30 years, laboratories have

become much more safe," Earl said.

Earl said that instructors do have to occasionally remind students about taking safety precautions such as wearing goggles, but students usually follow instructions.

When asked if an independently irresponsible student could cause an accident, Earl said, "If a student working in a lab was careless about the wrong thing at the wrong time, something could happen."

Here are some samples of the many safety rules of the chemistry department:

"Do not taste, eat, smoke, or drink anything in the laboratory."

"Exercise great care in noting the odor of fumes."

"Do not use your mouth to fill pipets."

"Perform only authorized experiments and never work in the laboratory alone."

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