

Time to recycle is now

by Rick Nielsen

Don't just read this newspaper article, smash it into a ball, and slam dunk it into the trash can—recycle it.

Newspapers account for approximately 10 percent of all municipal waste. For every 115 lbs. of newspaper recycled, a mature tree remains standing.

Making newspaper from virgin materials uses twice as much energy as recycled paper. Recycling is no longer the wave of the future, it is the necessity of today. Many people are now involved with recycling programs at UNLV.

"The recycling effort is off to a good start—there is always room for expansion," said Marianne Carpenter of the Environmental Protection Agency. "Thanks to the volunteer efforts of a concerned nucleus of campus staff and students," a recycling program was started here in cooperation with the EPA.

Some of the people involved include Mary Dale Deacon and Paul Kopczak of the James R. Dickinson library and Debra Duddleston and Kris Fisher from engineering, Sandie Branca from biology, and Connie Jackson from the curriculum materials library. All of these people are actively helping in an effort to recycle.

Community Action Recycling Program (CARP) originated about a year ago out of respect for our natural resources and caring for the environment. Carpenter is the chair for CARP. On a volunteer basis, recycled glass, paper and aluminum from various locations on campus are stockpiled and then collected with the help of Joe Geist from the EPA. Then

they are put into dumpsters located in the parking lot behind the EPA building.

The success of the program is due to "the individuals volunteering their time and effort to be conscious of recycling," Carpenter said.

In the library, all the in-house paper is sorted as it is discarded and placed in a box for recycled paper. Some bring aluminum cans and newspapers from home. Due to the pre-sorting, the amount of discarded trash is substantially reduced.

Proceeds from the recycling program are currently being pooled into a proposed Environmental Studies Scholarship Fund. A committee comprised of select members of UNLV, De-

partment of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Clark County Community College, (CCCC), and Clark County School District (CCSD), has been formed to set up and award the proposed scholarship.

Since the deadline is fast approaching for this year, and since no majors have been established, the scholarship will probably not be awarded until next year. However over \$2,000 dollars have been raised so far, and much more is expected to be raised by the time it is awarded. Sally Phares, Manager of University of Nevada System Computing Services (UNSCS), said she is "sensitive towards recycling and always in favor of it." In the UNSCS office located

on campus, paper is recycled twice. By using both sides of the paper for drafts and print-outs, paper is recycled before it is recycled. Money from this effort also goes to the same scholarship fund.

The EPA also has its own recycling program, from which funds go directly back into the U.S. Treasury. Carpenter, who set that up, also would like to give credit to Vice President of Finance and Administration Harry Neel Jr. and Director of the Physical Plant John Ammend, for their recommendation in a memo to President Robert Maxson that "UNLV broaden its approach from 'recycling' to a 'Waste Reduction and Resource Management Program.'"

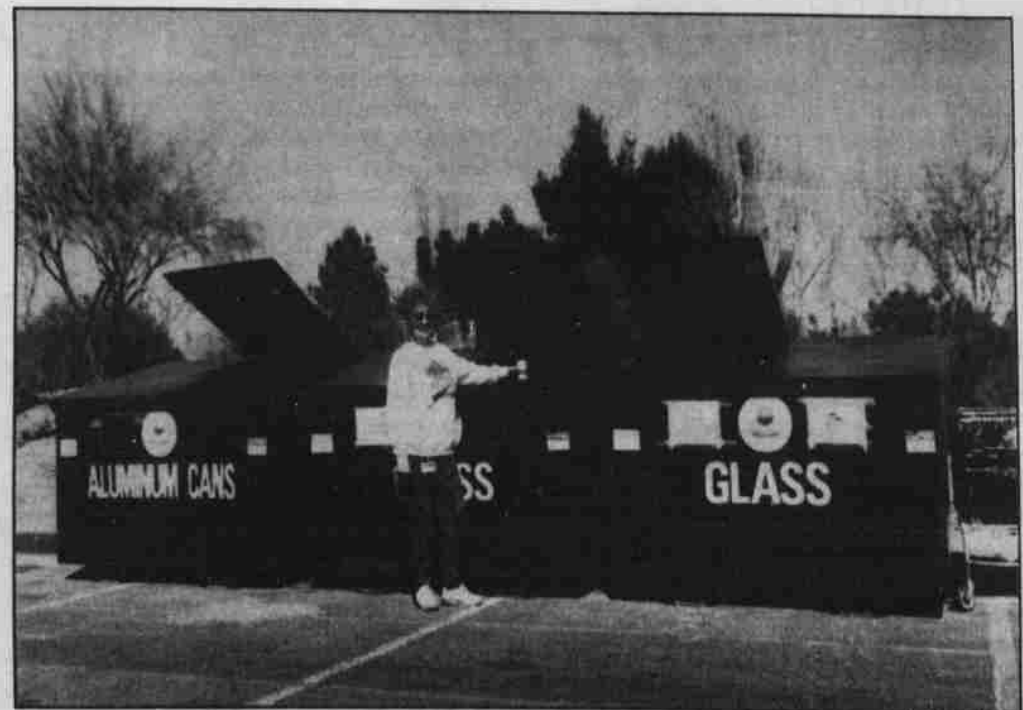
"The program is currently being considered for use on a campus wide basis," President Maxson said. "It is absolutely necessary for UNLV to embrace the concept of recycling."

Since the average person throws out three to five pounds of trash a day, and since recycling conserves both energy and natural resources, anyone wishing to do his part is welcome to use the dumpsters behind the EPA. However, it is essential that the materials are sorted prior to depositing them to prevent what is known as "cross-contamination." Clear glass should be separated from colored, aluminum cans must be separated, and newspaper must be separated from printer or photo-copy paper. Colored and white paper must also be kept separated.

The Yellin' Rebel is currently participating by recycling all of its paper; both newspaper and other varieties.

"It is absolutely necessary for UNLV to embrace the concept of recycling"

—President Robert Maxson



Marianne Carpenter in front of recycling bins near the EPA building.

Pre-health professionals have record membership

by Tami Bastin

The Association of Pre-Health Professionals is thriving this semester with a record number of 120 students.

Loretta Metzger, secretary of the association, said this semester has the biggest membership since the organization was founded in 1976.

The association helps to provide students with catalogs of professional schools, videotapes and study guides for entrance exams. It also holds professional and social activities for students and faculty.

Some professional events have included spokespersons from Creighton University and the U.S. Navy who discussed admissions policies and available scholarships of the schools.

On March 30, a simulated MCAT exam will be offered to students. The exam, Metzger said, is ideal for students because it helps them in determining their weaknesses before the actual exam.

Metzger said the association will also tour medical facilities, including the School of Medicine in Reno, Humana Hospital's

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Veterans Hospital. A CPR/First Aid program will also be offered to students this semester.

Annual social events include a ski trip, picnic, faculty/student softball game and banquet.

Metzger said that to become a member of the organization students need a minimum 3.0 GPA. However, to be admitted to a professional school, students no longer need to be pre-med majors. Many schools are now looking for people with broader backgrounds.

Gene therapy—vital first step

Researchers supported by the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) have reported successfully introducing engineered genes into heart muscles of rats, raising hopes that life-threatening cardiac complications of muscular dystrophy can be treated.

"I see this as a vital first step in treating the heart problems of muscular dystrophy patients through gene therapy," said MDA Chapter President Dennis Conrad.

The University of Wisconsin, Madison investigators headed by MDA-grantee Jon Wolff, M.D., published their finding in an issue of the journal *The New Biologist*. Wolff and co-workers last year reported that genes could be similarly introduced into skeletal muscle.

The team injected loops of genetic material known as plasmids into the rats, which contained genes that make easily detectable proteins, called "reporter genes." All three of the reporter genes functioned normally in the heart muscle cells soon after injection.

However, the researchers did not see the long-term functioning of the genes, Wolff said. None of the proteins were detected two weeks after the injection of the new genes, leading the researchers to suspect that the rats' immune systems were rejecting the foreign proteins.

This finding has important implications for gene therapy in certain types of heart disease, but particularly for treating heart problems found in Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common childhood form of the neuromuscular disease. The cardiac complications, which appear late in the course of the disease, are a common cause of death in Duchenne patients, who rarely survive beyond their 20s.

"As we find new treatments for Duchenne and other forms of muscular dystrophy, the patients will live longer and be more active. The heart problems will then assume major importance. This experiment is a significant step toward being able to treat those complications," said local MDA clinic director Dr. Susan Kehne.

Study says collegians are using fewer drugs

(CPS) Yet another school has offered evidence that college students nationwide are cleaning up their acts.

On Feb. 20 University of Cincinnati officials released a poll indicating that today's collegians now feel less peer pressure than their predecessors to drink alcohol and use drugs.

The announcement comes on the heels of two other reports on drug use that had similar conclusions.

A Feb. 6 study by University of California, Los Angeles Professor Rodney Skager declared that drug and alcohol use declined slightly last year among school kids in California.

Just 13 days earlier, an annual survey by the National Institutes of Health and the University of Michigan found that the number of college and high school students using illicit drugs dropped sharply in 1990.

The Cincinnati survey compared current student at-

titudes with those of students in 1987.

"The most marked differences were found in student attitudes toward drugs," the report stated. "For instance, in 1987, 28 percent of the surveyed students believed that the campus

culture encouraged drug use.

"Students are deciding not to use or experiment with drugs, and there is less peer pressure to use drugs and alcohol," said Tom Hadley, assistant vice provost of student affairs.

Hadley attributed the decline to a variety of things, including assertive educational programs about the dangers of substance abuse and the raising of the legal drinking age.

"Students are getting the message from pop culture, their schools, their churches and other institutions. They've seen drugs destroy family members or peers," he said.

The new poll showed that 49 percent considered drug testing an appropriate step to prevent drug abuse in the workplace, up from 44 percent in 1987.

Also, 74 percent said they would submit to a drug test if required to secure a job. That was up from 68 percent in 1987.

"Students are getting the message from pop culture, their schools, their churches and other institutions. They've seen drugs destroy family members or peers"

setting and student culture encouraged the use of drugs."

Since then, of course, politicians have declared a "war" on drugs. In 1990, the study found, only one percent thought the campus setting and student cul-

"Everybody's a little bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day!"

Tina Crintine

Who was St. Patrick Anyway?

St. Patrick, the patron saint, was not even born in Ireland but he is said to have been born at Kilpatrick, near Dumbarton, Scotland. Mixed dates of his birth range from A.D. 373 to 395. Mixed dates exist for his death as well which has even been approximated to have been at 120 years of age.

Captured by Gaels and sold as a slave at age sixteen, his six years spent in captivity were the times when he experienced a "spiritual awakening and began to have dreams and visions which he considered to be divinely inspired."

After his release and return to Ireland, Patrick spent the rest of his years as a priest first, then a bishop. Through his accomplishments many thousands of Irishman were converted; churches, schools, and at least one college was founded and he organized the Church in Ireland.

What does the Shamrock symbolize?

The Shamrock, which is customarily worn by many on St. Patrick's Day, comes from a religious story about St. Patrick who tried to teach his converts about the Trinity.

In this explanation, Patrick held up the



Shamrock and said that the leaves represented the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit while the stem was the Godhead.

It has been discovered by scholars that the Shamrock, or trefoil, was originally used in ancient Celtic fertility rites which represented a triad of goddesses. Its three green leaves were burned and the ashes were sprinkled over the fields to enhance growth.

Who celebrates this rather green occasion?

Do you remember when you were young and forgot to wear green on St. Patrick's Day? The tradition of pinching those who fail to wear green may make you think twice about the "wearin' o' the green."

The exact time and place of the March 17 holiday is not known. But today it is celebrated wherever there are Irishman or descendants of Irishman. A growing number of people every year send very "green" greetings to their relatives and friends in observance of the occasion.

What is the Blarney Stone and who kisses it?

Just north of Cork, the second largest city in Eire, the tourists' favorite place to visit is Kilarney in County Kerry. Its beautiful lakes and mountains are a sight to see, but coming in at a close second is Blarney Castle.

The present day castle is the third to have been built on the same site. The first castle, being built of wood in the tenth century, was later replaced by a stone structure in 1210, and little has been changed since it was extended in 1446. The Blarney Castle is most famous for the Blarney stone which is a huge slab of rocks "set into the battlements high up on the keep."

It has been said that the stone was presented to the

king of Ireland at the time by Robert the Bruce. This rock was a gift to the king for his cooperation in lending Robert the Bruce 4,000 troops to fight the Battle of Bannockburn.

Still other legends have said that a witch gave it to the king when he saved her from drowning. The witch told the king that anyone who kissed the stone would be "granted the gift of eloquence."

Today the rock is still being kissed by tourists who make the long journey up the winding spiral stairway to get to the top of the keep.

The Blarney Stone sticks out over the side of the battlements and is very hard to kiss without some assistance. But with the aid of two handholds and a tour guide you too will be able to kiss the stone.

Why is your beer green?

It is quite the tradition to celebrate St. "Patty's" Day by consuming a "bit o' the green." Green beer that is. The bars and pubs are filled where the beer flows green and the celebration is plentiful. Although St. Patrick and his followers kept away from alcohol, it has been said that he introduced the art of distillation to his countrymen. The one-time traditional drink, Potteen, was said by some to have been named for St. Patrick.

The Irish have had a long history of alcohol, and it has even been called upon for medicinal uses. Whiskey, the all-purpose cure-all was used by some to relieve cholera, revive people from unconsciousness, and bring an end to other diseases. Workers even used its fine effects and drank it to strengthen themselves and "dispel fatigue."

The one medicinal use which stands out has the saying "a hair of the dog that bit you." It was thought by many that to cure a hangover, the next morning it was wise to consume more alcohol to counter the effects of previous nights festivities.

Poems in honor of St. Patrick's Day

from "My Ireland"
By: Francis Carlin

My Ireland is mine in truth
For all the saints who clung to Her;
The patriots who died in youth,
And the harpers who have sung to Her.
The holy saints who clung to Her,
The harpers who have sung to Her,
My Ireland is mine in truth
Because I would be hung for Her.

Legends

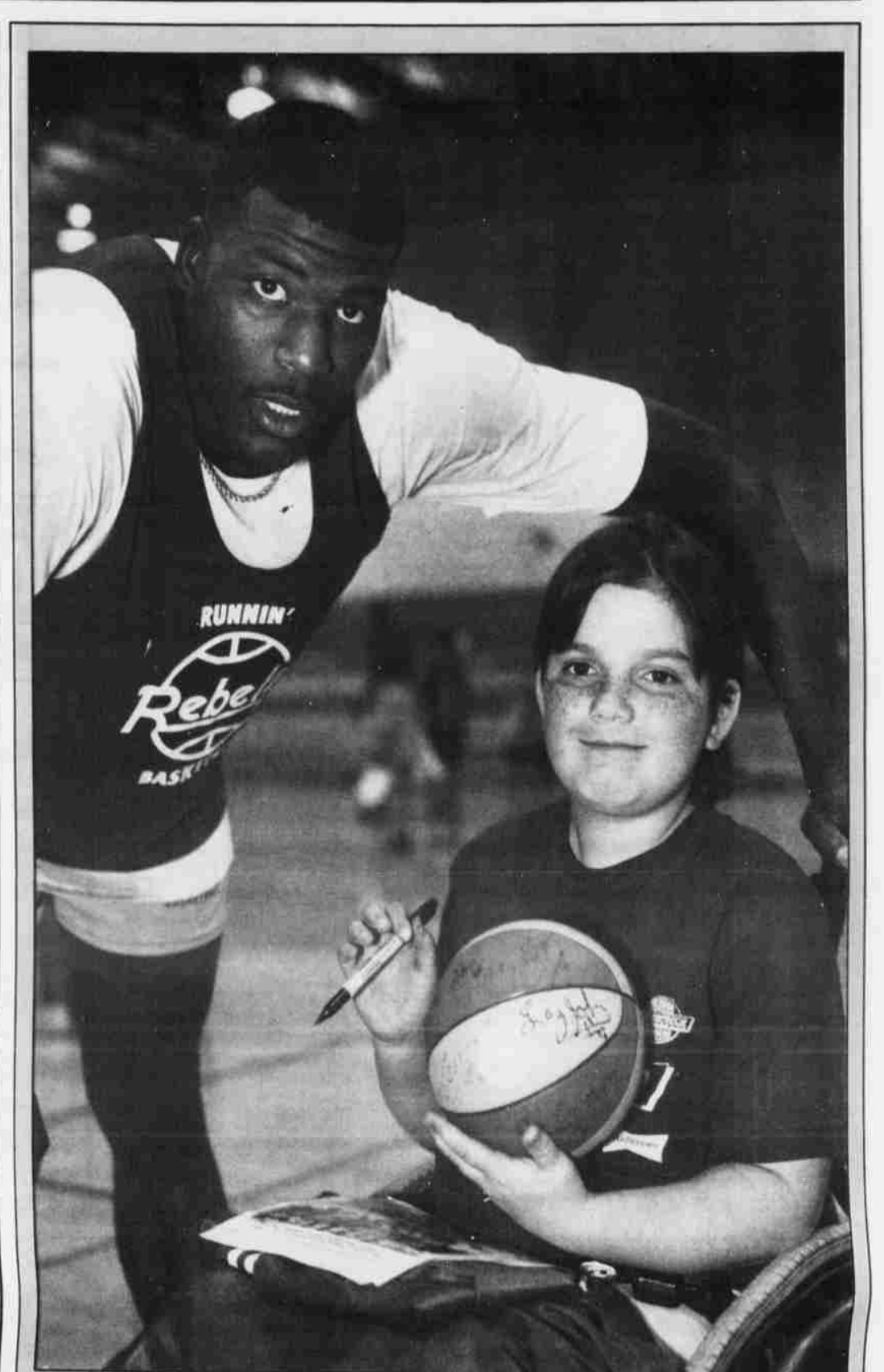
Many magical legends have been told about St. Patrick. Some say he made snow burn, and that after Patrick died, the sun would not set for 12 days. The most popular of all the stories is how Patrick was said to chase the snakes out of Ireland. The story is told best by a favorite Irish song:

The Wicklow Hills are very high, and so's the Hill of Howth, sir;

But there's a hill much bigger still, much higher nor them both, sir;
'Twas on the top of this high hill St. Patrick preached the sarmint
That drove the frogs into the bogs, and banished all the varmint.

There's not a mile in Ireland's isle where dirty varmin musters;
But there he put his dear fore-foot and murdered them in clusters.
The toads went pop, the frogs went hop, slap-dash into the water,
And the snakes committed suicide to save themselves from slaughter.

Information for these Blarney facts were from:
Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays by Robert J. Myers, *A Hair of the Dog* by Richard Stivers, and *We Live in Ireland* by Chris Fairclough.



UNLV All-American Larry Johnson with the MDA Poster Child Joshua Munsey.

Special fans meet the Rebels

by Dawn Melby

"It gives me a lift," said Elmore Spencer about having special fans like the eight children with muscular dystrophy waiting patiently to meet the Rebels. "We get people wanting our autographs all the time. You know you have a true fan" when these special children are around.

"It makes me feel extremely lucky to be so healthy," said Spencer.

These eight children waited to meet the Rebels after a recent practice. Robert Anderson, a UNLV student, coordinated the meeting between the Rebels and the MDA children.

"I thought it would be rewarding to the MDA children, the players and myself," said Anderson. "These kids can only see the Rebels on TV. Because of their wheelchairs it makes it difficult to get into the Thomas and Matk Center."

Of the eight children in attendance most of them have Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Duchenne is a form of muscular dystrophy that occurs only in males. It is usually diagnosed by around age six. By 11 the boy is usually in a wheelchair and has a life expectancy of 18 years.

Although most of the children were very excited to meet the Rebel basketball team, they

admitted they liked football better than basketball.

"My favorite sport is football," said Albert. His favorite college team is the UNLV Rebels. His favorite professional team is the Giants. Albert, originally from Las Cruces, New Mexico, likes New Mexico's Aggies better than the UNLV Runnin' Rebels because "I don't know them (UNLV)." Unfortunately Albert had to leave before the practice was over. Albert recently underwent surgery and was having problems sitting up for such a long time.

Joshua, a freckled face 11 year old with muscular dystrophy, and his mother and grandfather anxiously waited and enjoyed watching the practice. They especially liked watching their favorite player Larry Johnson.

Joshua is the MDA poster child for Southern Nevada. "The Rebels are my favorite," Joshua said. He, like Albert, admits that his favorite sport is football. He doesn't watch college football but the '49ers are his favorite professional team.

"It is a wonderful opportunity," said Joshua's mother. "The players are wonderful to the children. They act like they know them. They are very natural and never stand-offish to the children."

"It is wonderful for everyone involved," said Joshua's grandfather.

Trenton, another muscular dystrophy patient, and his mother and sister made the trip out from Boulder City to meet the team. Trenton was very excited and proud to show off his ball and the pictures that were just signed by the Rebel ball players.

Brian, a shy blonde boy who was always full of smiles, sat in his wheelchair watching and later met his favorite team—the UNLV Runnin' Rebels.

As the team finished practice, the children quickly gathered around the players for pictures and autographs. Stacey Augmon said it is "great" to have such special fans.

This is not the first time the muscular dystrophy association and the UNLV Runnin' Rebels have met. Lisa Mayo, director of the muscular dystrophy association in Las Vegas, had the opportunity to work with the Rebels at a Sports Auction fundraiser in January. In order to get the Rebels involved, Mayo had to first, get the permission of the NCAA and second, convince the Rebels to help MDA. Due to the Rebels position they have to be very selective about the organizations with which they affiliate.

The UNLV Runnin' Rebels were chosen by MDA as the Sport Stars of the Year 1991.