EARTH DAY 1993





(above) The environment is a concern for not only people but all living creatures, including these kittens who attended Sunday's festivities. (left) The Desert Research Institute, following its slogan of "research for a balanced future," promoted its conservation and research programs at UNLV's celebration of Earth Day. DRI regularly works close with the university to study Nevada's natural resources.

LESLIE LITCHFIELD

A celebration of awareness

BY DAVID CHERRY STAFF WRITER

Thousands of environmentallyconscious students, faculty and community members gathered on campus Sunday in celebration of Earth Day 1993.

The five-hour fair, stretching from one end of the academic mall to the other, featured everything from electric cars to solar powered bands.

A vast array of booths offered Earth Day participants a unique opportunity to find out more about many of the issues directly affecting the world around them.

According to Kathy Lauckner, a research specialist at UNLV's Harry Reid Center and Earth Day '93 organizer, this year's celebration was a tremendous success.

"We had close to 3,000 people this year," said Lauckner. "(Earth Day) has turned out better than expected.

According to Lauckner, several factors contributed to Earth Day's success. "I think the entertainment offered this year has increased the numbers," she said. "Also, more people [this year] are concerned with environmental and water conservation."

Laucknersaid she was pleased with the large number of exhibitors.

"We had over 30 booths this year," she said, "If you count the bands the number is close to 40."

Sunday's entertainment was provided by several local bands as well as Strip favorites The Blue's Brother's from Legends in Concert. Perhaps the day's most unique performance came from featured artists Clan Dyken of Sacramento, Calif.

The band, which combines environmental concerns with its music, supplied pollution-free solar-power performances generated entirely from solar panels mounted on top of its tour bus.

Visitors also got a chance to see several non-polluting, battery-powered cars and one of Southwest Gas's non-gas vehicles which runs on natural gas.

Many exhibitors were concerned with the elimination of the test site and/or the prevention of the construction of the Yucca Mountain nuclear dump site.

For young Earth Day visitors there were booths with crayons, coloring books and colored chalk, which was used to turn the sidewalk in front of Frazier Hall into a giant sketch pad.

The spirit of Earth Day '93 was summed up best by Lauckner who said at the events end, "In order for all of us to have a asutainable lifestyle on Earth, we need to learn to conserve and recycle."



(above) Davis nurseries and Southwest Gas donated Italian Stone Pines, a tree well suited for Las Vegas' arid climate, to be given to the first 1,000 families who attended Sunday's events on the UNLV campus. (left) Natural Gas propels this truck, displayed by Southwest Gas, as an alternative to petroleum-burning cars.

