

# Electric carts a danger to students

BY ERIN NIEMEYER  
NEWS EDITOR

Improper use of electric carts on UNLV's campus have prompted the formation of a Traffic and Car committee by Director of Insurance and Risk Management Don Hardigree. The committee is being created to regulate the use of carts to ensure the safety of the drivers and of pedestrians.

According to Lawrence Tirri, director of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, "People operating the carts aren't doing so in a safe manner."

"Under the current program, no one has the authority to restrict or regulate the use of carts. If a department can afford to buy one, they can authorize whomever they want to operate it," Tirri continued.

The UCCSN Board of Regents handbook includes a

policy for the use of Electric Carts on campus, prohibiting the operation of vehicles during class breaks and on any heavily populated campus sidewalks or walkways. According to Tirri, this policy is not being taken seriously.

Injuries to the drivers of the carts have occurred resulting from speeding, standing inside of the cart while it's in motion, and driving too closely to pedestrians. Although injuries have been minor, Tirri contends that this is a problem which must be addressed.

"I want to announce to the campus community that there is an inherent safety problem."

"I would strongly encourage anyone who sees someone misoperating a cart to identify the department by the letter designation on the cart and to call with a complaint to that department. People need to voice their concerns."

## Crime Reports

### Mon., Sept. 18

1:00 a.m. Swenson Street: Traffic accident, no injuries.

7:10 a.m. Off Campus: Parking permit taken.

10:08 a.m. Physical Education Center: Copper wire and tubing taken from construction site.

1:31 p.m. Beam Hall: Purse taken.

4:14 p.m. UCC Building B: Two subjects selling magazines cited for trespassing.

4:36 p.m. Ham Fine Arts: Report of offices being used after hours.

4:44 p.m. UCC Building A: Subject selling magazines cited for trespassing.

5:00 p.m. MSU: Report of motorcycle taken.

5:45 p.m. Off Campus: Report of parking permit that dog ate.

### Tues., Sept. 19

2:41 p.m. Frazier Hall: Report of four bench chairs taken.

7:21 p.m. MSU: Subject exposed himself to two students.

### Wed., Sept. 20

3:30 a.m. Swenson St.: Subject arrested on city warrant.

4:00 p.m. Off Campus: Parking permit lost.

6:00 p.m. MSU: Parking permit taken.

8:45 p.m. Pkg Lot I: PR noticed his vehicle with door open and running, no suspect(s) around.

## Enviro-News

Reduce



then Recycle



## Waste reduction first step in recycling

Waste reduction is a phrase which does not receive a lot of attention, but it is a practice that is just as important as recycling. Sometimes called precycling, waste reduction is the practice of avoiding the generation of waste.

There are many ways to reduce waste. For example, instead of using a wax disposable cup in the student union or at a convenience store, use a durable plastic mug or squeeze bottle for your fountain drinks. By using a mug, you avoid generating and throwing away over 500 disposable cups a year. If every UNLV student took this advice, we could prevent about 1 million cups from being buried in the landfill.

Another idea is to use a canvas bag for your grocery, clothes and bookstore shopping. When you bought your books this semester, you probably needed two to three plastic bags to carry them. One canvas reusable bag could have probably held all your books and you would have had nothing to throw away. Also, sometimes refusing a bag for items you are going to consume right away (can of soda, bag of chips) or that you can carry will reduce your waste.

Both the mug and the canvas bag are examples of durable products that can be reused. There are other examples of durable and repairable products that could and should be used instead of disposable items like cameras, razors, refillable

Guest Column  
TARA PIKE

pens, and rechargeable batteries.

Other waste reduction ideas include donating unwanted clothes, furniture, books, dishes, etc., to a charity or non-profit organization. Besides helping someone, you are keeping these items out of the landfill.

Share you magazine and newspaper subscriptions with a friend or relative. One less subscription is produced and you can save money by splitting the cost.

Use e-mail to send notes and letters to friends and relatives. Ask your professor if you can e-mail your homework. If not, request to hand in papers on both sides of the paper. Write your lecture notes on both sides of the paper and print drafts out on scrap paper. At the end of the semester, save the left-over paper in your notebook for the next semester. All of these examples will save you money, too.

Reduce the amount of junk mail you receive. The average person gets 1.5 personal letters, 1.76 catalogues and 10.8 pieces of junk mail per week. The junk mail comprises the largest part of what is put in your mailbox. The total weight of junk mail in 1990 was 3.8 million tons and only about 5.2% of it was recycled. Totaled, about 1.5 billion trees are used annually for bulk mail.

If you want to get off junk mail lists, write to: Mail Preference Services, Direct Mail Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd, Street New York, NY, 10163-7227. They will put you on a suppression list that they send to direct mail com-

panies. The conscientious companies will remove you from their list. Some companies do not use the suppression list, so you may have to write them a letter and politely ask to be removed from their list. Remember, every time you order from a catalogue or get a credit card, you are on a list that is sold to other companies.

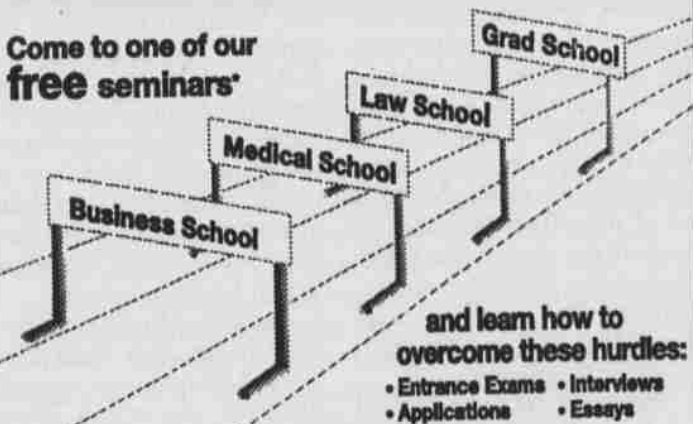
You can probably think of many other ways to reduce your waste. The key is to buy items with the least amount of packaging, use durable, repairable products instead of disposable ones, and reuse things before recycling them. You will be surprised how much waste you can reduce if you think before you buy and before you throw an item away.

If you have ideas or questions about recycling, waste reduction or any campus environmental issue write to the Office of Environmental Affairs and Community Sustainability (EACS)/Rebel Recycling Program, 4505 South Maryland Parkway, Box 4030, Las Vegas, NV, 89154-4030. Or, call 895-1630 or e-mail eacs@nevada.edu. With permission of inquirer, questions and responses will be posted on the UNLV Environmental News Gopher.

—Tara Pike is the coordinator of the Rebel Recycling Program. Her column appears bimonthly and is intended to promote environmental awareness.

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