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UNLV hosts Earth Day for 1,500 kids

by **Tracie Walker**
Staff News Writer

A myriad of children, Frisbees and electrical cars dominated the scene Wednesday at the Ninth Annual Earth Day educational festival at UNLV.

School buses from elementary and middle schools around the Las Vegas valley transported 1,500 children to the university campus.

The attractions included a pig farm, a relay race involving sorting and recycling heaps of trash and a demonstration by Nevada Power on the magnetism of electrical lines.

Participant Daniel Grossman, age 4, said, "I threw a Frisbee to the other guys, and I went to see the pigs."

"That [the pigs] was the biggest thing with him," said his mom, Pam Grossman.

"We were the number one site on campus," said Jill Combs, representative of R.C. Farms who demonstrated how animals can help recycle organic waste. Live piglets were visited and cuddled by hundreds of children.

R.C. Farms is a family owned farm with 6,000 pigs and 300 steers that have been in North Las

Vegas for 35 years.

Food scraps from the campus Dining Commons are also donated to the farm.

"They take two cubic yards per day from the D.C.," said Tara Pike, coordinator of the Rebel Recycler. She initiated the food recycling practice on campus.

She also organized the Rebel Recycler Relay, a popular booth where children faced challenges like the "newspaper toss" and the "curbside sort" at various stations.

"They kept coming back over and over and would form teams of different schools or boys against

girls," said UNLV geology major Randy Couture, volunteer.

"It was one of the few interactive booths here," Couture said.

The event has progressed and improved over the years.

"I remember when we started with five or six exhibitors at the Environmental Protection Agency parking lot," Kathy Lauckner, event organizer, said.

This year, 33 exhibitors packed out the UNLV mall grass area.

"I enjoy seeing that in the last few years, it has become more educational," John Bare, Environmental Quality Administrator for Nevada Power, said.

"Although last year's event was larger, I see that teachers are promoting the Earth Day concept in classrooms even more," Lauckner said.

"It is not a commercial fair," Lauckner said. "The purpose is to bring in kids from the community and teach them about the environment."

All participants and organizers are volunteers. Exhibitors are charged \$35, which goes towards environmental studies scholarships.

Parking enforcement and campus carpentry staff also volun-

teered their time.

"UNLV shines to show off its environmental program and its chemistry department," added Lauckner.

Gail Lucas, member of the voluntary Earth Day Steering Committee, demonstrated an electric bicycle that moved by pushing a button, not pushing pedals.

"The new technology this year is the Bombadier, an electric car that has been approved in Arizona and California," Lucas said.

It is a slower vehicle, and thus, it has no need for crash testing but must be approved for its category, she explained.

Nevada Power also does plenty to help the environment, according to Bare, including surveying new power plant sites for any endangered species, including the desert tortoise.

Plastic blockers are placed on power line poles to discourage raptors, birds of prey, from being electrocuted.

"We gave out 1,800 plastic Frisbees," said Bare. "They were made out of 100% recycled material, of course."

Also among exhibitors were Wild Oats, the Las Vegas Natural Historical Museum, Animal Rights Activists and others.

Protecting the environment



by Erik Thompson / The Rebel Yell

UNLV played host to 33 exhibitors, including the one above, for Earth Day on Wednesday.

UNLV students take home honors

By **Brad Tittington**
News Editor

Eleven UNLV students won awards at the Model United Nations of the Far West in San Francisco over the past weekend.

Lisa Ancona, Imran Anwar, Josephine Binetti, Christy Cahall, Eric Coyle, Amy Galyean, Richard Henson, Melissa Reingruber, Rebecca Richey, Michael Rose and Jennifer Simich were the team members that won awards at the competition.

The competition featured ap-

proximately 30 schools and 55 countries.

"This is the first time in recent memory that UNLV has played against two countries," Dr. Richard Moeller, faculty advisor for the Model United Nations Program, said. "None of our delegates had participated in this before. We were totally fresh and still took awards. Only 15 percent of the countries got awards and we won two."

UNLV won two awards for academic and diplomatic achieve-

ment at the competition. The competition featured role playing of an actual Model United Nations session. There were committees set up like the General Assembly and human rights and economic development, according to Moeller.

"Many of the resolutions passed at the conference were written by UNLV students," Moeller said. "We should be very proud of ourselves because only a few of the delegations got awards and we got two."

At the end of the conference, the students signed a United Nations flag and gave it to Moeller to thank him for the experience.

"They thanked me for a good time," Moeller said.

The awards add to a list of great things that students have done over the past few years at UNLV.

"It makes us look great next to all the other schools," Moeller said. "A lot of schools only played one country, we played two."

This was Moeller's first year as advisor for the group and already has brought home two more prestigious awards to UNLV.

UNLV looking for Ultimate Rebel Fan

By **Brad Tittington**
News Editor

The UNLV Sports Marketing Department is looking for the Ultimate Rebel Football Fan to be featured in their 1998 Rebel Football Advertising Campaign.

"We feel that there is an ultimate fan out there somewhere waiting to be uncovered," UNLV Marketing Manager Julie Santiago said. "We want to reward them for one and display them in our advertising."

The winner will receive four 1998 Rebel Football season tickets, a sideline pass to the season home opener on September 12 against Air Force, dinner at coach Jeff Horton's house, a Rebel Football replica jersey and will be featured in the 1998 Rebel Football advertising campaign.

"We'd like to feature him or her in our advertising," Santiago said. "They are going to receive something that we think the ultimate fan would find valuable."

The sports marketing department is looking for a one page description of the candidate's Rebel spirit and a recent picture.

"We've asked for a one page description on how long they've been a Rebel fan, how they have showed their support for the Rebels, why they love them and how they prove their Rebel spirit," Santiago said. "It will take a little of their creativity for this."

Horton has given his support for the idea.

"Coach Horton loves the idea and is doing some radio shows in the morning," Santiago said. "He is a great marketing person as well as a great coach. He wants to thank everyone that supports the Rebels."

The idea for the Ultimate Rebel Fan came about in the past few weeks as the sports marketing department thought of a way to thank their supporters.

"We wanted to develop this concept of the Ultimate Rebel Fan," Santiago said. "We felt that we had a lot of value in our product last year. If we take this Rebel Fan, it shows the whole value. Instead of randomly picking someone, we get someone who truly does portray those ideas."

Entries are to be sent to the UNLV Sports Marketing Department c/o Ultimate Rebel Football Fan, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 450002, Las Vegas, NV 89154-0002 or dropped off at the UNLV Sports Marketing Office in the Thomas and Mack Center Room 70.

All entries must be received by May 1 and the winner will be selected by a panel of judges and announced on May 5.

For more information call Santiago at 895-3781 or Paula Pettit at 895-1945.

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