

Paper, string and other odd things

Recycling 'breaks even' at Rice, UH

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

Students at other Texas universities have been successful in starting recycling programs, though they do not make a profit. Programs at both Rice University and at the University of Houston manage to break even while conserving resources by recycling waste.

The center at Rice University recycles newspaper, glass and both aluminum and tin cans, said Tony Palmer, manager of the program.

"We place bins on the ground floor of each of our eight colleges for students," he said. "And we have a building where the public can drop off their material."

Palmer said since Rice is located next to the medical center they get a lot of material from people on their way to work.

They do not pay for contributions, but Palmer said, "People are real friendly about bringing it. Some even crush their beer cans for us. They're really glad there's a place to recycle it."

All the profit goes to upkeep of

their half-ton pickup and labor costs.

"We just got in the clear from our building costs this summer," he said. "We were working out of a little storage shed, but last year we had to buy a new metal building."

The recycling program at Rice employs seven students. Four of them are on a work-study program, in which the federal government pays 80 percent of their wages. The other three are paid entirely out of the program's profits.

"With out the work-study program, we couldn't make it. We couldn't even break even," Palmer said.

The students work 5-10 hours a week and are paid \$3 to \$4.50 per hour.

Most of the work involves cleaning and sorting, Palmer said. "We have to keep the place neat or people will start bringing other trash out there."

"During finals when there are less workers some people bring things like old lawn mowers, freezers, parts of cars, vacuum

cleaners and household trash. "If they see the place all junked up they are more likely to bring out other types of trash," Palmer said.

"One of the worst jobs is going through the bottles to take off all the metal caps and rings. I have never failed to get out doing that job."

Palmer said the glass companies are "very picky" about metal, and they also have to separate colored glass from clear.

In the past the center lost money on glass because of the labor involved, but glass prices recently went up from 1 cent to 1.5 cents a pound. Palmer said now they may even be making a little profit on the glass.

Class also poses a problem because it weighs so much. "We got a special dolly because sometimes those 55-gallon drums weigh 450 pounds," he said. "But we try to keep it down to 300 pounds a barrel."

Another problem in their program is fluctuating prices for recyclable materials. "In one afternoon the price of paper dropped

50 cents per hundred pounds," the director said.

Rice's program was started about six or seven years ago as a small break-even operation by a few students.

Palmer credits the president of Rice University, Norman Hackerman, for supporting the center.

"He had a lot to do with letting us get started. He is really all for it," Palmer said.

"I even saw President Hackerman himself riding a bicycle with a stack of newspapers for the center."

The University of Houston's program is set up a little differently, said Larry Gonzales, a worker in the UH recycling center.

They have seven satellite points in churches, schools and parks where citizens can drop off their recyclable materials, in addition to a building on campus.

The UH program has only three employees, and two of them are on the work-study program. The other is paid by the UH student association. However, UH

does not have the sorting and cleaning problems that Rice has.

"We make it plain that we want all of that done completely. People at one point used to leave caps on the bottles and we asked them to please remove them."

"We haven't had any trouble since," Gonzales said.

The UH center gets about two tons of recyclable material a week, and about 60 percent of that is newsprint.

The building is from the university and a bookstore donated a van.

Gonzales said the only trouble they have is getting people to work during the summer and during semester changes.

"But we work very closely with the fraternities and they get their pledge people to help us out," he said.

"Sometimes we have 'trash bashes' where we provide the beer for a party if they will help us out."

Gonzales said sometimes the fraternities get together to see who can donate the most beer cans.

A&M recycling...

(Continued from page 1.)

The mission does not pay contributors for the recyclable material and all the profits go for labor costs and to support the mission.

"The recycling center is mainly to give the alcoholics housed here something to do," Barnes said.

The City of College Station accepted newsprint for recycling until about a year ago, said George Ford, director of public services. The city stopped taking the paper because the price given for newsprint did not cover the cost of transporting it to Houston.

"People are still bringing us paper, though, and I guess it's our fault," he said. "We haven't publicized the fact that we quit recycling. We had hoped the recycling industry would improve."

The director said the city takes the paper it receives to the city landfill. "We haven't actually turned down any paper, but we'd like to discourage anyone from bringing any more."

Coors Central Inc. of 1501 Independence Avenue pays 17 cents a pound for aluminum cans. About 24 cans make a pound.

It receives about 16,500 pounds of cans a day, said John Echols, a Coors' warehouseman. Coors crushes the cans and sends them to Alcoa Aluminum in Houston, he said.

While other types of paper sell for \$30 a ton, newsprint sells for only \$12 a ton, said Dora Swindler of Delta Paper Stock, a Houston recycling company.

Since much of the recycled paper is used to make roofing and sheetrock, the price of newsprint depends mainly on the building industry, Swindler said.

"It's hard to believe, vngqHouston, but the building industry

economy is depressed in the rest of the nation," she said.

Another reason for the drop in prices is the federal government's change in insulation specifications. Newsprint had been used to make insulation, but it has been banned in the United States.

"It's a good thing the specifications were changed though," she said. "They were filling people's attics with flammable material."

Newsprint can also be sent to deinking companies for re-use as paper, but the specifications are stricter. No magazines or color comic sections can be used because they contain contaminants that can ruin an entire run of recycled paper.

Although no glass recycling centers are in Bryan-College Station, plants are in Houston, Waco, Waxahatchie and Palestine.

An industrial engineer for Anchor Hocking Corp. said that when glass is recycled, 100 percent of it can be used. When sand is melted about 15-20 percent is lost.

"It takes about 10 percent less gas to recycle rather than start from sand," he said.

Anchor is a Houston glass recycling corporation.

Bank charges zoo employees, buyer

Felony charges have been filed in justice of the Peace B.H. Dewey's court against two former employees of Exotic Wildlife Unlimited and a California animal breeder who had been negotiating to buy the property from its present owner, the Bank of A&M.

Bank officials have charged Patricia May with theft by appropriation. May had been living and working at the property while trying to buy it. She was forced to leave the property last Friday when the bank received a no trespass injunction

against her.

Charges of misapplication of fiduciary property were filed against two former employees, Bill Calfee and John Forgie. The bank filed the charges last week.

The charges against the two men involve misapplication of gate receipts, a bank spokesman said. The charge against May includes the alleged theft of a \$200 metal cage.

The spokesman also said that May had called a local veterinarian and said she owned the compound. She asked his help in having three

cougars destroyed.

The veterinarian, Dr. Tommy Cargill, had no comment on the charge.

Statements made by a local game warden claiming that the bank was selling animals to a hunting ranch at Kerrville to be killed for sport were also denied by bank officials.

The ranch owner, Charles Schreiner IV, said the animals will either be resold or used as hunting stock. He declined to say what animals had been purchased.

TAMU graduate named ambassador to Mauritius

Dr. Samuel R. Gammon, a Brazos County native and Texas A&M University graduate, has been named United States ambassador to Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island nation.

The career diplomat, formerly the number two minister at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, joined the Foreign Service in 1954. A member of Texas A&M's Class of 1944, Gammon served in World War II and the Korean War, was awarded a doctorate in history from Princeton University and taught history for two years at Emory University prior to joining the Foreign Service.

His father, Professor Emeritus Samuel R. Gammon, was head of the History Department at Texas A&M from 1925 to 1955, and the family lived on the campus during Gammon's youth.

Calling himself a "campus brat," Gammon said he plans to visit with his father and many of his former campus friends and classmates during a trip here Nov. 2 through 10. He reports to Mauritius at the end of November.

Gammon's Foreign Service career has included tours in Italy, France, Ethiopia and two assignments in Washington, D.C. He was one of the key American diplomats in the Vietnam War peace negotiations in Paris, where he served three and a half years.

Mauritius, a member of the Commonwealth, lies 500 miles east of Madagascar, 20 degrees south of the Equator. Encircled by coral reefs and the blue-green Indian Ocean, Gammon said Mauritius' 1 million population has been dependent on its single crop, sugar, which covers 90 percent of the island's 790 square miles—approximately 1.4 times larger than Brazos County.

Gammon said hotel developments next to the lush sandy beaches are turning the country into a tourist mecca.

The United States first staffed the island in 1794, and opened an embassy 10 years ago when Mauritius won its independence.

Gammon has served as the international vice president on the Texas

A&M Association of Former Students board of directors the past two years. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1946, after being called to active duty in World War II through the entire Class of 1944.

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