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Photo by Harry Esteve

Edward Sparks of Publishers Paper Company and paper dealer Steiner Urdahl relay bad news at the Association of Oregon Recyclers' annual convention.

Recyclers continue despite market drop

By HARRY ESTEVE
Of the Emerald

Recyclers received a blast of bad news from both private industry and the federal government at their annual convention last weekend.

But gloomy market reports and indications that the federal government is trashing its recycling program did not seem to faze the 178 recyclers who attended the conference.

Jeff Detlefsen, the only Environmental Protection Agency employee now assigned to source separation recycling (sorting recyclables at home) in Washington, D.C., told recyclers the EPA has shifted its emphasis away from municipal waste to hazardous waste.

"That's where the interest is and that's where the money is going," Detlefsen said.

Detlefsen, a University law school graduate who initiated paper recycling on this campus, said his current job is to dismantle the federal source separation program.

"This means no more grant money, no more technical assistance," he said.

To those attending the conference, the announcement of funding cut-offs came as no surprise.

Before Detlefsen's remarks, paper and aluminum company representatives warned that markets for used newsprint and aluminum were dwindling.

Speaking on behalf of the Publishers Paper Company, Edward Sparks said the current slump in the housing industry was hurting the paper recycling

industry as well.

Recycled newspaper is used to make both insulation and backing paper used in housing construction, but Sparks said that recycling provides more old newsprint than paper manufacturers can use.

"If all the dreams and the goals of everybody in here were met, there would be a horrendous amount of paper available," added independent paper broker Steinar Urdahl.

Reactions to the statements by Detlefsen and the industry representatives varied.

While some insisted market conditions for recycled materials are better than aluminum and paper industry representatives say they are, others stressed the importance of economic independence among recyclers.

"I think the key is getting the (trash) hauler required to do recycling," said Al Hansen of Yamhill Valley Recyclers.

Hansen said he thought it was time for small, non-profit recyclers to be replaced by private companies already in the business of waste collection.

The non-profit recyclers would then act as "watchdogs" to make sure private garbage haulers were sorting and recycling the collected material.

"The problem is that (non-profit recyclers) die out. They can't sustain the interest and participation, and they can't sustain the economics," Hansen said.

The Association of Oregon Recyclers sponsored the three-day convention.

Student apathy scolded

Few view Olum induction

By DANE CLAUSSEN
Of the Emerald

Apathy was evident Sunday when few students besides those from student government, the press, the Student University Relations Committee, the band, and the choir were in attendance for University Pres. Paul Olum's inauguration, ASUO pres. Rich Wilkins says.

But after scolding students for not attending, Wilkins also provides a few excuses for the dearth of students at the historical event.

Wilkins, an inaugural committee member, says the inauguration was a "cultural event" students should not have missed. He also says "there were a lot of things said in the addresses that are important."

"I don't know why there weren't more students there," Wilkins says, speculating that students must not have thought they were invited to the ceremony.

Besides general apathy, Wilkins says that many students simply did not know about the event, despite publicity by the ASUO and coverage by the Emerald.

It is difficult to attract students to Sunday afternoon activities, Wilkins adds. He says many students are going through school as quickly as possible and are not taking time to be involved in organizations or attend activities.

Acting Provost Richard Hill, who served as the master of ceremonies at the inauguration, says he saw only 30 to 40 students at the reception, but he says he was nonetheless pleased with the total attendance of 1,000 at the Sunday event.

"Apathy is high on our priority list," Wilkins says. He explains that the event designed for high student attendance must be popular with a very large percentage of the students and then promoters must "flood the campus with information about it."

"You're still not going to get more than 50 percent to any event," Wilkins concludes. "It comes down to the me-ism period," he adds, explaining that while a self-centered philosophy has its good points, it makes for thin crowds at events such as last weekend's.

Wilkins recalls that only 150 to 200 students attended two rallies at the state legislature last year, although the legislation in question affected the entire student body.

Wilkins, who says he was upset when the Incidental Fee Committee refused to fund refreshments for an ASUO sponsored reception Sunday, says the funds came from street fair profits.

"The faculty made a good showing," Wilkins adds. Approximately half were in attendance.

Hill also expressed pleasure at the number of faculty who chose to attend the inauguration.

Prof blasts accepted education

Proposed ideal method exposes common myths

By BRIAN BUBAK
Of the Emerald

"The constant condition of a human being is educability," said Dr. Dominic La Russo, University professor of rhetorical theory, in a speech sponsored by the Campus Interfaith Ministry Monday night.

La Russo identified several myths that plague education as forces that degrade the character of education.

The first of these myths "Education is fun," according to La Russo.

He cited the popular children's television show "Sesame Street" as a prime example. Such programs "impede... and interfere with education," he said.

"The child expects all learning experiences will be fun... and all educators will be Big Bird."

La Russo said that education should be an "agony and ecstasy" experience.

He called the idea that education is motivated and controlled by others another falsehood. La Russo suggested each person must search deep within themselves for their own motivation, adding that if this myth were true all students would soon become slaves of the educational system.

La Russo blasted another theory he claims is held by people who declare that education is not "the process of learning to make a living."

La Russo added the notion of a "value-free education" was totally false and said the exchange of values is a direct result of the educational system.

La Russo identified the main confusion in the present educational system as the utilization of methods resembling classical conditioning. He stressed that educators and students must both look beyond this narrow view in order to make their educational experience work.

Dr. La Russo presented his idea of educa-



Photo by Bob Baker

Dominic La Russo

tional utopia as a system where a person is never too old to learn.

Another key component of his ideal educational model is a completely reciprocal relationship between educator and student.

"We furnish an atmosphere of learning," he said, while students are expected to bring a sense of self-discipline.

When both these goals are met, "we stand together to create a thing of beauty," he said.

La Russo concluded by theorizing that education is "close to the divine."