



## University

# Job keeps recycler busy, happy

By Marina Swain Emerald Contributor

There's an awful lot of paper shuffled about the University, and unfortunately most of it used to end up in the trash.

Not so anymore. As the primary transporter of Pearl Buck Recycling, Jon Davis puts in long days making sure used paper gets used again rather than burdening landfills.

"What I'm doing is trying to preserve the planet," Davis said of his new-found vocation. "It's nice to know I can support myself while doing it."

The Pearl Buck Recycling program, which was initiated in August 1989, picked up where the University's Physical Plant left off. Recycling bins where people often tossed polystyrene foam or other non-recyclable junk were replaced by separate containers for specific paper types. The old system run by the University was inefficient and wasteful, Davis ex-

lained.

"They've had to change their style." Davis said of the University community and their recycling habits. Under Davis' direction, the paper grades are separated at the source, which cuts down on the labor and increases the paper's value when selling it back to the industry to process. As a non-profit organization. Pearl Buck Recycling depends on money generated by used paper sales to maintain

his pick-up truck to collect recyclable material from various bars. Later he moved to Oregon to begin his "life-long dream" of organic farming.

"Having that kind of dream in a San Antonio environment is not real good for that happening." Davis said of his cross-country move.

After years of living an alternative farming lifestyle in rural Oregon, Davis found his way to Eugene and the Pearl Buck Re-

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- Jon Davis

the program.

Davis has been a long time advocate of recycling. He founded a program in his native San Antonio, Texas, using cycling program.

"It's really nice to make an income, and still know you're doing something you don't feel morally compromised about." Davis said.

As the sole driver for the recycling program. Davis often puts in more than 40 hours a week in his light blue van serving more than 200 offices on campus.

History department secretary Catherine Heising said she looks forward to Davis' weekly visits. "He chats a little bit and that helps a lot to have personal

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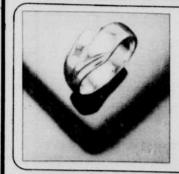
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