

# EMU cuts back on waste

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Associate Editor

The EMU Skylight-to-Go's trash cans are now emptier because of a move to use china plates and metal utensils.

The wastebaskets of many University staff members are also emptier because they and their colleagues can now opt to send out fewer copies of memos.

The Environmental Issues Committee is the force behind these two changes.

Karyn Kaplan, campus recycler at the Physical Plant, said the committee represents a "grass-roots" effort to make a change.

"It's a pro-active group," Kaplan said. "It's very progressive. It's a positive opportunity for staff, faculty and administrators to come together to work on the issues that concern everyone."

Skylight-to-Go stopped using paper plates and plastic utensils on a trial basis early this year, said Dennis Carr, EMU food service director. The EMU sub-committee prompted the change, which EMU food service employees had discussed.

Carr said EMU food service considered using reusable eating ware to cut back on paper costs. EMU food service saves about \$260 a week. But Carr said he is well aware of the environmental message the food service is sending to students.

"It's a way of doing what I call pre-cycling," Carr said. "If you can use a plastic mug instead of a paper cup, or a china plate instead of a paper plate, you engage in a thoughtful avoidance of disposals."

Starting this past July, faculty were given the option of whether to send out memos to every staff member, Kaplan

said. Faculty can now choose to send only three memos to each department. Departments can post the memos to guarantee all staff members see them.

The committee also convinced the Campus Copy Center to copy all materials brought in by faculty on 100-percent unbleached recycled paper, unless the professors request otherwise, Kaplan said.

"The purpose is to create a healthy environment for the campus community and a forum for troubleshooting major campus environmental issues," Kaplan said.

Brian Hoop, who was ASUO University affairs coordinator last year, and Alexandra Foote, last year's Student Recycling program director, thought up the idea for an environmental issues committee.

Hoop said few students are probably aware of what the committee does, but it is having an impact on campus.

"It's a really low-key committee that does little things," Hoop said. "But accumulatively, they're making a big difference in the quality of life on campus."

Dan Williams, vice president for administration, said he implemented Hoop and Foote's idea and created the Environmental Issues Committee a year ago.

"A number of these issues have been concerns of other groups," Williams said. "The purpose of the committee was to serve as an umbrella to these groups. I think it's served that purpose."

The committee is made up of five sub-committees addressing issues such as pesticides, alternative transportation, waste reduction, energy and the EMU, Kaplan said.

# Northern exposure

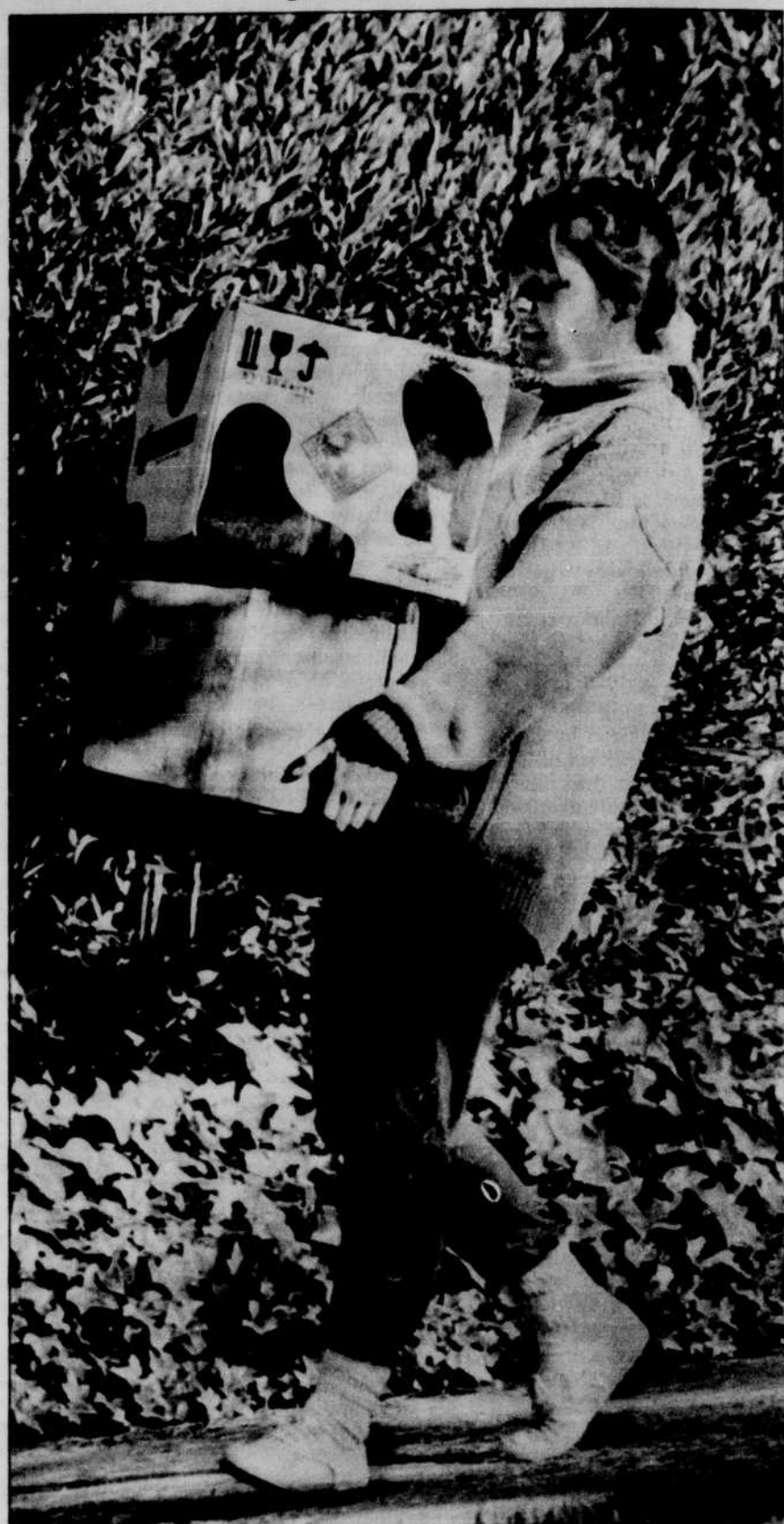


Photo by Jeff Paslay

University freshman Heidi Niedermeger carries boxes that came from her hometown of King Salmon, Alaska. Niedermeger sent her computer and clothes by mail before flying to Eugene.

## CORRECTION

In an article about the University Telefund printed in the Oct. 5 *Emerald*, Ann Koelling, the University program manager for telephone outreach, was misquoted in the story and an enlarged display quote.

Koelling said the telephone operators "ask for alumni to comment and

give suggestions regarding the University of Oregon. We do listen to those comments and pass them on to the deans and the president."

The *Emerald* regrets the error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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