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Recycling to update sorting methods

The Campus Recycling program will be switching to collect-all containers to encourage recycling

By Caron Alarab
Senior News Reporter

Every term for the past two years, junior Quintin Bauer has sorted the campus soda bottles from the cans and the newspapers from the term papers.

And he loves every minute of it. "This is probably the best job I can think of right now," the Campus Recycling employee said.

Bauer is just one of 40 students who collect and sort campus recyclables, which need to be trash free for Campus Recycling to sell them in bulk.

"Probably everything you get is gonna have a little trash in it," Bauer added. "But lots of times the recycling is right by a garbage can."

Bauer said he has become "kind of obsessed" with recycling through his job, which is why he doesn't mind sorting through all-purpose recycling cans.

"It's really not that big of a deal," he said. "And people recycle more that way than if they had to sort it themselves."

Environmental Resource and Recycling Program Manager Karyn Kaplan said the program has shifted more toward the "collect-all system" for that exact reason: to encourage recycling. Although sorted containers, such as the one outside the Buzz Coffeehouse, may seem to make the sorter's job easier, Kaplan said the single bins that allow for multiple types of recycling will soon dominate the campus.

"(Sorted bins) are scheduled to be upgraded soon," she said. "We just don't have room for them."

Despite the manpower that goes into the process of sorting recyclables, Kaplan said the biggest and most consistent problems with campus



Lauren Wimer Photographer

Campus Recycling employee Quintin Bauer is one of 40 students who collects and sorts recyclables.

recycling are "high contamination levels," a result of the trash and food waste thrown in the mix.

"Either these people are not discerning recycling from trash cans, or they just don't care," Student Recycling Coordinator Jeff Ziglinski said. "Ideally, everyone would put everything in the appropriate containers."

One way the program has handled the problem is by strategically placing recycling bins next to garbage cans. By making the recycling option more accessible, Kaplan said bin placement has significantly reduced contamination levels on campus.

"We sort everything and we get paid for that because our recycling is really clean," she said.

Once all the paper, plastic, aluminum and glass recyclables have been sorted on campus, each

contamination-free material is sold in bulk to one of several local and statewide companies. Hence, while recycled cans are marketed to an aluminum dealer, color paper gets turned into a pulp for environmentally friendly toilet paper. All glass and plastic is dealt to BRING Recycling, one of the nation's oldest non-profit recyclers, according to <http://www.bringrecycling.org>.

"So we just get it to the appropriate materials brokers, and they market it," Kaplan added.

Local garbage and recycling collector Sanipac uses a system similar to the University's "collect-all system," which is called "co-mingling," Kaplan said. The company recently switched from boxes with separate compartments for different items to all-purpose recycling bins because too many

Eugeneans failed to sort their recyclables properly.

Instead of using trucks that hold separate containers, Sanipac now puts all recyclable materials into one container, ships it to Portland and leaves the rest to a central team of sorters and a conveyor belt.

Because the University does not take cardboard, food cans and light plastic recycling in its bins like Sanipac does, Kaplan said students can sometimes get confused and put the wrong recyclables in campus containers.

"This brings up an issue for us because recycling options are inconsistent (from the city to campus)," Kaplan said. "People really need to pay attention to the different rules."

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Graduates help kids get quality education

Teach for America offers the chance to help underprivileged students at schools nationwide

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

Years ago, a few University students walked by an information table in the EMU lobby that would change their lives forever.

This week, those former students are back to recruit others for Teach For America, a two-year program that sends college graduates to teach in low-income, rural and urban communities nationwide.

University graduate and Teach For America alumnus Quinton Vance, who walked by the Teach for America information table seven years ago, is now the principal of a South Bronx middle school in New York City.

"It takes a very open-minded person to go into teaching as a young person and make the kind of changes you want to make," he said.

Currently, 24 University graduates are in the Teach For America program, working throughout the country to help underprivileged children get a good education. A total of about 3,200 corps members work in 20 low-income, rural and urban communities.

Teachers are paid a salary through the school district where they are located and generally receive health benefits and insurance.

University graduate Sam Myers, one of the program's campaign coordinators on campus, said the goal for the 2004-2005 school year is to hire 2,000 new teachers nationally, including 20 from the University.

"They look for people with leadership experience (and) volunteer experience.

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New state law mandates motorists stop for pedestrians

According to Senate Bill 315, motorists can receive a ticket for failing to stop and remain stopped for pedestrians

By Lisa Catto
News Reporter

Drivers must say good-bye to rolling stops at crosswalks and intersections if a pedestrian is crossing the street, according to a new Oregon law that took effect Jan. 1.

The Oregon Legislature passed

Senate Bill 315 last session, also known as the "Stop and Stay Stopped" bill, which changes a previous law dictating what motorists can do at crosswalks.

The major change the law brings is the chance of a ticket for failing to stop and remain stopped. A motorist can be ticketed when he or she does not remain still while a pedestrian is crossing an area without a traffic control device, such as a stop sign.

However, drivers do not have to stop for a pedestrian on the other side of an island.

Drivers are required to stop for

pedestrians when making a turn, whether it is a one-way or two-way street.

Many other amendments in the bill replace the words "yield the right of way to" with "remain stopped for" pedestrians.

Currently the base fine for violating the new law is \$140, but depending on how the Eugene City Council votes in the next few weeks, it could be raised to \$237.

EPD spokeswoman Pam Olshanski said EPD is seeking clarification on the bill specific to controlled intersections

and at which point motorists are able to proceed when a pedestrian passes.

In the meantime, EPD will still enforce the law.

"We have an obligation to enforce the laws in place," she said. "If an officer sees a public safety issue, they will certainly enforce it."

Willamette Pedestrian Coalition co-President Linda Baker said that WPC founding member Ellen Vanderslice has been working for the legislative change since 1993.

"We're very concerned about pedestrian fatalities and making a more

pedestrian-friendly state," Baker said.

State Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, has sponsored the bill in each legislative session since 1997 to make these changes. A version of the bill went through the Oregon Senate in 2001, but it didn't make it past the Oregon House.

The successful bill in the 2003 legislative session was co-sponsored by Sens. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin; Rick Metsger, D-Mt. Hood; John Minnis, R-Fairview; and Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland.

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