

One fish, two fish



Photos by Heather Glenboski/DN

ABOVE: CONRAD AND SPENCER SCOTT meet the Cat in the Hat for the first time. Children could make art projects, have pictures taken with the Cat in the Hat or hear Dr. Seuss stories being read as part of the party.

LEFT: HOPE ELLEN WEHLING and Matthew Speich paint their faces on Thursday night at the Read Across America Celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday at the Lincoln Children's Museum. The face-painting booth is one of many different activities the museum offers.

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Recycling coordinator scrutinizes UNL trash

DUMPSTER from page 1

Once the university had recycling programs in place for those materials, Ekart and others at the university began to take a closer look at other items they were throwing away.

Now, thanks to Ekart's Dumpster dives and suggestions by students, faculty and staff, the university has become more creative with the materials it recycles.

Ekart said a recommendation by the library staff led to the implementation of a recycling program for hard-bound books.

The Division of Continuing Studies recommended that foam peanuts be recycled.

In addition, computer monitors, toner cartridges and fluorescent light tubes are all recycled.

In addition to improving campus recycling, Ekart's Dumpster dives also have helped make the UNL campuses safer.

John Marker, interim director of Landscape Services, said several years ago, the university began to place locks on Dumpsters that may contain hazardous materials, such as sharp branches or even hypodermic needles.

The locks were intended to keep people in search of cans and other items from entering the Dumpsters, he said.

Marker said he knew some of the Dumpsters needed to be locked before Ekart began examining campus trash.

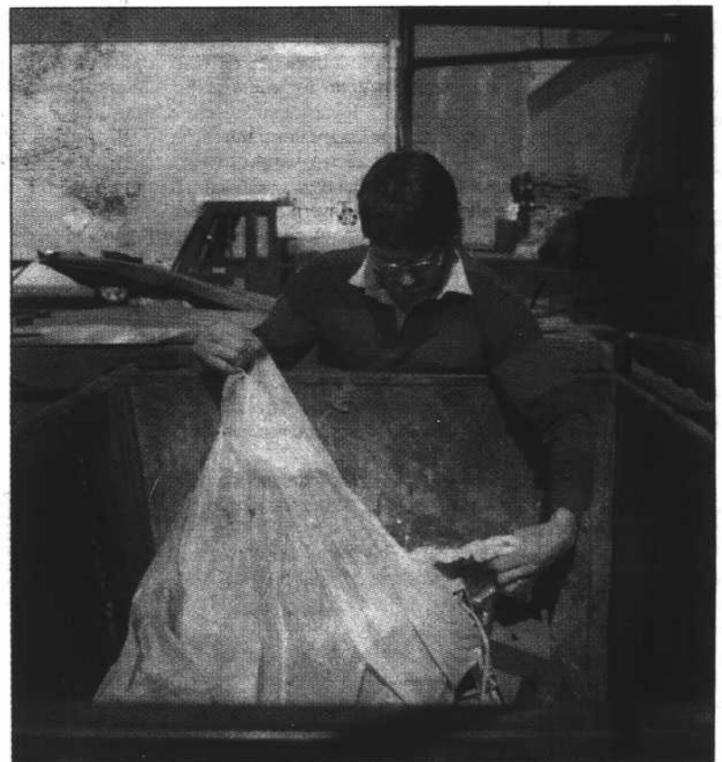
"The trash audit information made it easier to choose which Dumpsters we needed to take action with," Marker said.

Ekart said he is glad to know his job has helped make a difference on the UNL campuses.

But he said there is another bonus to his job — the stuff he finds in the trash.

"I've found animals both dead and alive, brand-new items and even money," Ekart said. "Your imagination probably can't cover everything I've seen."

Ekart said several times he has



Heather Glenboski/DN

DALE EKART SPENDS two weeks each semester sorting through the trash of every building on campus, looking for the "good stuff," meaning recyclables. His mission is to find the percentage of trash the UNL community recycles.

"One man accidentally threw away 30 years worth of research."

Dale Ekart
UNL recycling coordinator

even found items of value. "One man accidentally threw away 30 years worth of research," Ekart said.

After receiving a panicked phone call from the researcher and digging through a dumpster, the lost research was found.

Despite all the interesting things Ekart encounters in the garbage, he said he hopes he doesn't have to

spend much more time Dumpster diving.

Ekart said he hopes the university eventually recycles enough of its garbage that he is no longer needed.

"I'd like to work myself out of a job," he said.

Until then, though, he's planning to continue to work on making the university a more environmentally friendly place.

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