Penn State to recycle majority of trash

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

Behind the leadership of Professor Thomas Winter, the Penn State campus at Lehman will recycle 75% of all its recyclable material starting this September. Penn State faculty, staff members and students on campus have indicated great enthusiasm, willingness to help and cooperate in the comprehensive recycling program. Winter has been assisted by a committee of Priscilla Allison, John Baloga, Wayne Felty and Al Miller.

Recycling is not new to Winter, who has had a long-standing interest in it since he was a graduate student in 1968 in Wisconsin and later involved locally with the Wilkes-Barre effort.

To place emphasis on the benefits of recycling, Professor Winter and some of the students have one day's collection of campus recyclables on display in the science

The trash from the four buildings on campus for one day was inventoried, then divided into general categories; various papers, magazines, aluminum cans, and glass.All of the above collected had a value of approximately \$229.

The committee has determined local markets for as many items as possible collected on campus and

found three local outlets for the items; Solomon Industries, Wilkes-Barre, Allan Industries, Wilkes-Barre, and Tabit Bros., Larksville.

Winter estimates an annual total savings to the campus of about \$4,900, with income from the sale of recyclables based on current prices at \$1,226.87, and savings from lower trash hauling costs of \$3,700. Since current prices paid for most items are at historical lows, income could be higher in the future.

Winter has also calculated expenses involved for campus recycling; including a one time cost of \$3,500 for a 12x16x8 ft. building for temporary storage and sorting, 100 to 150 containers at \$3.00 each to accommodate discarded office paper and envelopes, and about 20 containers, each labled for cans, glass, and paper towels.

The regular maintenance staff would periodically empty the recycling containers into clear plastic bags or boxes; a student recycling assistant would be responsible for sorting, crushing boxes and generally maintaining order in the recycling building and also checking recycling containers. Winter estimates this cost at 20 hours weekly at \$4.50 per hour for 38 weeks or a total of \$3,400 annually. As an alternate plan two students could be hired at half time each. Winter and Wayne Felty would assist in



RECYCLING TO START— Professor Tom Winter stands by the trash picked up by students for recycling in just one day on the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus. (C.M. Denmon Photo)

Trucking is estimated at \$165

Total continuing expense annually

would be approximately \$3,600. Effective total gross income (sales and avoided landfill costs of \$4,900 less the expense of \$3,600) leaves a net income of \$1,300

annually. Winter believes it is fitting that the students and employees develop an awareness of waste-management issues and learn the advantages of recycling; to minimize the the professor said.

landfill burden, save energy and in turn reduce air and water pollution, conserve materials and reduce

Professor Winter has long been an advocate of conserving resources and he practices recycling at home just as he initiates it for the campus. He looks forward to the future when there could be 95 percent recycling. "The day of conserving our environment is here, not tomorrow nor next year,'

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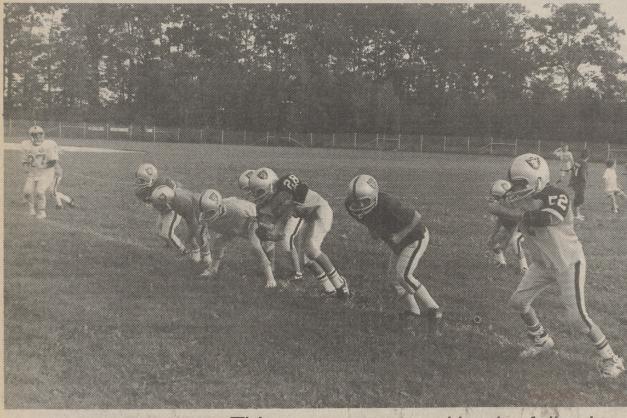
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