

Organization starts Dump and Run on campus

By LINDSAY SINKOVICH
Jambar Reporter

Ever wonder what happens to all the leftover "junk" in the dorms during spring move-out?

Jim Petuch, YSU Recycling Program manager, said, "100 cubic yards of material is discarded annually during YSU move-out — enough to fill an 18-wheeler in just three days."

Among the materials discarded are reusable items such as blankets, linens, clothing

and shoes, which should never end up in a landfill, said Petuch.

Traditionally, Bill Sperlazza, associate director of Housing Services, rents large rollover bins from the BFI at an estimated cost of more than \$800 to rid of all of the items left over from move-out.

This year, Petuch and Sperlazza are working with the non-profit organization Dump and Run to plan a comprehensive reuse and recycle campaign for the May 2002 move-out.

Dump and Run is a national environmental organization founded by Lisa Heller. Heller started the organization while she was a student at the University of Richmond. The organization's goal is to recover the reusable materials left over at residence halls to reduce the amount of solid waste that pollutes landfills.

Petuch said the organization then sells the materials for reuse and donates all proceeds to local charities. Any material leftover is donated to such

charities as Goodwill and Meridian Services.

YSU is the first university in Ohio to work with Dump and Run. Other participating universities include Columbia University of New York, Acadia University in Canada and Appalachian State University of North Carolina.

"YSU is around the 20th university to participate," Heller said.

She said some of the more unusual items left behind included "a kitchen sink and a

red spandex shirt with fake fur cuffs."

Andrea Sand, junior, nursing, and resident of Buechner Hall, said, "I think it is a great idea, but what about valuable items the students may forget?"

Jennifer Martin, junior, music education, and resident assistant of Kilcawley House, said, "During move-out, everyone is helping out to make sure nothing valuable is

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left behind. The rooms are checked by other roommates, and the RA's go around with a checklist."

Heller said, "[We] have a system to take care of that. In my experience only one or two students have contacted [me], and they have had immediate access to their things."

The project holds numerous environmental advantages of reducing solid waste; Petuch said he hopes to "save trash-handling costs for the university while instilling the "reuse" ethic into students and

the YSU community."

Sperlazza said, "In joining the campaign with Dump and Run, the \$800 price tag of BFI will significantly decrease."

Petuch and Sperlazza urge students to volunteer for the actual move-out from May 9 to 11. Volunteers can work as little as an hour a day or as much as several hours each day.

All volunteer service hours will count toward hours for various campus organizations.

Interested volunteers may call Jim Petuch at (330) 742-2294.