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Recycling maniacs duke it out

Friendly competition promotes recycling, waste reduction

By BRANDON MCCOY / Aggie News Writer

With college residence and dining halls producing anywhere from 30 to 70 percent of campus trash, UC Davis is out to prove it is one of the most environmentally friendly campuses in the nation.

Along with 48 other universities, UCD is participating for the first time in a national recycling competition called RecycleMania. UC Berkeley is the only other school in California that will compete in the environmental challenge.

The friendly competition, which is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WasteWise Program, began Jan. 30 and will run until Apr. 9.

RecycleMania was started by the University of Ohio and Miami University in February 2001 as a way to increase recycling in the residence halls and dining commons.

UCD's involvement this year was coordinated by members of the R4 Recycling Program, an educational recycling advocacy unit of the UCD Grounds Division.

The competition, which centers on a March Madness-like tournament among the colleges, accepts paper, cans, bottles, and cardboard.

There are two fields of the competition, the Per Capita Classic, which records the pounds of recyclables per residence hall student, and the Recycling Rate Competition, which calculates the fraction of recycled materials over total campus waste to find the campus' recycling percentage.

The Per Capita Classic is open to students living in the Segundo and Tercero residence halls while the Recycling Rate Competition is open to all students.

Recyclables are collected in the residence halls via designated carts, which are emptied once a week and reported to R4, according to R4 staff assistant and RecycleMania coordinator Tiffany Louie.

The Recycling Rate Competition, which is an optional addition for this year, entails that schools report the weight of trash generated on-campus in addition to the recycling weight, according to the RecycleMania web site.