

THE HEADLINER



Network Cable Systems, Omaha Works

August 1995

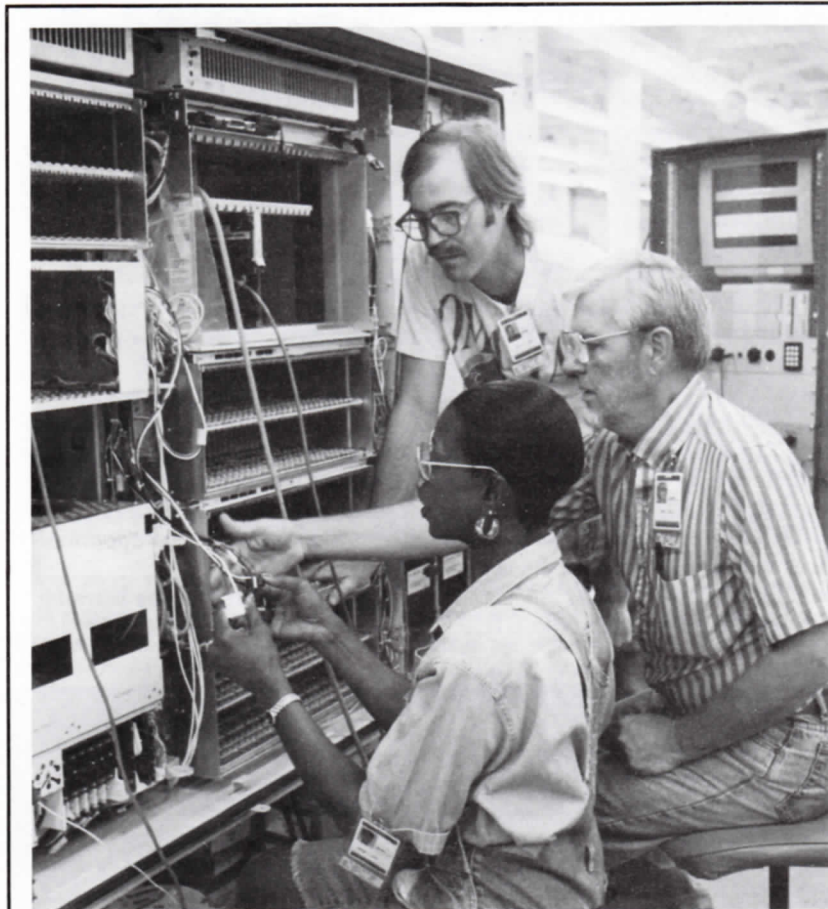


Photo by Linda Ryan

Room to grow the business

The 80-type cabinet shop is expanding and revamping its floor space, and just in time, too. The shop is working on a large order for US West, which calls for the manufacture and delivery of a total of 550 80A and 80D cabinets by the end of the year. One final assembly line is dedicated to making cabinets solely to fill the order, while another final assembly line is committing half of its time. Final assembly on the 80-types for US West is being done in the northwest corner of Building 30, an area that was vacated by D-station wire operations (now located in Building 50). The IBU (23H) has added employees to each of its three shifts to fill the order on time and to meet a general increase in demand for 80-type cabinets, a trend which is expected to continue into 1996. Pictured above are Maxine Lyons and Larry Finley (right), who are "testers in training" assigned to the US West line. They are getting some "how to" tips from Tim Connor, who does testing on another 80-type final assembly line.

Revamped mall takes shape as dust settles

The Pioneer Gift Shop (formerly the Pioneer Porch) has had its grand opening, and by the end of September 1995 the new ETOP Learning Center will be open for business in what has been known as the Employee Activities Mall.

These areas adjacent to the main cafeteria have been remodeled and under construction since early this summer. When the dust finally settles, employees will have an attractive, more accessible Pioneer store in which to shop, and represented employees will have greatly expanded learning opportunities.

The gift shop is now located in space formerly occupied by the ETOP Computer Classroom. It measures 825 square feet, 50 percent larger than the old store.

Come in and browse

Customers may browse amid new display shelves and hanging racks, which give it "more of a gift shop look than our other store," said store manager Marilyn Kohlbeck.

The store will continue to sell its most popular items like novelty T-shirts and sweatshirts, but plans to upgrade and/or broaden its merchandise, too, said buyer Phil Stubbe.

It has introduced a wider variety of stuffed animals, a new line of chocolates and candies, and features an expanded consignment rack for craft items made by employees and retirees.

More store specials are planned, as is a clearance rack with bargain-priced merchandise, Kohlbeck said.

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Environment and safety audit slated

Outside consultants will be at the Omaha Works the week of Sept. 11, 1995, to conduct an environment and safety audit, coordinated by a representative from the AT&T Environmental and Safety Compliance Assessment team.

AT&T's corporate environmental and safety engineering department has conducted audits of the company's manufacturing facilities

since 1985, to review compliance with the laws, regulations and company practices applicable to environment and safety.

The purpose of the audits is to identify any corrective actions necessary to ensure future compliance. The last audit at the Omaha Works was in October 1993.

Employees may be asked by auditors to explain their processes and how they perform their jobs, said Mike Parizek, Works environmental health and safety manager. Auditors

also will ask about safety procedures and chemicals used in the job process.

The following checklist can serve as a guide in preparing for the audit:

- Machine guards in place, interlocks not bypassed.
- Hazardous waste properly stored and labeled. Containers should be closed with drum bungs screwed in and funnel lids closed.
- Chemical containers and tanks properly labeled.

(Continued on next page)

Gift shop open; learning center to open soon

(Continued from Page 1)

"I think we'll see an increase in sales," she predicted.

The store first opened in the early '80s. Last year's profits amounted to about \$9,000, which went toward the Pioneer Cornhusker Chapter's charitable fund. Currently 60 Pioneer Life Members and officers help staff the gift shop.

The ETOP Learning Center will occupy 5,347 square feet of space in

the northeast portion of the main cafeteria. It will feature four classrooms: A relocated computer classroom with all-new equipment; a basic skills/GED classroom; two classrooms for various ETOP-sponsored courses.

Represented employees will have access to an audiovisual room, a library, a small workroom, and a study lab with five stations. Three offices will be provided for the use of instructors and counselors.

In a unique partnership with ETOP,

Bellevue University will provide a counselor who will be on site 40 hours a week to counsel represented employees on career goals and educational requirements.

In another partnership, a basic skills instructor provided by Metropolitan Community College will be at the learning center 40 hours a week to counsel people on high school-level educational opportunities.

A grand opening for the learning center is scheduled in October.

THE HEADLINER

The Headliner is an internal publication of the Omaha Works, produced monthly by the public relations department. It is printed by the Works print shop.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome and should be directed to:

Linda Ryan, Editor
Ext. 3795.

The next issue will be published on Sept. 20, 1995. All news items should be in to the PR office by no later than 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, 1995.



Photo by Linda Ryan

BEFORE THE DOORS OPEN...Marilyn Kohlbeck puts prices on T-shirts while Phil Stubbe arranges stuffed toys on racks in the Pioneer Gift Shop.

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)

- Housekeeping in good order.
- Fire extinguishers, eye washes and electrical panels not blocked. Aisles and exits should not be blocked.
- Employees wear proper protective equipment.
- No paper, rags or other unnecessary materials in flammable storage cabinets.
- Food must not be consumed in designated no-eating areas.
- Compressed gas cylinders properly restrained and tagged.

House of Reps passes HR 1555

The U.S. House of Representatives passed its telecommunications reform bill by a vote of 305 to 117 earlier this month.

Although clearly a disappointment to AT&T, Copper Apparatus and Wire Vice-President John Heindel has expressed thanks to the many Omaha Works employees who wrote or called their Congressional reps in advance of the vote.

Coleman is new director at Works

Bruce Coleman has joined the staff of the Omaha Works as outside products group director.

He comes to us from AT&T Bell Laboratories at Naperville, Ill., where he was research and development administrative services director.

Coleman began his career with Bell Labs in 1972, after having served four years in the U.S. Air Force and then earning a bachelor's degree in political science from Norfolk (Va.) State University.

Previous assignments include employment representative at Holmdel, N.J., supervisory posi-

tions in Affirmative Action and in personnel, benefits and education at Murray Hill, N.J., and Indian Hill, respectively, and director of Bell Labs' development shops.

Coleman, who grew up in Norfolk, Va., has been active in various commu-

nity projects, including volunteer work for Recordings for the Blind. He and his wife, Carolyn, have a son, Bruce 3rd.



Bruce Coleman

John Zeglis, AT&T senior vice-president in Law and Government Affairs, said our voices were heard insofar as several key provisions of the bill remained intact. Among them, the bill does require the RBOCs to meet a comprehensive checklist of conditions for opening the local exchange to competition

before they can qualify to enter the long distance market.

However, the bill does not include an explicit requirement that an RBOC face broad facilities-based competition in local service before it can enter long distance.

When Congress reconvenes in the fall, a conference committee will sort out the differences between the telecommunications bill passed by the House and one passed earlier by the Senate.

This will give AT&T an opportunity, Zeglis said, "to make the final bill more balanced, more competitive and more consumer friendly."

How did our local area representatives vote on HR 1555? Reps. Jon Christensen and Greg Ganske voted for the bill; Doug Bereuter voted against it.

Appointment, promotion for tech-pros

Congratulations are in order for John May, who has been appointed to DMTS (distinguished member of the technical staff), from MTS (member, technical staff).

May, who works in plastic products engineering in Dept. 22D, is the

(Continued on next page)



Dolls & Bears

Pick up your dolls and bears to outfit for the Salvation Army's annual Christmas Dress-a-Doll/ Dress-a-Bear project to benefit needy youngsters in the Omaha area. Distribution will be in the main cafeteria during lunch periods as follows:

August 29▷2nd and 3rd shifts
August 30▷1st shift

Pick up dolls early by contacting:

Bonnie Anderson, 1st shift
Bldg. 30-9C x3562

Joyce Alexander, 3rd shift
Bldg. 30-4J x3362

Pat Patterson, 2nd shift
Bldg. 30-8H x3504

Kathy Schutte, 3rd shift
Bldg. 30-14F x3379

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page) fourth engineer currently at the Omaha Works to have earned the DMTS appointment.

Congratulations also are due Gus Checketts, who has been promoted to MTS from MTS1. Checketts works in Dept. 246, factory engineering.

Change in TAP authorizations

Participants in the AT&T Tuition Assistance Plan (TAP) are reminded that a new schedule of authorizations for certain levels of tuition expense have been initiated which apply to courses started on or after Jan. 1, 1995.

Specifically, officer approval will be required for reimbursement of annual expenditure per participant exceeding \$5,000 for graduate (post

baccalaureate) education, and \$4,000 for undergraduate education.

No special approval will be needed where annual expenditures do not exceed \$5,000 for graduate, and \$4,000 for undergraduate. The higher level assigned to graduate education is in recognition of generally higher costs per course.

For more information regarding these changes, check with the Works' Employee Resource Center.

August service anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating milestone service anniversaries during August 1995. The anniversary date is given with service years following the employees' names.

8/1--John Stodolka, 35.

8/2--Gerald Rue, 35.

8/3--Larry Poffenbarger, 35; Ricky Palmer, 25.

8/5--Donavan Burress, 30; Lloyd Gray, 30.

8/6--Ruthanne Dimmock, 5; Ron Nelson, 5.

8/8--Gary Stott, 35; Gerald Volcheck, 35.

8/10--Roland Peters, 35.

8/12--William Goodwin, 30; Fred Byers, 35.

8/14--Arthur Galloway, 30.

8/15--Otis Knutson, 35.

8/16--Walter Armstrong, 30; Charles Lechrone, 35; Danny Walters, 30; Charles Williams, 30

8/17--Pearlie McKeever, 25; Patricia Vercher, 30; Harold Davis, 30; Melvin Bentzen, 35; James Ellinger, 30; Steve Willmer, 25.

8/18--James Rush, 30; Gary Todd, 35.

(Continued on next page)

Retirements announced

A number of Works employees have announced their retirements. In addition to those pictured below, employees retiring include:

Patricia Bader, 31 years
Opal Bright, 18 years

Mary Contreras, 23 years
Cora Davenport, 34 years
Clarence Gilson, 27 years
Gerald Meckes, 29 years
Shirley Roberts, 33 years
Clyde Rothfuss, 32 years
Sondra Wilson, 27 years



Donald Moore
37 years



Jerry Odell
33 years



Jerry Watson
32 years



Velda (Maxine)
Munch
26 years



Chris Garrett
34 years



Sheryl Hansen
30 years



Jack McKinney
31 years

CPR classes

Be ready in an emergency and sign up for a 6-hour course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, sponsored by the WEOMA Club. Based on interest shown, classes will be set up to accommodate all three shifts. Signup forms are at the WEOMA Club office in Building 20.



Do it
for
someone
you
love.

NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from previous page)

- 8/19--Raymond Moore, 35.
- 8/20--Alvertus Ott, 30.
- 8/21--Marilee Mullin, 10.
- 8/22--Rosemary Long, 25; Max Reed, 35; Janice Osberg, 15.
- 8/23--Donnie Lee, 30; Sandra Viner, 20; Rolland Leib, 30; Jerry Lukehart, 30; Timothy Gillham, 30.
- 8/24--James Brainard, 30; Ivan Rueschhoff, 30; Sheryl Hansen, 30.
- 8/25--Vino Ecker, 35; Thomas Vierk, 30.
- 8/26--Mark Jensen, 10; Beatrice Honaker, 30.
- 8/27--Kenneth Lipske, 25.
- 8/29--Ronald Bush, 35; Ronald Siwa, 35; Richard Maxwell, 35; Leo Thietje, 35.
- 8/30--Melvin Butler, 30; Betty Orley, 25; Walter Moore, 30; Larry Nelsen, 25.
- 8/31--Phillip Grubb, 35; Gregory

Kleve, 25; Jeanine Krogmann, 25; Timothy Demont, 25; David Bonacci, 25.

Memorandum of understanding

AT&T Network Systems and Philips Electronics (Netherlands) have announced that they have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) expressing their intent for AT&T to purchase a portion of the public network assets held by Philips' Communication Systems Division. No financial details were disclosed.

It is expected that a final purchase agreement, which must be approved by both companies' boards of directors, will be reached within the

next several months.

Under the terms of the accord, AT&T Network Systems intends to buy assets related to four Philips Communication Systems units: Cellular Infrastructure Systems; Managed Transport Networks; Microwave Transmission and Access; and Transmission.

"This move strengthens AT&T's global business platforms for wireless and transmission infrastructure solutions as we address service providers worldwide," said Victor Pelson, executive vice-president and chairman of AT&T's global operations team.

"Today's announcement further signals AT&T's commitment to telecommunications infrastructure solutions for our customers around the world."

Bond drive winners named

The following employees were prize winners in a drawing held in conjunction with the U.S. Savings Bond drive conducted earlier this summer.

Winners of \$100 Savings Bonds were David Negrete, Kathryn Coffman, Robert Ackley, Robert Taylor, William Burk, Lisa Brown-Bohaty, James Curbeam, Willard Brink III and Anthony David.

Winners of AT&T telephones were Daniel Kemp, Verl Burkart, Teresa Fisher, Jo Ann Doose and Rodolfo Delgado.

Thank you!

The Omaha Opportunities Industrialization Center (OOIC) says "thank you" to Bill Lawson, who donated an eight-foot satellite dish and accessories to the center. Works employees Nick Johnson, John Valdez, Wil Jackson and Cid Stinson helped OOIC's Al Rinehart move the dish to the center, where it will be used to tap into educational programs.

Have you signed up yet for HISPA'S Walk/Runathon? September 16, 1995

- ✓ Walk or run a scenic 10K route from Henry Doorly Zoo to Mandan Park and back again.
- ✓ Proceeds go toward scholarships for local Hispanic youths.
- ✓ Participants are eligible to win prizes!
- ✓ T-shirt for each participant!



**Early entry fee deadline
extended to Aug. 24:**

Early fee \$12
Late fee \$16

Ask any HISPA member for signup sheets and details, or pick up forms in the cafeterias, the Diversity Center or public relations office.

Pioneer shares in dream-come-true

Every now and then, the rewards of being a volunteer pay off in an extra special way. Like when a few hours of volunteered time help make it possible for someone to attain a lifetime's dream.

Such was the case when AT&T Pioneer Darwin Fager volunteered his time to tutor Mary Kros in math, so she would be ready to take her fifth and final test unit of the general educational development (GED) battery, a high school equivalency exam. (She had already passed the other four units.)

She took the 55-question math test and passed. On Aug. 11, 1995—at the age of 83—Mrs. Kros donned a cap and gown to accept her certificate along with 111 other GED graduates at local ceremonies. She was, she said, “definitely the grandmother” in the group.

Orphaned at age 7, young Mary never finished her schooling, but worked instead. She eventually married Bill Kros, and they raised five children, making sure every one of them had complete educations.

There never seemed to be time for her to go back to school, but it was a dream she kept. With her children now grown and her husband deceased, Mrs. Kros decided it was time to get her GED. “If you want something bad enough, you have to go after it,” she said.

She studied by using audio cassettes of lessons and easily passed the first four units. But preparing for the math unit was another matter. Mrs. Kros lost her eyesight 20 years ago and, unable to write, had trouble visualizing fractions, decimals and algebraic problems.

Aware that AT&T Pioneers have projects to assist visually impaired individuals, Mrs. Kros's daughter contacted the Cornhusker Chapter at the Works. Fager, who helps coordinate the Pioneers' “Driving for the Blind” program, volunteered to help tutor Mrs. Kros.

A HUG FOR THE GRADUATE... Darwin Fager said he felt fortunate to have the opportunity to help 83-year-old Mary Kros pass her GED exam.



Photo by Steve Miller

In lieu of working out problems on paper, Fager had Mrs. Kros picture a writing tablet and mentally work out the steps of a problem line by line, he said. After two evenings of instruction, he knew she was well prepared to take the test.

“She was terrific. I was more challenged than she was,” Fager said, recalling how he used his calculator to verify the answers she worked out mentally.

“I was totally absorbed and thoroughly enjoyed working with her.”

Now that she has her GED, college could well be Mrs. Kros's next goal. This time, however, she should have more time to devote toward her goal, whatever it may be.

Why? Shortly after she passed her GED exam, Mrs. Kros gave notice that she was retiring. Up until late June, she had been a receptionist for 25 years in a dental office. ■



WEOMA Club

Wed. NITE Owls

Fall/Winter bowling starts
Wednesday, Aug. 30, 1995
12:30 a.m.

Cougar Lanes, 144th & L
New teams welcome! Three to a team, can be coed. Call:
Paulette Mullen x3464
Rick Foster x3151

*Coming
in September!*

**United Way
CHAD**
fund drive

Watch for details!



Photo by Linda Ryan

LESS FOR THE LANDFILL...Uncontaminated plastic scrap, called sprues and runners, from injection molding operations will be recycled in the latest Works effort to reduce the amount of waste we send to the landfill. Margaret Wright (left) and Joella Pacas examine scrap from an injection molding press that was making locking comb four-pair parts.

Recycling efforts cut Works' landfill usage

Fewer trucks are hauling waste from the Omaha Works to landfills these days, due to ongoing Omaha Works recycling efforts. Among them is a new recycling program in the injection molding shop and expanded waste paper recycling.

Plans in the latest recycling effort, which were being finalized just as The Headliner was going to press, call for a vendor to purchase uncontaminated, unground scrap from the injection molding operation in Building 30. Planning engineer Tammy Dean is overseeing the project.

Works environmental health and

safety organization figures show that injection molding currently is the biggest contributor of scrap to the landfill, now that PVC and polyethylene purge from electronic wire and cable (EW&C) extruders is being recycled.

Last year, EW&C found a vendor who would buy the plastic scrap (called fluff), thus ending the need for disposal at a landfill. Recent figures place the value of recyclable fluff to be well over \$250,000 annually.

No figures were available at publication on how much injection molding scrap, called "sprues and

(Continued on next page)

Heat bolsters can recycling

It's been a long, hot summer. The hotter, the better, if you're in the aluminum can collecting business. Beverage consumption generally goes up with the temperature, and that means more aluminum cans available for recycling.

At least, that's the observation of AT&T Pioneer Al Dusek who coordinates the Cornhusker Chapter's "We Can Help" aluminum can recycling project.

Employees are urged to put their aluminum cans in any of the blue recycling barrels in the Works' offices and shops. Large bins outside plant entrances collect cans brought from home.

The Pioneers take the cans to a vendor for recycling, getting paid for what they bring. The money goes toward various Pioneer charitable projects, such as "hot trikes" for physically impaired children, or help for abused women and children at local shelters.

Since the Pioneers began collecting cans five years ago, prices paid per pound of cans collected have varied significantly, from a start of 13 cents to a high of 55 cents.

Cans collected for fiscal year 1994-1995 yielded an impressive \$5,504.88, up from \$1,134.06 the previous fiscal year. Nearly double the cans were collected, 12,976 pounds compared to 6,708 pounds.

"I want to thank everyone who's been so supportive," Dusek said, adding that it's okay by him if the summer heat wave continues...as long as people continue to give their aluminum cans to the Pioneers. ■



Simple exercise helps reduce computer-related pains

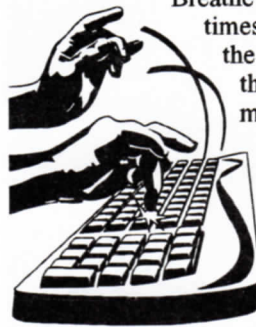
(If your name appears somewhere in this article, call Ext. 3583 or Ext. 3415 to claim a \$40 gift certificate to one of six popular local restaurants. The names of two employees are featured.)

Stiff wrists and arms, backaches, headaches and eyestrain are some of the common ailments that can affect those who work at computers.

Aches and pains don't need to be a part of the job. A few simple exercises, done at your work station, can reduce computer-related pains.

The National Safety Council offers the following exercises to be performed daily to help prevent tiredness, sore muscles and joint pains.

Before exercising, get your blood flowing with a little warmup.



Breathe deeply six times: In through the nose, out through the mouth. Let your stomach expand and contract with each breath. Then, reach as high as you can while sitting in your chair. Let your arms drop, then reach again.

After you finish your warmup, you are ready to begin your exercises:

●**Sore shoulders.** Stick your arms out straight from your shoulders and rotate them in small circles Elaine Folkers, first forward and then back.

Let your arms drop, then stick them out and rotate again. Do this

three times.

●**Sore wrists.** Put one elbow on the table and hold your arm up with the hand raised. Grab raised fingers with the other hand and gently bend the raised hand backward. Hold it five seconds, then do the other arm and hand.

●**Sore shoulders and upper back.** Raise your hands to the sides of your shoulders. Rotate your shoulders back. Keep your elbows down. Hold your shoulders back for 15 seconds. Repeat Lyle Nicholson three times.

●**Lower back pains.** Scoot back from the desk. While seated, bend over extending your arms and trying to touch your shoulders to your knees. Hold bent-over position for 10 seconds, then return to an upright position. ■

Recycling efforts pare landfill use

(Continued from previous page)

runners," the selected vendor will purchase over a year's time. But Cheryl Cincetti, plastic products operations and engineering manager, said the Works should see a minor profit.

Landfill fees saved

However, a real monetary gain will be realized by not having to pay some \$63,000 in yearly landfill fees, as well as "roll-off" fees to cover injection molding scrap collection and removal from Works premises.

Most important, the Works will decrease its landfill usage considerably. Although contaminated molding scrap will continue to be taken to the landfill, that amount can be kept to a minimum through diligent efforts to keep the scrap clean, Cincetti said.

The injection molding shop also will continue to grind some of its scrap, reusing as much of it as possible in manufacturing operations.

A dock has been modified where a semi-trailer provided by the recycling vendor will be parked to collect containers of sprues and runners. When the trailer is filled, it will be removed by the vendor and replaced with one that is empty.

The Works' ongoing waste paper recycling program, meanwhile, has stepped up its efforts to meet a corporate goal to recycle 70 percent of all waste paper by the year 2000.

Currently, 27 percent of potentially 717 tons of the Works' waste paper (including cardboard) is being recycled, said Mike Commons of the environmental health and safety organization. The Works paid \$28,000 in landfill costs in 1994 to dispose of waste paper that was not

recycled.

Commons said the number of waste paper collection containers have been increased throughout the Works, especially in shop areas to provide improved access.

In addition, the number and locations of green-painted tubs to collect cardboard waste in shop areas also have been increased to 15 total.

Cardboard only

"We'd like to recycle more cardboard than we have in the past," Commons said, adding that it is important to keep all other waste out of the cardboard collection tubs. Contaminated cardboard cannot be recycled.

Commons also said requests for more containers (either for paper or cardboard) should be directed to him on Ext. 3722. ■