

feature

Out of the rubbish: a star is born

by Gazette Staff

The Star of Unity is a 1200 Watt light display in three-colour glow. Each colour represents something about Canada: Red (the people), green (the land mass) and blue (the

horizon). Almost 95% of the project is made from recycled materials found at home, on the street and in the workplace.

"I started the project because I wanted to prove that I could apply my education in computer science

and physics in a practical way," said Bill Calnen, founder of the project.

The Canadian Maple Leaf is constructed out of wood from old box-spring mattresses. The leaf is based on the 1967 Centennial design, whereby eleven triangles form the

main structure together with a thin rectangular frame that represents the stem at the base.

Plastic corrugated signs are folded into right angled triangles, the sloping portion is covered with aluminum foil and plastic sheet film. These form a picture frame around the maple leaf. When fully assembled on a main frame of recycled 2 by 4's, it measures 20 by 22 feet.

"It's amazing what you can make from things that people just throw away as garbage," noted Calnen when describing the technical details involved.

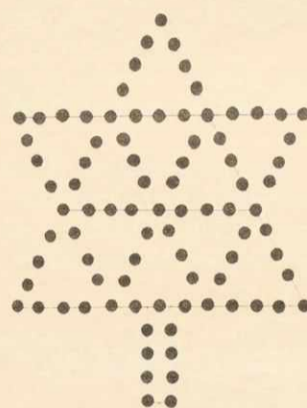
ered with the reflective interiors of shiny chip bags. The red glow units are mounted in juice cans which are screwed to the framework of the maple leaf. A doughnut reflector ring is attached to both units. The circular reflectors are made from plastic corrugated signs (from Canada's "Yes" campaign), covered with plastic corrugated signs, covered with aluminum plastic on vinyl and wrapped with plastic sheet from packaging used in shipping goods.

The blue glow units surrounding the leaf structures are made from juice cans and have a thin layer of blue transparent plastic.

For every three glowing light units there is a electrical connector cylinder which supplies power to the light sockets. The electrical connectors are made from the bottoms of 500 ml pop bottles and fit together with a vinyl sleeve.

"Unity is something that we all want to achieve, and recycling should become a part of our lifestyle in Nova Scotia," said Calnen.

Calnen would appreciate any donations of plastic beverage bottles in good condition, (500 ml, 1 L, 2 L clear and 2 L green) and chip bags small to large. There will be collection containers placed in the Student Union lobby. Any questions and/or comments concerning the project would be welcome.



Both red and green glow lighting units are made from sections of two litre plastic beverage bottles, and coupled together by vinyl rings, cov-

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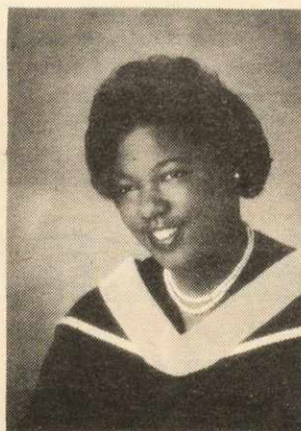
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