

# Score One for the Environment

**By: Justin Ramb**  
**Staff Writer**

You may have walked into a McDonald's restaurant and received a piece of polystyrene foam with your Big Mac. This light, shock-resistant, insulating piece of foam is cheap to make, and is showing up everywhere. Disposable coffee cups, boxes that hold the fast food hamburgers, and packing "peanuts" for shipping are just a few uses of the foam. But recently, due to environmentalists, McDonald's announced that it would begin phasing out foam packaging within 60 days at its 8,500 United States restaurants. This foam is serious business

to environmentalists. Polystyrene is a bulky material which takes up large amounts of room in landfills. In addition to causing a space shortage, this foam also releases hazardous chemicals as it decomposes.

McDonald's is making the phaseout part of a broad pro-environment campaign that the company is developing in partnership with the Washington-based Environment Defense Fund.

But what now? McDonald's probably will replace its hamburger boxes with material similar to the thin paper used to wrap its smallest sandwiches. Not only does this paper

decompose quicker, it also takes up 90% less space than the foam when thrown away.

However, this is still not the ideal solution. This paper is not yet recyclable, and the production requires the cutting

down of trees.

While its changes aren't completely perfect, McDonald's is providing a role model for other companies. Hopefully, many companies will follow their lead.



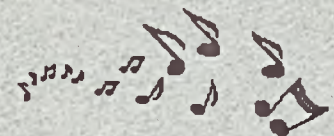
**Makin' it great!**

502 W State St. Black Mountain

669-9455

# It's A DANCE

Saturday, 9-1:00 am  
Howerton Cafeteria



# It's My Tie!

Here's how it works:  
Ladies, you somehow get hold of a guy's necktie and wear it to the dance! When he gets there and sees his tie, he's your date.