

Janet Hume walking to collect cans for the NEED Energy Group recycling program.

## The Environmentally Conscious

**W**ho was committed to cleaning up our environment? The NEED task force took part in this task.

NEED stands for National Energy Education Development. President Kathy Kelley said, "We are trying to educate today's youth about our energy problems and possible solutions." The group was started at Sycamore two years ago by science teacher Linda Ford. Education Committee Director Cheryl Ho said the main purpose of NEED was, to increase awareness about energy and the environment so that people will take better care of the earth. NEED was divided into four groups, community outreach, in-school recycling, workshops, and education.

Community outreach enhanced community awareness by the promotion of Earth Day and also taught composting classes to community residents to make them more aware of what they can do to help the environment.

The in-school recycling group put boxes in each department around the school for discarded ledger and computer paper. Then, every Friday after-school, the group met to collect the boxes and separate the white from the colored paper, in order to recycle the paper.

Workshops, where Sycamore students shared information about NEED with teachers and students

from other schools, were held at different times of the year. They participated in different activities concerning energy conservation at these workshops.

The last group, education, travelled to different area schools and taught younger children what they could do to help the environment. Ho commented, "We educate elementary school students about energy and the environment by teaching lessons on either recycling, the ten energy resources, or conservation."

The growth of interest and awareness about helping our environment was apparent in the group's size. The group had grown in size from twelve to forty students. These students had also reached over four hundred others through their many activities.

NEED advisor Ford felt the group had been really successful in reaching its goals. She replied, "This year the group taught energy conservation lessons to over three hundred elementary students. They also have recycled close to 6.5 tons of paper."

Through all their hard work, the NEED task force made a big difference. Kelley responded, "Educating the school and the community was our goal and each committee tried and did achieve this goal." They were rewarded greatly when the group won the Most Outstanding Senior Level Energy Project in the state of Ohio. The group will continue next year to influence even more people to aid the environment.

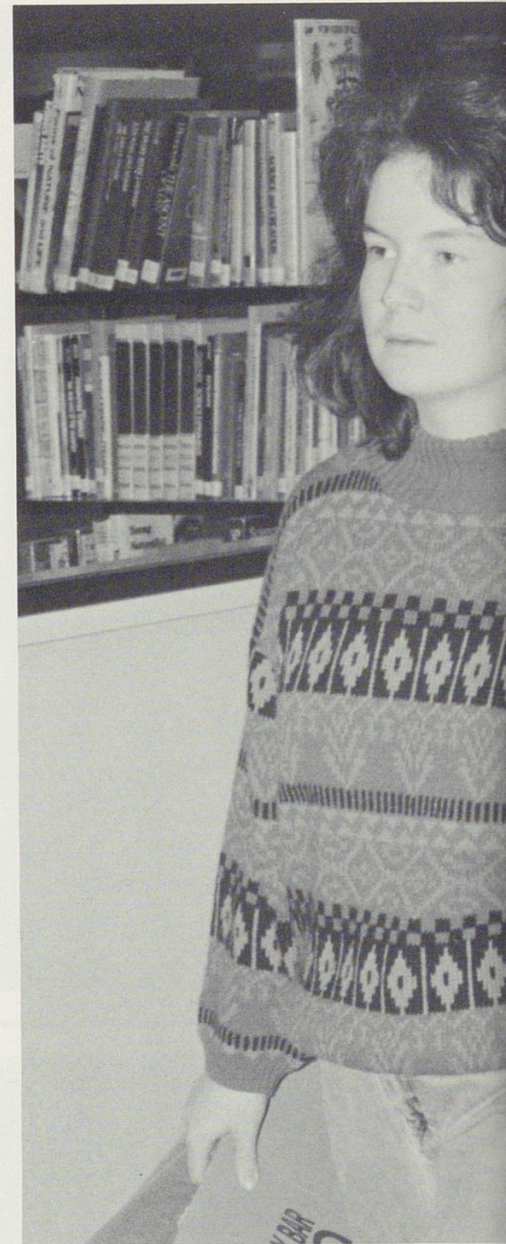
by Amy Willinger

**"We educate elementary school students about energy and the environment by teaching lessons on either recycling, the ten energy resources, or conservation."**

-Cheryl Ho



**NEED ENERGY GROUP:** Front Row: D. DeMania, M. Berman, A. Lipson, A. Pollack, B. Bass Middle Row: N. Bajwa, J. Fox, A. Ambekar, K. Kelley, R. Reiner, E. Zied, C. Ho Back Row: Mrs. Ford, J. Hume, M. Scherocman, A. Rothwell, S. Moseley, S. Wasserman



Student Council members Mary Beth Neenan, Chris George, Anne Sherman, and Alicia Frank a cash problem while selling Homecoming tickets.

