

Martin aide says waste site ill-chosen

By RUTH DAVIS
Staff Writer

The Southeast Compact Commission's decision to make North Carolina the host state for a low-level radioactive waste site was random, Gov. Jim Martin's science adviser told about 40 people in the School of Public Health auditorium Wednesday.

Earl McCormac called the commission's decision method an "expensive lottery."

"(The commission) spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to make a decision that could have been made with a roll of the dice or a draw of the straw," McCormac said.

Last September the commission, made up of two representatives from each of the eight southeastern states

in the compact, chose North Carolina as the next site for waste repository.

He said the commission chose North Carolina through a two-step process which involved making projections of expected volumes of radioactive wastes and making assessments based on those volumes, transportation to the site, area population and weather conditions.

The projections made were inaccurate because dramatic changes in waste volume from 1983-1984 occurred, McCormac said.

McCormac said that when he recomputed the projections by using the original formula, he found North Carolina to be ranked fourth while Georgia ranked first.

"North Carolina was chosen randomly, it (the choice) was not

rigged," he said. "It was an expensive way to make a random choice. Money was spent to reassure the public that it was an objective way to choose."

The N.C. state legislature must choose between accepting the commission's decision or doing it alone by setting up a state facility, McCormac said.

If the legislature does decide to set up its own facility, it would be impossible to keep other states from entering and using the waste site because of legal implications, he said.

"The way to solve the problem of keeping other states from dumping (in North Carolina) is through compacts," he added.

McCormac said building and running a site alone is also costly. Since the federal government

regulates all radioactive materials, a state-regulated facility in which more could be charged for waste coming from out-of-state would be impossible, McCormac said during a question-and-answer period.

McCormac said he intends to run the case through the "analytical hierarchy" process, which would allow several factors, such as values and conservation, as well as economy, to be considered in a series of trade-offs.

McCormac said the dangers of having a low-level waste repository in North Carolina are minimal. He said the exposure from the site will be less exposure than the governor gets in his office. The governor's office is made of granite which contains the radioactive element, uranium.

Second suspect implicated in hotel arson investigation

From Associated Press reports

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A federal official said today a second person has been arrested in the arson fire at the Dupont Plaza Hotel that killed 96 people and injured more than 140.

The federal official who spoke on condition of anonymity told The Associated Press, "I don't have any of the particulars, but there has been a second arrest."

Red M&Ms make a comeback
NEWARK, N.J. — Red M&Ms, banished 11 years ago

News in Brief

because of misplaced concern over food dyes, are once again taking their rightful place among the tan, brown, yellow, orange and green.

The return of the red candies was prompted by a national outcry that included thousands of letters to the manufacturer and the formation of college campus societies, a spokesman for M&M-Mars said Wednesday.

After plaguing NCSU, flu 'n za future for UNC

By NANCY HARRINGTON
Staff Writer

An influenza virus once thought to be isolated at N.C. State University has been found at UNC, with the potential to reach epidemic status, doctors at UNC's Student Health Service announced Tuesday.

The virus, labeled by doctors as Taiwan Influenza, is a mutation of a virus that last surfaced in the United States in 1956, said Dr. James McCutchan, director of the Clinical Medical Section of SHS.

About 35 UNC students have been diagnosed at Student Health as having Taiwan Influenza, McCutchan said. The symptoms include fever, headaches, muscle aches, sore throat and coughs, he said.

Illness usually lasts three to five days, said McCutchan, and the effects may vary.

"In young healthy adults, it usually does not have any lasting effects," McCutchan said. Bronchitis, pneumonia or sinus infections can occur, he said. However, they are more common in older persons, he said.

McCutchan said that the last Influenza virus had circulated in the U.S. from 1940-1956.

"We know there is a virus. Most students have not had it before and they are very susceptible," he said. "It's a highly contagious virus and the onset is sudden. Its incubation period is as short as 36 hours, instead

of the usual length of incubation for a virus, which is usually 2-3 weeks."

The virus is easily transmitted, McCutchan said. "You can pass it on by coughing, through direct contact (with someone) or even drinking after a person with the strain," he said.

Since there is a lot of contact among students in college environments, McCutchan said the virus could reach an epidemic stage, but that Student Health officials can't predict what trail the virus may take.

"Immunity is the only thing that will keep students from getting it," he said. However, since it takes a long time to make Taiwan Influenza vaccine, not enough is available.

McCutchan said the virus was probably brought to Chapel Hill by students who went home to Raleigh for the holidays and then came back to school and interacted with other students.

In 1986, almost 700 students got sick with another strain of Influenza, McCutchan said. This year the number may double.

"We don't know how many students (it will affect)," he said. "It may be a couple of hundred or it may be a couple of thousand."

McCutchan said students should not assume that every symptom is one of Influenza. There's more than one virus in town making people sick, he said. But, if students suspect that they have Influenza, it can be diagnosed in Student Health.

Vice president referendum sidetracked

By TERESA KRIEGSMAN
Staff Writer

Students will not be able to decide in the February election if they want a student body vice president, the Student Congress decided Wednesday night.

By a vote of 7 to 15, the congress rejected the bill that would allow students to vote on a referendum concerning the election of a student body vice president.

In other action, the congress

rejected a bill requesting \$4,700 to pay for updated computer software for the Student Activities Fund Office.

The vice presidential referendum stated that the student body vice president would be elected campus-wide, and the candidates would be elected on a joint ticket ballot with a student body presidential candidate if the candidates for both offices agreed.

Jody Beasley (Dist. 16), who co-

authored the bill along with Rob Friedman (Dist. 16), supported the referendum. "It is irresponsible on a campus of this size not to have that (vice presidential) role or at least not to let students make the decision," Beasley said.

Steve Griffin (Dist. 5) disagreed, saying the format of the election could change too often. "It gives no consistency from year to year whether you're going to have people elected together or separately," he said.

Student Body President Bryan Hassel said he didn't think the issue was urgent. He warned the congress against having a "knee-jerk reaction" making a quick decision just to get the referendum on the February ballot.

The congress also voted against spending \$4,716.19 on computer software expressly designed for dealing with SAFO's new computer system.

Since no other organization uses the same accounting procedure as the congress, SAFO asked the congress to help pay for the special system.

John W. Williams, student body treasurer, said that without the new software, the congress would not be able to keep their funds in SAFO unless the congress's accounting procedure was changed.

Michael Lentz (Dist. 4) said it might have been less expensive to change the accounting procedure than to have software designed.

To pay for the rest of the updated computer software system, SAFO plans to raise the fees it charges student groups to use its services, Beasley said. He said he didn't know if SAFO would raise Student Congress's fees to recover the money for the accounting system.

Price pleased with committee posts

By JEANNIE FARIS
Assistant State & National Editor

The competitive process for committee assignments in the U.S. House of Representatives is over and Rep. David Price, D-4th District, will now serve on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and the Science and Technology Committee.

Price believes his two assignments were the best that he could have received in his first term, his press

secretary, Jim Jordan, said Wednesday.

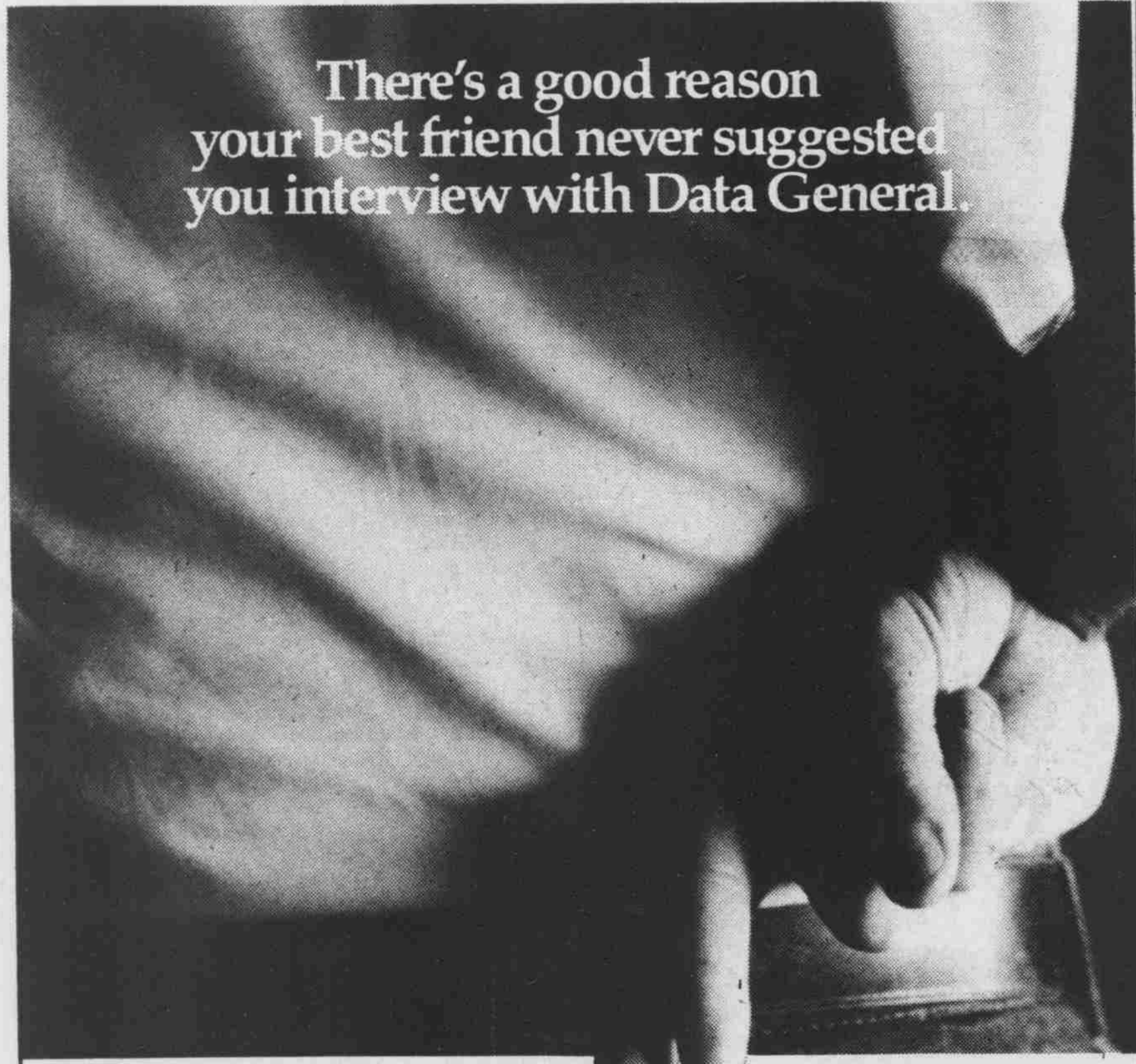
Although they were not his first placement choices, he was especially pleased with his Banking Committee assignment, Jordan said.

"Banking was a good assignment," Jordan said. "That's a good committee. It appeals to him intellectually."

The science committee is a good assignment because Price represents the Research Triangle Park district.

Jordan said. Howard Coble, R-N.C., of the 6th District serves on the science committee as well.

Both of Price's committee assignments divide into sub-committees — seven in the science committee and eight on the banking committee. The democratic leaders of each committee will determine sub-committee membership next week, but Jordan would not say which of these assignments Price preferred.



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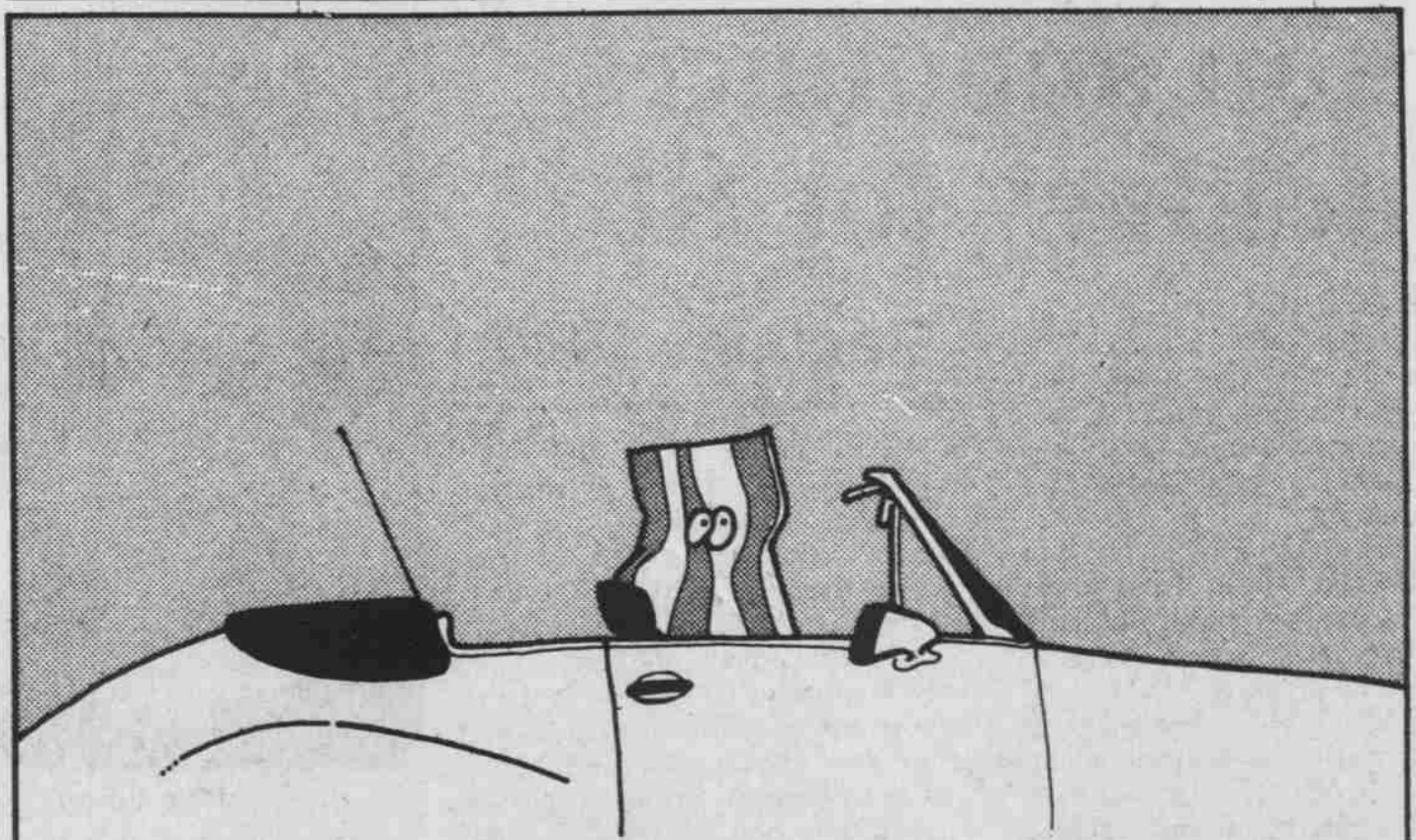
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