

The Decree

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Bill aims at revealing campus crime

Congress this month will start seriously considering a bill that would force colleges to tell students, employees, applicants and their parents how many crimes occurred on their campuses.

While many public relations-minded administrators oppose the bill because it could make

their schools look bad, a group of college security experts resolved Jan. 12 to oppose it because it would be unenforceable.

"We're not in favor of the law because it's not policeable," said Jan Sherrill of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Campus Violence (CSPCV,) which con-

cluded its annual conference Jan. 11.

Major support for the bill comes from students, parents and faculty members who say they need to know about local crimes in order to protect themselves from them.

Currently, only 352 of the

3,200-some two and four-year colleges in the country bother to report crimes to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which tracks criminal activities.

The quality of the statistics, moreover, is uneven. While one school may report a crime committed on what is legally a city-

owned curb, another school may decide not to report it as a "campus" crime. Consequently the former college, appearing to be a dangerous sinkhole, may have a harder time recruiting students and faculty members than the lat-

(Continued on Back Page)



DISCUSSING THE ENVIRONMENT — Herman G. Spaight, park superintendent at Medoc Mountain State Park, talks with Bob Walton, Assistant Professor of Biology, Mike Berry, and Jay Quigley about environmental issues raised during the 1990 NCWC Spring Symposium.

Environment concerns Mavretic

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, in Everett Gymnasium, N.C. House Speaker Josephus L. Mavretic spoke on "The Environment-A Concern of all of Our Citizens" as a part of the 1990 Wesleyan Symposium entitled "Our Island Earth."

Mavretic said, "Out of all the species, plant and animal, there is only one that can't live in harmony with its environment: homo sapiens." According to Mavretic, "Nature has no capacity; it can absorb anything."

Mavretic argued that men may pollute the air and water but over time nature will purify itself.

Mavretic also said, "Ten years ago, protecting the environment was considered almost a luxury." Today "recycling is a necessity and a daily chore."

Mavretic has earned degrees from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, George Washington University, and the Naval War College. Mavretic has always been concerned with the environment and is currently involved with an "experimental farm" in North Carolina.

Mavretic believes that the environment will be an important topic of focus in the N.C. House

of Representatives for at least the next 15 years. He said, of underground pollution, that people "have taken the first step in handling underground storage tanks" with replacement. He also said that "several countries are already in process to create multi-country waste management."

However, Mavretic suggested the bottom line is that of economics. The solution comes with the availability of more funds. An interesting question Mavretic passed to the audience was, "Why do we believe that blackening the air someone breathes is O.K.?"

Waste sites a topic of symposium

By DANIELLE MECKLEY

NCWC's 1990 Spring Symposium last week, titled "Our Island Earth: What Can We Eastern North Carolinians Do?" was an overall success. However, a few events left much to be desired, including Dr. Linda West Little's presentation: "Opportunities for Citizens Sharing Responsibility of Waste Management."

Although the presentation related smoothly with the general topic of environmental concerns, it lacked the concrete methods of sharing responsibility that the title promised.

Informing the public about waste involves a large amount of time, according to Dr. Little. Indeed, the majority of her presentation was spent defining the misconception of waste, North Carolina's present government policy, and the waste management hierarchy. Dr. Little believes that hazardous waste is not dangerous and "we need to get our perception of risk in line with the actual risk."

Outrage and fear have led to unsound practices, but with confidence waste can be managed safely and properly. North Carolina has little confidence because it ships its waste to neighboring states. However, an interstate

agreement holds that by 1993 North Carolina will host low-level hazardous waste sites for seven other southern states.

This agreement has encouraged North Carolina to become more informed about waste. Dr. Little explained in detail the Waste Management Hierarchy which from bottom to top runs disposal, incineration, treatment, recycling, reuse, recovery, reduction, and prevention.

A fraction of the presentation, the last few minutes, was spent listing ways to get involved in the waste management process. Key suggestions were to recover, recycle, reuse, "educate ourselves as consumers," encourage local institutions to recycle and reuse, become informed, and avoid "fighting without facts." Dr. Little encouraged citizens to participate in the decision making when their communities became siting targets.

Dr. Little's early and continuing interest in science led her to become an environmental health expert. She currently serves as executive director on the N.C. Governor's Waste Board.

Dr. Little's presentation on waste management was informative and beneficial, although it took a little digging through the technological trash to realize it.