

Schmidt *Cont'd from page 1*

enrollment may decline and that the area may suffer from lack of growth. Neal did not think that would happen.

"It's much to soon to say whether those things will happen," she said. "When we were down at the Dow Chemical Plant in Louisiana that was not the case. However, that plant has been there for a long time, but that wasn't the case there."

According to the N.C. 1986 Annual Report of Hazardous Waste Generation, Generation, Storage, Treatment or Disposal, hazardous

waste is a solid waste or combination of solid wastes which cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality, in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

"I think that it would be helpful for people to understand that North Carolina needs this facility," concluded Neal.

Sullivan

Cont'd from page 1

All of these concerns are reasonable and to be expected from residents of a community that may become home to a hazardous waste center. After all, what rational or concerned parent seeks to locate his home and that of his children near hazardous waste. As an economist I would like to see the debate include not only the direct costs but also the indirect costs of such a facility.

The costs of a hazardous waste treatment center are not merely the costs of construction, transportation and operation. Nor are they merely the costs in case of accident. However large and real these costs, they do not include the cost of lost future opportunities.

Thus, one must consider just what the impact of such a facility would have on the future of economic progress. Even IF the facility were to be operated safely over its entire life-span, there are bound to be altered economic decisions associated with the very existence of the facility.

This point is obvious to current property owners concerned about the economic threat to the value and safety of their property, but who speaks for the future potential property owners? Over the last several years this area has experienced, and will likely continue to experience dramatic demographic and economic changes. Unless considerable attention is paid to future, and uncertain, events it will be unlikely that an informed decision will be reached today.

Public health is a public good in the sense that the surrounding community bears the costs of poor health and lost productivity or, alternatively, reaps the benefits of good health and improved productivity. Economic stability and progress can also be treated as public goods.

Unfortunately, it may be a necessary fact that a modern, in-

dustrial economy generates a certain level of hazardous waste and the waste must be treated and stored somewhere. But, in the long run, the decision as to the appropriateness of any one site must be addressed by all members of the community.

In order to reach an efficient solution to the selection of an appropriate waste treatment center all costs must be considered.

Costs will be incurred even if there is no serious accident and those costs will be borne not only by individuals but by the community as well.

Ideally, the Commission will consider the indirect costs associated with each of the fifteen potential sites as well as the more obvious direct costs.

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There will be a meeting for all students interested in getting information about graduate school on Tuesday, Sept. 29, at 9:30 a.m. in Long Student Center--second floor. Questions such as, "Is grad. school for me? When?" "Do I qualify?" and "Which program is or school best suits me?" will be answered.

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