

Waller speaks about role with waste commission.

By Aleta Sinkfield
Staff Writer

Aids is not the only thing people seem to be running away from these days. In this age of technology, there is fear of something else.

It is not classified as a disease nor does it only affect humans. It can endanger humans along with farmland and the atmosphere if not disposed of properly. This fear surrounds the treatment of hazardous waste.

Most people view the treatment as the "dumping of hazardous waste" when in actuality it is not. There is no wish to bury the waste because it would just come back to haunt us according to Elon's Bruce Waller, Associate Professor of Philosophy.

Waller was asked by the General Assembly to become a member of the Hazardous Waste Treatment Commission. When asked to be a member, Waller confesses that he did not realize it would take up so much time. Yet there is no regret.

He feels that it is important for us to find a means of treating the waste so it will not be put into the environment causing destruction to the air and water.

Set up in 1984, the commission was instructed by the General Assembly to study current waste treatment facilities in North Carolina to see if waste was being treated adequately. The commission found that there are not sufficient facilities in the state to treat all the waste being generated here.

Because of this, North Carolina is presently shipping alot of its waste out of state for treatment, chemical reduction, and chemical neutralization.

One kind of treatment is taking a harmful chemical and mixing it with another chemical to form a compound which will not be as harmful as the two chemicals would be if left separately by themselves. The whole range of treatment depends on the chemicals being used.

But the ideal type of treatment comes in the form of recycling the waste.

About 95 percent of all hazardous waste produced by industries is being treated right there at the industry.

"If it's treated right, then that's good," said Waller. But he believes a number of industries are treating waste legally, but not adequately.

Conversely, some chemicals are being buried without treatment at

all while others are being dumped or burned illegally. This is what causes danger to the health of humans through their breathing of the air or consuming food from the farm lands. There is a correct way of treating waste.

It depends on the manner in which a plant plans to deal with it.

For example: "When burning organic waste at 2,000 degrees, it will deterred from going into the atmosphere". The ash left is harmless and can be buried since what comes out is basically carbon dioxide," said Waller.

Meetings are held by the commission on the average of three a month. Consisting of nine members, everyone seems to agree that North Carolina needs treatment facilities. Unfortunately, nobody wants it near their living quarters.

The latest agenda is concerned with two issues: The first issue revolves around where to place the treatment facility. The commission already has a sense of what the plant will look like and consist of.

The second issue deals with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has started proceedings against North Carolina to withdraw authorization for the state to manage its own hazardous waste. This means that all the works on environmental regulations done in the state will be taken over by the federal government.

"This began because of a law the General Assembly passed this summer--Senate Bill 114," said Waller. "The bill states that the

water discharge from any hazardous waste treatment plant will have to go in a stream that will dilute at a 1,000 to 1 ratio."

If you want to empty a gallon of waste, the stream has to be flowing through at 1,000 gallons per hour which is the lowest flow, explained Waller.

The commission will be in existence until it can be proven that there are sufficient waste treatment facilities in North Carolina. Afterwards, the commission will go away.

More language majors enrolled

by Lydia Derr
Staff Writer

In the fall of 1983, there were no foreign language majors. The number has currently increased to four. "There's more interest today in foreign language study than there was five years ago," said Dr. Earnest Lundsford, assistant professor of Spanish. "A liberal arts background gives more flexibility to the person."

Echoing that sentiment, Dr. Geraldo Rodriguez said he thinks foreign language is an asset and predicts that double majors will soon include foreign languages.

Lundsford advises students that there are more opportunities for foreign language majors than just teaching. Large libraries such as the Library of Congress hire foreign language majors to work with their extensive card catalogs and files.

Big businesses need interpreters to communicate with the foreign companies that they do business with. "Employees of the

firm are hired for their business skills, and also because they have additional language skill," said Lundsford.

Another opportunity is working for the federal government translating documents or as an interpreter for the federal courts. A translation job entails translating documents and newspapers from the foreign press.

An interpreter works in the courtroom translating to foreign-speaking defendants what is being said in the courtroom, and translating what the defendant says to the court. The interpreter sometimes assists in lawyer-client consultation.

Lundsford is currently working part-time as an interpreter. In addition to Spanish, he also speaks French and Portuguese.

About 10 years ago, the federal government began offering certification for interpreters. Currently there are two in North Carolina. Also at that time, certification to colleges and professors became available.

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