

MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women To Excel

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Meredith's
Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY
Sunny
High 84/ Low 59

THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
High 85/ Low 56

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 74/ Low 54

SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 76/ Low 54

SUNDAY
Showers
High 71/ Low 56

MONDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 69/ Low 49

TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High 65/ Low 45

MARIA SANTORE
Editor

The office of North Carolina Senator Elizabeth Dole sponsored a seminar on Attacking Identity Theft this past Tuesday held in Jones Auditorium.

Dole stated, "Identity theft is often cited as one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. It affects every age group, race and income level, and cheats hardworking, law-abiding Americans out of their hard-earned dollars and good name."

members, who included Andrea Foster of the Federal Trade Commission, Justin Crooks of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Jim Henry from the Secret Service, and Caroline Farmer of the North Carolina Department of Justice. After each panel member spoke about how his or her specific department or organization helps crack down on identity theft, Mr. Reggie Holley, deputy State Director from the Office of Senator Dole moderated questions taken by the

panel from the audience. Panel members gave advice, such as to not carry your social security card with you, but instead memorize the last four digits. "If your wallet were ever stolen, that thief could find out all of your personal information in two days by social security number," said Mr. Jim Henry.

Most panel members re-

ferred to the recent law passed in Congress, the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACT). This new law gives free access to yearly credit reports and also gives consumers the ability to ask for 'fraud alerts' on their credit reports.

After a short break for the panelists, a new group of panel members was intro-



Photo by: Terri Richards

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper spoke about the importance of identity theft and how to not become a victim.

duced. They included Debbie Brantley of the North Carolina Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force, Hope H. Connell of the North Carolina Bankers Association, Eric Ellman of the Consumer Data Industry Association, and Giovanni Masucci of Capitol City Consulting.

Each had a chance to say how his or her organization fights identity theft before questions were taken once again from the audience.

For more information, visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.consumer.gov/idtheft/

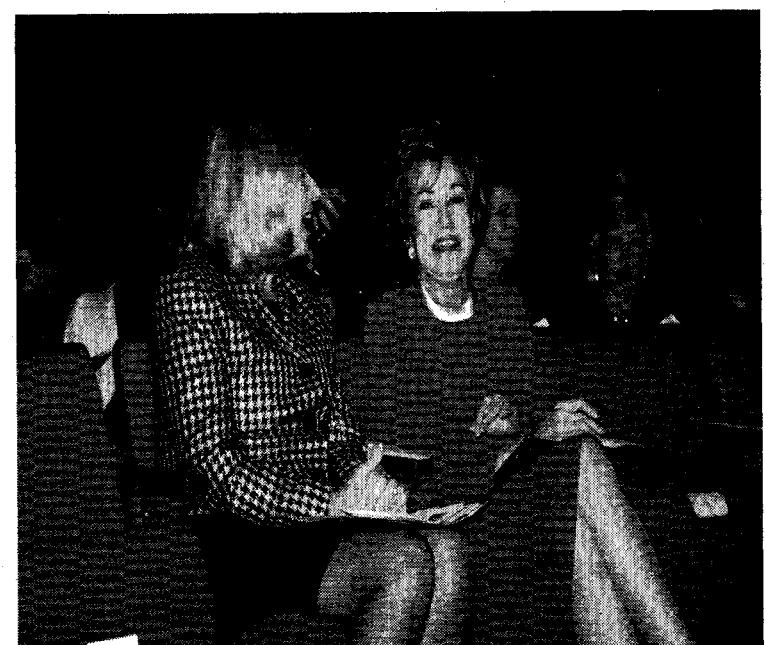


Photo by: Terri Richards

Meredith College President Maureen Hartford and North Carolina Senator Elizabeth Dole speaks briefly before the opening of the seminar.