

CREDIT CARDS
From Page 1

offering for sale, soliciting or promoting the sale of any goods or services on University premises.

The policy allows official student organizations to raise money for charitable organizations. But even if a student organization raised money for Crotty's mother, the policy still does not classify her as a charitable cause.

The policy states that charities are classified as anything tax deductible under the policies of the Internal Revenue Service.

Director of the Student Union Don Luse said Union employees were responsible for enforcing the policy. "Regardless of what we do or how much we monitor the Pit, there is always something that slips through the cracks."

Luse said credit card applications could not be distributed by any individual or student organization in the Pit. "It is my understanding that the General Alumni Association are the only ones who can distribute credit card applications," he said. "Any student group that asks to do it would be told no."

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INITIATIVE
From Page 1

pat problems before they become an "Omigod! Gotcha!" thing."

Futrelle said the team sent out the Windows '98-based FTP software package to IBM on Friday. IBM employees will install the software in two new laptop versions coming out in mid-April.

Farrington said the other glitch with the Norton Antivirus 4.08 program in the advanced desktop tower unit computers, designed for departmental use.

The problem arose when people ran Norton Antivirus for the first time, Farrington said. On the first run, the program checks to make sure the computer hardware matches the program hardware, he said. Instead of fixing problems, the program would create a new directory and lose some of its ability to check for viruses, he said.

Farrington said the solution was to delete a certain file in the computer's hard drive. He said the team planned to notify everyone affected today.

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COURT
From Page 1

dants' comments are questions of fact."

Killinger moved for a continuance of the trial because she said key witness Jeremy Brown would testify that he saw Coleman hang posters in an illegal area.

"Brown left a message after midnight saying he would not be here today," she said. "We need him, as well as other witnesses, in order for cross-examination."

Likewise, Fraley said the defendants'

witnesses, Bailey and Graduate and Professional Students Federation President Bryan Kennedy, could not attend Saturday's hearing.

Coleman, Faulk and Fraley made no comment concerning the outcome of Saturday's hearing. Killinger said the time would lead to fair and just proceedings. "The time will allow the court to make the final decision based upon adequate facts in a fair trial."

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WETLANDS
From Page 1

laws. But with the Tulloch Rule in effect, these state laws were dormant.

The rejection of the Tulloch Rule left the state with enforcement laws, but void of an enforcement method. When the Tulloch Rule was overturned, North Carolina should not have been affected at all, Besse said.

Instead, the numerous drainings will diminish coastal water quality, said Charles Peterson, chairman of the Water Quality Committee of the N.C. Environment Management Commission. "This is one of the saddest times that has occurred during my tenure," he said. "Every bit of wetlands lost is irreversible."

Peterson said the wetlands were important because they helped filter pollutants, prevent soil erosion, soak up storm waters and filter microbes such as E. coli.

Cape Fear riverkeeper Bouty Baldriger said the effect on shellfish such as clams and oysters would not be immediately noticeable, but that increased turbidity, the release of soil into water, would surely decrease the shellfish population.

Dr. Michael Mallin, professor at UNC-Wilmington and research associate of the Center for Marine Science Research, was also worried about the effects developers would have on local waters.

Mallin said the problem with these developments, was that after the water was drained, the topography remained the same. He said this resulted in these areas retaining their role as natural water collectors, often causing flooding.

"All the developer is concerned with is selling the house," Mallin said. "Once he sells it, he's out of there. It's the homeowner's problem."

He said once these areas were paved, nearby streams were bombarded with water. This resulted in bank erosion and increased sediment downstream, which adversely affected shellfish, he said.

Division of Water Quality spokesman Ernie Seneca said the wetlands were key filtering agents and their removal would impact downstream water quality.

Seneca expressed his concern for the wildlife affected by the drainage activities, emphasizing that it would have a long-term effect. "You're removing habitat for species," he said. "Some of these wetlands are unfortunately going to be lost forever."

Peterson questioned the expediency with which the new policy had been applied and blamed the federal judges for the situation. "This reading of federal law is ludicrous," he said.

Water quality committee member Doug Boykin expressed his disdain with the way the policy had been handled.

"When we have a change that affects the public, we have to take it to public hearing," he said. "This time we chose to use a policy. I think that's really unfortunate."

Boykin was agitated that the topic was hurried at the end of the meeting. He said to other board members at the meeting that the committee did not consider all options before deciding to adopt a policy.

"It requires more debate within the committee, especially with the possible outcome of this issue," he said.

Besse agreed with Peterson that the federal ruling was an "outrageous interpretation" by the 4th Circuit court.

"That was a very narrow reading of the law that has had horrifying effects in North Carolina," Besse said. "It is going to have terrible consequences on wildlife and water quality."

Besse said he hoped the ruling would be reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court in a future hearing.

Baldriger said he was also disturbed by the lack of law enforcement. "The activities we are witnessing right now, under state law, are illegal," he said.

He was disappointed that the implementation of the new policy date was set back by six months from Oct. 1 to March 1. "I've got a feeling there's a lot

more politics going on there than meets the eye," he said.

Derb Carter, senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center, blamed developers for the wetland losses. He also said the lack of enforcement by state and federal agencies vitally contributed to the draining frenzy.

Carter said when the state announced last summer that they would enforce a policy on March 1, they basically invited people to drain the wetlands. He said by telling the public that the state would not enforce the law for nine months, they told the public it had nine months to effectively break the law.

"The state, by making this announcement, has given them a green light to break the law," he said.

But Peterson said developers were "just doing business."

Carter, however, urged developers to think of the environmental effects of their actions. "Comply with the law and stop draining wetlands; consider the impact you are having."

The Division of Water Quality will notify the public of the new policy through newspaper notices and a press release sent to news media outlets.

Only draining activities which take place after today will be regulated under the new policy.

Dorney said one of three enforcement actions would be taken by the Division of Water Quality against individuals who violated the policy. The individual might be forced to stop draining and restore damaged wetlands, fined \$10,000 per day of violation or be subject to criminal prosecution, he said.

Dorney said the public would play a significant role in the new policy. He said citizen complaints would be one of the main ways that the Division of Water Quality would be alerted to possible violations.

Aerial photos and satellite imagery will also be used to implement the new policy, he said. He said this would help in monitoring drainage on private lands that were out of the public eye.

Peterson was optimistic about the possibility of the Division of Water Quality being aided by the public in the enforcement of the new policy. He said it would be highly effective if the public was adequately notified of its role. The Division of Water Quality would also benefit if environmental watchdog groups would take a more systematic approach to their regular monitoring of wetlands, Peterson said.

Concerning enforcement of the new

Waning Wetlands

More than 6,000 acres of wetlands were drained in southeastern North Carolina, thanks to a loophole in state regulations.

- In June 1996, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Tulloch Rule, which prohibited wetland draining without a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- A new policy from the N.C. Division of Water Quality was supposed to be implemented on Oct. 1 but was set back until today. The state has not enforced any laws regarding the regulation of wetland drainage since the June ruling.
- The new policy relies on the DWQ and public complaints to regulate the abuse of wetlands.

policy, Seneca said the public complaints would be key to discovering much of the illegal draining activities. He said the Division of Water Quality would also play an active role in monitoring the wetlands. "We'll be on the ground and in the air looking for problems," Seneca said.

Back in Southport, most residents said they opposed the wetland draining.

Larry Baker, Southport resident and owner of Waterfront Gifts and Antiques, said it was very important to protect the wetlands. "How could they let something like that happen?" he asked. "They have until March 1 to devastate the wetlands."

Baker, an avid recreational fisherman, blamed the state government. "I feel strongly that the state government should be doing more to protect it," he said. "It's just another way the government isn't listening to the people."

Caroon, who was "born and raised on the coast," said he was extremely pained at the loss of wetlands and disturbance of the ecosystem.

"There has been no political control over the ruining of our wetlands rather than to get votes," he said.

Developers of the area declined to comment on the issue. John Atkinson, partner of St. James Plantation, a Southport retirement development, declined to return numerous phone calls. Atkinson has cleared about 1,200 wetland acres to expand the plantation.

Dallas Harris, owner of Dallas Harris Real Estate Inc. in Wrightsville Beach, refused to comment. His drainings were cited by Baldriger as having definite future effects on the Cape Fear River.

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

"(The draining of the wetlands) is the most outstanding rape of natural resources I have ever seen."

DAN BESSE
Environmental Attorney



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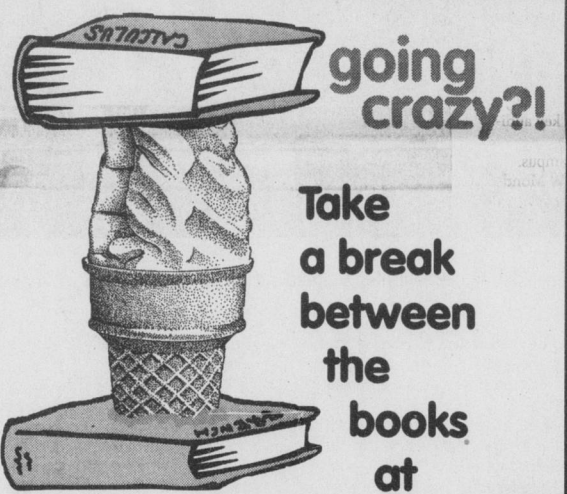
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