

EPA draws on N.C. pollution plan

By MEG CRADDOCK
Staff Writer

The Environmental Protection Agency, in an effort to reduce hazardous waste before it becomes pollution, is developing a nationwide program based on North Carolina's Pollution Prevention Program.

Roger Schecter, director of the N.C. program, will work temporarily as a special assistant to the EPA in Washington to develop the national program.

The basic EPA plan has been in effect since 1986, Schecter said. The EPA wants to enlarge their effort to

include more industries in the program and to deal with these industries more efficiently, he said.

The EPA depends on the efforts of states to help make the program work, Schecter said. States will be able to provide personalized help for the companies involved, he said.

"The difference (between state and national programs) will be in terms of providing technical assistance," Schecter said. "The EPA can't provide direct assistance because there are too many companies."

The EPA will assist the companies

through research, development of new programs and information about new ways of reducing waste, Schecter said.

The amount of interest in the program is tremendous, Schecter said.

"Businesses are very much in favor of the program," Schecter said. "We've had a very excellent response by small businesses, large businesses and local government, because it provides economic and environmental benefits."

The success of the EPA's program

lies in the hands of the states, Schecter said. The program is not mandatory, so it's up to state governments to use the program, he said.

There are 14 states involved in the EPA's program, Schecter said. Of these, seven states have had programs for at least two years.

The program addresses only the disposal of hazardous waste, but that may change, Schecter said.

"I'm hoping that it will be not only nationwide, but that it will begin to address all kinds of waste by the 1990's," he said.

Pope, U.S. bishops discuss authority of church doctrine

From Associated Press reports

LOS ANGELES — In a blunt exchange, American bishops told Pope John Paul II on Wednesday that "an uncritical application" of old solutions is no longer good enough for U.S. Catholics. But the pope called dissent from church law "a grave error" and incompatible with being a good Catholic.

There was no compromise in the pope's reply to the leadership of the American church, as he affirmed the church's stand against women priests, contraception, divorce, abortion and homosexual acts.

"Dissent from church doctrine remains what it is, dissent," the pope said in remarks to 320 of the nation's 400 bishops. "As such it may not be proposed or received on an equal footing with the church's authentic teaching."

To accept faith, said the pope, is to abide by the church's teachings and "it would be altogether out of place to try to model this act of religion on attitudes drawn from secular culture."

"It is sometimes claimed that dissent from the Magisterium (church law) is totally compatible with being a 'good Catholic' and poses no obstacle to the reception of the Sacraments."

"This is a grave error that challenges the teaching office of the bishops of the United States and elsewhere."

News in Brief

professional lives were on the line if something happened to the special prosecution force."

Bork spent much of Wednesday responding to questions about his views on such subjects as civil rights, abortion and privacy before the Senate Judiciary Committee during the confirmation hearings.

Iraq attacks Iranian oil centers

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iraq unleashed its fighter-bombers against Iranian oil centers and a ship in the Persian Gulf on Wednesday, saying Tehran has spurned "all peace efforts" in the 7-year-old gulf war.

The air raids signaled a new flare-up in the so-called "tanker war" after a six-day lull in the waterway that coincided with a peace mission by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"The U.N. secretary-general's mission has been portrayed as a last-ditch peace effort, so it might be hell from now on," said one shipping executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, a flotilla of U.S. warships escorting the Gas Prince, a Kuwaiti tanker flying the American flag, was reported to be nearing Kuwait's Al-Ahmadi oil terminal after an incident-free 550-mile voyage up the gulf.

Gorbachev says treaty possible

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday a treaty eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles could still be worked out this year by the superpowers, and an accord to cut strategic weapons was possible early next year.

Gorbachev made the upbeat statement in a major article to be published in the Soviet press Thursday in conjunction with the opening of the 42nd session of the United Nations.

Bork fields senators' questions

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, parrying attacks on his integrity by Democratic senators, said Wednesday he acted honorably and legally in 1973 when he fired special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

In a dramatic retelling of what Bork called "an enormous governmental crisis," he said that as soon as Cox was dismissed, "I did promptly act to safeguard the special prosecution. I understood from the beginning my moral and

Explicit 'safer sex' comics rankle Helms

From staff and wire reports

In a letter meant "for senators' eyes only," Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., accused a member of the President's Commission on AIDS of using federal funding for sexually explicit comic books.

The books, "Safer Sex Comics," are the target of a letter campaign by Helms, who distributed the books to some of his colleagues.

"It was for senators' eyes only," said Barbara Lukans, Helms' press secretary. She did not know the exact number of letters sent.

In a one-page letter, Helms linked the comics to Dr. Frank Lilly, an avowed homosexual, suggesting that federal money paid for the books.

"I think senators ought to know what the taxpayers' money is being spent for, but I don't want to help Lilly distribute this mess," the letter said.

The letter said "Lilly's homosexual organization" has received nearly \$675,000 to print and circulate AIDS-related material. The 20 pages of comics enclosed with the letter

graphically depict men in sexual acts. The characters use condoms in each scene.

The comics were published by Gay Men's Health Crisis, a New York group active in educating homosexuals about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Lilly, chairman of the genetics department at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in New York, is the organization's former vice president. He said no federal money was used to publish the comics.

Lilly defended the publications as a way to reach homosexuals who otherwise might not understand the risk of AIDS.

Tim Sweeney, deputy policy director of Gay Men's Health Crisis, said the group has received \$680,279 in federal money over the past two years for AIDS research programs. But he said the money for the comics came from private donations. A spokesman for the government's Public Health Service also said the comics hadn't been paid for with federal dollars.

UNC researchers seek funding for AIDS program

By SHARON KEBSCHULL
Staff Writer

To alert possible high-risk AIDS virus carriers, UNC researchers have proposed a project to follow up on the previous sexual partners of patients who test positive for the AIDS virus.

The grant, which would be funded by the National Institute of Health, would give Wake, Mecklenburg and

Durham counties money to research the best ways to track the partners of patients who test positive, said Dr. Suzanne Landis of UNC epidemiology, who would coordinate the program.

Landis said the program is still tentative and the amount of funding is unknown. The program should be approved or denied by October, she said.

If it is approved, the program would start about six months after the approval and last for a few years, she said.

People who agree to participate in the program would be randomly assigned to two groups. In one group, patients who test positive for the virus would identify their past sexual contacts. In the other group, the patients would have the choice of identifying their contacts or having the health department find the contacts. In all cases the contacts and the patients would be kept anonymous and assigned code numbers.

When the partners are contacted, they would be told they have been identified as a sexual contact of

someone who has tested positive for the virus. They would be given counseling and encouraged to go in for testing, Landis said.

The main point of the program, Landis said, is the counseling for those people who may not consider themselves at high risk, especially women whose partners were bisexual men or infrequent drug users who may have shared an intravenous needle. It also targets women who are still in childbearing years so that they may reconsider getting pregnant.

"That kind of personal attention may be better than mass education," Landis said.

The research will focus on which method of location is most acceptable and efficient, she said.

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Broyhill up for Cabinet position

From staff and wire reports

Former N.C. Sen. Jim Broyhill is being considered for the post of U.S. Secretary of Transportation left vacant by the resignation of Elizabeth Dole, sources say.

Broyhill, a Republican, spent 24 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and about six months in the U.S. Senate before losing to Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., in the 1986 election. He was a ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which handles many transportation bills.

Other names mentioned for the post include Patricia Goldman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board; former Sen. Mack Mattingly of Georgia; Wendy Lee Gramm, administrator for information and regulatory affairs at the Office of Management and Budget and wife of Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas; and former Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh.

Broyhill has expressed an interest in the post, but has not been in contact with the White House, said Max Veale, administrative assistant to Rep. Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., a supporter of Broyhill.

A letter from the N.C. Republican delegation has also been sent to the White House in support of Broyhill.

"(Transportation) industry people have been calling us, saying they support him and asking us to pass the word on to the White House," Veale said. "We think he's got a pretty good chance."

N.C. Secretary of Transportation James Harrington said he will support Broyhill's bid for the national post, said Bill Jones, a department spokesman.

Veale said it is not known when Reagan will announce his choice for the post, but he is expecting it by October.

It brings out the best in all of us.



United Way