North Carolina ranks low in hazardous waste report

By GRANT THOMPSON Staff Writer

Only eight states are worse off environmentally than North Carolina, according to a controversial study by the Institute of Southern Studies, a nonprofit research group.

The report, released Monday, is part of a larger study to be released this spring.

In response to the study, Gov. Jim Martin quickly issued a statement suggesting that the Institute of Southern Studies is politically biased.

"It would be interesting to identify the main sponsors of the institute," the governor said in the statement.

Accusations of political bias are ridiculous, said Eric Bates, managing editor of the institute's journal, Southern Exposure.

"It's sad the governor feels he has to lie about a group of citizens trying to take an honest look at the environment," Bates said. "Perhaps it brings into question where Gov. Martin gets his money from."

The rankings were based on four basic indexes: environmental poisons, public health, worker health and state policy, Bates said. The entire South was rated poorly, due partially to less stringent law enforcement in the South, among other problems.

"We have increased fines and enforcement in the last five years," said David Prather, deputy director of communications in the governor's of-

"I would disagree with anyone who would characterize the South as being in a worse state environmentally than the rest of the country," said Hagen Thompson, spokesman for the EPA's Southeast Region. According to the study, the South

ing ground for the entire nation, Bates

has become the hazardous waste dump-

In response Thompson said, "We are

talking about apples and oranges. These are carefully regulated, engineered landfills, not dumps."

Although the South has more waste sites, Thompson said, these sites are not necessarily dangerous.

"The EPA has a national priority list of hazardous waste sites which considers numerous factors such as threat to groundwater, proximity to population centers, and type of contaminants," Thompson said. "We (the Southeastern Region) ranked third out of 10 nationally in the number of these priority

"Certainly North Carolina has be-

come more aggressive in its solid waste and hazardous waste facilities," said Donald Willhoit, director of the Health and Safety Office.

Although the study took into account the varying sizes of state populations, Donald Francisco, lecturer in Environmental Sciences and Engineering, raised other questions about the study. "There are lots of states that don't have anywhere near the population density which we do, so they will naturally be cleaner."

"It is difficult to argue statistics, because we (the governor's office) haven't had a chance to really look atthe study yet," Prather said. "I don't think the study is totally accurate, but there are some problems that need to be addressed."

"There's always some question about the validity of statistics," Bates said, "but these are probably conservative figures. Things are probably worse then they indicate.

"What will have to happen in order to improve the environment is for citizens to pressure state lawmakers to take the environment seriously, and L think it is happening," he said.

Angola accedes to negotiations, cease-fire

From Associated Press reports

LISBON, Portugal - Angola's Marxist government has agreed to start direct peace talks this month with U.S .backed rebels to end their 15-year-old civil war, the official Angolan news agency reported Wednesday.

A rebel spokesman welcomed the announcement, which followed his side's offer Monday of an immediate cease-fire. The guerrillas had also proposed talks.

An initial truce and June talks mediated by President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire collapsed within weeks, and fight-

ing has intensified in recent months. In a dispatch released Wednesday in

Lisbon, the ANGOP news agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura of Angola as saying: "Probably this month (and) next month, representatives of the Angolan government and elements of UNITA will meet to discuss the internal problem." The rebels of UNITA, or National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, are led by Jonas Savimbi.

The Angolan news agency quoted sources in Luanda, Angola's capital, as saying initial direct contacts would be held in Portugal, with later talks in the West African archipelago of Cape Verde. Angola, in southwestern Africa, is a former Portuguese colony that

gained independence in 1975.

A UNITA spokesman in Lisbon, Norberto de Castro, said he had received no official confirmation of the ANGOP report, but he welcomed the government proposal.

He said it was a sign the government "understands the situation." "For us, any date will do" for talks, de Castro told The Associated Press.

A spokesman for the Portuguese Foreign Ministry said his country would be prepared to play host to the talks but had received no official confirmation.

The stalemate has apparently put pressure on hard-liners from both sides to give up the idea of military victory and return to the negotiating table.

In addition, the superpowers, eager to end one of the last vestiges of the Cold War, have been pushing both sides to make peace. U.S. aid to UNITA is reportedly \$50 million or more a year, and Western experts put Soviet aid to the Angolan government much higher.

Angola agreed in a 1988 U.S.-brokered accord that an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops backing its forces would be withdrawn.

UNITA says the war has killed more than 200,000 people.

Government sources in Luanda said they expected a cease-fire could be signed by July.

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Southern Bell

ness."

Directing letters to the commission conflicted with a previous order by the commission asking for any letters of public opinion to be sent to the Public Staff or attorney general.

"That is a mistake, and the memo was written incorrectly," Collins said. "And any correspondence should have been directed to appropriate parties."

When Southern Bell proposed "Caller ID" in November, the attorney general and the Public Staff expressed concerns about the potential public health, safety and welfare implications of the service. The commission then ordered Southern Bell, the attorney general and the Public Staff to develop a notice explaining the service and asking for public opinion on the matter to be addressed to the attorney general or the Public Staff.

The proposal was inserted in Bell's customer telephone bills for the billing cycle that ran through Dec. 27, 1989, and was published in newspapers within Bell's service territory.

As of Feb. 16, 1990, the attorney general's mail was 68 percent against "Caller ID" and 31 percent in support of the service.

The memorandum encouraging let-

ter writing was dated Feb. 7. From Feb. 16 to Feb. 20, the attorney general noticed that the tone of the comments had changed dramatically, and for the first time, the letters in support of "Caller ID" began to outnumber those against

Additionally, the attorney general in late February received an anonymous communication from a Southern Bell employee who described systematic company meetings used to urge employees to generate letters supporting

Many of the pro-"Caller ID" letters "in appearance (typeface and stationery) and tone, bear a striking resemblance to each other and to the 'prototype' letters, suggesting that they may have been prompted by the Freedman memorandum," Attorney General Lacy Thornburg said on Feb. 20.

Because this "orchestrated-letter writing ... contaminated" the genuine public opinion, the Public Staff, supported by the attorney general, requested on Feb. 19 that the Utilities Commission require Southern Bell to disclose all letter-writing activities and cease activities presenting anything other than the personal opinions of the writers to the commission.

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Jimmy Burns, member of the Minority and Women's Affairs Department, said he was not sure Hardin was ready to attack this issue. "I think Chancellor Hardin has a commitment to improvement, but I do not think it is a substantial one," he said. "He is straddling the fence on the entire issue."

make sure those slots are filled by Native

Americans."

Southern Bell agreed to investigate the letters and identified 412 letters written by its employees in support of "Caller ID." Southern Bell then asked that the commission deny the motions of the Public Staff and the attorney

general. "There is nothing unethical about this practice, which, indeed, is the reaction of any responsible corporation to a situation of this type," Southern Bell reported in its response to the motions

of the Public Staff and attorney gen-

The attorney general renewed his motions for a formal investigation in March and later filed for further response. Southern Bell filed responses during that month both to the attorney general's motions and response.

"Due to the controversy, we are very sorry that the whole public perception (of Caller ID) has been misrepresented," Collins said.



A mother's plea

alcohol abuse Wednesday night in Hamilton Hall.

Lonise Bias, mother of late basketball star Len Bias, speaks against drug and

Rally

willing to work together to form a truly diverse campus," Woods said.

Jim Sweet, project leader of the Minority and Women's Affairs Department, said it was time for the University to combat cultural ignorance. "Now is the time for Indian Rights."

Woods said he was tired of constantly being asked about his identity. "It costs much more than time and money to attend this university," he said. "It costs our soul.

"It is time for this pain to end," Woods said. "By hiring a Native American faculty and senior staff, the University can show its interest in equal

opportunities and diversity." Hardin, who spoke briefly with the crowd, told them he was glad they had expressed their concerns to him. "I thank you very sincerely for the work that you have done," he said. "You have given us an important tool (the packet), with

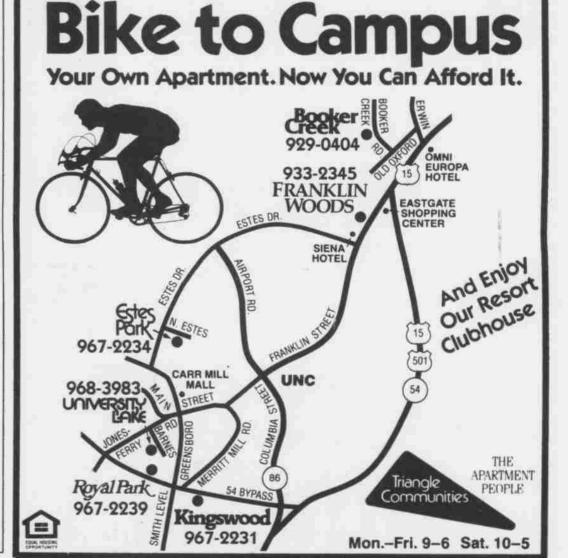
which to work." He and fellow administrators will work together on the issue, he said. "There is no excuse for inaction on this issue," Hardin said. "I will pass on the urgency I feel from you to my fellow administrators."

The administration has been working on a task force that would add diversity to the University and the community by trying to increase minority recruitment and making the campus more hospitable to minorities.

A specific date for students to expect a Native American faculty member to be hired could not be set, Hardin said. "If one sets deadlines, someone will be hired by brute force who is not neces-

sarily qualified." Accusations that spaces would not be open for Native American faculty because of the budget freeze were untrue, he said. "It is not necessary to add slots," he said. "We have a natural turnover of 200 to 250 slots each year. Every one of those is a chance to give equal opportunity to all persons."

Woods said students still needed to fight for a Native American faculty member to be hired by 1992. "Let's still push for that goal," he said. "Let's



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