

CAMPUS AND CITY

Hunt taps local for environmental post

By TJ Hemlinger
Staff Writer

A native North Carolinian is coming home from Washington to work for the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

Linda Rimer, who spent her formative years on a farm "in the middle of nowhere" near Ramseur, which is eight miles east of Asheboro, has been appointed assistant secretary for environment by Gov. Jim Hunt.

She is leaving the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, where she was a member of the Pollution Prevention Policy staff for four years.

"I look at environmental management through the lenses of pollution prevention," she said in a telephone interview from Galveston, Texas, where she gave a speech for the EPA Tuesday afternoon. "North Carolina is a state that really pioneered pollution prevention."

Rimer, the wife of Chapel Hill Town

Council member Alan Rimer, will begin her new job early next month. Rimer will serve under former Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes, who is the secretary of the department.

"We have really encouraged industry to shift pollution from one medium to another," she said. "I'm concerned with how you avoid creating pollution in the first place."

"Raw materials leave the plant one way or another, either as waste or as a product," Rimer said. "The more waste, the less product."

Rimer said she thought managing the environment did not have to mean fighting industries and businesses.

"We need to work more cooperatively," she said. "We all share an interest in protecting the environment by reducing waste before it becomes a problem."

The government's relationship with industry is an on-going one and, like any other partnership, the more cooperative it is, the more productive it can be, Rimer said.

"Suppose every regulated industry in North Carolina came into 100 percent compliance," Rimer says.

"We would still be damaging the environment. We need to look at more creative ways to keep the planet clean."

As assistant secretary of the environment, Rimer will supervise all of its regulatory divisions: waste reduction, solid waste management, environmental management, radiation protection and water, land and coastal resources.

She said she saw her first challenge as "playing catch-up" to the rest of the new administration.

"The position has been vacant since the administration changed (in January)," Rimer said.

She said the secretary and the deputy secretary of the department were the primary policy makers, so her job would be to serve as a link between them, the seven division directors and other elected officials.

Rimer said she was eager to begin working on waste reduction.

"I was surprised to notice when I was

studying the organization that only one division had an obligation of waste reduction," she said.

Public Affairs Director Debbie Crane said it was difficult to fill Rimer's new position, which was the last senior staff position to be filled.

"We were looking for a strong background in waste reduction," Crane said. "It will be good to work with someone who understands the problem."

Crane said state officials were concerned about radon, which Rimer was studying to earn her doctorate.

Rimer also is a former nurse, so she is familiar with the health aspect of the department.

"I don't think we conceivably could have found a better person," Crane said.

Rimer has a nursing degree from UNC-Greensboro and a master's degree in respiratory nursing.

"I am really excited about not only coming home but having an opportunity to work with some really fine people," Rimer said. "It's an exciting challenge."

UNC campus to get a new wave — in bike racks

By Mary Lafferty
Staff Writer

It's a problem many students who bike to class have encountered.

With two minutes to go before class, there's no room on the bike rack near Dey Hall. Students end up having to chain their bikes to the railing on the handicap ramp or just leaving them standing with the frame locked to the wheel.

But the Department of Transportation and Parking has a solution that soon will go into effect.

The DOT, thanks to a grant from the

state, has begun to erect new bike racks on campus. By the time fall semester begins, between 200 and 230 wave-shaped bike racks will be added to 57 locations on campus.

Students say there is a definite need for more racks.

"There have been several times I've had to lock my tire to my frame and hope that nobody will carry it off," said Keith Manecke, a junior from Counts, Tenn.

The plan for new racks has been in construction for about two years, said DOT Transportation Director Ray Magyar.

"When I got here two years ago, (bike rack overcrowding) was one of the first things I noticed," he said.

Magyar conducted studies and surveys to find where the most overcrowded places on campus were, focusing on the libraries and the Pit area.

The DOT requested and received \$50,000 from the state for the racks. But the number of racks the DOT can erect is uncertain, Magyar said. "We're hoping somewhere around 230, but we don't know exactly."

Magyar listed many reasons the DOT wanted to put up new racks. One of the greatest was the that state would grant the DOT the money only for the wave racks, he said. Wave racks last longer, look better and are better for bikes.

Wave racks also allow bikes to be placed with enough room between them so a student can unlock his bike without damaging a bike shoved next to it.

In addition, the new racks are coated with vinyl, which protects bikes from getting scratched.

Also unlike the pipe racks now on campus, the new racks are anchored into the ground.

But the new bike racks do not de-

crease the likelihood of theft, Magyar said.

"I wouldn't say it makes a difference, it's really the lock the person uses," he said. "This is just more convenient to the kids."

The new racks will be placed all over campus including areas where pipe racks already are located.

Magyar said racks would be erected near the Pit to discourage people from blocking the Pit's handicap ramp with locked bikes.

"I am not eliminating the pipe rail racks we already have," he said.

"Some places we'll be relocating them. Most of the new racks will be put where there are already racks now."

The new racks are similar to the wave rack between Greenlaw Hall and the Undergraduate Library. That rack was put up about four years ago as an experiment to see which type students preferred.

But, said Magyar, the rack was immediately filled with the overflow from other racks. It was impossible to tell whether students chose the rack because of preference or necessity, Magyar said.

Budget

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the town could use the idea for this year's budget.

"I don't personally think anything's too late," Brown said. "We think there are still ways in efficiency that could be achieved."

Mayor Ken Broun said he thought it would be worthwhile to try to make town departments more efficient.

"My suggestion is that as part of that, we have staff assess the impact of those changes," he said.

Council member Joe Capowski sug-

gested that the town give each department a certain percentage of its savings to encourage efficiency. Horton said the town currently was studying a similar incentive plan.

Council member Julie Andresen said she thought the council should use the idea next year so departments had enough time to make responsible decisions about cutting programs.

"Curiously enough, we didn't, but we could have asked the manager to come in with no tax increase."

Apple Chill craft fair, bicentennial to clutter town's April calendar

By Rochelle Klaskin
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council unanimously voted Monday to schedule next year's Apple Chill street fair one week earlier than planned even though it then would coincide with the town's bicentennial celebration.

Apple Chill will be held April 10 instead of its original date April 17.

Even though no bicentennial activities were scheduled for April 10 or 17, the Bicentennial Committee asked the council to change the date because members thought a busy town schedule would discourage residents from attending events for the town's celebration, said committee Co-chairwoman Betty Caldwell.

"Since last August we have negotiated with the people at the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Town of Chapel Hill to try and get Apple Chill postponed or canceled for next year," Caldwell said.

After the committee requested the date change, Town Manager Cal Horton conducted a mail survey of 176 of the fair's merchants. Only 11 arts and crafts vendors responded.

Horton's explained that the vendors' major concern was that sales could decrease since students would have returned home because the University's spring semester would have ended.

Ed Weintraub, a vendor who responded to the survey, said in a letter

to the council that his livelihood depended on Apple Chill remaining unchanged. "Apple Chill must take place in April in its present form to remain a viable and vital craft fair," the letter states. Weintraub could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Despite the bicentennial, council members were not convinced that the date should be changed.

"I'm not convinced by all the arguments that we should move Apple Chill to June," said council member Art Werner. "Apple Chill has always been a Chapel Hill spring tradition."

In a telephone interview Tuesday, council member Joe Herzenberg said he thought Apple Chill was an incredibly successful street fair.

"To try and move it around for any reason is a mistake," he said. "I don't think Apple Chill will impinge on the bicentennial."

But Herzenberg added that he was sympathetic to the Bicentennial Committee's concerns about attendance to its events.

After a short discussion about varying dates, the council decided that April 10 did not interfere with any specific event. The council also approved a rain date for April 17.

Caldwell said that the committee was disappointed in the council's decision. "We thought we had worked out an amicable solution to have in it in May or June for just this one year," she said. "April will now be the most congested month."

Tuition

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plan to be the one adopted."

The Senate in May proposed a 5-percent tuition increase for the UNC-system schools and a \$200 surcharge for students at UNC-CH and N.C. State University. In-state UNC students currently pay \$822, and out-of-state students pay \$7,604.

The House recently voted to eliminate the surcharge from the proposal and raise tuition for in-state students 3 percent and out-of 5 percent for out-of-state students in the 1993-94 school year.

The surcharge has become the subject of controversy both at the University and the General Assembly.

Senators proposed the surcharge to help heal serious financial problems at UNC-CH and NCSU. Fifty percent of the surcharge would go to faculty salaries. The rest would go to financial aid and the libraries.

UNC officials say the problems the surcharge addresses are issues that must be dealt with — if not by the surcharge, then by reappropriating tax money.

"My position has been that if that's the only way or the best way, then I support the surcharge," Chancellor Paul Hardin said.

University officials and student government officials at the two schools say they are concerned the surcharge would place an undue burden on students.

"We don't think that it's a good idea to tax the students at this time during a recession," UNC-system President C.D. Spangler said.

But Lee said the surcharge was the only way he could see to meet the needs of UNC-CH and NCSU.

"I like the idea because I think we must do something very soon to generate revenue to enhance faculty salaries and enhance the libraries and simultaneously find revenues for financial aid," Lee said.

"UNC-Chapel Hill, compared to other institutions, still has one of the lowest tuitions," he said. "I don't think it's anywhere near too much to ask."

School

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schools and better use scarce educational funds to support teachers' work.

"The future of our community depends on the education of all of our children, not just one segment of our community," she said.

Burnette serves as vice-president of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and is a member of the blue-ribbon task force.

The race for seats on the Carboro-Chapel Hill school board is non-partisan. Candidates can file with the Orange County Board of Elections between July 2 and Aug. 6.

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