

Hardest-Hit Counties to Receive Drought Grants

By BECKY JONES
Staff Writer

Gov. Mike Easley announced Monday that communities hit hardest by North Carolina's worst recorded drought will receive more than \$21 million in grants and loans to aid in conservation strategies.

Orange County officials do not know how the grants immediately will affect local communities but said more information will be available when the grants are distributed.

The funds will be distributed through

the N.C. Commerce Department, the N.C. Rural Center and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The grants are prioritized to benefit counties experiencing the most severe emergency water supply situations, states a Monday press release from Easley's office.

The press release states that the western two-thirds of the state are in severe to exceptional drought – the most severe categories – and are the most likely counties to receive funding.

Chapel Hill is in the severe category.

Grant money will enable towns to ensure a safe and adequate water supply by allowing neighboring communities to connect their water supplies, the press release states. Communities can provide water to each other in an emergency or as needed.

Julie Haigler, director of N.C. Rural Center Water and Sewer Programs, which is providing \$10 million of the funds, said the money came from the Clean Water Bonds, approved by the N.C. voters in 1998.

"Many areas are absolutely out of water, especially counties just west of

Mecklenburg County," said Haigler.

She said Cleveland, Rutherford and Lincoln counties are the counties in "desperate need."

The Rural Center grants are gifts, not loans, and each county's government will receive the money directly and oversee construction of the infrastructure, Haigler said.

About \$5.7 million in grants will be administered by the Commerce Department.

Bill McNeil, N.C. director of community assistance, said the grants will go to "communities that have a dire, dire

drought emergency."

He said the DENR maintains a list of counties that fit this description.

The grants specifically target small cities and communities because larger cities receive federal funding, McNeil said.

McNeil said he encourages towns under severe conditions to apply for the funds by contacting the Department of Commerce.

In light of recent state budget issues, McNeil said, "The state budget does not play a role in the availability of these funds."

The DENR will provide \$6 million in funds from low-interest loans to complete the proposed \$21 million in drought aid.

Ed Kerwin from the Orange Water and Sewer Authority said the drought is getting worse every day, despite customers responding appropriately to county pleas to decrease water usage.

"We have enough water for the rest of this year," said Kerwin, "But we could be out of water by next summer."

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

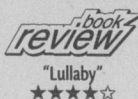
'Lullaby' Offers Readers Challenge

Palahniuk's latest shows growth, depth

By NICK PARKER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The newest novel from author Chuck Palahniuk, "Lullaby," is anything but fast-paced, frank and intense.

"Lullaby" weaves Palahniuk's characteristic dark style and humor with a refreshingly matured technique – representing his best work yet.



Though not the full-bodied shot of blood and testosterone found in "Fight Club" – the cult classic that birthed his fame – "Lullaby" is still a shocking kick in the teeth.

Murderers are heroes, witches are worshiped, and nothing is safe as a man capable of killing with nothing more than a thought races across the country. But "Lullaby" stands out from other pop-fiction horror books because it isn't really about murder, massacre and mystery.

It is about escaping from an empty existence. It is about self-destruction as a form of revival. It is about breaking away from static comfort to find a new life. It is a downward spiral toward redemption. It is Stephen King with a social theme, mayhem as a metaphor.

This is nothing new for Palahniuk. All of his books revolve around a central figure discontent with life – a social square peg – searching for a way to become re-established. But "Lullaby," though it recycles old themes, is strong because of what it accomplishes stylistically.

Instead of myriad snapshots pieced together by mischief, violence or sexu-

al deviance ("Fight Club," "Invisible Monsters," "Choke") Palahniuk's latest is driven by plot and character.

"Lullaby" proves that Palahniuk has grown as a writer without forgetting his past.

His games with words and description are particularly engaging, pouring forth passages of poetic brilliance. Colors, for example, are framed with a depth that captures emotion and symbolism in ways that "red" and "blue" never could.

"Helen's suit is red, but not strawberry red. It's more the red of a strawberry mousse, topped with whipped crème fraîche and served in a stemmed crystal compote," shows how materialism, wealth and attitude can affect the way even clothing is interpreted.

And his constant commentary on everything from media to noise pump the novel full of adrenaline and social angst. He proclaims, "Big Brother isn't watching. He's singing and dancing. ... He's making sure you're fully absorbed."

And those who let their minds atrophy under commercial assault are "sound-oholics ... quiet-ophobics."

His willingness to challenge rules – both in language and in society – infuses his work with a fiery seduction that startles and then attracts readers. Half of you agrees, and the other half feels guilty.

But Palahniuk isn't just ranting and raving, relying on shock value to sell books. He has a loud and unchained voice – one that definitely will not put you to sleep.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

PALAHNIUK
From Page 1

sharing leftover drugs with flight attendants to make new friends.

The point of his stories was not to shock or even to get a cheap laugh but to show audience members that material for a story can be found anywhere.

"I like to take something that people see a million times every day and have never given a thought to and show them the truth," Palahniuk said. "I want to, in a way, wake them up."

And the general public needs a blast of the brutal to snap out of its stasis. "Fight Club" caught much criticism for its apparent glorification of violence – but it shocked many people into thinking about their own lives.

The symbolism of the conflict, however, is the theme that Palahniuk said is most important in understanding his work. For the characters of "Fight Club," the act of violence was therapeutic and empowering, he said.

"(Fighting) gave them an enormous sense of their own capability. They find themselves able to endure and accom-

plish more than they thought capable.

"It was having that experience of enduring and inflicting pain, having that dance and living to talk about it and do it again."

But violence does not have to be the catalyst for personal change, he said.

"The general idea of physical hardship in breaking the consciousness – and it doesn't have to be through violence – is really glorious and sort of attractive," Palahniuk said. "The ego's terror of sacrificing itself is so powerful, even though we know what we could have is so much better."

It is this spirit of self-discovery and pursuit of dreams that Palahniuk tried to share with the students who waited – some for hours – to have their copies of his novels signed.

His own experience with writing, he said, has taught him that stability is important for survival but that without a passion, nothing matters.

"If I could get Doubleday to pay me to jack off, I wouldn't do it. That is how much I love to write."

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

SESSION
From Page 1

keting people can't pigeonhole it, they reject it," Palahniuk said.

Luckily, he was able to find "the people who most strongly connect with (his) work" – a must in the industry.

Instead of talking books the whole time, however, Palahniuk addressed concerns about something he considers an atrocity – television viewing. He told the audience that studies say television might even cause Alzheimer's. To Palahniuk, anything is preferable to television.

"Even my dumbest friend is better than TV, and I have some pretty dumb friends," he said.

Obviously, Palahniuk's disdain for television does not carry over to the big screen. He told the audience how pleased he was with the efforts put in to the making of "Fight Club" and the final product.

Much like his "Fight Club" narrator, Palahniuk experiences moments of clarity while enduring insomnia and physical self-deprivation. Whether it's frying in a hot hotel room or denying himself nutrition until an idea comes, he supports asceticism in the name of creativity.

One young writer inquired about the source of that creativity. Palahniuk said "the public junk yard" is actually the provider of substance for his books.

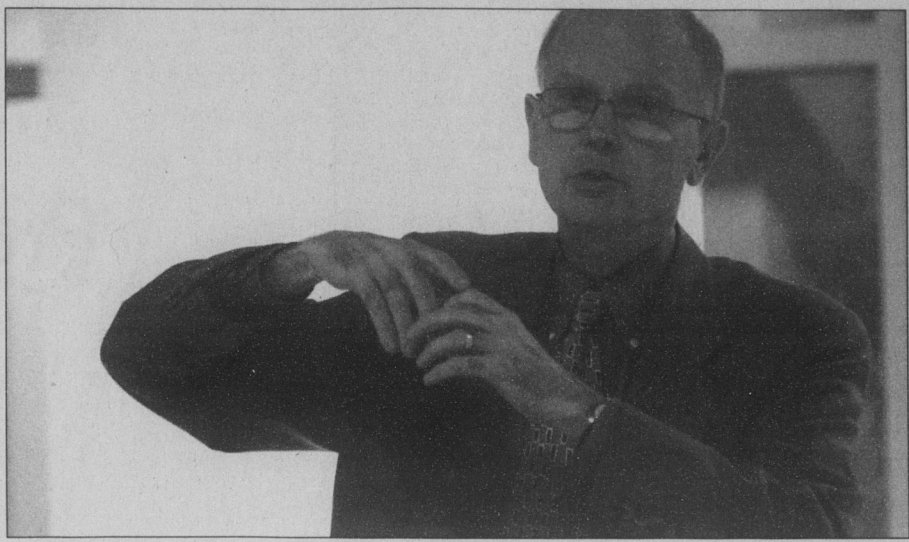
Palahniuk also said it is not at all unusual to find him at a party throwing out ideas to strangers, such as, "So, has anyone ever done something to someone's food in a restaurant?" He then listens intently, excuses himself to the bathroom, and jots down the most interesting responses on cocktail napkins.

These party tales often start out as ideas for short stories and are later incorporated into novels. Many of the scenes in "Fight Club" are actually a compilation of several short stories that were all previously published in magazines.

No one seems to be complaining though, because Palahniuk continues to enjoy success in all of his writing. His frankness in speech and on the page has captured fans across the United States.

Palahniuk connected with the students on a personal and professional level, giving solid advice about how to succeed in the publishing business without "blowing the editor."

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.



Chancellor James Moeser answers questions posed by members of Student Congress at Tuesday evening's meeting concerning the issues keeping UNC from becoming the leading public university.

Moeser Meets With Student Congress

By JENNY IMMEL
Staff Writer

Chancellor James Moeser made his first appearance before Student Congress on Tuesday night, reviving a tradition that ended when the late Chancellor Michael Hooker became ill.

Tony Larson, speaker of Congress, said he wanted to reinstate the practice of the chancellor making a one-time address to Congress this year, allowing Moeser to field questions from Congress.

Moeser began his presentation with a brief overview of the different factors affecting his goal of making UNC the leading public university.

A question-and-answer session followed his presentation, giving Congress members a chance to voice their concerns about the University.

One of the most prominent issues was funds available to students in the form of scholarships and financial aid.

Moeser said there are efforts to increase the availability of merit-based

scholarships, stressing that this will not take away from need-based ones.

"It's not an either/or but a both/and situation," Moeser said. "The University's research strength hinges greatly on the type of students we are able to attract." He added that the amount of funds available to students is a major recruitment factor.

Congress members also questioned Moeser about parking issues.

"We have to recognize that there are multiple constituencies – students, staff, faculty and visitors to campus," Moeser said. "We have to serve all those needs with rising demands and decreasing inventory. My hope is that we do a better job this year than last."

Representatives also were concerned with the limitations of on- and off-campus housing.

Moeser said that more on-campus housing is in the works and that the University is about to break ground for new graduate housing. There also is talk of building more upperclassman hous-

ing on campus.

Moeser urged students to make their voices heard in the cry for development of more off-campus housing.

He also addressed the ongoing water shortage, including rumors that students would be sent home a day early for Fall Break to conserve water. "We are not sending anybody home," Moeser said.

Instead, some bathrooms on campus might close, and officials are installing waterless urinals on campus.

Moeser also took time to address his own concerns, saying he believes student government's biggest challenge is academic integrity on campus and enforcement of the Honor Code.

"Put honor and integrity where it ought to be – on center stage," he said.

After the meeting, Moeser said he thought it went well and said he hopes the discussion was useful for Student Congress.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

GIFT
From Page 1

cent of whatever we raise will be given out each year in the scholarship."

Stevens added that at this time there is no name for the scholarship and that it is too early to know what the scholarship would cover or what the criteria for awarding the scholarship would be.

Albright said class officers are still meeting with people in the financial aid office to work out the final details of the

project.

Senior class officers will solicit money from seniors and their parents. Fund raising for the project has already begun, but Senior Class President Paymon Rouhanifard said the bulk of the fund raising will be done in November and December.

Albright said they are off to a good start, having already raised about \$6,000 from previous senior class fund-raisers such as the sale of senior T-shirts.

The ideas were chosen from an array of suggestions from both faculty and stu-

dents. The senior marshals heard ideas from several dozen students in the Pit and at Fall Fest last month.

Seniors will be able to vote on the ideas online through Student Central from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and at several on-campus locations, Rouhanifard said.

Albright said they are hoping for a higher voter turnout than in past years with the voting taking place on the same day as Homecoming elections.

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

BILL
From Page 1

Rand said it is likely that legislation involving the cancer center will be brought up when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

"We think that it will be a great service," Rand said. "This is a hospital that serves the people of North Carolina. It would be a tremendous assistance to the research going on in the Triangle."

Hurley said the bill fell prey to pressures related to timing, though he hopes it will pass next session.

"It's too late in the session to play those games now," he said. "Everybody's tired and wants to go home."

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

CANCER CENTER
From Page 1

Some legislators expressed concerns that the session might end before the proposal could be given adequate consideration.

"The idea was not rejected in terms of the actual idea but because it was added to the bill at the last minute," Fitzgerald said.

Houpt echoed Fitzgerald's sentiments and pointed to the state budget crisis as one probable cause of the center's rejection.

"There is simply no funding source at the present time," he said. "By the time the budget problems were settled, there was no money available for the cancer center."

Houpt said the treatment center has been in various stages of planning for three to four years.

Orange Co. Schools Seek Local Input

Stability desired in superintendent

By MEREDITH JONES
Staff Writer

A small audience assembled Monday night in the Orange High School auditorium for a public forum held to gather community input on the superintendent search for Orange County schools.

Dana Thompson, chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Education, said that the board has been accepting applications for the superintendent position for five weeks and that the deadline is Friday.

She said it is important to hear from the community before the board fills the position or looks at the applications.

"We will weigh community feedback heavily in our decision," she said.

Board members passed out a survey at the start of the meeting asking audience members to rate the abilities, experiences and expectations they would like the new superintendent to possess.

First-grade teacher and Orange County Teacher of the Year winner Stacey Lee was the first person to speak, citing the need for a superintendent who is willing to dedicate himself to the school system for the long term.

"We want someone who is vested here," she said. "We want someone who doesn't use us as a stepping stone."

Vaughn Compton, father of three children enrolled in Orange County Schools, agreed with her sentiments.

"We want someone we can call a friend, someone who joins a church in Hillsborough, someone who is accessible," he said.

Board member Delores Simpson addressed the issue of the small community turnout.

"The superintendent will have to work with everyone," she said. "So why do you think we have so few people here?"

Marcia Compton, Vaughn's wife and an Orange High School employee, said she thinks that people were under the impression they don't have a voice and that board members would make their own decision regardless of community input.

"It's hard to convince people that what they say does matter," she said. "And the timing of this meeting is bad; the forum needs to be at a time that is cohesive for the family."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Interested in a profession in environmental and human health protection?

Then you might be interested in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) in Environmental Health Sciences major.

Find out more about a BSPH and what you can do with a BSPH degree.

Recent graduates are working for environmental consulting firms in RTP, Washington, DC, Richmond, Raleigh, and Atlanta. Some are in graduate school at Oxford, Harvard, Emory, Notre Dame, Massachusetts, Michigan, Georgia Tech, Florida, and UC Santa Barbara. Two are in law school (Columbia and Washington). Others are in medical school (UNC and Wake Forest).

Come to the Information Session
Tuesday, October 8, 6:30pm
Carolina Union Building, Room 212

Need more information? Contact Dr. Don Francisco, 966-5631; don_francoisco@unc.edu

EASTERN FEDERAL
easternfederal.com
Online Ticketing Available @ www.EASTERNFEDERAL.com

MOVIES AT TIMBERLYNE
Weaver Dairy at Airport Rd.
933-8600

SWEET HOME ALABAMA * PG-13 Daily 3:25, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:25

THE TUXEDO * PG-13 Daily 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

THE BANGER SISTERS * PG-13 Daily 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

CITY BY THE SEA * PG-13 Daily 3:40, 7:20, 9:40

SIGNS * PG-13 Daily 3:25, 7:05, 9:25

PLAZA THEATRE
Elliott Rd. At East Franklin
967-4737

BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER * PG-13 Daily 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:25

TRAPPED * PG-13 Daily 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45

STEALING HARVARD * PG-13 Daily 7:25, 9:20

SPY KIDS 2 * PG Daily 3:05, 5:10

BARBER SHOP * PG-13 Daily 3:40, 7:00, 9:40

AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER * PG-13 Daily 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

SHOWTIMES FOR TODAY ONLY!
MATINEE, CHILD & SENIOR DISCOUNT
ADVANCE TICKETING AVAILABLE
* NO PASSES OR DISCOUNTS

The Lumina 620 Market St. Chapel Hill 932-9000

Take 15/501 South towards Pittsboro Exit Main St./Southern Village

THE BANGER SISTERS (R) 3:30-7:00-9:30

THE TUXEDO (PG-13) 3:15-5:15-7:25-9:40

SWEET HOME ALABAMA (PG-13) 3:45-7:15-9:35

BALLISTIC: ECKS VS SEVER (R) 7:20-9:50

STEALING HARVARD (PG-13) 4:00

Bargain Matinees \$4.75

DOUBLY DIGITAL

STADIUM SEATING