

Duke nuclear plant, church targets of ECOS protests

By ANNETTE FULLER and TONY MACE
Staff Writers

ECOS protesters demonstrated twice Tuesday, at Hanes Hall to protest nuclear power while a Duke Power Co. recruiter interviewed students inside, and at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Rosemary Street to protest the impending demolition of the Breckenridge House.

The Hanes Hall picket was the third ECOS anti-nuclear demonstration in the last two weeks. ECOS protesters picketed Hanes last week in response to the presence of a Carolina Power & Light Co. recruiter, and staged a "no-nukes die-in" in the Pit to dramatize the consequences of a major nuclear accident.

"We're doing these demonstrations to raise public consciousness, to make more people aware that North Carolina has become a nuclear power state," said Mike MacMillan of ECOS.

"We need to become more aware of the dangers inherent to nuclear technology—the continuous low-level radiation the plants will emit, the problem of disposing radioactive wastes and the possibility of a melt-down," MacMillan said.

"At the moment there is no federal policy on radioactive waste disposal," MacMillan said.

He said the close proximity of CP&L's Shearon Harris nuclear power plant, under construction 20 miles southeast of Chapel Hill, has underscored the urgency of anti-nuclear activism in the Chapel Hill area. He said the direct-action tactics employed by ECOS and another

Triangle anti-nuclear group, Kudzu Alliance, have been successful in raising local concern over the hazards of nuclear power.

MacMillan said continued development of nuclear power would monopolize the state's water resources. Nuclear power plants require large amounts of water for cooling purposes.

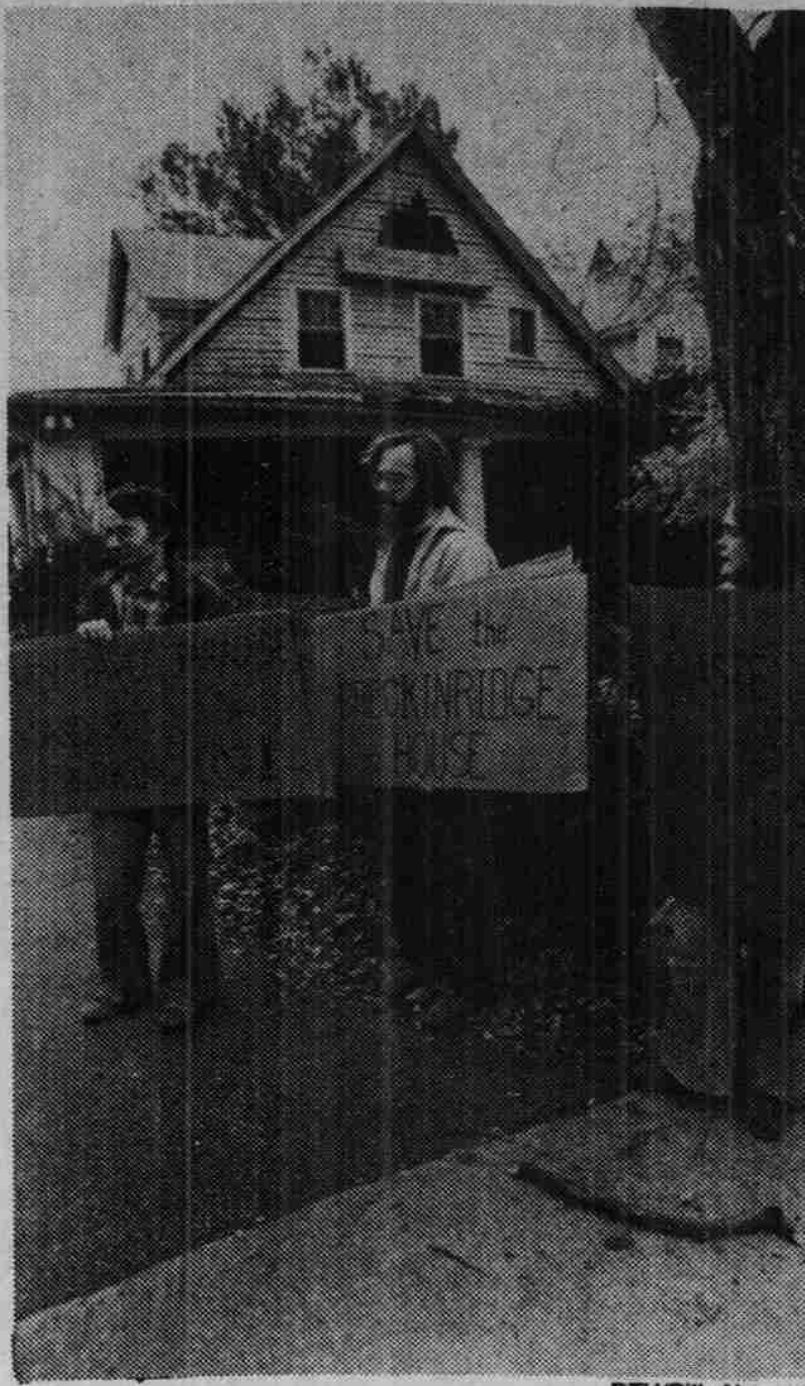
Alex Coffin, a Duke Power spokesperson called nuclear power the cheapest, cleanest and most environmentally safe source of energy.

"It's true that the federal government has not yet provided the ultimate (radioactive waste) storage capabilities, but we are confident they will," Coffin said. Utility companies provide temporary storage for nuclear wastes at the plant sites, he said.

Coffin denied any correlation between nuclear plants and the incidence of cancer. "There is less radioactivity emitted by a nuclear plant in one year than is emitted by your spouse's body sleeping next to yours in eight hours," Coffin said.

Coffin said Duke Power has three nuclear reactors operating at its Oconee Plant near Clemson, S.C., generating 25 percent of Duke Power's electrical output. He said that by 1990, Duke Power should have a total of eight nuclear plants in North and South Carolina generating more than half of Duke Power electricity.

ECOS protesters at the Lutheran Church Tuesday were asking for a delay in demolition of the 80-year-old Breckenridge House, scheduled for removal this week from church property to make room for an addition to the church building.



ECOS demonstrators at Breckenridge house ...oppose demolition of the house

State candidates stress tax reform, school funds

By KATHY CURRY
Staff Writer

As Election Day approaches, local General Assembly candidates are earmarking tax reform and educational spending as top priorities for the 1979 legislative session.

Sens. Charles Vickery of Chapel Hill and Russell Walker of Asheboro are opposed by Republicans Richard Smyth of Chapel Hill and Alice Ward of Asheboro. Rep. Irish Hunt of Chapel Hill and Rep. Ed Holmes of Pittsboro face Republican Carolyn Mercer of Chapel Hill in the House contest.

All candidates agreed Gov. Jim Hunt's proposed income tax rebate would not be the best use of a state fund surplus. They said they do not share the governor's view that Tar Heel taxpayers are calling for immediate tax relief, but all indicated they supported some type of tax reform.

Smyth said his first priority for the upcoming session would be educational funding, principally elementary and secondary, and increasing higher education salaries.

"North Carolina is 44th in per pupil expenditure, and more spending is needed to rectify this," Smyth said. But he stopped short of supporting increased spending for all University agencies.

Smyth declined to say if he would support the UNC Television Network request for increased funds for programming, but said he would not support the request if it were simply to

counteract an earlier proposal to separate the network from the University.

The governor last spring appointed the N.C. Task Force on Public Telecommunications to study the possibility of separating the network from the University, and making UNC-TV an independent agency. Opponents of University control said the network would be better funded if budget requests did not have to compete with the needs of other agencies re-evaluated by the UNC Board of Governors. A subcommittee of the panel this month submitted a compromise plan recommending creation of a separate agency under the N.C. Department of Administration that would still be under University direction.

Vickery said he believes state coffers can support increased spending and tax reform.

"North Carolina does not spend enough on education," Vickery said. He said he supports the Board of Governor's proposals, including the School of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University and UNC-TV request, and said he feels the requests would be honored.

Candidates for two state House seats from Orange and Chatham counties agreed that education funding would be their first consideration in 1979.

No threat to old church

Bell defends building extension

By CAROL HANNER
Staff Writer

Southern Bell's special-use permit request for a Rosemary Street building addition drew more testimony and criticism in a public hearing Monday night.

Opponents of the addition have questioned whether Southern Bell's construction might damage James M. Webb's 120-year-old Old Methodist Church building beside it.

Chapel Hill aldermen extended the public hearing two weeks ago to gather more detailed information on whether Southern Bell could feasibly build the addition to the rear of the present building.

Southern Bell's addition will house a \$10 million electronic switching station needed to provide improved telephone service to Chapel Hill and the University, Southern Bell District Manager Mike Carson said.

Carson said construction of the addition is irrelevant to granting a special-use permit. He added that Southern Bell architects and engineers will take all precautions necessary to protect the building and will pay for any damage to it.

Page Fisher and W.A. Gardiner, two consulting engineers for Webb, told aldermen that Southern Bell's building methods provide a reasonable protection for the church.

Realtor Olga Eyre testified for Southern Bell that the addition would not adversely affect the property value of Webb's building

or surrounding structures.

Alderman Robert Epting expressed concern that the addition might depreciate the rental value of offices now used in the building. He also questioned whether Southern Bell should use the commercially zoned property for an industrial use.

Carson said the 10-month delay caused by a change in plans could cost the company an additional \$2.5 million.

"The extra expenditure might be necessary if Southern Bell is to meet its commitment to the University and the hospital to provide promised expanded service," Carson said.

Southern Bell engineer Don McKinsey said, "Whether or not the \$2.5 million would be spent is subject to some question."

He said the \$2.5 million should not be a critical consideration for the aldermen in deciding whether to grant the permit.

McKinsey said Southern Bell would have to close Spring Lane for two to three months if the switching station were added to the rear.

Webb told the board he opposes the addition because he fears he might not be financially able to support his building if the property value decreases or if the building is damaged.

"There are other ways to knock a building down than with construction damage," Webb said.

He urged the board to consider the social value of the historic building in making a decision.

The special-use permit request was sent to the Planning Board for further study.

grades

From page 1

The impetus behind Williamson's call for grade re-examination in the nine departments was to give students in all arts and sciences programs an even challenge in establishing class rank, Williamson said last week.

It is not fair for a student from a department which grades more leniently to achieve a higher class rank on the basis of those grades, he said.

Lewis Lipsitz, political science professor, said he definitely believes that inflated grades are being given.

"There was a time in the late '60s when grades were de-emphasized," Lipsitz said. "In general, all of us (faculty members) have grown more relaxed about grading." Lipsitz added that students have become more grade-conscious.

Grades are going to go down in the political science department, he said, but they are not going to be punitive. If students do good work, they will continue to get good grades, Lipsitz said.

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