

Cane Creek saga continues with study

By KEITH TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The Environmental Impact Statement concerning the controversial Cane Creek reservoir project was received in late August by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority.

That statement, prepared by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, was required before the Environmental Management Commission could decide whether to approve condemnation rights for land on which the reservoir would be built.

The commission had approved condemnation rights in 1979, but opponents of the project appealed that decision in court. As a result, the N.C. Court of Appeals decided in 1980 that the EIS would be necessary before the EMC could assess the environmental consequences of the project.

Everett Billingsley, OWASA executive director, would not comment on the content of the EIS, except to say that the data in the statement supported OWASA's contention that the proposed reservoir is an "environmentally sound project."

Area residents can express their views at a public hearing, scheduled for Oct. 11 at the Community Church on Purefoy Road. The commission will make its decision after that hearing, pending judicial review.

In the EIS, the Cane Creek proposal was compared to alternate possibilities — most notably the Haw River and Jordan Lake, as well as a possible expansion of University Lake. The Cane Creek proposal fared best of all the alternatives in terms of water quality and project cost, estimated at \$16.3 million. The report also said there would be some unavoidable negative impact on the environment and surrounding community.

That impact is what Edward Johnson, spokesman for the Cane Creek Conservation Authority, said opponents of the project were trying to prevent.

"It's a classic case of the big guys versus the little guys," said Johnson, one of the plaintiffs in the court decision that required the EIS.

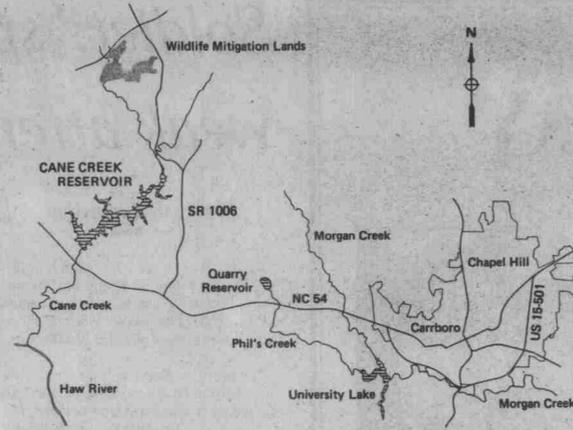
Johnson said the CCCA, which was organized in 1976 to fight the project, has not yet received a copy of the EIS. He also said that the CCCA has other strategies it intends to pursue in order to block the reservoir, but he refused to reveal those strategies.

Pat Davis, systems development manager for OWASA, said an additional source of water was necessary because University Lake, the already-strained primary water source for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area, was not sufficient to meet the current or future needs of the community.

Water-demand forecasts have concluded that residents of the OWASA service area will require more than 11 million gallons of water a day by the year 2020. The present average need is about 6 million gallons per day, which University Lake supplies, even though it was designed in 1932 to provide only about half that amount.

That means the difference between dry periods must be made up from alternate sources, such as purchase of water from Durham and Hillsborough. Davis said the problem becomes even more severe when there is a prolonged drought, as there was in 1968 as well as several times during the 1970s.

The EIS stated that from the water-quality point of view, "Cane Creek is considered to be the best source of water from those (sources) capable of supplying the



Proposed site for Cane Creek Reservoir now condemnable ... OWASA received environmental statement in August

10 MGD (million gallons per day) need." The report also stated that Cane Creek water would have less potential for pollution than either the Haw River or Jordan Lake.

But Johnson said many towns would be glad to have water resources comparable to Jordan Lake or the Haw River.

"Chapel Hill is setting itself up as a prima donna among towns" in its concern about water quality, he said. Johnson said he believed the water from alternate sources is still "fit to drink," although there is some question that pollution and synthetic organic compound (SOC) levels may be higher in those sources.

SOCs are man-made substances that cannot be readily decomposed by natural processes. Many of them are proven or suspected to be toxic or cancer-causing substances, but standards in most cases have not been established for discharge of

the SOCs into water. This is because of the difficulty of determining maximum acceptable levels for the substances, as well as the difficulty of measuring those substances in the water.

The OWASA Board of Directors stated that one of their primary objectives has been to supply the safest feasible water supply.

But Johnson said the Cane Creek reservoir would have a disastrous effect on the surrounding community's cohesiveness and sense of identity. The reservoir would inundate large sections of two active dairy farms in the area. Some of the families in the proposed watershed are said to be descended from settlers who came to that area more than two centuries ago.

Many environmentalists object to the loss of valuable woodland, although no endangered species of plant or animal life has been found in the area.

Orange Co. prepared for water shortage

By LYNDA THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Although Chapel Hill and Carrboro have not suffered a severe water shortage since 1977, the area may again face problems because of the lack of rain in the past four to five weeks.

The level of University Lake, the area's main water supply, dropped 12 inches this summer, said Doug Terry, superintendent of water supply and treatment at Orange Water & Sewer Authority.

"We have not had a trace of rain for the first 14 days of September," Hydrologist Alan Gustafson of the Raleigh Weather Service said. "October and November are expected to be dry times, but it is unusual for September. We have not considered the situation a problem yet, but we are keeping an eye on it," he said.

The rain level is above the normal for the year because of the heavy rains in April, May and June. But the usual level for the months of August and September dropped 5 inches with the absence of rain

in July and August, Gustafson said. "If the weather conditions remain the same in the next four to six weeks, we may implement the five-step water plan," Terry said.

This five-step plan is a conservative plan adopted by Orange County. According to Everett Billingsley, executive director at OWASA, the first step is to alert the public that there is a serious problem. Restriction ordinances make up the next four steps, which intensify the rationing of water with each step.

Billingsley said the shortage in 1977 was caused by a period of little or no rainfall in April and the summer months.

"With these periods of no rainfall in 1977, we entered the dry months (October and November) in a deficient situation. This is not the case this year. We had an abnormal abundance of rainfall this June. It's just the past two months' rainfall has been below normal," Billingsley said.

"We are evaluating the situation week to week, but don't want to say we have a serious problem yet," he said.

New monthly publication voices opinions of College Republicans

By ROBERT MONTGOMERY
Staff Writer

Another publication has appeared on the UNC campus.

The North Carolina Federation of College Republicans has created a new statewide newspaper, which was distributed on campus last week.

Freedom's Defense, is published each month by the College Republicans. The first issue, which included columns on President Ronald Reagan, the Middle East and Governor Jim Hunt, was four pages long.

Phil Painter, a University student who is the treasurer of the N.C. College Republicans and who also helped in the production of *Freedom's Defense*, said the columns in the first issue were solicited from College Republicans and professors at other North Carolina schools, but that future issues would feature columns volunteered by College Republicans across the state.

"Any member of the College Republicans can write for the paper," he said. Painter also serves as chairman of the Campus Governing Council's Rules and Judiciary Committee.

Because the columns in the paper are written by members of the College Republicans and are opinions, they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the North Carolina Federation of College Republicans, Painter said.

The editor of *Freedom's Defense*,

Thomas DeWitt, a student at North Carolina State, developed the idea for the statewide newspaper along with Painter.

The newspaper is distributed around campuses all over North Carolina by chapters of College Republican clubs.

The newspaper is funded by private donations from across the state; the average donation was about \$20, Painter said.

"We want to deal with issues instead of being a newsletter." The newspaper shows people what the College Republicans are doing, he said.

Joe Trostel, chairman of the UNC College Republicans, said in a telephone interview that the goal of *Freedom's Defense* was "to clarify misconceptions and to make people more aware of the College Republicans."

"Our goal as College Republicans is to win the battle of ideas," he said.

Trostel said it was hard to tell whether many UNC College Republicans would take advantage of the opportunity to voice their opinions in the newspaper. "There are a lot of opportunities here," he said. Campus publications such as *The Daily Tar Heel* provide the chance to voice opinions, also, he said.

Painter said the College Republicans were one of the largest youth movements in the nation and that it was important to have a publication that showed what the College Republicans were doing in North Carolina.

Middle East plan divides American Jews

By CHRISTINE MANUEL
Staff Writer

President Ronald Reagan's recently announced plan for peace in the Middle East has caused a division in the American Jewish community. Many thought Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin rejected the plan too quickly although many disagreed with the president's solution.

"Most Jews are troubled on the inside but silent on the outside," said Rabbi Frank Fischer of the Hille Foundation. Fischer said the Reagan plan would be an effective basis for conversation and added that Begin had reacted too hastily in rejecting the plan.

Reagan called for Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank of the Jordan River in a loose federation with Jordan and requested a freeze on the building of Jewish set-

tlements on the West Bank and the Gaza strip. The president did not, however, endorse an independent Palestinian state or negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian guerrilla fighters. Reagan re-emphasized "ironclad" support of the Israeli government and called on all Arab nations to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Prime Minister Begin responded to the Reagan plan with an angry speech before the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. He said that peace in the Middle East was merely a "political matter" to Reagan and added, with his fist crashing onto the podium, "To us, this is our life!"

Many American Jews have cautiously begun to criticize Begin's defiance, disrupting the usual silence of American Jews who rarely challenge the politics of an Israeli government. Although they commend the president for propos-

ing negotiations for peace, Jewish leaders feared the Arab nations would view Reagan's plan as a major concession to the Arabs.

Many Jews said Reagan placed too much emphasis on negotiations with Jordan's King Hussein, who would not enter the Camp David accords despite heavy U.S. pressure. More than 1 million Palestinians now live in Jordan.

"A (Palestinian) federation with Jordan is a long way off," said Fischer, who added that the next move in negotiations would be up to Hussein.

Fischer said the Reagan speech may stir some debate in the private living rooms of Jewish Americans, but in general the Jewish community will keep silent in public. Nonetheless, Fischer said, "I'm not sure how long the silence will last."

Student assaulted in Hanes Hall

A female UNC student reported to University police that she was assaulted Saturday afternoon while studying in Hanes Hall by a black male who presented himself as a janitor.

The student, a senior who asked that her name not be made public, was treated for bruises at Student Health Service and released later Saturday afternoon.

The student reported to University police that she was studying alone in a room on the first floor of Hanes Hall when the suspect came in and announced that he was going to clean that room and that she would have to move. She said when she got up to move she just decided to leave the building completely.

"When I had nearly gotten out of the building he came up behind me and put his arms around my waist and tried to drag me into the men's bathroom," she said Monday.

She told University police that a brawl then occurred, and that he struck her below her left eye, in the mouth and on the back of her head.

He then grabbed her pocketbook but dropped it as he ran outside the building, she said. A couple that was sitting outside told police that he then ran toward Cameron Avenue and escaped, according to University police records.

The victim said she had some suspicions from the beginning about the suspect's credibility.

"He slurred his words and it was hard to understand what he was saying," she said. "All he had to make him look like a janitor was a rag hanging out of his back pocket."

Investigation into the case is pending according to the University police.

— STEVE GRIFFIN

Wreck kills grad student

A UNC graduate student was killed in a motorcycle accident on Jones Ferry Road last Sunday afternoon when the man she was riding with lost control of the bike and crashed into a guard rail.

The student was identified as Faith Ann Seiple, 28, a first-year graduate student in the UNC Department of City and Regional Planning. The driver was identified as Dale Erwin Carpenter, 46, of Vanceboro.

Clyde Jones of the South Orange Rescue Squad said his unit responded to the accident about 6:30 p.m. Sun-

day. Carpenter was reported dead at the scene and Seiple died shortly after being admitted to the emergency room at North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

A friend said Seiple had left her sister's wedding reception shortly before the time of the accident. The accident occurred on Jones Ferry Road about 3 miles inside Chatham County.

A memorial service will be held today at 2 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation on Pittsboro Street.

— STEVE GRIFFIN

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