

Area's good luck may continue

Showers expected for week, weekend

By DONNA PAZDAN
Staff Writer

It looks like Mother Nature cut Chapel Hill a break Tuesday and Wednesday. And National Weather Service meteorologist Rod Gonski said Wednesday that the good luck may last a few more days.

The extended outlook for the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area calls for showers later this week and into the weekend. "Some areas may get substantial amounts while others get little. That's how showers are," Gonski said.

The last substantial rainfall recorded in the Triangle was on Aug. 24. "By substantial we mean more than tenths of an inch," Gonski said. "During September, we've had nothing except for a small amount on Sept. 2 and the amount we are receiving this week."

The 30-day extended outlook for September, provided by meteorologists in Washington, calls for above-normal temperatures and below-normal rainfall," Gonski said.

NWS hydrologist Alan Gustafson said this summer's hot temperatures and lack of rain had caused the agricultural drought. "We experienced a record high of 50 days with 90-degree or above temperatures," Gustafson said.

"This week and the rest of September should bring relief with temperatures in the 70s and 80s, but October and November are usually the driest months of the year in this part of the state," he said.

To fully recover from the drought, the area needs 8.22 inches of rain. As of Wednesday, less than one inch of rain had been received. "We are far from complete recovery," Gustafson said.

Students' awareness to the severity of the water shortage is mixed. Some find it amusing while others are very concerned. "It's stupid that we are watering athletic fields when they are limiting our showers to four minutes," one student said.

Likewise, sophomore Debbie Reinke said, "We are trying to take shorter showers. We got on one of our roommates for taking too much time."

The assistant manager of Pizza Hut, David O'Leary, said, "We used to let people get water for the heat. Now we only give to those who ask."

Even those who live in other counties express concern.

"The drought doesn't really affect me directly, but I don't see how they can curtail bathroom use especially with three home football games in a row," said Randy Everhart of Chatham County.

Conservation pushed in light of shortage

By SUZANNE EVANS
Staff Writer

The water shortage in the Chapel Hill area has prompted student associations to campaign for water conservation and University departments to find other means of supplying water for the campus.

The UNC Board of Governors met Monday to discuss ways to make students more aware of the water shortage, said Mark Dalton, president of the Residence Hall Association.

Dalton said that as a result of the meeting, RHA will post letters in *The Daily Tar Heel* asking students to do everything they can to conserve water. RHA also will hang posters on students' doors and in dormitory bathrooms prompting conservation of water. Dalton said that he has encouraged his governors to act as role models for students by practicing the suggestions themselves.

Wayne Kuncel, director of University housing, said that his department would

not impose any mandatory restrictions on students.

"We just hope that students will become aware of the situation and comply with the recommendations that we will put out," Kuncel said.

Farris Womack, vice chancellor for business and finance, said that he distributed a memorandum Monday containing a list of conservation suggestions from OWASA to every member of the administrative council.

The list, which will also be sent to each residence hall, contained suggestions such as using disposable plates and plastic eating utensils. It also suggested taking a sponge bath and using less water when in the shower.

Womack also said that University officials will not actually go into the dorms to make sure students are following the recommendations.

"I trust that the students will follow them," he said. "I don't think students are different from other citizens when it comes

to helping out in the community."

Gene Swecker Jr., director of the UNC Physical Plant, said that he was not certain how much water the University is using every day, but that officials are making efforts to conserve.

"We have stopped irrigation altogether, and we are using some well water at the University laundry and in other areas," Swecker said.

The University drilled 14 wells in 1977 when the last major drought occurred. The wells yield approximately three million gallons of water a month, he said.

Charles L. Carr, assistant football coach, said the football field and intramural fields are being watered as usual because the Athletic Association does not use city water.

"We dug our own wells last spring in case a shortage like the one we have now ever occurred," Carr said. "We also make announcements during football games asking people to help out and conserve the water."

Water shortages part of history

By SUSAN OAKLEY
Staff Writer

The water shortage of the past few months is by no means an unusual occurrence for the Chapel Hill area. For the last 15 years, residents have been plagued periodically with mandatory water restrictions and insufficient water supplies.

The first major deficiency occurred in 1968 when the water level at University Lake dropped 99 inches below full. The situation was declared critical in September of that year, and citizens were urged to decrease their consumption rate from 5.4 gallons per day to 2.5 gallons per day. University officials even considered suspending classes had the situation not improved.

However, Chapel Hill residents did reach minimum consumption levels by October of that year, largely due to voluntary efforts.

University dining halls, sorority and fraternity houses, the Carolina Inn and N.C. Memorial Hospital Cafeteria served meals on plastic and paper plates. The University also suspended physical education classes to eliminate the use of water for after-class showers.

Even the chancellor of the University in 1968 took part in the conservation effort by taking a bath every other day.

Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson said he wanted to set an example for students.

While limited water supplies continued to be a problem in the early 1970s, the next major water shortage occurred in 1976 when University Lake dropped 63 inches below full. Mandatory water restrictions, which began in August of that year, were not lifted until December of the same year.

Again, students were urged to take only one shower every other day and were asked to flush toilets only when necessary. Room painting was also not allowed.

These guidelines were enforced by resident assistants in campus dormitories. More than 5,000 posters and cards reminded citizens to conserve water in places such as shower rooms and restrooms.

Students returning to the University the following year were faced with yet another water shortage. University Lake dropped 83 inches below full in September 1977, and once again mandatory restrictions were imposed.

But in 1977, money became as much a problem as rainfall. The Orange Water and Sewer Authority spent more than \$174,000 on water. OWASA paid a large portion of this amount to the city of Durham, which at that time supplied Chapel Hill with about one-third

of the water consumed daily. Durham, also having a low water supply, charged OWASA 80 cents per thousand gallons, an amount 2½ times its standard in-city rates.

Luckily, in 1977 the Community Emergency Drought Act gave OWASA \$1.8 million in federal funds, which were used to pay for the Durham water purchases and for the construction of a 10-mile pipeline to Hillsborough.

But today, even after the construction of the Hillsborough pipeline, Chapel Hill's water supply remains insufficient to meet the needs of the community.

OWASA officials are now looking toward Cane Creek, located 12 miles west of Carrboro, as a probable solution. A reservoir in this area could produce an adequate water supply for the next 30 to 50 years, said Everett Billingsley, executive director of OWASA.

But regulatory matters and litigation from opposing landowners have delayed the development of this water source, he said.

The Haw River and Jordan Lake also have been proposed as alternative water sources for Chapel Hill.

"Although mandatory provisions are in effect, the heart of effectiveness is with the voluntary efforts of people," Billingsley said.

Lake-water quality proposals approved

By DOUG TATE
Staff Writer

After a public hearing Tuesday night, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously voted to amend the Carrboro Land Use Ordinance to preserve the water quality in University Lake.

The amended ordinance provides for graduation of density of residential development, rezoning of the water district, preservation of natural buffers, limitations on impervious surfaces, definition of hazardous substances and provision for sedimentation and erosion control.

"We need a comprehensive strategy for development and protection of the watershed," Alderman Steve Rose said.

Rose, who is chairman of the Carrboro Water Quality Task Force, said the ordinance offered a balance to assure water quality.

The problem centers on "exotic pollutants," chemicals brought to an area by ordinary development, such as asbestos from roads and lead from gasoline. These chemicals ruin the soil and the more development that occurs, the more these pollutants will get into the ground, Rose said.

"The real culprit is sedimentation by rain," Rose said. "The rain carries sediment and the pollutants into the lake. These types of chemicals cannot be removed by ordinary water treatment."

University Lake is the main source of water for the 50,000 residents of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area. The town of Carrboro controls 70 percent of the lake's shoreline and, therefore, plays a major role in the protection of the water's quality, Rose said.

The new ordinance is a result of a 2½-year study by the task force to formulate specific regulations for the development of the watershed.

About 80 residents attended the public hearing at Town Hall, including Chapel Hill Town Council member Joe Straley and former Carrboro Alderman Doug Sharer.

Straley characterized the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area as one of the fastest growing areas in North Carolina and said the area would need quality water for the growing population.

Sharer said that the water quality proposals are a reasonable beginning to accommodate the people already living in the community and give protection for the future.

Other members of the community spoke on behalf of the ordinance urging its approval, including the Triangle Sierra Club and the Chapel Hill League of Women Voters.

From page 1



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Sarbanes and others on the committee argued that the troops are clearly involved in hostilities and Reagan should say so.

"It is now essential for the president to make his case and seek approval for deployments

under the terms of the War Powers Act," said Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif.

Lawmakers of both parties also predicted that Congress will eventually vote to keep the Marines at their post, at least for a while.

Robinson argued that the president has complied with the act by reporting to Congress, and is not required to say what part of the act he is proceeding under.

Although he and other officials said they

dislike the idea of time limits, they withheld judgment on a resolution offered by Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr., R-Md., which would limit the troops' stay to six months without congressional approval.

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