

Shrinking funds for water, rates may have to rise

By **SCOTT GREIG**
City editor

If the Orange Water & Sewer Authority does not receive \$70,000 in sales tax proceeds from the town of Carrboro, water rates may be higher for Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The town of Carrboro wants the funds for street repair and maintenance. OWASA wants the money to go toward improvements in their system, but said it would not oppose Carrboro's request to the N.C. Local Government Commission to allow the money to be spent for things other than water and sewer needs.

In a meeting held by OWASA's board of directors Thursday, the decision was reaffirmed by board members who voted on a resolution that stated they would abide by the decision of the commission regarding Carrboro's budget for the fiscal years 1987-1988.

OWASA officials plan to float a

multi-million dollar bond issue before fall. If Carrboro is granted the waiver by the commission when it decides the issue in about two weeks, OWASA officials said they may have to raise water and sewer rates for the service area that includes both Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The money in question is generated from the half-cent sales tax increase that took effect in 1983. Legislation accompanying that increase requires towns to spend 40 percent of those proceeds on water and sewer. Since neither Chapel Hill or Carrboro has their own water system, the money usually goes to OWASA. This 40 percent amounts to \$70,000 in Carrboro and \$220,000 in Chapel Hill.

Carrboro was granted a two-year exemption by the commission for the fiscal years 1985-1986 and town manager Bob Morgan said Carrboro wants to have the exemption

granted for the next two years also.

Carrboro Mayor Jim Porto told the board earlier in the week that another 3.5 cents would have to be added to the present property tax rate if the money could not be used for street repairs and equipment replacement. He said the town already has tax increases planned for the next three years.

Porto said Carrboro has no annexation plans, so no new areas need water and sewer services.

While just down the road, town manager David Taylor said "the aggressive annexation plan" of Chapel Hill will probably result in the town asking for its \$220,000 to be used to extend OWASA lines into annexed areas.

J.D. Foust, secretary of the state Local Government Commission, said every town that has requested a waiver has been granted one. Foust added that the commission grants the requests only after the N.C.

Environmental Management Commission and the N.C. Division of Health Services agree that the water and sewer needs of the town seeking the waiver can be adequately met without the money in question.

Since 1983, when the half-cent increase went into effect, 10 towns have been granted waivers.

The 10 towns that have received exemptions are, Kajah Mountain, Carrboro, Mint Hill, Whispering Pines, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Pinehurst, Southern Shores, Charlotte and Roanoke Rapids.

Foust said the larger towns like Charlotte are able to meet the water and sewer needs of their residents through utility rates.

"We can't have everything we need or want so we have to make allowances," Morgan said to the board.

"We urge and encourage you to let us use the funds for another two years," said Carrboro Mayor Pro

Tem John Boone. "We're small and our tax base is small, but we're growing," Boone said.

Boone ended his address to the board by pointing out that while OWASA has been good to the town of Carrboro, the town of Carrboro has been good to OWASA.

OWASA Chairman Edward N. Mann, Jr. replied by agreeing with Boone, but he also said Carrboro has to realize what kind of position this puts OWASA in. Mann stated that the resolution was a compromise and that the first priority of OWASA was to provide adequate water and sewer service to Chapel Hill and Carrboro. He said this might not be possible without a rate increase if the waiver is granted.

"Local government has also given us some problems," Mann said. "It's not always clear what we should do in a situation like this, it's hard to please everyone involved."

Acquaintance rape topic of rape prevention month

By **SHIRLEY NESBITT**
Staff Writer

Gov. James G. Martin signed a proclamation on April 14, 1986, declaring the month of June as "Rape Prevention Month" in North Carolina, and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center is working toward that goal.

The purpose of the full month of rape prevention is to "urge all our citizens to recognize the threat of acquaintance rape, and join in preventing the incidence of forcible rape in our society," said Mary Ann Chap of the center.

The center reports, after a four-year compilation of statistics, that reported rapes have increased in North Carolina faster than any other violent crime.

The number of reported sexual assaults has more than doubled between the years of 1981 and 1985. These statistics alone indicate the need for further awareness of the educational programs available which teach self-protection against sexual assault, safety and how to survive an assault, should one occur, according to the center.

"Too often the burden of rape prevention is placed on females," Martin said in his proclamation.

The month of June is dedicated to expanding that burden to a collective responsibility belonging to all in the community.

The center has been providing

services to Orange County for the past 12 years. It was founded to provide aid to rape victims and was soon expanded to include community education and outreach programs.

The center has constant goals of recruiting and training volunteers, providing ongoing programming related to sexual assault, continuing to have productive inter-agency relationships with other service providers and to contribute to art and literature on sexual assault.

The center achieves these goals through providing community education programs, twenty-four hour crisis intervention services to sexual assault victims and their families and friends, providing support groups for victims and maintaining consultations and referrals with other service providers in the area.

During 1985, over 4,000 people were reached in community educational outreach programs. The center reports that 48 percent of these were associated with UNC either as staff or students. Of the assaults reported to the center, 14

percent of the rapes and sexual assaults had occurred on the UNC campus.

"During Rape Prevention Month, the Orange County community, as well as the campus community, is going to strive for a collective preventative awareness of the measures we all can take against sexual assault," Chap said.

The Orange County Rape Crisis Center joins Martin in focusing on two major issues for community education during June. The first is the frequency of acquaintance rape. Most think of a rapist as a violent stranger when in actuality over 50 percent of rapes are committed by an acquaintance of the victim, Chap explained.

"Acquaintance rape is the most difficult for the victim to acknowledge it was a rape, to say it was a crime," Chap said. "The women have more self doubt, because they knew the person."

"In fact, 39 percent of assaults on UNC's campus reported to the center over four years were acquaintance rapes."

Martin stated that acquaintance rape is the most difficult crime to combat, since many men are taught extreme aggressiveness from infancy.

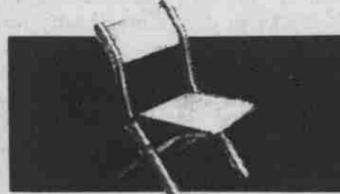
The programs being offered during the month include, No Should Be Enough, All Men Are Not

Rapists, Rape Is Everybody's Problem, Help Children And Teenagers Protect Themselves and Self-Protection Against Sexual Assault.

"Rape is not a crime of passion or frustrated desire; it is one of

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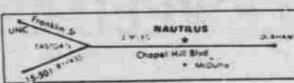
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