

# Population growth causing concern over water supply

By SHARON KEBSCHULL  
Staff Writer

Even in years with no drought, state officials are predicting a need for water conservation and long-range planning due to a rapid state population growth, especially in the Triangle area.

"The Raleigh system depends very heavily on Falls Lake . . . it was intended for 20 years (of use) . . . but the population growth is probably exceeding that rate," said Rick Bailey of the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation Office. "We're well ahead of the predictions."

The state has grown to a popu-

lation of 6.2 million and is expected to be about 7 million by the year 2000.

Raleigh is now beginning to look at Little River as a future reservoir, and the planning report they released suggests preparing it for use, Bailey said.

In Orange County the long-range plan is focused on the construction of the Cane Creek reservoir. This should meet demands for the next 30 to 40 years, said Patrick Davis, assistant to the executive director of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. That prediction is based

on studies of the historical growth and use of water in Orange County, he said. Construction should begin later this year, and there will be a rate increase in January 1987 to cover the additional financing requirements, Davis added.

In Orange County the price structure and the mandatory conservation requirements are the main ways conservation is encouraged, Davis said.

"Certainly the lack of water is a vital matter of concern for any growth area," said Bill Austin of the state Soil and Water Conservation

office.

The state does have a 75 percent cost-sharing program to help farmers, now in operation in 33 counties, said Bob Gennant of the Agricultural Extension Service.

"This has been in operation for two years and we're looking forward to more in funding, from \$2 million to \$3 million, for cost-sharing farmers . . . this increase will help with growth," Gennant said. The program should eventually cover all 100 counties, he added.

The program is also designed to protect reservoirs like Jordan Lake from further pollution, Gennant

said.

Officials are taking a closer look now at concerns for the ground water. The focus has been primarily on surface water during the drought until the growth of demand for water. "There have been very few studies of that around the state compared to surface water studies," Bailey said.

Part of the problem lies in the fact that with the growth of cities comes more asphalt and less soil. Because of this, there's not as much water going into the ground, causing more runoff and less percolation, Bailey

said.

The drought affects the soil even more during the summer because in the tree and plant life cycle the maximum amount of water is used.

The recent rains have helped the ground water level somewhat. Some farmers' wells in the southern part of Orange County had gone dry, and they received over two inches of rain. However, long-range plans are still needed because rain in the fall and winter months, if it follows recent patterns, will not be enough to make up for the summer drought, Bailey said.

## 1988 targeted for Plant building

By MARIA HAREN  
Staff Writer

Construction of a \$1.8 million University Physical Plant building on Airport Road will begin the first of next year and should be completed 18 months later sometime in 1988, the former director of the Department of Physical Plant said Monday.

C. Eugene Swecker Jr., now the Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management, said the building, to be located in front of the existing plant, will house the offices of the various physical departments now in separate locations on Franklin Street. "Combining a group of functions will lead to better coordination," Swecker said.

Included in the plans are the Plant's offices of utilities, planning, interior design, construction and engineering. The Physical Plant is responsible for some campus construction and maintenance of grounds and University buildings.

"As the campus has grown," Swecker said, "the Physical Plant

has grown." A new plant has been needed for a long time, he said, but until recently funds had not been available.

Gordon H. Rutherford, director of the Planning Office at 134 E. Franklin St., said money for the \$1,783,000 project came from utility sales dating back to 1957.

In that year, he said, the utility system divested, giving the University \$32 million and the state \$10 million. The University's money went toward the construction of several campus buildings, including Walter Royal Davis library, the Health Sciences library and Wilson library's renovations.

But the state government claimed the University owed about \$5 million in back taxes, he said. The University disagreed, put the money in escrow and claimed no taxes on utilities.

Rutherford said the state dropped the case last summer, opening up the back taxes for capital-improvement projects.

Three such projects include the

renovation of the Ackland Art Museum, to cost about \$2.8 million; the construction of an electrical power plant, about a \$9 million project; and the construction of the new 23,000 square foot, two-floor Facilities Support Building (the Physical Plant), Rutherford said.

Gantt Huberman Architects of Charlotte has been working on the building's exterior design for the last six months, Rutherford said. The Rural Property Committee of the Board of Trustees met Wednesday and the design was expected to be approved.

### Air Force ROTC scholarships

UNC's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program offers two, two and a half, three and three and a half in-college scholarships to qualified freshman, sophomore or senior applicants. The scholarships pay for tuition, fees, provide a reimbursement allowance for textbooks, and a \$100-per-month, tax-free stipend. Upon successful completion of the AFROTC program, students are commissioned officers in the Air Force upon graduation.

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Scholarships are available for students pursuing degrees in mathematics, physics, computer science, nursing, foreign languages, medicine and other majors.

Scholarship and other information is available at the Department of Aerospace Studies in Chase Hall.

## SFA meets Nicaraguan refugees

By DONNA LEINWAND  
Staff Writer

Twelve members of Students for America traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in early August to study the refugee situation on the Nicaraguan border, according to the organization's national chairman.

"There are 41,000 refugees in Honduras," Dave Fazio said. "Many left-wing students on campus travel to Managua and tout the Sandinistas. We talked to people who had their houses burned by the Sandinistas. They had to flee from Nicaragua."

Keith Poston, chairman of the UNC chapter of SFA, also went on the trip.

"We wanted to get a firsthand account of Sandinista persecution," Poston said. "You don't get straight answers from the government or the media."

The group originally intended to visit the refugee camps of the Miskito Indians who were removed from their traditional lands in northeast Nicaragua in January 1982 because of the war. The Miskitos are loosely tied to the National Democratic Force (FDN) known as the Contras. The FDN is fighting for the overthrow of the Sandinista government which came into power seven years ago.

"We weren't able to visit the camps because they were seven hours outside of Tegucigalpa," Fazio said. "It was also flooded and the bridge was out."

Fazio said another trip would be planned for October or December, during which they would tour Nicaragua and return to Honduras to see the Miskito camps.

The group met with members of the FDN to discuss human rights concerns and FDN's reputation in the United States.

"One concern was if the accusations were legitimate, that the 'Freedom Fighters' were thieves and rapists," Fazio said. "They showed us their 'Code of Conduct' that every soldier carries

with him. It says they have to look after the old, the women and the children and if they catch a Sandinista, they must bring him back to the camp."

"I'm not saying that the 'Freedom Fighters' are not guilty of human rights abuses but if there have been abuses, they were isolated incidents."

Fazio said the FDN has not seen the need to convince Americans of their morality.

"Right now their only purpose is to have American lawmakers on their side," he said. "We're trying to convince them that they need to have the American public on their side as well. Right now the American people are against the 'Freedom Fighters.'"

The group did visit a United Nations camp in Honduras that had about 4,000 refugees, Fazio said.

"They didn't support the FDN," he said. "They didn't like to talk because they had relatives in Nicaragua and they were afraid that we would go back and inform the government. The ones that did talk said that in Nicaragua the FDN wasn't presented as a legitimate force. I think that is because of press censorship. They read only what the government wants them to read."

Most of the refugees were children and teenagers, Poston said.

"Young boys left Nicaragua because their parents didn't want their kids in the army," he said. "In Nicaragua, when you're drafted, they don't send you a card in the mail. They take you off the street and out of your home. Most of the refugees were very religious. They're Catholic and they don't have much religious freedom. The Sandinistas monitored church services. There was just harassment in general."

The people in the camp are anti-Sandinista, Poston said.

"The people say that Somoza was bad but Ortega is worse," he said. "They are a nation in exile. There are Soviet troops . . .

Czechs, East Germans . . . in Nicaragua. Anyone who says the Sandinistas are acting on their own is just saying nonsense. The people are anti-Sandinista but they felt they didn't have enough faith in the Contras. They (Contras) are trying to fight a Soviet agent. All they hear is Sandinista rhetoric against the Contras."

The group planned to bring 20 boxes of medical supplies, clothing, soap and fatigues to the refugee camp but only two actually were received, Poston said. They were assured, however, that the supplies would eventually get to the camp, he said.

"They have miserable conditions in the camp," Poston added. "They have nine people living in shacks that are no bigger than the shanties we had on our quad but not one would go back to Nicaragua. They'll do anything to get out."

The students had an informal meeting with Celeo Arias Moncada, a minister of the Honduran president, Poston said.

"The official Honduran position is that the FDN doesn't exist in Honduras," he said. "They say there are no Contra troops in the country. They don't think the Contras are drawing fire. They say the Contras are acting as a buffer zone. Honduras is pro-American. They really love the U.S."

The group has established three main goals since it has returned, Fazio said.

"Each student has promised to speak on five campuses to get our findings out," he said. "Many people don't know that the Sandinistas have increased their attacks in Honduras."

"We're also having a nationwide petition drive urging President Reagan and Secretary of State (George) Shultz to break all ties with the Sandinistas and recognize the refugees as a government in exile. We would also like to have another trip."

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per day will be distributed from Butner to Durham, where it will be treated. Through water lines existing since 1968, Chapel Hill will receive the treated water from Durham.

Davis said the additional water supply could arrive by this Friday if electricity is wired to the water pumps by then.

But until water resources are replenished, UNC students are still urged to conserve water in any way possible.

"Students as members of this community will want to assist in moderating the water shortage," said Frederick Schroeder, dean of students. "Even with recent rains, we are still below normal levels."

Staff writer Sheila Simmons contributed to this story.

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