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Brrr...Fuel crisis affecting UNCC!!

By Steve Bass

Governor Jim Hunt, responding to the serious problem of the natural gas shortages last week, handed down a statement directing all state offices to go to a four day week, cut thermostats to 62 degrees, and curtail all extracurricular activities in schools. Although Hunt specifically exempted institutions of higher education from the order to go to a four day week, the UNCC campus will soon be feeling the effects of the Hunt decision.

Leo Ells, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, said students and faculty can expect the campus temperatures to get much lower. "We're going to have to endure temperatures of 62 degrees in all classrooms beginning next Monday, February 7. On the weekends we will cut off the heat completely in the buildings, with the possible exception of the library complex."

The Director of the Physical Plant, Ed Ayers, said his men will be working on campus cutting all thermostats back to 62 degrees. "Actually, we've been anticipating something like this for some time now. What we're doing at this point is designing plans to cut back the temperature to 62 in all the rooms. Now I'll grant you that people can still twiddle with the thermostats, but we will be checking throughout the campus making certain that the temperature is maintained. At this point, we plan to cut the heat off completely after 10:00 p.m. and turn it back on at around 6:00 a.m. in order to warm the rooms to a toasty 62. On the weekends we want to turn the heat completely off at around 2:00 p.m. and not turn it back on until Monday morning."

Ayers said that this plan will save a great deal of energy, but the decision to close down the buildings will be made individually and exceptions might have to be considered. "We obviously can't shut down everything. For instance, in the science and psychology buildings we have a lot of animals which are used in experimentation. We are trying to determine how we can heat some small areas like these areas in order to protect the animals. Of course, we couldn't cut off the heat to the Student Health Center, and I'm working with Vern Parrish trying to work out a weekend schedule for the Cone Center."

Parrish, Director of the Cone University Center, said many of the plans for the Center have been in the workings for some time. "We've got a few conferences and seminars that have been planned for the new area of the Center. What I'm working on at this point is a plan to cut off the heat in the old sections of the building on the weekend, and keep it on in the new section. What we are really looking for is some block of time to completely turn off the heat to conserve energy."

Carolina Journal photo by Lisa Laney



Vern Parrish, Cone Center Director

Governor Hunt's proposal included a directive to reschedule sports events for different times. Dave Taylor, UNCC Sports Information Director, said the decision would not seriously affect the basketball program. "As I understand it, (the directive) asked sports events to be moved to the afternoon. That wouldn't hurt us too badly on the weekend games, people could still come. The problem would be if we were forced to hold games in the afternoon during the week, that could seriously affect the game. Right now there doesn't seem to be any problem, but we are more than willing to do our part."

The man who is directly responsible for the gymnasium complex is William Hutchinson. "The heating policy in the gym right now will keep it open. (Leo Ells points out that UNCC is advantaged in that the gym is only a part of the Health and Physical Education complex. "The fact that there are classes which are conducted at night will help out, since it must be heated.")"

Hutchinson says, "The temperatures in the pool and the main gym floor will remain the same. I would imagine that the temperature on the main floor will stay at about 65 degrees. No activities, including intramurals, will be affected at this point. The heat in the building will not be turned off until 10:00 p.m., and even those games which do not start until 9:30 will find that there is enough heat to finish the games. It will remain comfortable."

When dealing with exceptions to the heat cutbacks the most obvious student residence halls. Chuck Lynch, Residence Life Director, says at this point no energy conservation policy has been adopted in the dorms although, "We're working on educating the students to energy saving ideas. I don't know how many people on campus know this but the thermostats in the dorms are activated by a mixing system which samples air from seven rooms, takes an average, and adjusts the heat in the

rooms. I'm not certain what the temperature the dorms will be cut to, because of the system they haven't got around to us yet. I would guess that the temperatures will average in the middle 60's. Of course, temperatures will be averages, some rooms may be in the low 60's and some may be as high as the low 70's. If some student has his window open it will mess up the system and make the temperatures unstable."

The general consensus among campus administrators is students and faculty members can expect colder temperatures, and stricter conservation measures on campus, and if the harsh weather continues, the students may be called on to bite the bullet even more. The only hope was expressed by one exasperated student who was heard to comment, "My feet are cold. I'm tired of wearing a sweater everywhere I go, and tired of walking into wind. Thank heavens it will be Spring in six weeks. Who knows, it may even get into the 60's by June."

Health Center searching for doctor

By Nancy Davis

"There must be a doctor who would turn on to this kind of work...the kind of work that is more important than money," said Dr. William A. Davis, Director of UNCC Student Health Services and resident physician of the Student Health Center.

The Health Center is in the midst of an important search for an associate doctor to work at the Center. Three years ago, Dr. Davis was given authorization to find somebody to work with him fulltime.

There have been legal problems, but according to Davis, "Money is what tips the scales." The University is having difficulty finding a physician because they are unable to match the salary a doctor could make in private practice.

Last year, John Derrick, a certified

physician's assistant, worked at the Center. As a physician's assistant, he was not licensed by the state. He could, however, work under the supervision of a licensed physician, seeing all students, and writing prescriptions.

"A problem did arise, though. According to the Nurse Practice Act, no nurse had to accept orders from anyone other than a licensed physician," said Davis. "At the time this law was written, there was no such thing as a physician's assistant. It's a case where the law hasn't kept up."

Because of the discrepancy between the physician's assistant certification and the Nurse Practice Act, Derrick had to be let go. Davis said Derrick was "well-trained and seemed to get along with everybody. It was a legal thing with no way to resolve it."

Even though various state boards are studying the situation, the Health Center is still without an assistant. They are looking for someone to help in seeing the "average of 60 students a day," said Davis. "We don't want someone who's looking for a place to slow down. The person will probably be someone 40-45 years old who has found out what a rat race it is out there and could get satisfaction out of a job like this."

Davis has seen much growth and improvement in the Health Center in his five years at UNCC, but feels the Student Health Center should be doing more. Davis speaks occasionally to students on such topics as birth control but says, "That's not even scratching the surface of what Student Health should be doing. An associate would open up time to get into other things."

Smoking banned in classes

By Steve Bass

Effective Monday, February 7, smoking will be banned in all classrooms. The ban had its origins with Mark Smith, a senior psychology major. During registration Smith and his cohorts manned a desk outside the gym and had interested students sign a petition urging the Chancellor to implement the ban.

According to Ken Sanford, Director of Information, the students took the petition, containing 2,643 names, to Chancellor D.W. Colvard and requested action. "The Chancellor recommended that the students take their recommendations to the University Senate. (The University Senate is a body composed of an equal number of staff, students and faculty.) After consultations, the University Senate voted by a margin of 15-5 to approve the ban.

"The recommendation then was sent back to Chancellor Colvard, who met with the vice chancellors and the deans of the colleges, and decided to approve the recommendation," said Sanford. "The Chancellor is presently preparing a directive establishing guidelines for the

classrooms. According to the information we have at the present time, a classroom will be defined as any enclosed space in which instruction occurs.

"Among the ways we plan to enforce the regulations are placing ash receptacles in the hallways, having professors inform students that smoking will not be allowed, encouraging 'smoke breaks' during 90 minute classes, and posting 'no smoking' signs in every classroom," said Sanford.

While all these administrative functions were being implemented, the ban was the talk of the campus among UNCC students both smokers and non-smokers. Susan Sluss, a smoker, said the ban would not bother her that much. "I can really feel for the people who do not smoke, I mean it bothers me when I'm sitting next to someone who smokes in class, and I'm a smoker. I'm certain that I can go for 90 minutes without smoking, I'm not that addicted yet."

Non-smoker Blair Perry says, "It sounds great to me. I don't like it (smoking in classrooms). I'm not allergic to smoke, I'm just not too crazy about it."

Carter Jewell says that smoking helps him relax before an important examination but, "I don't mind the ban, maybe it will help me cut down on smoking, if it does then I guess it will serve a purpose."

Smoker Rob Jolley is ardently opposed to the ban on smoking, "I think it stinks. To me, it is mostly a habit. I enjoy doing it, it's part of my thinking process. Of course, I always try to sit near a window and open it. I also ask people around me if they mind if I smoke. I do believe that if only 2600 students out of a body of 8000 signed a petition, its not very democratic. It should be taken to a vote. I just don't think its fair not to consider smoker's rights."

However, both smokers and non-smokers can take solace in non-smoker Curt Williams' comments, amid a round of applause as the "No Smoking" sign was posted in his classroom. "I think it is great. I love it. In fact, I'd been thinking of chewing tobacco in class to protest the smoke and anyone who has seen that knows how bad it is."