

*'The 41 million dollar solution'*

# Three water experts question proposed French Broad plant

by Jeff Fobes

## Daniel A. Okun – environmental engineer

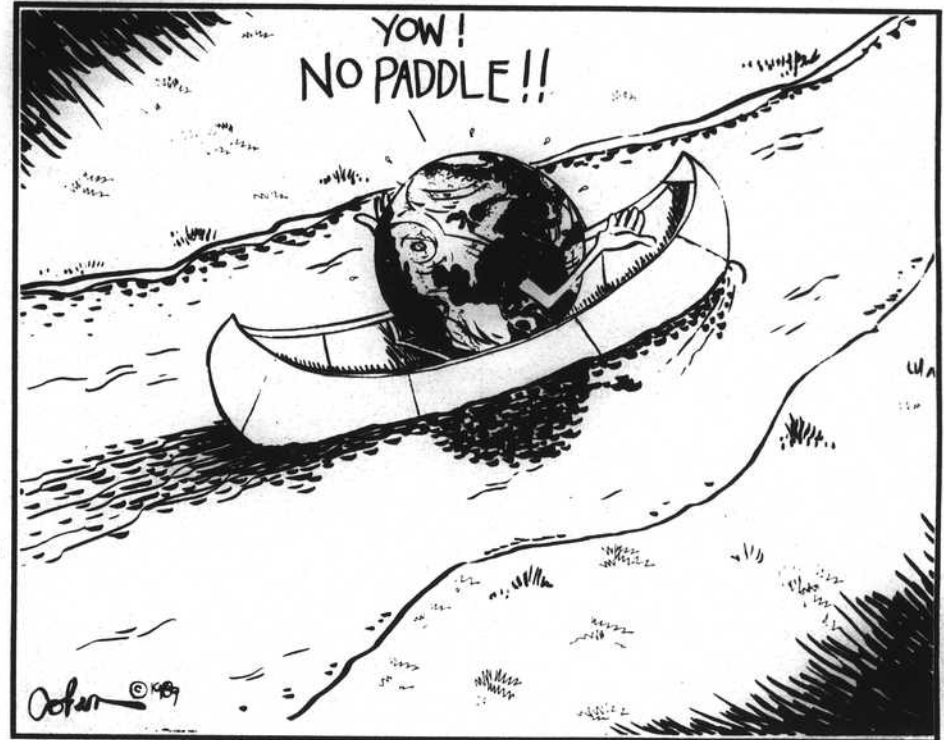
The idea of using the French Broad River as a source of drinking water troubles Daniel A. Okun. Okun is Kenan Professor (emeritus) of environmental engineering, UNC-Chapel Hill, and consults both in this country and internationally on water systems.

He called the idea "abominable" and said the choice will mean that poor quality water will be added to that from a high quality water source. He asked, "Why raise millions for a plant to take water with Hendersonville sewage and industrial pollutants, when you have clean water available?" He warned that the number and amount of pollutants introduced into the French Broad will continue to grow.

Okun said, "The water authority is meeting a problem in what appears to be the most expedient way, without any understanding of the long term significance of what they are doing." He added, "I am quite sure that the long term costs of pumping and treating water from the French Broad are a lot higher and getting higher than drawing water from mountain watersheds."

Basic construction costs are always cheaper if you take from a river, Okun said. On other hand, if you consider total costs, which include annual costs, then the river will not be the cheapest.

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- Charlotte nuclear reactor accident
- WCQS explains its programming changes

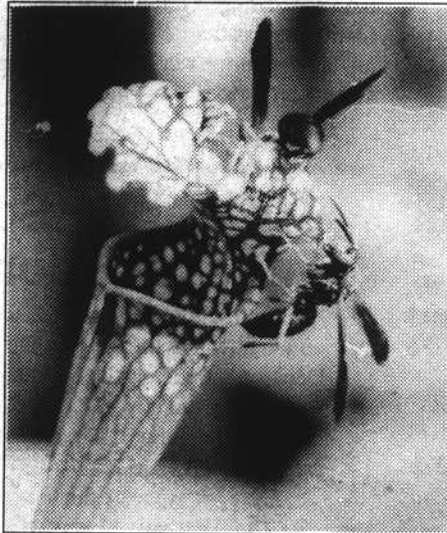


Photo: © 1989 Tom Cassidy

Wasps on a carnivorous Pitcher Plant at UNCA's Botanical Gardens. The Gardens shelter many native and exotic species.

## Celebrate spring at the University Botanical Gardens

Nature lovers are already visiting the University Botanical Gardens at UNC-Asheville to celebrate spring, and volunteers have been grooming the Gardens for the event that will help you cast off your winter doldrums. The annual spring festival, "The Days in the Gardens", will be held Friday and Saturday, May 5-6.

The volunteers have plans for your enjoyment, including guided nature walks, plant sales, luncheons in the gardens, an art show, music, a bake sale, and Wildflower Quilt III made for the gardens by the Beaucatcher Quilters.

Other features of Asheville's festival weekend include the 14th annual Wildflower and Bird Pilgrimage, Friday through Sunday, sponsored jointly by UNCA, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Botanical Gardens.

Those who come during the year will find 150 varieties of wildflowers blooming. In March there are daffodils, Oconee bells, bloodroot, violets and redbud. In April, May and June nature lovers will find golden club, Jack-in-the-pulpit, dogwood, trilliums, Columbine, trout and atamasco lillies, buttercups, Mayapple, Solomon seals, azaleas, mountain laurel, rhododendrons, shooting stars, mountain magnolia, blazing stars, and many others.

The University Botanical Gardens is celebrating its 29th anniversary this year and has a number of special events and programs. One is a colorful slide show of "Wildflowers Through the Seasons", which is available to church groups, schools, garden and civic groups. The program, which runs about 20 minutes, tells of the beginnings, growth, activities, and plans for the future of the Gardens.

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Are the gardens threatened by  
UNCA expansion?  
Planned new parking lot will take 4 acres.  
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