

Fiber Optics to Speed UNC Computer Access

BY TRACI CURRIE
STAFF WRITER

A fiber optic network for the UNC campus may be operational by February 1996. The new network will replace the current computer data network and will improve the overall speed and efficiency of the school's computer network system.

To date, the new system's cost is somewhere in the range of \$7 million.

The fiber optic network is a more advantageous one that will allow faster data communication.

The current system, which uses broadband coaxial cable, also provides data communication but it is both slower than fiber optic and obsolete.

Jim Gogan, director of networking systems at the Office of Information Technology, explained that on the fiber optic cables data will move 20 times faster than the broadband coaxial. However, once the network is completely laid on the campus it will move 100 times faster.

As computer equipment gets faster and more efficient at transferring information, faster lines will be necessary for making connections.

Another advantage is that the fiber optics will not need as much maintenance as the broadband coaxial, which has more components.

Gogan said during the 80s the broadband coaxial never ran to the residence halls. It was only in the last few years that the lines have been run there. With the new fiber optic replacement, the lines will run to every University owned building.

David Valleroy, the telecom engineer overseeing the fiber optic project, said Friday that there were two phases of the project. The first phase, completed in 1994, dealt with connecting seven buildings from the Ambulatory Care Center to Gravelly Building on Manning Road. The connection laid was used as a prototype to test the basic fiber design.

The second phase, currently in progress, will cover about 130 buildings that circle the campus. Tentatively, the completion date is February 1996. Both phases consist of laying down the line.

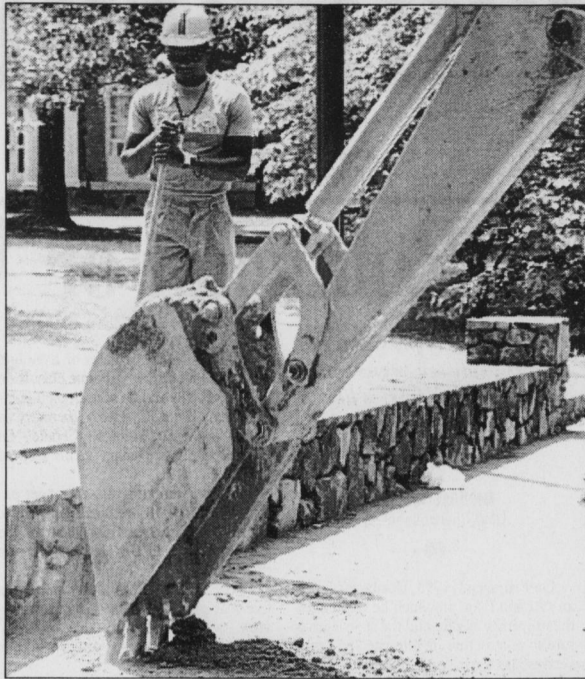
Another aspect that Valleroy talked about is the process of selecting electronic equipment that will be hooked to the fiber optic. This work is also taking place right now.

When the project is completed, computer systems in all buildings will have direct access to the Internet and a special service called the World Wide Web, a complex computer network which provides graphics, sound and a special feature - hypertext links. These allow the user to follow points of information to related sources merely by "pointing and clicking" on either a highlighted word or photograph.

Web pages carry a lot of information and take longer to download. The fiber optic cables will allow for faster service.

This project was authorized by OIT and the Office of Telecommunication.

Gogan said that two thirds of the fiber optic project was being funded through the physical plant. The other one third came from OIT.



Cary Orie oversees digging in front of Alderman Residence Hall May 31 for the laying of fiber optic cable. Fiber optics is a revolutionary form of communication which has been heralded for its speed and reliability.

School Redistricting Plan Faces Several Hurdles

BY MEGAN MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

The school redistricting committee for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools approved a middle school plan but an elementary plan still remains under consideration after a May 23 meeting.

"The issue of changes that were sought at the elementary level will continue at the next meeting," said Chet Preyer, assistant supervisor for Support Services.

The elementary school plan that had been approved by the 51-member committee was reopened because of confusion and disagreements, said Mark Royster, vice chairman of the school board.

The controversy centered around the reassignment of residents from Frank Porter Graham Elementary School to Glenwood Elementary School. These residents asked to remain with those in the Farrington Hills and Laurel Hills area at FPG.

"The committee was informed we had split their neighborhood," said Royster.

In an effort to keep the community together, the school board decided to move them all to Glenwood, said Mary Lin True-love, Glenwood Elementary School registrar.

She said, "It was a good move for the district. We looked at every single issue - socio-economic balance, racial balance, capacity at schools, busing and whether or not a satellite was created."

Royster said the confusion over redistricting was unfortunate. "We as a committee made the decision in good faith," he said.

The June 15 deadline for submitting the redistricting plan was now in jeopardy said Preyer. The committee had not asked for an extended deadline but must make significant progress at its meeting next Monday if it was to finish its work in time, Royster said.

"For the most part the process has been going well," Royster said. "The members have been willing to work and it has been a real community process," said Royster.

Redistricting seems inevitable, said Judy Williams, a parent. "I think it's going to have to happen when a town grows as fast as Chapel Hill."

A main concern of many parents is the separation of their children from friends.

"The Middle school plan that was approved by the committee was an exceptional plan," said Royster. "It addresses the concerns of parents in the movement of their children."

The committee was unable to reach an agreement on the plan which would be considered at their next meeting scheduled for June 5. Royster said. The agenda for the meeting will include deciding on the high school plan as well as debating the elementary plan that has caused turmoil.

Preyer said the vast majority of parents are happy. "What we need to do now is some fine tuning of the plan."

OWASA to Charge UNC for Water Use

BY TAYLOR HOLT
STAFF WRITER

The Orange Water and Sewage Authority essentially gave UNC an ultimatum Thursday night when it said the University would pay for all new hook-ups or fight it out in court.

OWASA discussed the applicability of connection fees to the University at its Board of Directors meeting.

In 1977, the University sold its water and sewage facilities to OWASA. Under that contract, the University was required to pay all OWASA rates and fees except the connection fees to the existing facilities of 1977 which has saved UNC nearly one million dollars.

The controversy between OWASA and the University is based on confusing wording in the previous agreement as to whether new university hook-ups are included in the 1977 policy.

In order to continue the exemption

policy of the agreement, the University and OWASA administrators are trying to determine the extent of the existing system.

Wayne Jones, vice chancellor of Business and Finance at UNC, said the University was open to discussion on the matter and hoped to resolve the issue with OWASA soon.

"We do have an agreement," he said. "It's a matter of interpreting the terms of the agreement."

During the meeting, Robert Epting, general counsel for OWASA, outlined four alternatives to consider in determining OWASA's exemption policy toward the University.

The first option is to draw a geographic boundary around the existing system. The second option uses system "loading" as the means of determining the area that would be free of availability fees. System "loading" determines the maximum amount of waste that could be generated

by a sewage system. The University would pay fees for any connections made to the system after the loading limit had been reached.

A third option is to determine a larger but still finite geographical area that would be free of availability fees. Developments outside that area would pay availability fees.

The final option would be used if no other agreement could be reached. OWASA would bill the University for all new connections. The University could either pay or not pay the bill. However, the University would be forced to prove its right to any exemptions through a law suit.

OWASA is considering each of these options as possible terms for negotiations. Both parties would like an agreement that satisfied the original agreement without the litigation process.

"We need their assistance. They need ours," said Everett Billingsley, executive director of OWASA.

HOOKER

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heard all my career that you can increase SAT scores or minority populations, but not both. People who say it cannot be done don't know what they're talking about."

While Hooker was the president of the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC) from 1986 to 1992, he set out to double the number of incoming black freshmen while at the same time raising SAT scores by 150 points within 10 years.

"It has happened within nine years," Hooker said. "This year the average SAT score (at UMBC) is 1100. The average African-American score is 1080. The difference had been over a 100 points when I got there. ... it just takes hard work."

"However, at UMass, Hooker was like a politician who made promises that, once he was elected, he couldn't keep. He would trumpet one objective on a Monday, and the other on a Friday," Whitehead said.

"Is that visionary leadership? That's rhetoric. In the one area where Hooker did achieve, economic development, he hasn't

gotten much credit," Whitehead said. "In virtually all other areas of his leadership, he's all hat and no cattle, all sizzle and no steak," he said.

Hooker said he had been very successful in changing the state legislature's image of UMass from negative to positive with the university's fourth consecutive budget increase.

According to Al Lizana, the student representative on the UMass Board of Trustees, "(Hooker) had already built up negative political inertia. Maybe it was time for him to leave."

CRIME

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Julia Nipper, an SBI spokeswoman, said the numbers are based on police reports of crime. She said the numbers are only an index of police reports, and not final numbers.

Cousins said the statistics do not play a significant role in determining local police action. She said some categories of crime are too broad for the department to react to and that it is difficult for police to try to formulate a comprehensive program against larceny because it has too many diverse components.

She also said the police department uses other measures than the SBI to keep track of crime in the town. "We keep track of everything that's going on."

SALARY

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Also during the meeting, there was discussion about whether the increase in the chancellor's salary should be supplemented by the state. The base salary of \$150,000 is from the state.

Whichard said a couple of trustees had cautioned against the danger of the state not providing sufficient funds to attract top candidates for leadership positions.

Jones said he hoped the state would supplement the salaries in the future. "Several of the trustees did raise the issue of private money to be used to supplement state funds," he said. "Hopefully the state would see their way clear to fund the salary in the future. Certainly we're glad to have the authority to be able to help here."

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