

# Power Practices Receive Scrutiny

**Carrboro residents say they will continue to fight Duke Power's actions of cutting down trees in their yards.**

By KATHRYN McLAMB  
Staff Writer

The Duke Power Company, which recently has come under fire in Carrboro, is now under the scrutiny of the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff.

Duke Power recently began cutting down trees in Carrboro for power line maintenance without removing the left-over debris. The Carrboro Board of Aldermen started writing letters last week to Duke Power and ultimately petitioned the commission on behalf of the town's residents, asking them to review the power company's practices.

"The first bit of progress we have made is because the utilities commission has taken this complaint seriously," said Alderman Allen Spalt.

The role of the commission in the conflict will be to protect homeowners from any power abuses by Duke Power. The commission monitors the company's practices, rates and customer relations when problems are highly visible or complaints are made.

The commission as a whole has the authority to regulate what electric companies, including Duke Power, can charge their customers.

"(The commission) has the authority to control the purse," Spalt said. "Duke (Power) needs the goodwill of the utilities commission."

"They can't afford to be at odds with them."

The commission has suspended Duke Power's cutting until it can complete its investigation.

Duke Power spokesman Joe Maher said the company did not see the commission's involvement as unusual.

"The commission's involvement in our actions is a matter of course," he said. "We are always involved in conversation with them because they regulate us."

Until the conflict can be resolved, Carrboro residents will continue to speak out against what they call unfair treatment by the power company and its officials.

Carrboro homeowner Frances Shetley of 1130 Hillsborough Road said she disagreed with Duke Power's policy of cutting removed trees into logs and leaving them for homeowners to clean up at their expense.

Maher said the company provided homeowners with a list of individuals who would remove logs for little or no charge. But after speaking to one of Duke Power's suggested individuals, Shetley said the cost would not necessarily be small.

"This particular person I talked to said if he could make money off my logs, he wouldn't charge me," Shetley said. "If (the logs) are down for any length of time, the saw mills won't want them."

For Shetley, that means the logs must be removed immediately after they fall or else the removal will cost her, as estimated by the same individual, between \$800 and \$1,000.

Spalt said problems like Shetley's were the kinds of conflicts that contributed to a negative view of Duke Power throughout the community.

"That's the kind of thing the utilities commission will be approached with," he said.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist said she praised the community for banding together against what they saw as an injustice.

"When a community pulls together and acts, they can get some things done."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

*"Duke (Power) needs the goodwill of the utilities commission. They can't afford to be at odds with them."*

ALLEN SPALT  
Carrboro Alderman

# Candles, Joined Hands Mark MLK Celebration

By BETH O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer

Several points of light flickered all over campus Wednesday evening as students and community members continued to celebrate the life and work of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.

Participants in a candlelight vigil proceeded from various points on campus and convened at the Great Hall for a program designed to emphasize the spiritual side of the civil rights leader with music and dance.

John Folliard, a junior political science major from Troutman and organizer of the Campus Ministry sponsored program, said he hoped the event would promote King's dream of multicultural unity.

Celebrants, with their varied ages and backgrounds, demonstrated that ideal. Anne Pegram, a sophomore radiologic science major from Mount Olive, said she was impressed with the combination of different groups.

"You can see the candles coming from across the campus," she said. "It's pretty wonderful."

Earlier in the day, slushy snow did not dampen students' enthusiasm for the week's celebration. While strains of "We Shall Overcome" wafted from the Bell Tower, a diverse mix of students and faculty met at noon on Polk Place for the 12th annual "Show of Hands."

The Campus Y sponsored event sought to bring people from different backgrounds together to demonstrate the

significance and timelessness of King's dream of universal peace and unity.

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy commended UNC on its continued role of inspiring the community of inclusiveness, openness and respect.

"Take a moment to look around," he said. "I see a diversity reflected in this group that is wonderful to recognize."

The group warmly welcomed passersby throughout the program, expanding the gathering from 15 to nearly 50 people.

Participants joined hands as representatives from various nations and organizations read native proverbs and poetry that reflected the universality of the late reverend's ideals.

Kaonu Ly, a senior biology major from Mt. Gilead, read a proverb in her ancestor's language of Hmong that displayed the necessity of love and acceptance.

"It takes only one person with hate to make a village suffer," she said.

As the microphone was passed around the group, participants were encouraged to share how King and his dream had affected their lives.


Tiffany Houck, a junior religious studies major from Banner Elk, said she was happy to see so many people from diverse backgrounds coming together.

"We can understand each other despite differences," she said. "Love can overcome our differences."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



Sophomore Hilary Roscoe participates in a candlelight vigil, organized by the Campus Ministry, to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.



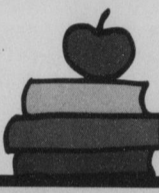
## YOU GOT "HOPS?"

Come out for the  
**3RD ANNUAL CAA  
SLAM-DUNK CONTEST.**

Semi-finals will be Thursday @ 8pm  
in Woollen Gym. Finals will be at  
half time of the Florida State Men's  
Basketball Game.

Sign up outside the CAA office or  
in Woollen Gym.

**PRIZES AWARDED!**



## Teaching Positions

The Educational Resources Group (ergteach.com) will be interviewing in Chapel Hill in early February for teaching positions at 550 private schools east of the Rockies. Certification not required and no fees to candidates. Please send resume by January 31st or sooner to:

Attention: Chris MacBrien  
Educational Resources Group  
Box 526  
Solebury, PA 18963

DRINKING  
QUIZ  
#2  
IN A SERIES

Your sorority sister borrowed your formal dress and returned it with a big barf stain. The best method for removal is:

A

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B

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C

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D

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Using a toothbrush, scrub area with baking soda and ammonia.

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White vinegar and mineral spirits heated to a boil then poured from a height.

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Steam out, filling steamer with one part club soda to one part hydrogen peroxide.

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NONE OF ABOVE.\*

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To truly get out the ugly aftermath of excessive drinking, here's a helpful hint. Get active. Advocate for change. Visit [www.HadEnough.org](http://www.HadEnough.org).

**HadEnough.org**

Binge drinking blows.

A MESSAGE FROM  
THE CENTER FOR  
SCIENCE IN THE  
PUBLIC INTEREST