

Role Player
Robinson eyes
return. See Page 13



Hurry Up
You have until 5 p.m. today to
pick up bracelets for basketball
ticket distribution this weekend.



Brrrrrr
Today: Showers, 58
Friday: Showers, 57
Saturday: Cloudy, 49

The Daily Tar Heel

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Thursday, November 16, 2000

Partisan Battles Continue in Election Saga

The Associated Press

In dueling televised appearances, Al Gore made a surprise proposal for a statewide hand recount of Florida's 6 million ballots Wednesday and George W. Bush swiftly rejected it, calling the effort under way in several Democratic-leaning counties "arbitrary and chaotic."

With their futures tied up in a knot of legal battles, the presidential rivals called for a quick end to the contested

election but disagreed on how to do it. "Our goal," the vice president said at his official mansion, "must be what is right for America."

Their evening addresses capped a whirlwind day of legal activity that gave both weary camps a taste of victory and defeat — but no clear road to completion.

The Florida Supreme Court opened the action by rejecting a request from Secretary of State Katherine Harris to block any manual recounts "pending final resolution" of whether the process

was proper under Florida law. Bush's camp had intervened in the case, seeking to consolidate the tangle of legal petitions under one state court.

The high court's ruling, though far from the final word, gave Democrats new vigor in their ballot-by-ballot bid to trim Bush's 300-vote lead in the state. Officials in Broward and Palm Beach counties hunkered down for an excruciating

hand count of 1 million ballots. Even as they did, the Republican secretary of state set the stage for another legal clash by announcing she would not accept the hand-counted ballots, calling the counties' reasoning "insufficient."

Harris vowed to certify the Florida election results Saturday without the hand recount totals.

Gore's lawyers said they will challenge her decision in state circuit court Thursday.

The fight careening out of Florida, a federal appeals court in Atlanta agreed

to consider Bush's bid to shut down the recounts. The Texas governor lost a round on that question in federal court earlier this week in Miami.

In a 182-page brief, Bush's attorneys argued that granting the injunction to stop the hand counting in Florida would "not substantially injure the rights of the defendants ... and will clearly advance the public interest."

The appeal seeks to stop the hand counting in Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Broward and Volusia counties in Florida.

UNC Students,
Activists React
To Election Limbo
See Page 2



Presidential candidates Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush call for an end to the election standstill but are divided on the means to that end.

The Next Step

By THERESA CHEN
Staff Writer

As controversy over activating two of Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant storage pools heats up, those who oppose the expansion are seeking alternatives.

CP&L already has two fuel rod storage pools in use at its nuclear power plant in Wake County and has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to activate two more.

Plant officials say they have added safety measures to reduce the risk of an accident.

But the highly radioactive nature of the rods has some residents up in arms about CP&L's proposal, said Gordon Thompson, executive director of the Institute for Resource and Security Studies and an adviser to Orange County.

"Essentially, Orange County is saying the pools are a dangerous way to store spent fuels."

This is where dry storage comes in. Officials say using dry storage casks is preferable to wet pools because they would eliminate the need to bring reactor waste to Shearon Harris.

"We're very much in favor of dry storage at each generating reactor instead of bringing it to Harris," said Jim Warren, director of the N.C. Waste Awareness and Reduction Network.

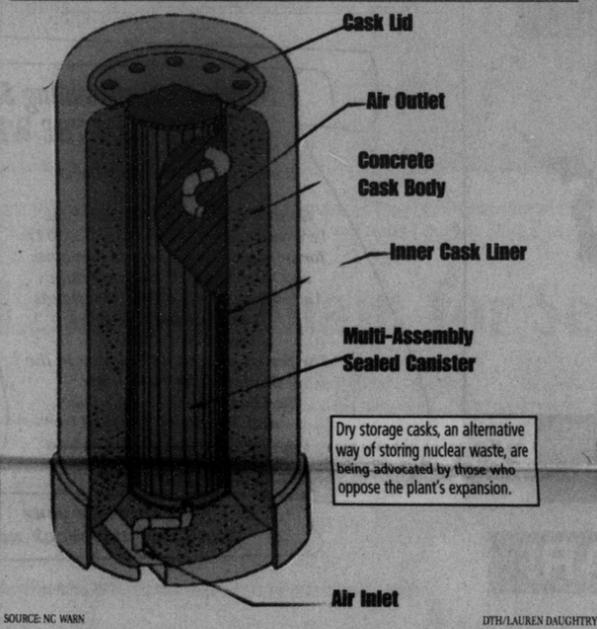
"The waste is coming from CP&L's other reactors in North and South Carolina. If (CP&L) chooses to do dry storage, they'd drop the plans to import the stuff here."

Dry casks allow each reactor to dispose of its own waste safely. A cask is put into the pool so that water can drain in. Fuel is then moved into the cask. Once the cask has been filled, it can be removed and stored elsewhere.

David Lochbaum, nuclear safety engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists, said casks not only provide all of the safety measures of pools, but have added benefits, such as the ability to be

See ALTERNATIVES, Page 4

A Safer Alternative?



Dry storage casks, an alternative way of storing nuclear waste, are being advocated by those who oppose the plant's expansion.

SOURCE: N.C. WARN

DTH/LAUREN DAUGHTERY

CP&L Expanding Beyond Wake County, Carolinas

By KATE HARTIG
Staff Writer

In addition to trying to grow locally, Carolina Power & Light Co. is moving closer to becoming one of the largest energy companies in the South.

And this has some local activists worried they will be encountering a "David and Goliath" fight.

CP&L is slated to merge with Florida Progress Corp., a Tampa-based energy company, by the end of this year. CP&L already owns four nuclear plants in North and South Carolina.

"A lot of mergers are going on in utility right now," said Jeanne Bonds, corporate communications manager for CP&L.

"The focus for CP&L is to become a Southeastern regional energy company."

Florida Progress, an energy company equivalent in size to CP&L, also has a nuclear plant in Crystal Rivers, Fla., similar to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant in Wake County. The merger will include the Crystal Rivers Plant, which has its own spent-fuel waste storage.

Several protesters to the expansion of the Shearon Harris plant are worried that waste from Florida nuclear plants will be transferred to the Wake County facility.

But Bonds said no transfer of nuclear waste will be involved; the waste from the Florida plants will be stored on-site.

See FUTURE, Page 4

nuclear reaction

A three-part series probing the controversial proposal to make Wake County's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant the largest nuclear waste repository in the country.

Today: Nuts and Bolts
Friday: The People

Tempers Flare

Local activists have been battling the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant for more than 18 months.

1987 — Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and its 1987 amendments require or authorize the Department of Energy (DOE) designate Yucca Mountain in Nevada for study as a possible repository site. Site is to be completed in 10 years; government falls behind.

Oct. 20, 1998 — CP&L announces plans to increase storage at Shearon Harris.

Nov. 17, 1998 — Resolution by local governments asking for public hearings.

Feb. 1, 1999 — Nuclear consultant Dr. Gordon Thompson hired by Orange County.

Feb. 2, 1999 — 30 days resident discussion.

March 4, 1999 — CP&L plans to fight county's initiative to oppose expansion.

Aug. 24, 1999 — CP&L plans merger with a Fla. company, 1,250 jobs will be cut.

Aug. 29, 1999 — N.C. WARN increases protests of the expansion.

Nov. 5, 1999 — CP&L announces plans to hold two public hearings.

December 1999 — CP&L holds two public hearings about safety concerns.

Feb. 7, 2000 — Sen. Edwards meets with local officials to hear about Shearon Harris.

March 30, 2000 — Edwards decides to stay involved with the need for open debate.

Aug. 22, 2000 — CP&L expansion delayed.

Oct. 17, 2000 — Three protesters are arrested outside the CP&L in Raleigh, demanding to speak to CEO William Cavanaugh.

Nov. 20, 2000 — Deadline to file safety concerns to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DTH/LAUREN DAUGHTERY

Town: UNC Plan Must Go Public

The Chapel Hill Town Council petitioned UNC to publicize its land development plans of a future research park.

By AMANDA WILSON
Staff Writer

A new development project on the UNC-owned Horace Williams tract has surfaced, prompting the Chapel Hill Town Council to demand answers from University officials.

During the past two years, UNC officials and consultants have researched how to transform the 975-acre wooded lot into a 8 million-square-foot research park.

The land, located along Airport Road and Estes Drive, is owned by UNC, but several town facilities are on the tract.

At the Town Council meeting Monday night, council members asked UNC officials to come forward with their plans.

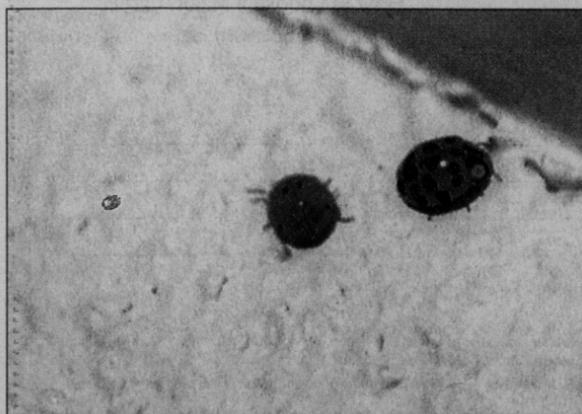
Council member Flicka Bateman said Wednesday that she heard about the research park plan through rumors spread by reporters. "It gave me pause in terms of the whole process of open dialogue between the community and the council," she said.

Bateman was an original member of the Horace Williams Plan Committee, formulated by former UNC chancellor Michael Hooker in 1998. "I thought development for the Horace Williams plot had been put on the back burner," she said. "It has all been very hush-hush. I resent the evasiveness of that."

See RESEARCH PARK, Page 4



Council member Flicka Bateman says she resents the evasiveness of the Horace Williams area development plan.



Two ladybugs cling to a wall in Hinton James on Wednesday night. The bugs have infiltrated residence halls to escape the cold weather.

DTH/LAURA GIOVANELLI

Residents Bugged by Insect Infestation

By ANGELA PARKER
Staff Writer

Two students sat in their room in Teague Residence Hall one night quietly studying.

Suddenly, they heard a strange clicking noise. They looked at each other, puzzled.

At first they suspected the sound was coming from one of their computers. They checked, but discovered nothing.

They inspected their refrigerator. Still nothing. Finally, they realized they weren't alone. They glanced toward the ceiling and saw their uninvited guests.

Ladybugs.

Teague resident Crystal Keller, a junior, has wrangled with the problem since her

freshman year on South Campus, where she said the ladybugs were the worst.

Rebecca Casey, the assistant director of housing and residential education, said students all over campus are having to deal with the winged insects, and said that the amount of ladybugs this fall is really no greater than in previous years.

"The ladybugs arrive from all over the Southeast region of the country every year because they are trying to get in from the cold weather," Casey said.

But while many students say the bugs are a nuisance, experts deem ladybugs "beneficial insects" and recommend that pesticides not be used to eliminate the infiltration, she said.

Residence halls have been equipped

with special vacuums, and residents are being urged to check them out and then release the bugs outside. "It is a pretty simple thing to solve," said Al Calarco, associate director of housing and residential education. "In the scope of things, I don't see this issue as being a real problem."

Sophomore Justin Perry, a Hinton James Residence Hall resident, said he does not kill the ladybugs and that he sees them as harmless. "It is irritating, but I do not see them hurting me — it is more of a nuisance than anything."

Casey said students have been advised to use a facilities maintenance request form if they are having ladybug problems, and maintenance workers will seal windows and cracks in the rooms of the residents. "Air conditioning units are

a prime way for ladybugs to enter rooms, and all cracks or unsealed places should be sealed to alleviate the problem," Casey said.

But residents' problems with the creatures are not limited to the live ones. They also face the problem of the ladybugs dying and covering the floors of their living space.

Keller said that although the ladybugs are starting to die, she does not mind disposing of them properly. And she said the live bugs aren't bad entertainment. "They are good companions if you are lonely because you can sit and watch them."

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So, bein' a ladybug automatically makes me a girl. Is that it, flyboy?

Francis the Ladybug