

Energy group propels action

BY LAUREN HARRIS
AND JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITERS

Members of UNC-Chapel Hill's Green Energy Campaign are trying to start an energy conservation movement throughout the Southeast — one pedal at a time.

On Thursday, members of the group gathered in Polk Place for "Fossil Fools Day" and presented a display that included two bicycles hooked up to devices that allowed energy to be directed to power radios, hair-dryers, incandescent light bulbs and fluorescent bulbs as riders pedaled.

Students observed the significantly smaller amount of energy required to fuel fluorescent bulbs, which Green Energy members advocate using.

Liz Veazey, founder of the Green Energy Campaign, and Charlie Anderson, chairman of student government's Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee, said they hope these types of events will foster student interest.

"We're putting energy out to prove to people that it is viable and useful right now," Anderson said.

The group also has sparked interest at schools across the state and has reached students from Texas to Florida.

Almost 200 students from more than 40 schools gathered in Durham and Chapel Hill this weekend for the Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference.

Veazey said she was excited by the large attendance and the potential for sweeping change in the way both universities and states use energy. "A lot of (the students) were just exploring different options and different things," she said. "A lot of them are really excited about going to their schools and

starting a campaign."

Last year, students at UNC-CH passed a referendum to increase student fees by \$4 per semester to establish a Green Energy Fund. The fund, which takes effect next year, will be used initially to install solar panels on Morrison Residence Hall.

Veazey said that UNC-CH has set an example for other schools in the Southeast. "UNC(-CH) was one of the first in the Southeast to mobilize student initiative and raise student fees," she said. "We have catalyzed the movement."

She said that in addition to spreading interest, the conference also united students from state schools who want to pursue green energy legislation at the state level.

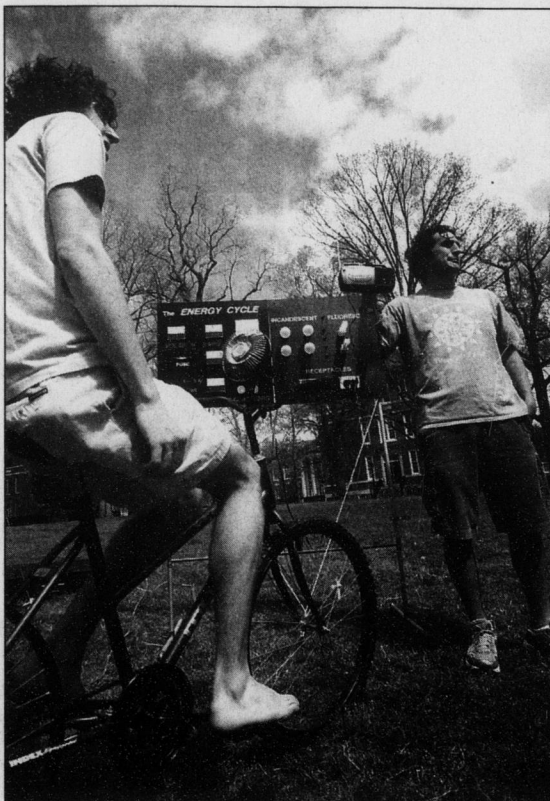
"I feel like this conference really helped bring together a network and a cohesion in the Southeast," she said. "There's a lot of excitement about working together with North Carolina schools and pushing for policy initiatives."

She said such initiatives could include renewable portfolio standards, which mandate that a percentage of the state's energy sources are renewable. Some schools in the Southeast already have implemented renewable energy.

In March, Appalachian State University passed a green energy referendum and increased student activity fees by \$5. Veazey said UNC-CH officials pushed ASU to start their own campaign.

"They hope that (their campaign) will be similar to our campaign," she said.

The University of Tennessee-Knoxville increased student fees \$8 for renewable energy, and The University of the South at Sewanee also in Tennessee wants to require that 5 percent of its energy be renewable.



Senior Matt Kirk (left) rides a stationary bike in Polk Place on Thursday to generate energy to run a fan, a light and the radio being held.

Anderson said other schools have been inspired by the UNC-CH's initiatives to the point where they have surpassed them.

"We've set the tone for these projects, but now that other schools know what they're doing,

they're doing better than us," he said, naming schools in the Northeast. "It's spreading around the country so quickly."

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Some cure ills with home fixes

BY MEGHAN GAMBLING
STAFF WRITER

When UNC junior Sarah Desforge, a resident of Asheville, was diagnosed with stage two cervical cancer last winter, her boyfriend's mother encouraged her to supplement traditional medical care with alternative health remedies.

Shortly after her diagnosis, Desforge visited General Nutrition Centers and left with a slew of products that were supposed to help her body fight cancer.

In addition to cryogenics and surgery, Desforge uses products such as lycopene pills, green tea, folic acid and noni juice to aid in her battle against cancer.

Now, almost four months later, the cancer is gone, and Desforge said her alternative medicines have helped her stay healthy.

Although Desforge was pleased, she said doctors were not supportive of her quest for alternatives to prescribed treatments. "The advice doctors give you is that the healthier you are, the better your body can fight cancer," she said. "This stuff makes you healthier."

While Desforge relied mostly on GNC for alternative medical treatment, a recent study conducted by researchers at Wake Forest University and UNC concluded that nearly 46 percent of people in rural western North Carolina use home remedies to treat various medical conditions.

In 1999, researchers interviewed 1,059 adults in 12 rural western counties about access to and use of health care resources. The findings are published in the current issue of Complementary Health Practice Review.

"These rates are not surprising," said Thomas Arcury, professor and research director for the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Wake Forest.

"Home remedies are widely used everywhere. They are just not being well documented," said Arcury, who helped conduct the research.

The study, "Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use Among Rural Residents in Western North

Carolina," was part of a larger study examining whether or not geography plays a role in people's access to more convenient health care.

The study looked at health care usage specifically in counties west of Asheville and was intended to document what alternative therapies people use and why.

"We found about 238 different home remedies," said John Preisser, who also helped conduct the study and serves as a professor in UNC's Department of Biostatistics. "We had to classify each one."

According to the study, the most common at-home remedy falls into the honey-lemon-vinegar-whiskey category.

"Many students can relate to the use of home remedies," Preisser said. "Using honey in tea, vitamin C for colds. Talk to people; everyone does it."

Other remedies included turpentine and gasoline or the use of kerosene taken orally to treat a cough. Desforge said the noni juice she drinks is supposed to help rebuild damaged cells and is good for a cold or any type of sickness.

But while nearly half of the people in the study relied on home remedies, most of them also sought professional medical treatment when necessary.

"All evidence suggests the use of regular health care," said Arcury, who ascertained that while the study only included parts of western North Carolina, it was indicative of a widespread use of at-home remedies across the state.

"We learn them as children and don't think of them as anything different. It's part of our culture," he said. "People are very creative in trying to take care of their health."

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DTH team earns award for investigative work

STAFF REPORT

A six-part series produced by The Daily Tar Heel received the top award for student work Thursday from a national investigative reporting organization.

"Raising the Cap," a comprehensive series that examined aspects of UNC-Chapel Hill's plan to increase

enrollment of out-of-state students, was recognized by Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc., for using computer-assisted reporting, public records laws and in-depth interviews to increase the level of debate about the issue.

A vote on the issue was ultimately tabled by the UNC-system

Board of Governors.

The series, which ran Oct. 6 through Oct. 9, was produced by the DTH's Projects Team.

The IRE awarded the certificate to DTH staff members John Frank, Jamie Dougher, Matt Hanson, Joe Rauch and Lynne Shallcross.

Projects Team member Suzanne

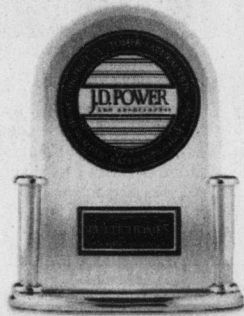
Presto also contributed to the series.

"Winning this award, especially in the first year that the DTH entered, is amazing," said Frank, the Projects Team Editor. "The staff worked hard, and they deserve it. But what I'm most proud of is how much the series contributed to deliberations."



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