

Classes look into satellite campus plans

Examine environmental feasibility

BY TANNER SLAYDEN
STAFF WRITER

Two UNC classes are working to make the proposals for Carolina North more environmentally friendly — an aspect of the concept plan that has been criticized recently by the town.

The classes — Environmental Studies 006E, a first year seminar, and 094, a senior capstone class — are learning about the plans for developing Carolina North and trying to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 60 percent at the site.

Carolina North is the proposed satellite campus to the University, which is planned to be finished within the next 50 to 70 years.

"The issue is one of the top two environmental issues facing us right now, and Carolina North is a great living laboratory for the class," said Douglas Crawford-Brown, the instructor for the two classes.

Senior Collin Lee said his class group is gathering information on carbon dioxide emissions from lab facilities, different forms of transportation and electrical appliances to be used at the site — all potential causes of air pollution.

Crawford-Brown said the goal of the courses is to convince UNC to adopt the classes' goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions at the satellite campus by 60 percent.

He said he got the idea to improve Carolina North's air quality from a summer trip to the United Kingdom.

"When I was over in Cambridge, the English government wanted to cut down on carbon dioxide emissions by 60 percent, and (the University of) Cambridge was planning to build a development like Carolina North," he said. "I made a commitment to bring this goal to North Carolina, and Carolina North is a good demonstrating project." University officials have said that

they will try to reduce emissions but haven't indicated by how much.

Students in the first year seminar are learning how organizations and state agencies make environmental decisions and how to develop a more environmentally conscious site, Crawford-Brown said.

Laura Askins, who is in the freshman class, said they have been applying their environmental readings to what they would recommend to lower emissions at Carolina North. The students haven't reached any conclusions but have written one-page essays on how they would resolve the pollution issue at Carolina North.

"We visited the site last week," Askins said. "The site is only like two miles from campus, and it would seem like people could just take their bikes if there was a biker-friendly path."

Students enrolled in the senior capstone class have been trying to come up with alternative models for Carolina North that would reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"I think that our work will be very beneficial, even though the University won't accept everything we propose," said Emily Martin, a student in the capstone course.

Crawford-Brown, who is the director of the Carolina Environmental Program, said students can bring their results to the University and town officials. He said this would help bring concrete energy sustainability measures to Carolina North. "Their results could help the development as a whole."

Students from the classes plan to meet with Mayor Kevin Foy next week to discuss the Town Council's involvement in planning for the satellite campus and the town's interest in emissions control.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Gay marriage ban falls short in House

BY ERIC JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

A proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage was roundly defeated in the House on Thursday, following the failure of a similar measure in the Senate earlier this year.

The final tally of 227 in favor and 186 opposed left the House well short of the necessary two-thirds majority to sustain the amendment.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, was one of the most vocal proponents of the measure.

"What this is about is the family and the definition of family," he said during the debate. "A family is a man and a woman that can create children."

President Bush also has voiced his support for the amendment, which states: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of

the union of a man and a woman."

White House officials expressed disappointment about the vote and decried the efforts of "activist judges" to redefine the institution of marriage.

Democrats called the debate an attempt by Republicans to win cheap political points before the November election.

"You have a lot of Republicans who are just ideologues, who don't regard anything as more important than their ideological goals," said Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

Frank, who is openly gay, said the amendment was brought up to embarrass Democrats.

"They don't believe in any rules," he said. "All they care about is winning the specific issue."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said during the debate that Congress should be

focusing on more pressing matters.

"In the closing days of this Congress, we should be addressing the urgent needs of the American people," she said.

"Instead, we are meeting here today about tarnishing our cherished Constitution with an amendment that purports to protect marriage but is one that benefits no one and actually limits the rights of millions of Americans."

Polls consistently show that most Americans oppose legally recognized same-sex marriage, but are unsure about an amendment.

A July poll conducted by CNN, USA Today and Gallup found 62 percent of respondents did not believe same-sex marriages should be recognized, but only 48 percent favored a constitutional amendment.

Amy Walter, political analyst and House editor for the nonparti-

san Cook Political Report, said she doesn't think either party is likely to gain much leverage in debating the amendment.

"In an election year where you have really big, significant issues on the table — war, terrorism, the economy — issues like gay marriage ... tend to stimulate the very hard-core base for each side, but do little to move swing voters," she said.

Despite Thursday's defeat, the amendment likely will resurface.

"If the Republicans keep control of the House, they'll bring it up again," Frank said.

That, it seems, is the one point of agreement between the two sides.

"This is only the beginning, I am telling you, because this nation will protect marriage," DeLay said.

Contact the State & National Editor at stndesk@unc.edu.

Area transportation to reduce greenhouse gases

BY TED STRONG
STAFF WRITER

Both ozone and greenhouse gas levels are an issue in Orange County, and local officials are working to clear the air.

Additionally, officials say both problems stem from many of the same sources.

Dennis Markatos-Soriano, projects director of Students United for a Responsible Global Environment in Carrboro, had a simple reason for the problems. "Our tailpipes are doing it," he said.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site, greenhouse gasses, including carbon dioxide, build up in the atmosphere, allowing less energy from the sun to bounce back out into space after reaching Earth.

Orange County, Carrboro and Chapel Hill municipal governments have made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by joining the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives. As part of that commitment, members plan to hire a firm to create a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and action plan for the area.

After Wednesday's meeting of the Assembly of Governments, the governments now only need to agree on minor details on the scope of the work and funding, said David Bonk, transportation plan-

ner for the town of Chapel Hill and member of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Joint Staff Work Group.

The assembly is planning to hire the Toronto firm ICLEI Energy Services for between \$40,000 and \$45,000 to study local emissions and advise steps for reduction.

On the ozone front, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Long Range Transportation Plan is designed to reduce vehicle emissions. The metropolitan planning organizations, including the Triangle J Council of Governments, had to create a more

comprehensive plan for reducing ozone levels after the EPA designated this area as nonattaining for eight-hour ozone levels, said Karen Lincoln, a member of the work group and transportation planner with the county.

Additionally, the American Lung Association designated the Raleigh-Durham area as one of 32 areas nationally with particularly poor air quality.

Bonk said the biggest problems from the ozone are health related, such as the area's orange and red ozone alert days during the sum-

mer when authorities discouraged being outside.

"It translates into real problems for people that are asthmatic and in some cases can cause asthma, in fact," Markatos-Soriano said.

Bonk said designations such as those ones from the ALA and the EPA did not help outsiders' perceptions of the region. "It doesn't help our image as an attractive, healthy place to locate a business or relocate your residence."

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