

Orr promotes action in Earth Day speech

Covers big topic of environment

BY MARIA WARD
STAFF WRITER

Time is dwindling to address the effects of climate change on the earth, Oberlin College professor David Orr said Tuesday while delivering an Earth Day speech.

"Time is not our friend," Orr said, referring to the quickly changing global climate.

Orr, a professor of environmental studies and politics, said it has taken humans too long to see obvious harms about climate change.

"It's too late to avoid trauma, but it's not too late to prevent the worst," Orr said.

"There's no easy way out. ... I think Al Gore is right when he says this is the first global emergency since Homo sapiens have been on the planet."

Orr addressed climate change and how important it will be for humans to address this issue in coming years.

He put the topic into perspective for audience members by saying that humans aren't concerned enough with the environmental issue because they are wired to be more disturbed by direct physical threats.

Orr also touched on the serious effect on the quality of life for future generations if humans don't



Oberlin professor of environmental studies David Orr delivered the Earth Day speech Tuesday.

take action.

"These are my grandchildren," Orr said, showing several pictures. "This is my stake. Your children, your grandchildren have no voice on climate change unless it's your voice, your life, your actions."

The Institute for the Environment started working to bring Orr to campus last year.

"He's an ideal person to bring because he pulls together all the environmental issues we face instead of focusing on one aspect," said Danielle Del Sol, information and communications specialist for the institute.

"He really brings to life how the issue of climate change is going to affect our whole world."

Students also noted Orr's diverse approach to the topic of climate change.

"I thought the presentation was done very well as it was more of a holistic approach versus specifying within one solution or one cause," freshman Jordan Manickam said.

"He took both political perspectives, as well as the technological perspectives."

"Your grandchildren have no voice on climate change unless it's your voice, your life."

DAVID ORR, OBERLIN PROFESSOR

Freshman Elliot Montpellier said Orr's perspective was different than he has heard from other environmental speakers.

"He focused on behaviorism, as well as people's individual responsibility, as well as our country's leaders' responsibilities," Montpellier said.

"I really liked that he incorporated the green-collar jobs, as well as the prospective jobs for college students in environmentalism."

Orr's speech culminated a day of environmental-related events, which included a cookout with grass-fed hamburgers and informational booths in Polk Place.

The day's activities sought to emphasize the need for awareness about the environment and what needs to be done to address the problems associated with climate change.

"It's going to take a complete change in our values and our society to really bring the problem to a solution," Del Sol said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Libraries go tech-savvy in age of Web research

Work to meet new student demands

BY ALICE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Ten years ago, starting a research paper included trips to the local library to search through stacks of books.

Today, many students complete such assignments and never leave their dorm rooms.

As technology makes it possible to have contact with almost a full library through computers, some wonder if the end of actual libraries is approaching.

To fight becoming obsolete, libraries on campus are changing to fulfill the needs of students in this time of increasing technology.

The Carolina Digital Library and Archives, which was started last February, works to digitize books, audio files and images, making them available online.

"It is definitely one of the signs of how libraries are changing these days," said Kirill Fesenko, director of CDLA.

"I think libraries see that students and scholars are using the Internet as a communication style, and this moves libraries to be more investigative and to develop more resources and bring the best of their resources online."

The CDLA uses its Scribe machine, a fast-paced scanner, to digitize books. The Scribe can transform about 500 pages of regular text to the screen in one hour.

Thanks to the CDLA's Scribe project, more than 500 books have been digitized since January. Officials plan to use the Scribe they have now to digitize another 1,000 books by the end of the year, Fesenko said.

Although more and more books are being transferred online, libraries still must keep the hard copies of these books in good condition.

"Putting books online improves access, but books in their physical form are important," he said. "They contain qualities in them that cannot be completely transformed onto the Internet."

In the future, the CDLA plans to expand its services either with the addition of more Scribes or other similar technology, Fesenko said.

In addition to new online features, the campus libraries themselves also are evolving.

"We are offering new types of services both online and in physical environments," said Lisa Norberg, director of public services for UNC libraries. "Our physical libraries are more heavily used now than they have been for decades."

As the types of assignments professors give to students change, librarians must learn how to help students complete their work.

"We are providing a lot of the spaces and services that these new assignments demand," said Norberg, who has recently seen projects ranging from creating Web pages to

"It is definitely one of the signs of how libraries are changing."

KIRILL FESENKO, DIRECTOR OF CAROLINA DIGITAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

filming mini-documentaries.

Junior Rachel Jennings had to come up with a puppet show in her education class. Every student had different tasks in the creation of the show, such as writing the script or creating the puppets.

Jennings used software to create music for the show.

"It was a lot of fun getting to use new materials," she said.

Librarians also have noticed an increased interest in instructional classes they offer, which teach students about research and how to use resources such as online databases, said Judith Panitch, director of library communications.

In the last academic year, about 1,500 different sessions were offered, reaching almost 30,000 people. Four years ago, the libraries offered about 1,000 sessions to about 19,000 people.

"We feel very comfortable that we have a major role to play, as the University and the community, in the future of learning," Panitch said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Where awesome happens

Attention college basketball fans: March is finished. But a better postseason has just gotten underway.

So stop reminiscing and turn on the television — the NBA playoffs are a ride you don't want to miss.

I know, I know; this is the South, and college hoops reign supreme. But if Michael Beasley and Kevin Love (and Tyler Hansbrough?) want to take their games to the next level, maybe you should take your viewing experience there, too.

And these playoffs will not disappoint. Pick your favorite storyline:

There is what might be the best first-round matchup in the history of the league. Tim Duncan's game-tying 3-pointer — his first of the entire season — set the stage for a series that brings back memories of M.J. vs. Bird and other epic first-round battles.

There is LeBron James, the most physically gifted basketball player ever, who seems determined to single-handedly lead the Cavs through the Eastern Conference once again. And yes, you have the opportunity to be a Witness.

There's Chris Paul, the most



MIKE EHRLICH
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THAT

exciting young star in the league. If you're not jacked about a potential CP3-Deron Williams showdown in the conference finals, then you do not appreciate point guard play.

Like Cinderellas? Is a seven-seed knocking off a two-seed something you might be interested in? Well, after the series' first game, the Sixers are poised to do just that to the Pistons. Detroit, which hasn't lost a first-round series in nearly a decade with the same core of players, got dealt only its eighth home loss by a sub-.500 team in Game One.

Like clashes of the top powers? Take the entire Western Conference. All eight playoff teams had at least 50 wins entering the postseason, and just two games separated the best six teams.

Then there's Kobe Bryant, trying to prove himself by winning a

championship without Shaquille O'Neal.

There's Shaq throwing his enormous frame into the stands for loose balls.

Duncan, Manu Ginobili and the Spurs trying to repeat. Boston's new triple-threat. Dirk Nowitzki trying to show he's not soft. Tracy McGrady trying to get out of the first round for the first time on his seventh try. Carmelo Anthony just trying to stay out of jail.

Whatever you want, you'll find it.

The moral of all of this is that the NBA playoffs are must-see TV. It's got the same players you watched in college, only better.

It's a common misconception that NBA players simply don't care as much as college athletes. Well, watch Kevin Garnett play a basketball game and consider that debate settled. The guy is plain scary; he's that intense. Still not convinced? TiVo the first two games of the Wizards-Cavs series, which featured about six near-brawls. These guys care.

Plus, if nothing else, at least you won't see Isaiah Thomas anywhere near these playoffs.

Contact Mike Ehrlich at elmichae@email.unc.edu.

Hopefuls differ on county transit

Transportation an election issue

BY JEFF WOODALL
STAFF WRITER

Developing transportation will be a focal point in the upcoming elections for the Orange County Board of Commissioners.

Although the drought, pollution and education have been at the forefront of local issues, many candidates are advocating increasing the reach and efficiency of the area's bus and train systems.

"It isn't just an issue of coordinating public transportation in Orange County," said Bernadette Pelissier, a candidate for the at-large seat. "It's about creating a regional plan that will connect everyone in this area."

Pelissier is a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, which attempts to unify transportation designs for future transit investments in the Triangle area.

She said her involvement with the committee has acquainted her with prospective plans that Orange County is hoping to implement in the near future.

The plan would promote con-

nectivity with the rest of the state by creating opportunities to ride various forms of public transportation.

This would include new bus routes to rural areas and connecting Orange County to train lines that run through North Carolina.

"We would really like to see a train stop in Hillsborough," Orange County Planning Director Craig Benedict said.

The increased transportation network would target those who are currently unable to conveniently use existing public transportation, such as the elderly and those in rural areas.

"We have to continue to have a focus on growth so there will be no sprawl patterns," he said.

"We have to work so that public transportation will be used in both residential and business areas."

Ultimately this plan would lead to the inclusion of Orange County into a system of hubs that would have the area operating in a web of connecting routes, Pelissier said.

Pelissier is not the only candidate concerned about making changes to the way the local area operates its public transportation.

"We have to ... have a focus on growth so there will be no sprawl patterns."

CRAIG BENEDICT, COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR

Pam Hemminger, who is running unopposed for one of two seats in District 1, is planning to bring similar goals to the board.

"I would like to see direct service to the Durham Tech campus opening next week, the county's new branch of the technical college," she said. "People need to have more options like that."

Hemminger, along with Pelissier, is hopeful that Orange County can rely more heavily on hybrid buses to reduce pollution in order to decrease the area's carbon footprint.

Otherwise growing gas prices could stand in the way of future board efforts with public transportation, Hemminger said.

"It's awful," she said. "We'll really need to improve our fleet of hybrids if we're going to have a shot with that."

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