

# Bacteria found in Morris Grove water fountains

Likely caused by debris in pipes

BY MCKAY GLASGOW  
STAFF WRITER

Water fountains will remain off-limits at Morris Grove Elementary School until school officials can figure out how to get coliform bacteria out of the water supply.

In mid-October, the Orange Water And Sewer Authority performed tests in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and found coliform in water samples taken from newly opened Morris Grove, said Todd LoFrese, assistant superintendent for support services.

Coliform itself is not a threat to human health, said Rachel Monschein, a laboratory supervisor at OWASA. Officials said no students have gotten sick from the bacteria.

"But it is an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present," Monschein said.

E. coli and other fecal coliforms are the most dangerous bacteria associated with the presence of coliform.

LoFrese said OWASA hasn't found any other dangerous bacteria in Morris Grove's water supply.

"Each time they have tested they have found no traces of E. coli. But the fact that there is still coliform is a concern," he said.

Officials determined that the coliform is only in the water in the cafeteria, but all water fountains have been shut off as a precaution, LoFrese said.

He said he suspects that the bacteria comes from the erosion of debris, like a piece of a hose or of cement, stuck in the cafeteria plumbing.

Repeated attempts to chlorinate and flush the plumbing with water have failed to eliminate small traces of coliform in the cafeteria pipes, LoFrese said.

*"We are going to continue to use bottled water until the problem is resolved, as a precaution."*

AMY RICKARD, PRINCIPAL

The cafeteria water has been shut off from the rest of the school to prevent further contamination, he said.

"The district is working with OWASA and trying to determine where the problem is and what the best solution is," said Morris Grove Principal Amy Rickard. The school opened in August and has 528 students.

"We are going to continue to use bottled water until the problem is resolved, as a precaution."

School staff and parents have been providing bottled water for students to drink and for cafeteria operations, Rickard said.

"The first few days we had signs and bags over the water fountains. It can be hard keeping young kids away from them," she said.

Rickard said students have full access to school bathrooms because OWASA has not deemed the bathroom water contaminated.

"They said students should wash their hands with soap or antibacterial wash and that they should be fine," she said.

Rickard said she appreciates parents' understanding of the current situation as the school works out some of the problems associated with opening a new building.

"I think everything has been going very smoothly," she said. "We've been sending the parents weekly reports on the progress, and they have been very understanding and supportive. We've received no complaints."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# Food banks face food price rise

Struggle to keep pace with demand

BY IAN AGER  
STAFF WRITER

Food banks in North Carolina are starting to feel the pressure of the economic recession.

An increase in unemployment and rising food prices have prompted people who have never before needed assistance to line up outside of food pantries across the state.

According to records from the Inter-Faith Council in Carrboro, the food bank has so far given out 4,596 grocery bags this year — up from 3,883 bags during the same period last year.

Kristin Laverne, community services director for the IFC, said demand at the food bank seems to have increased this fall.

"We do have a lot of demand, so we are concerned about what's going to happen," she said.

Laverne said that donations

at the IFC are continuing at their usual rate, which picks up during the holiday season, but that she is worried that the donations might not turn out to be enough to fill the extra grocery bags.

"Usually, the holiday donations rush will get us through January or February, but we're worried about what will happen in the spring if demand continues at the high rate it has," Laverne said.

During the past year, food prices have risen across the board, with some food costs, such as meat, rising as much as 12 percent, said Mike Walden, a N.C. State University Agricultural and Resource Economics professor who tracks food prices for the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

While food price increases affect all consumers, they are particularly hard on lower-income families, Walden said.

"Everyone faces the same increases in food costs," he said. "But people with limited resources would presumably be more affected by an increase in food prices."

For the food banks, Walden said the data suggests greater need in the times ahead.

"I would expect to see an increase in demand at the food banks," he said.

Laverne said that while donations make up the bulk of the food bank's stock, the IFC retains some money to buy food from the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, but recently the Food Bank's stock hasn't been as sufficient.

"It seems like the Central and Eastern North Carolina Food Bank is getting less in," she said.

Christie Simmons, spokeswoman for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, said that the Food Bank shortage is falsely perceived because the local

food pantries are facing higher demands.

"Our donations are the same as before, but with that increase in demand, the food is going right back out as soon as it gets put on the shelf," she said.

"Our partner agencies, the rescue missions and food pantries that come here and shop, they've seen a 20 to 30 percent increase in demand."

Julia Webb-Bowden, development director for Urban Ministries Durham, said the organization's food pantry is experiencing much of the same problems as the IFC.

"On a daily basis, we saw about 26 clients last year. We're trying to increase to handle 36 clients per day now," Webb-Bowden said.

"Every day we have more people signing up for food than we can handle."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# N.C. State debates expression tunnel

Discusses freedom to write racial slurs

BY JEN SERDECHNAIA  
STAFF WRITER

N.C. State University students and officials are still debating how to handle the four students who wrote racial slurs about President-elect Barack Obama in the Free Expression Tunnel.

The debate among students focuses on questions of what defines hate speech and what kind of punishment is appropriate.

"Is it free speech or is it hate speech?" said Greg Doucette, N.C. State student body president.

"There is a high level of awareness and folks want to see something done, but it's not as hostile as the local media reports."

A resolution in the N.C. State Student Senate, which calls for the four students to be expelled, is being widely discussed. The punishment in the resolution was recommended by the N.C. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Doucette, who supports the resolution, said students are divided — some support the resolution, some oppose it, and some want it

to address hate crimes in general rather than this specific incident.

"I don't know if I would go as far as expelled because it is a free expression tunnel," said first-year Ashley Shytle.

"(There are) some that are very angry and some not that angry."

Although the resolution will not be binding if it passes, it will be considered by a task force of faculty, staff and students that was created for this incident and will make a decision by February.

"This task force will take the student senate (resolution) as one of the jumping off points for discussion," Doucette said.

Kenneth Webb, chairman of N.C. State's university affairs committee and a member of its select committee on hate crimes, said there are better ways to deal with the students.

"Personally, I think that expulsion may be a little bit too much, given the fact that there were no permanent charges filed against them by the county," Webb said.

Many students want to see something done, but already some mem-

*"There is a high level of awareness and folks want to see something done, but it's not as hostile as the local media reports."*

GREG DOUCETTE, N.C. STATE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

bers of the community who don't feel affected have become complacent about the incident, Doucette said.

"There is a legitimate fear among a number of members in the African-American community," he said.

Among white students, the concern is that they'll be associated with the students who painted the slurs, Doucette said.

The student senate will vote Wednesday on the resolution, which will impact how the incident evolves.

"A lot of people are watching," Doucette said. "The campus climate is 'Where do we go from here?'"

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

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Solution to Friday's puzzle

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## Council of state

A state governing body made of elected officials swings heavily Democrat now. See pg. 7 for story.

## Come sail away

The UNC club sailing team went to Bald Head Island this weekend. See pg. 6 for story.

## Prop 8 reaction

The state's largest-ever gay pride parade was in Raleigh this weekend. See pg. 1 for story.

## Off day

UNC quarterback Cameron Sexton says he just was out of sync this weekend. See pg. 14 for story.

## UNC in Cuba

Federal restrictions on travel to Cuba won't affect UNC's study abroad program. See pg. 9 for story.

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## THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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- 5 Alda sitcom
- 9 Capital of Belarus
- 14 Storybook bear
- 15 Natural soother
- 16 Former Mrs. Trump
- 17 Cupcake finisher
- 18 Colombian city
- 19 Element #54
- 20 The Nine Days' Queen
- 23 Slept fitfully
- 24 City in central Israel
- 25 Small viper
- 28 Mosque officials
- 31 San Luis \_\_, CA
- 33 Pageant attire
- 36 Sherwood Forest damsel
- 38 Stand by for
- 40 One to Juan
- 41 Majestic
- 42 Musical set in Vietnam
- 45 Slaughter of baseball
- 46 Enter the pot
- 47 Get a whiff of
- 49 Size above med.
- 50 Badminton barrier
- 52 Tearjerker
- 56 Flaubert novel
- 59 Poppy product
- 62 Bonkers
- 63 Desiccated
- 64 Language of Iran
- 65 "The King and I"

### DOWN

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- 67 Some shoes
- 68 Knock for a loop
- 69 Pre-revolution ruler
- 1 Overflowed
- 2 Peninsula near Hong Kong
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- 5 Paving material
- 6 Novelist Paton
- 7 Exclusive
- 8 Katherine of '27 Dresses"
- 9 Motley assortment
- 10 Judith of "Sister, Sister"
- 11 Bert Bobbsey's twin
- 12 Cone or Cat starter
- 13 Colo. neighbor

### 21 "To Kill a Mockingbird"

- 22 Hilton unit
- 25 Thai or Tibetan
- 26 Joe of "NCIS"
- 27 Little lakes
- 29 Hawaiian island
- 30 Does a number
- 32 Not pertinent
- 33 Nasser of Egypt
- 34 In debt
- 35 Fritter away
- 37 Dire prophecy
- 39 Big waves

### 43 Mimicked

- 44 Recent arrival
- 48 "Seinfeld" uncle
- 51 Converses
- 53 City on the Seine
- 54 Susan Lucci's soap role
- 55 Actress Winona
- 56 Has to
- 57 Champagne name
- 58 Creamy shade
- 59 Amiss
- 60 Good buddy
- 61 Letters for savers

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ERGO	SEVENWORDS	
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TYRA	VENTIL	TARS

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