

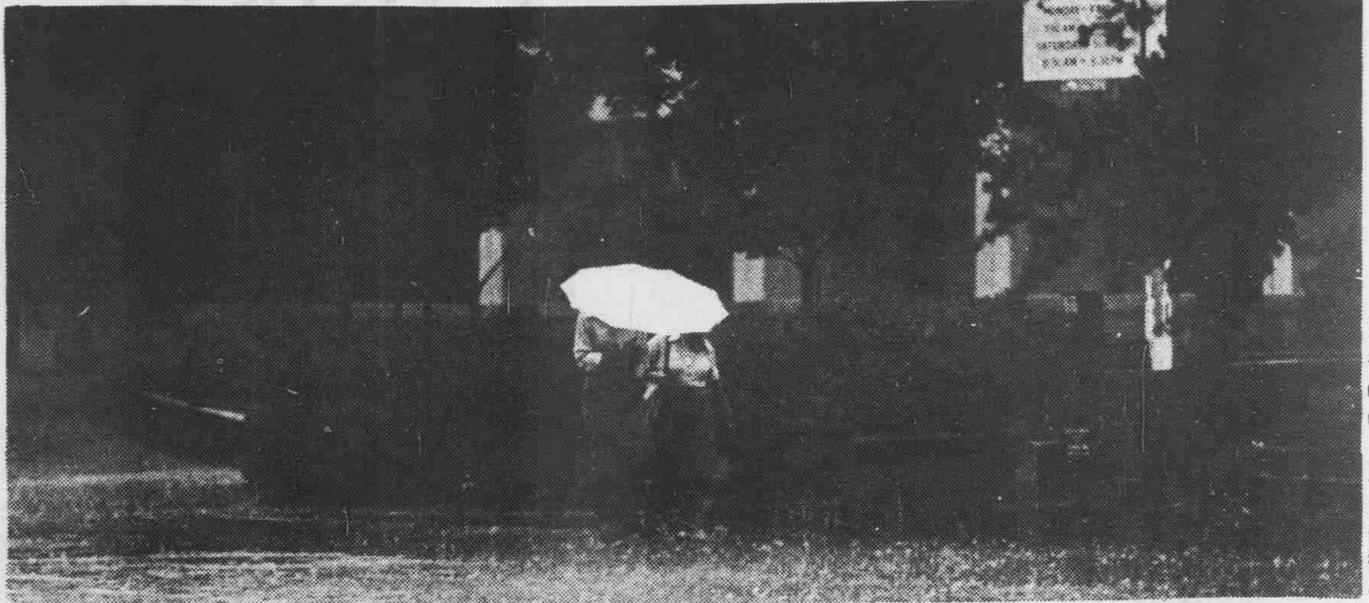
# Hillsborough, OWASA talk on water sale

By JUDITH TILLMAN  
Staff Writer

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) is negotiating a contract with the town of Hillsborough for the sale of water to Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

At a meeting Tuesday night OWASA members and Hillsborough commissioners discussed a proposed rate of 45 cents per 1000 gallons of water up to 30 million gallons per month and 40 cents for each additional thousand gallons. OWASA will pay the cost of installing a water line to Hillsborough and all delivery costs.

"It looks like we're getting close to a document that will be satisfactory to Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough," said OWASA Executive Director Everett Billingsley. "We'll discuss the plans with our attorneys during the next couple of days. We don't want to enter into an agreement that will cause any problems in Hillsborough." OWASA hopes to reach an agreement with Hillsborough board members at a 6 p.m.



Staff photo by L. C. Barbour

Although it didn't rain enough to quench thirsty University Lake, it was good not to be caught unprepared in Monday's shower.

meeting today.

OWASA has been considering Haw River, Eno River, Lake Orange, and Cane Creek as possible emergency sources of water for Chapel Hill and Carrboro to alleviate an increasing water shortage.

Chapel Hill is now in stage two of water restrictions outlined in an ordinance passed in July by the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen. The ordinance, based on

OWASA recommendations, includes a five stage plan for restricting water use based on the level of University Lake, Chapel Hill's only reservoir. Stage two of the plan (the warning stage), now in effect, became effective when the lake reached 72 inches below its normal level of 349 feet above sea level.

Under stage three restrictions, watering lawns, shrubbery, and vegetable gardens is prohibited except from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturdays. Water flow into swimming pools must be reduced to the minimum necessary to maintain operation. Water-cooled air conditioners and other equipment that does not recycle water may not be used except when necessary for health and safety.

Washing motor vehicles, including use of commercial car washes, is also prohibited. Water may not be used to wash outside areas such as sidewalks, patios, and driveways. Its use in decorative fountains, pools, and ponds is banned. Restaurants may serve

water only on request while the ordinance is in effect.

Those who violate the ordinance will be charged with a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days.

Many students and residents have expressed concern that the University might not open on time if the shortage continues.

"Our plans are to open on schedule," said Chancellor Ferebee Taylor. "We are keeping a close watch on the situation and we are engaging in well drilling." One well has been completed and others are being considered.

"We have happily noted that the restrictions of the ordinance have had an effect," Taylor said. "We'll have to see how it goes in the days to come."

Water consumption has fallen from approximately six million gallons daily to below four million since the ordinance went into effect on July 19.



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## Thermometer up's and down's:

If last year's freezing winter and this year's blistering summer are confusing to the average person, we're not alone.

Peter Robinson, assistant professor in the geography department says it's too early to tell if our climate is undergoing a major change, but he did admit "things have gone haywire since 1970 and aren't following the expected pattern."

Some climatologists claim the earth is getting warmer while others maintain it is getting colder. Robinson says it is too early to predict because changes in climate patterns can only be spotted after years of

observation.

Robinson emphasizes that in talking about the earth's climate changing, climatologists are not talking about sudden noticeable changes. "When we talk about earth getting warmer or colder, wetter or drier, we're talking about an annual average rise of one degree or average rainfall in fractions of inches, and I defy anyone to say they can feel the difference."

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