

Dam finished

Lawsuit still pending

By HOWARD TROXLER
Staff Writer

Foes of the B. Everett Jordan Lake project in Chatham County are continuing their federal court battle to halt the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project even though construction workers are clearing trees from the 14,000-acre site.

The dam itself is completed. The current dispute is over whether the gates of the dam should be closed to create a lake extending into parts of Orange, Wake and Durham counties.

Officials of the Conservation Council of North Carolina and the towns of Chapel Hill and Durham filed the lawsuit in 1977, to halt the \$100 million lake project, saying the filled basin would contain stagnant algae-laden water.

If construction goes according to plan officials will close the gates next spring to capture waters from the Haw and New Hope rivers.

The seven-year-old lawsuit has progressed through a series of legal battles to the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Circuit judges are to hear the case on appeal from the U.S. Middle District Court in Greensboro, which signed a go-ahead to construction in 1977.

Counties and cities downstream would benefit from flood control and water management projects, proponents of the lake say.

"There have been over 150 floods in the Cape Fear Valley since they started keeping records 90 years ago," said Fayetteville attorney Rudolph Singleton.

counsel for the downstream municipalities.

"We've needed flood control for years. There are half a million people downstream from the dam that need some reliable form of protection from flooding," Singleton said.

"That lake is going to be green," Chapel Hill Mayor Jim Wallace said. "When the Environmental Protection Agency comes down from Washington and slaps a water-quality violation on North Carolina and says 'clean it up,' I don't want it to be said that nobody tried to do anything beforehand."

Singleton noted an irony in the lawsuit, saying Chapel Hill officials are against the lake project even though town officials have purchased as much as 2 million gallons of water per day from Durham during water shortages.

"It's a real paradox," Singleton said. "The Jordan Lake would be a source of water. Yet Dr. Wallace is doing everything he can to stop the project."

A noted conservationist who holds a doctorate in environmental science, Wallace cites as his evidence the environmental impact statement prepared by Corps of Engineers scientists.

That report says the lake would become a stagnant body of water, breeding algae and pollutants.

Only expensive treatment would make the water useful, the mayor said.

But other Tar Heel lakes with similar problems are successfully managed, a Corps of Engineers spokesperson said.



This area would be flooded to create Jordan Lake

Housing crunch eases slightly; some freshmen still in triples

By DEBBIE MOOSE
Staff Writer

The campus housing crunch is beginning to ease slightly, but it may be seven to eight more weeks before all freshmen tripled in rooms meant for two or living in study rooms are moved to permanent housing.

A total of 29 freshman women and 18 men have been moved out of triples and study rooms since last week. At that time, 79 freshman women were tripled and the Department of University Housing was expecting as many as 40 students to arrive for whom no housing arrangements have been made at all.

Any of those students who did show up would be housed in study rooms and lounges, said Peggy Gibbs, director for housing contracts.

Only male students currently are housed in study rooms, Gibbs said, and they all will be relocated next week.

All tripled women in James have been moved, along with some in Ehringhaus and Morrison. "It's going to be a long, hard pull on North Campus," Gibbs said.

"We had freshmen walk in the day dorms opened and we had to put them somewhere. This year we are trying to relocate people in the same area—not move them from North to South campus," Gibbs said.

The housing office received the list of no-shows and academically ineligible students from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Monday. "There is a tentative number of 39 no-shows," Gibbs said. "Some of these might be there (on campus) but haven't picked up their keys or something. Some are academically ineligible, but that will have to be checked," she said.

Sink or swim—survival test to graduate

By RICHARD BARRON
Staff Writer

For some freshmen in these early weeks, the required swim test can be as frightening as drop-add lines or that first Chem 11 test.

Along with two semesters of physical education, all UNC undergraduates must pass a swimming test as part of the physical education requirement needed to graduate.

"At first I was kind of scared," said one freshman in the Bowman Gray pool. "I didn't know what to expect; but I figured if everyone has to pass it, then it can't be too hard."

The five-minute test consists of swimming 50 yards (two lengths of the pool) using any stroke. For the rest of the five minutes, one must swim, float or tread water.

"Basically it's a survival test," said Marybell Avery, aquatics director. Rather than measure a person's ability to swim, Avery said the test measure one's ability to survive in the water.

Although students can take the test as often as they wish until they pass, most pass on their first try. Avery estimated that of the 600 students who took the test the first day it was given this semester, only about 10 failed.

Avery said students who fail are encouraged to take beginner's swimming (PHYA 27). The test will be given in swimming classes and at other times throughout the school year.

While it seems unlikely that after four years of school the swim test would prevent seniors from graduating, students who haven't passed the test are not forgotten.

A grade of incomplete for the second semester physical education class is given to students who haven't passed the test. Students cannot graduate until this incomplete is made up.

Still, there are ways around the requirement. If after two semesters of swimming class one still cannot pass the test, the athletic department will consider waiving the requirement, Avery said.

Also, junior transfers with two courses in physical education are considered to have met the full physical education requirement, as spokesperson for the Arts and Sciences department said.

But one sophomore had an idea of her own for passing the test. After taking the

test, she said she was surprised that no identification was needed.

"They didn't ask for any ID or anything," she said. "I could have gotten my roommate to take the test for me."

As of Tuesday, men who want to move out of dorms will have to sell their housing contracts. Women will be allowed to cancel their contracts, forfeiting the \$50 deposit, as long as spaces are needed for crowded freshman women.

Gibbs said there has been no discussion recently of ending guaranteed spaces for freshmen to ease the yearly fall housing crunch. "We are bound by the (N.C.) legislature to house freshmen, and we have no control over that. I think freshmen need the support system residence halls offer to help with their adjustment to college life. I just wish we had more space," Gibbs said.

Although dorms are crowded now, Gibbs said there always are a number of vacancies in the spring semester. She said 84 percent of students who applied for University housing got back into the dorms last year, and 90 percent the year before. After the dorm lottery last spring, 600 students were on the waiting list for campus housing. Thirty still are on the waiting list.

"The more vacancies we have, the higher rent will be," Gibbs said. "We try to keep occupancy as high as possible without crowding."

In 1976, the first year a freshman class was made up of more women than men, the University converted Ruffin from a men's dorm to a women's dorm. Aycock was designated for women the following year when female enrollment again increased. This year, some suites in James were changed from male to female when 57 percent of incoming freshmen were female.

"We'll have to wait and see. If no more than 55 percent (of freshmen) are women, we won't have to convert any more dorms. If it rises to 60 percent, we may have to convert some more spaces," Gibbs said.

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SOTA offers activities for older students

By BEN ESTES
Staff Writer

Fraternities, sororities and dorm life are all right for the incoming student just out of high school, but many students of age 25 and older find it difficult to adjust to life at UNC, says Sally Newbold, spokesperson for Students Older Than Average.

"Most of us feel outside that group," Newbold said.

SOTA undergraduates usually are more than 25 years old, and graduate students of the group usually are more than 35 years of age, Newbold said.

She said SOTA was formed last October to get students together who feel they are older than average. By the end of the year, nearly 1,500 students were involved in SOTA.

"We had a lot of difficulty getting things going," Newbold said. But SOTA now has a student affairs adviser, Roz Hartmann, and held back-to-school orientation for interested students.

Newbold said nearly 100 people attended SOTA's first meeting of the year August 21.

The group is planning a potluck supper at Faculty Farm Sept. 22, a bowling trip in October, a bridge group and a group to attend Carolina football games together.

Newbold said. SOTA also holds a happy hour at Spanky's at 3:30 every Friday afternoon.

Older persons are going back to college in ever-increasing numbers for business and personal reasons, Newbold said. Such persons have special problems and needs and Newbold said she hopes SOTA can help.

"The main thing for us right now is going before the Student Government for money," Newbold said. She said the group is now preparing its budget for before the CGC.

Newbold said that many other university campuses have sponsored daycare centers, workshops and other programs for their older students, and that she hopes UNC eventually will hire personnel to confront and solve the problems of older students.

Newbold said that the SOTA name is being used nationally in other universities. She said that although the groups are not now affiliated with one another that time is coming.

Newbold said that SOTA is the first group of its kind at UNC, and that it hopes to grow in both membership and activities in the future. Students interested in joining SOTA may call Newbold at 942-5506.

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