

Rain, rain, rain

Cloudy today with rain developing tonight. High in the upper 50s, low in the upper 40s. Rain possible Saturday

The Daily Tar Heel

Yearbook

The 1979 Yack was distributed this week and the DTH has a review of the new yearbook on page 5.

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Nuclear industry troubled before Three Mile Island

By JOHN DUSENBURY
Staff Writer

Although actual harm to the surrounding community was limited, the Three Mile Island accident a year ago today put the problem of nuclear safety in the public spotlight.

The nuclear industry, however, was in serious trouble before the accident, a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told an audience at Duke University this week.

"The nuclear industry was running into serious problems before the Three Mile Island incident largely because of the changes in energy prices which came about in 1974," said Victor Gilinsky, one of five commissioners charged with regulating the nuclear industry in the United States.

The main effect of this was to reduce expectations of the future use of electrical energy which reduced projections in the planning of nuclear plants to be installed.

"A year or two before Three Mile Island, no nuclear plants had been ordered, and in fact, some 40 or so had canceled," he said.

As a result, Gilinsky said there has been a tendency to propose quick solutions when there are none.

"We are dealing with complex technology which is in the hands of a variety of technical organizations," he said. "I think it is too simplistic to say that the problems are people-related and not equipment-related."

The problem lies with both the people and the machines and their performances in relation to one another. It is impossible to make a sharp separation between systems that are safety-related and those that are not."

Gilinsky blamed the surge of optimism about nuclear energy in the late 1960s for current safety problems.

"The nuclear regulators were bowled over by the activity surrounding nuclear technology," he said. "The result was that the size and sophistication of these plants were allowed to grow and increase despite critical unresolved safety issues."

As the new plants began operating, the regulators and industry officials failed to devote enough attention to the lessons of operating

experience, he said. "The assumption was that the plants were safe and would not require much attention after they became operational."

"If we had paid attention in the past we would have seen that the new system was much too sloppy," he said. "Even after Three Mile Island there were instances of laxness in attention and discipline. So long as the public health and safety is at risk, there is no substitute for federal regulation. In the end it will be left up to the NRC to impose and maintain discipline to secure safe operations at these plants."

Gilinsky also said that for the first time in the history of commercial nuclear power the sole focus has been on safety matters.

"The NRC has selected a group of requirements that are essential to the plants which are completed or nearing completion," he said. "The commissioners decided that any future licenses would have to be approved by a vote of the commissioners themselves."

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DTH/Scott Sharpe

Nursing home alters format

By LEILA DUNBAR
Staff Writer

Pine Ridge Nursing Home of Chapel Hill this week hired a new administrator and began to revamp its program following a threat by the state Department of Human Resources that it may revoke the center's license.

Edward G. Astin Jr. took over as acting administrative consultant Wednesday. Charles Parkinson who had been administrator until Wednesday, is on a leave of absence. A new management firm, Health Care Management Co., has taken over Pine Ridge.

"Pine Ridge has had a long history of questionable reputation and non-community involvement," Astin said in an interview at the nursing home Thursday. Last week, the state Department of Human Resources informed officials at Pine Ridge that the state would revoke its license April 14 unless the center improved its employee training and patient screening programs. The state made its threat after an investigator from the Division of Facility Service, which licenses and regulates nursing homes, found inadequacies at Pine Ridge.

The state's investigation was prompted by complaints from Friends of Nursing Home Patients, a local consumer health group, about problems at Pine Ridge. FNHP said a Pine Ridge patient reported two incidents of patient abuse at the nursing home. But the state Attorney General's office did not find enough evidence to substantiate the abuse charges.

But Astin said the current improvements at Pine Ridge were not a direct result of the recent charges. "There was a year or a year-and-a-half of non-improvement leading up to this winter that caused the owners to be frustrated," Astin said.

Astin said he was aiming to improve staff and patient relations at Pine Ridge. "The first step is to hire new people because health care is directly related to the quality of employees," he said. "We have had a 25 percent turnover (in personnel). For the existing personnel we've implemented a training program that started this week."

In a meeting Thursday, the Pine Ridge staff began to review the state's Nursing Home Patients Bill of Rights. The bill, passed by the N. C. General



The staff at the Pine Ridge Nursing Home holds a conference (above) and a 106-year-old man, one of the patients at the home, sits in his wheelchair.

Assembly in 1977, guarantees fair and considerate treatment to nursing home patients. Secretary of Human Resources Sarah Morrow has warned Pine Ridge that it must comply with the Bill of Rights.

Astin said he hired a social director to improve the social environment for the patients and he said the home would be renovated. Pine Ridge also plans to institute a more stringent patient screening process, he said.

I.O. Wilkerson of the state Division of Facility Services said the state agency will follow up the investigation of Pine Ridge to ensure it meets all state requirements.

Bernie Segal, chairman of the Orange County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee, said, "The new management sat down with the Friends of Nursing Home Patients and our committee and gave us verbal assurances that they would improve the patient care. They recognize the situation needs changing."

But Segal added, "There have been previous management changes where community groups have been assured of improvements but they weren't carried out. I hope these people do (carry them out)."

Fair housing

Law supports landlords

By BEVERLY SHEPARD
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen recently passed a fair housing law similar to an anti-discrimination law approved by Chapel Hill in the late 1960s.

But even though the new Carrboro and the Chapel Hill laws protect residents from discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, neither housing ordinance mentions age or occupation. The categories of age and occupation most directly apply to University students, especially undergraduates.

Carrboro Alderman Ernie Patterson, who introduced the fair housing law, said the board originally intended to include protections against age

and occupation discrimination, as well as safeguards against discrimination of families with children.

But the aldermen were told that such an ordinance would not be approved by the N.C. General Assembly, Patterson said.

"We asked about the question of age and occupation, but were told we could only follow federal guidelines," he said. "So we took what we could get. While our delegates might be for a particular issue, the conservative legislature might not want it, because it would establish a precedent they (legislators) don't want."

Rep. Trish Hunt of the 17th district, which includes Orange and Chatham counties, agreed that a special housing law prohibiting discrimination on

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Ernie Patterson

Chapel Thrill '80 plagued by problems

By KERRY DEROGHI
Staff Writer

Temperamental band leaders, conflicting tour schedules, limited expense accounts and absolute deadlines are all problems that have faced Union Concert Committee members this year as they have tried to plan Chapel Thrill weekend.

"People do not understand what you have to go through to contract a band," committee member James Alexander said Thursday. "There is a lot more to it than just calling up a band and saying 'Will you play?'"

In spite of the problems it has had, the concert committee already has scheduled the Beach Boys, Atlanta Rhythm Section and Bonnie Raitt to play in the Saturday afternoon concert April 19. The committee had scheduled Sister Sledge and Chic to play in Carmichael Auditorium, but recently Chic canceled the

concert, leaving the committee with the extra job of contracting another band to play with Sister Sledge. Alexander said that because of this problem, ticket sales would be postponed for a few days. The tickets were supposed to go on sale Monday.

"We wanted to keep Sister Sledge and see if we could get others to justify the ticket price," committee chairman Bill Steigerwald said. "We didn't want to price the students out of buying. Our purpose is to break even and our prices are lower than you can expect anywhere else."

"It's been a tremendous amount of work and very frustrating, but we feel very confident," he added.

Steigerwald said the problems facing Chapel Thrill were mainly scheduling problems. "Ninety percent of the bands we wanted weren't touring," he said. "It was a good period for disco and soul groups, but lots of bands are waiting until April to start up. It's all very seasonal."

Steigerwald said the committee also had to deal with pleasing the diverse tastes of UNC students.

"We have to satisfy the greatest number without ruining the concert for others," he said. "Some people like rock and roll while some like jazz."

The Union concert committee also had to work with the constraints of a limited expense fund.

Committee member Richard Terrell said many bands are too expensive. "We started out with real high hopes, but we just can't afford bands like Earth Wind and Fire. They are way out of our range."

"Bruce Springsteen was available but he absolutely refuses to do an outdoor concert," he said. "There is a lot of luck involved. We had to bite the bullet and keep on going."

"It worked out the best way we could have worked it. I don't think we could have done any better," Terrell said.

Grass Despite sowing, it's not growing

By PHIL WELLS
Staff Writer

As the old cliché goes, the grass is always greener on the other side. Unless, of course, you're at UNC and the other side is a brown, barren mud flat.

The recent spring rains, combined with trampled patches of sprouting grass, have made the green stuff sparse in many campus areas causing students to dodge mud holes on their way to class.

But these same students are usually the ones who trample and kill the grass, UNC Physical Plant Director Gene Swecker said this week.

"We would like to have grass everywhere that (there is supposed to be) grass," Swecker said, adding that flourishing grass has become a rarity on campus.

Students, in a rush to get to their next class, often ignore the plowed, grass-seed-scattered, straw-covered areas around campus, he said. Instead of staying on the brick walks, they trudge through the grass, making paths of their own, which cause erosion when it rains.

"We've been combating paths since the beginning of the University," Swecker said. But with 20,000 students on campus, he said this was a difficult task.

One of the worst spots on campus for grass is the Upper Quad lawn between Manly, Grimes, Everett and Ruffin dormitories, Swecker said. Even though physical plant personnel sow grass seed there every year, it hardly ever survives.

The tremendous amount of traffic and the shade from all the trees in the area are the main reasons grass will not grow there, Swecker



DTH/Andy James

Housing employees Glenn Baldwin and Ed Goehling drive in stakes ...students usually ignore 'don't walk on grass' signs

said. "We'd like for this (grass) to grow rather than have people play on it," said Walter Dunsmore, a grounds supervisor who was recently helping plow dirt, scatter grass seed and cover it with straw in this area.

"We started (planting grass seed on campus) the week before last, hoping to have it (grass) up so it'll look nice for commencement."

And with a lot of sun and "a shower or two," he said the grass should be making its way through the straw in a couple of weeks. Unless, of course, students decide to keep walking on it.

Regardless of how much students insist on making their own paths, Swecker said, the physical plant will not give up. "We'll keep trying," he said.

People always comment on the beauty of the campus, and in order to keep it looking nice, "we'll keep planting grass seed," he said. Physical plant workers have used many

things, such as signs and ropes, to combat the grass trampling problem but have had no success, Swecker said.

They once placed shrubbery around one bare spot on campus but students even ignored the shrubs. "The shrubs are gone now," he said.

Workers also planted azaleas by a grass-growing spot near Howell Hall, but students walked over the azaleas, he said.

Physical plant personnel sow grass seed around the entire campus twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall, said the plant's ground superintendent Larry L. Trammel.

The plant uses three tons of grass seed for each planting. Swecker said that each ton of grass seed costs the University about \$800.

So the next time you are late for class and start to dash across that patch of blossoming, green grass, stop and go around. If not, it may be a treacherous mud puddle next week.

Students claim elections unfair to undergrads

By LYNN CASEY
Staff Writer

After listening to eight hours of testimony Tuesday and Wednesday concerning the validity of a Feb. 5 referendum, the Student Supreme Court adjourned Wednesday night. It will continue hearing testimony next week.

Five UNC students are seeking to have voided the election results of a referendum which gives the Graduate and Professional Student Federation 15 percent of the activities fees paid by graduate and professional students. The referendum, an amendment to the Student Government constitution, passed by a required two-thirds margin, 2,105-956.

Most of Tuesday's testimony concerned the issue of prohibiting off-campus undergraduate students from voting at three new polling sites—Rosenau Hall, Kenan Laboratories and Hamilton Hall. Only graduate students were allowed to vote at these polls Feb. 5.

Craig Brown, a UNC law student representing the five students, is charging that by refusing to let undergraduate students vote at the three polling sites, the elections board chairman misinterpreted the intent of the Campus Governing Council bill which established the additional polling sites.

Although the bill does not specify who can vote at the new polling sites, David Wright, former CGC member and plaintiff in the case, testified Tuesday that the intent of the bill was to allow both graduate and undergraduate students to vote at the polls.

The CGC objected to the bill when it was first proposed, Wright said, because members believed the bill gave graduate students an unfair voting advantage.



DTH/Scott Sharpe

Chief Justice Cooper, Justice Allen ...hearings postponed until Tuesday

"We thought this was in fact gerrymandering," Wright said.

The bill to establish the three polls passed by only one vote after the CGC agreed that off-campus undergraduate students also would be allowed to vote at the polls, Wright said.

But the CGC did not mention in the bill who was to be allowed to vote at the polls.

Elections Board Chairman F. Scott Simpson, who also testified Tuesday, said he understood that only graduate students were to vote at the three polls and that no CGC member ever informed him of the intent to allow both graduate and undergraduate students to vote at the additional polls.

Jil Linker, the 1978-1979 elections board chairman, testified Wednesday that if a CGC law establishing polls does not specify who can vote there, then the elections board chairman has the power to decide who can vote at those polls.

Wright said he believed that allowing only graduate students to vote at those polls prejudiced the vote.

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