

Water

Future supply looks bleak

By RACHEL PERRY
Staff Writer

The water level at University Lake is 60 inches below normal and Orange Water and Sewer Authority administrative committee members said the future of Chapel Hill's water supply looks bleak.

"Our water consumption this year has risen dramatically," OWASA Executive Director Everett Billingsley said. "People aren't conserving water. They have forgotten the dry times (of the summer of 1977)."

Although the former American Stone Quarry-turned reservoir has been providing up to one-third of Chapel Hill's water supply since Oct. 24, OWASA authorities are encouraging citizens to practice voluntary water conservation until the water supply at University Lake is replenished. "Even with the addition of the quarry, we're looking at water shortages once every four years instead of the usual once every 20 years. Our water supply is definitely not good," Billingsley said.

Committee Chairman David Moreau said there are about 160 million gallons of usable water left in University Lake. The extra 200 million gallons the quarry is providing will suffice through February 1981, he said. "University Lake should have filled up enough by then, after the December and January rains," he said.

Residents of the Chapel Hill area now are using about five to six gallons of water per day, he said. "I feel we are fairly safe at this point, but precautionary measures need to be taken."

Committee members agreed that the public should start thinking more seriously about the local water problem. "The way to conserve water is to put a price on it," Committee Secretary-Treasurer Wade Degraffenreid said. "California had the same problem three to four years ago. They put a price on water, and consumption was cut 50 percent almost



University Lake below normal in summer of 1977...conservation measures again called for

immediately." Other water resource alternatives would include better utilization of the Hillsborough water line, Degraffenreid said. Billingsley said the Hillsborough line was not flowing as well as expected. "We've already had a lot of taste complaints," he said. "However, people do get accustomed to certain tastes of water, so letting a steady, small amount of water mix with the regular flow will better accustom people to Hillsborough water," he said.

Other committee members emphasized that neighboring towns would hesitate to supply Chapel Hill with additional water until it had fully exhausted its own resources, including University Lake, the American Stone Quarry and the Hillsborough line.

Billingsley said OWASA had no immediate plans to discontinue pumping water from the stone quarry. "The quality of the water is excellent," he said.

Three people remain tripled, to move soon

Though only five weeks are left in this year's semester, three people still have not been taken out of tripled dorm rooms, Phyllis Graham, assistant director of University Housing, said Wednesday.

The three tripled students left are women in Cobb, Kenan and Morrison. The last man was taken out of a triple last week.

Graham said she did not know when all the students would be moved out of triples.

"It all depends on cancellations of students now in dorms," she said. "Hopefully, they'll be out by next week." Two students were moved out of triples Wednesday.

Only 84 students were tripled this year, compared with 346 last year.

Also, last year, all the tripled students were not moved out until the end of the semester and at this time last year more than 100 students were still in triples.

"De-tripling has been a lot easier this year, because there were so many fewer students tripled," she said.

De-tripling has been a gradual, weekly process this year with between two and five students being moved out at a time, she said.

—ELIZABETH DANIEL

Third suspect arrested in thefts

A third suspect was arrested Saturday in connection with recent silver thefts in Chapel Hill, police said Wednesday.

Sparkle Price of Newark, N.J., was charged with two counts of possession of stolen property. Her bond was set at \$20,000.

Two men also were arrested Saturday in the same case. Wilbert Parker and Louis Ortega, also of Newark, were charged with larceny and possession of stolen property.

Police said they arrested the three when Parker tried to sell stolen silver in Durham. The silver was traced to a theft from a house on Morgan Creek Road.

The three also were charged with possession of a car which was stolen in New Jersey.

Ben Callahan of the Chapel Hill police said he thought the suspects might have been involved in other thefts in town, but there are no other suspects in this case.

Chapel Hill Mayor Joe Nassif said Friday that silver and jewelry accounted for 90 percent of the stolen property reported in Chapel Hill in October.

—JEFF BOWERS

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THE Daily Crossword by Elaine D. Schorr

ACROSS	29 "My Shadow"	54 Emporium	13 Defunct
1 Spar	31 Strata	55 Cow genus	19 British composer
5 Sew a loose seam	34 Know-it-all	58 Fairy	21 Actor's line
10 Culture medium	37 Gonorrhea's dad	60 New Mexico Indian	26 Lend — (listen)
14 Moonfish	39 Change the clock	62 Fortification ditch	28 Grammat
15 Patty Duke —	40 Matting fiber	64 Windjammers	29 Is in line for
16 Kind of shirt	41 Gold measure	67 Pavarotti specialty	30 Challenged
17 Peter out	43 Moon goddess	68 T.S. or George	32 Unhitching post of the West
18 Gabbler	44 Incompetent	70 Carbon cast-off	33 Depots: abbr.
20 Composer	46 Dream: Fr.	71 Lays by the heels	34 Porgy relative
22 False god	47 Body of poetry	72 Strikes out	35 Excellent talking skill
23 Turkish title	48 Carressed	73 Thousand days girl	
24 Mel	50 Vacate		
25 Miss Hagen	52 Musical direction		
27 Thespian			

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

1 Singer Anna	38 Went wild
2 Unattached	42 Flare-ups
3 Nasser's successor	45 Seed coat
4 On that occasion	49 Phoned
5 Sess	51 — a deal
6 Residue	53 Leg part
7 Rough guess	55 Nobleman
8 Industry great	56 Lower of Eos
9 Implicate	57 Downpour
10 No.	58 Abba
11 Is credulous	59 Lee of silents
12 Medicinal plant	61 Eye: Fr.
	63 Hacienda, for one
	65 Corp. exacs
	66 Fish eggs

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