

Sexes differ in pollutant response

By JANET OLSON
Staff Writer

Now that more women are entering traditionally male occupations, research into the different sexes' susceptibility to pollutants will become increasingly important in the next few years, according to Edward Calabrese, professor of environmental studies at the University of Massachusetts.

Animal research already shows a significant difference between males and females in response to more than 100 pollutants, Calabrese said. But Calabrese added the research was inconclusive for humans.

Calabrese gave the 1984 Carolina Environmental Essay Wednesday afternoon in the Rosenau Hall auditorium. The essay was the first presentation of the Carolina Symposium, "Population, Resources and Environment."

The studies show gender differences in the abilities to absorb and excrete substances, Calabrese said. He cited studies involving several common substances

which reveal these differences.

Currently, studies indicate a strong relation between the amount people smoke and the cancer rate, Calabrese said, and they show that men have a higher rate than women.

Some believe the male rate is higher because men smoke more than women do, Calabrese said. But researchers controlled their experiments for the difference in the amount of material smoked, the duration of smoking, the degree of inhalation and the type of cigarette smoked, he said, and the results still showed a two-and-a-half fold greater risk of developing lung cancer.

Research also shows males may be at more risk in eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, Calabrese said, because male rats are more susceptible to a toxin found in peanut butter which causes liver cancer. Given the same dosage of the toxin over time, male rats show a two-and-a-half to five fold higher susceptibility to cancer.

In addition, male animals have been shown to be more susceptible to EDB,

mercury, copper and chloroform, he said. Female animals are more susceptible to lead, benzene and ozone.

None of the studies are conclusive for humans, Calabrese said, because human research relies on the study of epidemics. But if researchers could show gender susceptibility across several species, Calabrese said he believed the conclusions could be generalized to humans. He also said that based on the studies done so far, he doubted researchers would find more than a 10-fold difference in susceptibility between the sexes.

The implications of these gender differences must be worked out, Calabrese said. If scientists can find conclusive results for humans, the government may have to enact more regulations on exposure to chemicals.

"Right now, it's a more scientific question than a regulatory question," Calabrese said. "We have to provide a lot more evidence before regulation occurs."

He cautioned researchers who only used one sex in their studies. Because the difference in susceptibility exists, he said,



Edward Calabrese

he urged the inclusion of both sexes in experimentation.

Calabrese has been an adviser to federal, state and private groups about environmental health. He has written more than 150 articles and seven books on environmental health effects. He plans to publish his research on male and female differences in susceptibility to pollutants in an upcoming book.

Aldermen approve plans for condos in Carrboro

By JIM HOFFMAN
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen Tuesday night approved a permit for Columbia-Stuart Inc. of Atlanta to build 188 condominiums and apartments on Smith Level Road near the Villages apartments.

The board began a public hearing on the permit request during their Feb. 28 meeting but decided not to act on the request because of a legal dispute between Columbia-Stuart and the previous owner. The dispute over the contract agreement was to be settled in Orange County superior court, but attorneys for the two owners told the board that they had reached an out-of-court agreement and that the entire issue would be settled today.

Despite this information Bill Bunch, an attorney representing the owner of The Villages, still expressed concern over the project.

He said that in order for the developer to install a sewer system it would have to tear up part of The Villages property and a road that serves as a major access to The Villages.

The board went ahead and approved the permit on the condition that the developer provide a schedule for the sewer installation to The Villages and that they not prevent the flow of traffic to and from The Villages.

In other business the aldermen unanimously approved the establishment of a board task force that would be composed of local residents and town officials. Don

Casper, town finance director and interim town manager, said the task force would be responsible for studying long-range financial needs of the town and determining the possibilities of long-range capital projects.

The board also approved members of the task force, including aldermen James White and Hillard Caldwell, who will act as liaisons to the board.

Also on Tuesday night, the board began public hearings on a community development block grant project. Currently the board and the town staff are studying the possibility of allocating \$750,000 in federal funds to revitalize housing in the Lloyd/Broad street area.

The aldermen will hold a second public hearing on the project on March 27 to receive comments from residents.

Funds for community development projects are allocated by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, who will begin considering applications from a number of other municipalities on April 16. They will rank the applications according to community needs, project design, benefit to low- and moderate-income persons and consistency of the project with state policies.

Effects on schools of raising sales tax discussed

By MIKE GUNZENHAUSER
Staff Writer

Orange County commissioners decided to vote on the half-cent local option sales tax increase at their April 2 meeting, after hearing 16 people speak on the proposed tax Tuesday night.

Commissioners will decide at their April 2 meeting whether to enact the increase by resolution or to call for a referendum.

Joseph W. Straley, a former Chapel Hill Town Council member, was the only speaker to oppose the tax. Straley, UNC professor emeritus of physics, said that the General Assembly had "opened up a trough; everyone is going to the trough."

Straley said the tax increase was unfair because it would put a disproportionate burden on the poor.

Chapel Hill Mayor Joe Nassif endorsed the tax, but he said the commissioners should not allocate 100 percent of

the tax revenue to the schools as a recent task force on the issue recommended. Nassif said the proposal was "short-sighted."

By law, at least 40 percent of the revenue from the first five years' implementation of the tax must be used for schools. The Schools Capital Task Force has recommended that all the revenue be reserved for schools.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce suggested that schools receive 80 percent of the revenue, with 20 percent reserved for other capital needs, including water and sewer.

Max Kennedy, chairman of the Orange County School Board, said that even the full amount of the tax revenue would not allow the two school systems to meet their short-term needs.

Myra Kirkman and Brenda Alexander were among several parents who pointed out bad conditions at some of the schools. Kirkman referred to A.L. Stanback Middle School as "disgraceful," citing unsanitary water condi-

tions and inadequate lighting.

Kirkman and Alexander supported the task force's recommendation to replace A.L. Stanback using revenue from the tax increase. Parents said they were surprised that conditions at some schools were so bad.

Many speakers also advocated an \$8 million to \$9 million bond issue to further meet the capital needs of schools. Finding capital needs were in excess of \$20 million, the tax force recommended the bond issue.

Mayor Jim Porto of Carrboro said that without the sales tax increase, Carrboro would have to raise its property taxes. Porto said property taxes are already very high and any increase might result in higher rents.

The N.C. General Assembly approved the local option sales tax in 1983 as an alternative to local governments' raising property taxes. Ninety of North Carolina's 100 counties have adopted the half-cent sales tax increase so far.

Last day to apply for fellowship to study presidency

By MELISSA HOLLAND
Staff Writer

A fellowship that involves a weekend in Washington, D.C. to study the presidency is now being offered for one UNC student, according to University alumnus David Desautels.

Desautels, who is also a board member of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, which sponsors the weekend conference, said applications for the

fellowship were being accepted until today. Students should see Assistant Political Science Professor Fred Lee for more information. The conference is scheduled for March 23-25.

The fellowship, which Desautels is sponsoring for the fourth year at UNC, gives the student a chance to meet and hear prominent speakers.

"About 500 students attend the conference," Desautels said. "Some of the top people in the world are there."

Desautels said past speakers included Judy Woodruff, Hugh Sidey, Sandra Day O'Connor and Gerald Ford.

"This year, our keynote speaker is Ed Meese," Desautels said. "Plus getting together with the best and brightest students in the country is such an eye-opening experience. You get to hobnob with ambassadors and journalists."

Desautels said there was a good geographical balance of students at the conference, all of whom were interested

in studying the presidency from different angles.

"The organization (Center for the Study of the Presidency) came together as an outgrowth of an idea from two men during the Vietnam era. They decided they should have an organization nationwide to get students together to talk about the problems of the day," Desautels said.

He added that of the 500 students who attend the conference, about a dozen will be selected to return as what are called "center fellows." These students then get to plan the activities and run the conference during the following year, he said.

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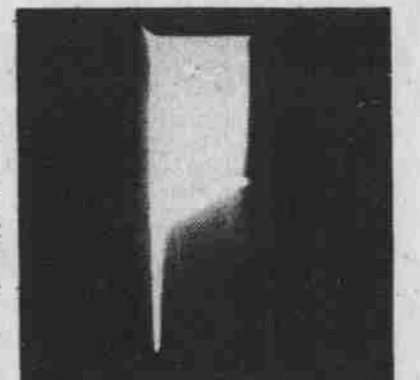
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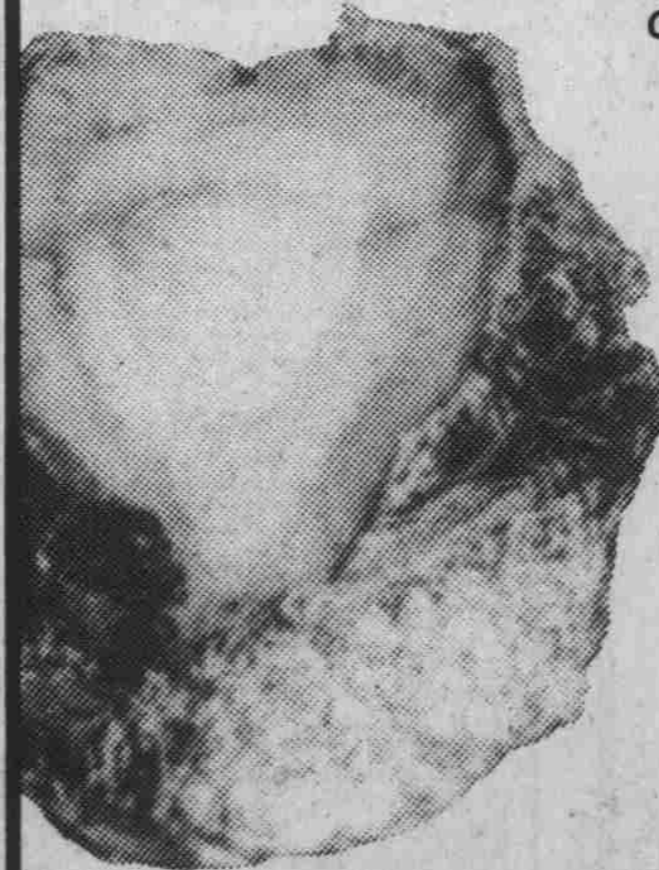
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