

Professor surveys state radon levels

By MICHAEL A. JORDAN
Staff Writer

Recent discoveries of dangerously high concentrations of radon in other areas of the country prompted the N.C. Department of Human Resources to institute a survey of radon levels in the state, said Mel Fry, deputy chief of the radiation protection section of the department. "I think most states are taking a preliminary look at their radon levels right now," he said. At the request of the department, James Watson Jr., UNC associate professor of environmental science and engineering, is conducting the survey. Radon is a poisonous gas formed by the decay of uranium in underground deposits of bedrock, Fry said. The Department of Human Resources released a preliminary

report on the survey's findings last week. At that time, samples from only 88 of the 100 counties had been analyzed. Watson said he was pleased with the findings because few areas showed unusually high levels of the poisonous radon gas. "Only one measurement (in Orange county) exceeded the EPA guideline, and that one was only barely higher than the guideline," Watson said. "Thus, we did not detect any high levels in Orange county." Watson said he received no special funding for the project so he cut the costs of making the radon detection devices and enlisted the help of a graduate student and a visiting professor who helped analyze the results of the survey. Because of limited funding, Watson said he was only able to study 500

residences in North Carolina, Fry said. "Five hundred is a relatively small number of samples for the entire state," Watson said. "I don't think there is a large area with high concentrations, but there certainly may be some areas with high concentrations that we missed." The highest concentration of radon measured was in Transylvania county, which had one area with 30.90 picocuries of radon per liter (pCi/l). Four counties — Chatham, Gates, Hyde and Richmond — reported areas with no trace of radon whatsoever. There has never been a systematic measure of the radon levels at the University, although a former student conducted an informal study a few years ago which found no danger, he said.

Watson said concentrations of radon up to 4.00 pCi/l are not abnormal in residential areas. A concentration of over 4.00 pCi/l is above average, he said. Citing the Reading Prong geological region located in New Jersey where radon levels sometimes exceeded 1000 pCi/l as an example, Watson said levels exceeding 4.00 pCi/l can present an extremely potent health hazard. If high levels of radon are found in a house, major changes may be necessary to alleviate the danger. For example, Watson said the cost of eliminating the danger of a 500 pCi/l concentration of radon would be about \$3,000. But most problems can be negated by simple changes in ventilation, especially if the house has a crawl space beneath it, he said.

Aquino says peace failed, orders army to crush rebels

From Associated Press reports

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Speaking from a bomb-damaged grandstand, President Corazon Aquino said Sunday her peace policy had failed and she ordered the military to crush Communist rebels and rightist plotters. "God knows I have tried," she said at graduation ceremonies at the Philippine Military Academy. "But my offers of peace and reconciliation have been met with the most bloody and insolent rejections by the left and the right." She vowed to eliminate the foes of freedom there before leaving office and complained that America was just giving advice instead of the aid it promised.

News in Brief

"zero option," was initially proposed by President Reagan in his first term.

Progress toward an agreement was blocked by the Soviet-U.S. wrangling over U.S. deployments of medium-range missiles, the announcement of the U.S. "Star Wars" research program and other issues.

Minister to get \$1.3 million

ORLANDO, Florida — A millionaire dog track owner said Sunday he'll go on national television to personally give \$1.3 million to evangelist Oral Roberts, but said the gift had nothing to do with Roberts' claim that he might die if he didn't reach a fund-raising drive goal.

Roberts said in March 1986 that God had given him a year to raise \$8 million for scholarships so the Oral Roberts University's medical-school graduates could afford to be missionaries in Third World countries.

Benefactor Jerry Collins is not a follower of Roberts and said he's donating the final \$1.3 million to help the medical program, not because the television evangelist said God would "call him home" at the end of March if the fund-raising drive failed.

Bill seeks to make English state language

By NEIL WATSON
Staff Writer

A bill to make English the official language of North Carolina was unanimously approved by a state Senate committee last week. The bill was not designed to correct an existing problem, but to avoid problems that have developed in other states, said Sen. Franklin Block, D-New Hanover, the bill's sponsor. "We want to set the policy of the state so that everybody knows English is the official language," he

said. Block said movements in other states to teach school in the language spoken at home have led to serious problems. Students could wind up in a "linguistic ghetto," never learning to speak English and consequently having limited opportunities, he said. "The bill is in no way intended to be a punitive act," Block said. "It is not intended to keep people from coming to North Carolina, but to encourage people who don't speak English, especially children, to learn

to speak it as quickly as possible." Block said he was not opposed to bilingualism, noting that he insisted his children learn a foreign language. "Bilingualism is important and should be encouraged as long as one of the languages is English," he said. "We are not encouraging people to forget their heritage," Block said, "but there needs to be a line drawn between what you do privately and what you do publicly." When people go to France or Spain, they are expected to learn French or Spanish, Block said.

Loren Muse, a graduate student who teaches English as a Second Language, said it was more difficult for a student to learn subjects such as science or history in a language other than his or her native tongue. "But even though it may be easier to teach a student in his native language, I feel that in America you should expect to have to speak English and be able to do so," she said. Block said little opposition had been expressed to the bill and it had a good chance of passing.

Students to discuss ordinance

Student Government will hold a meeting for all students interested in opposing recent actions of the Chapel Hill Town Council, including passage of a new noise ordinance and denial of a noise permit for Pi Kappa Phi's annual Burnout party. The meeting will be held Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in 224 Student Union. Student Body President Brian

Bailey and Student Congress Speaker Rob Friedman said that Student Government was "very disturbed" by the council's actions. "There is no excuse for students not to come, unless they never go to parties and they just don't care," Friedman said. "It's very important that students come to the meeting."

U.S. congressmen to speak at forum

Fourth District Rep. David Price, D-N.C., will hold a forum today at 11:30 a.m. in 224 Student Union to discuss the direction of U.S. foreign policy. Rep. Dave McCurdy, D-Okla., and Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., will also participate in the forum. The speeches are part of a nationwide program, "Forum for the Future," which brings Democratic congressional representatives to college campuses. Price, McCurdy and Spratt will hold a press conference in 355 Hamilton at 9:20 a.m.


Women's world of work opportunity started to widen during World War II

By LAURA PEARLMAN
Staff Writer

Although World War II opened a "window of opportunity" for women to enter the work force, that window closed for many women after the war was over, a representative of UNC's Institute for Research of Social Science said in a speech Saturday. Susan Levine, associate editor of the institute, delivered a speech to the Orange County Women's Center as part of the organization's celebration of Women's History Month. In the speech, "Women and Work During World War II," Levine discussed how women's roles in society were altered by the war. She described the war as a "window of opportunity for women that opened during the war and closed afterwards."

The temporary condition of the woman's place in the work force during World War II was enforced by the types of benefits that employers offered as a lure to get the women to work outside the home. Child care, banking, shopping services, higher wages and education in skilled areas were offered as incentives for women to work, Levine said. Unfortunately most of the promised benefits were never even developed, and when the men returned from the battlefield, the benefits were abandoned completely. Levine said after the war was over working women continued performing their jobs as many other women began to hold jobs outside their homes, making them a significant part of the work force.

"The wage earner was no longer young," she said. "Rather, she was a mother and probably planned to work outside the home for most of her adult life." "World War II was not unique in drawing women into the work place and putting them into men's positions," Levine said. "What made World War II different from past wars is that it occurred after a century of gradual women's moves to the work place." Levine closed her speech by expressing the importance of keeping the "window of opportunity" open. She said that women must continue to fight for equal pay for equal work, and must remain a visible part of the work force — the position for which they struggled after World War II.



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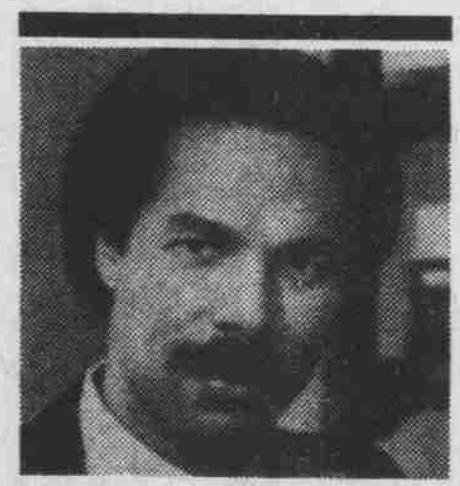
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