

Reservoir to help solve county water shortage problems

By AMY WEISNER
Staff Writer

The Cane Creek Reservoir may soon wash away the possibility of future mandatory water conservation measures.

The reservoir, scheduled for completion in late June 1989, will provide the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) with five times the storage capacity of its present watersheds.

Construction of the dam and

reservoir began in December 1986, after 10 years of legal disputes and land acquisitions.

"We have done most of the foundation work on the reservoir and are about 55 percent of the way finished," said Pat Davis, assistant director of OWASA.

The construction phases remaining include finishing the concrete spillway structure that lets water flow through the dam, building the pump station

farther down the creek, clearing the reservoir and flooding it.

"The reservoir is scheduled to be completed June 27, 1989, but our workers are a bit ahead of schedule," Davis said. "So we may be finished before that date."

The three billion-gallon reservoir is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Chapel Hill off N.C. 54 and includes over 20,000 acres of predominantly timber-covered land. OWASA officials predict the Cane

Creek Reservoir will provide water for the community for at least 50 years, based on present daily water consumption statistics. According to OWASA, nearly 6 million gallons of water are used per day in the OWASA service area, with 110 gallons per person.

OWASA built a temporary impoundment at the Cane Creek location in July 1985 as an emergency water source for the community, Davis said. This impoundment will

be flooded by the much larger reservoir next spring.

In addition to the emergency impoundment, a 450 million-gallon reservoir at University Lake provides water for 50,000 people in the OWASA service area. Another nearby reservoir at Stone Quarry supplies the community with 208 million gallons of water.

Since these reservoirs have inadequate water supply storage capabilities, the OWASA service area has undergone serious water shortages in 1968, 1976, 1977, 1980 and most recently in 1986.

Although the reservoir will primarily serve as a raw water supply source, recreational activities are also planned for Cane Creek. The site will be maintained as a wildlife habitat and will also be open to public hunting and fishing. Bird watching, hiking, canoeing and picnicking will also be available.

A Republican's view

Candidate condemns 'political power brokers'

By LAURA MAYFIELD
Staff Writer

Taking away the power of the Democratic leaders in North Carolina politics is crucial to a successful state government, Jim Gardner, a Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, told about 20 people in the Union Tuesday.

"North Carolina is run behind closed doors, in private sessions, by eight very powerful men," he said. "The time has come to give the North Carolina Legislature back to the people of our state. It's time to make it work for us — not the political power brokers."

Gardner, who wants to be the first Republican lieutenant governor of the century, said establishing an open meetings law allowing the press and the public to attend any congressional session is crucial. A

similar state law is already in effect, but the legislature is exempt from it, he said.

"If you're going to have freedom of the press, it's going to have to start in the halls of the Capitol Building," he said.

Gubernatorial veto power is also necessary for an effective state legislature, Gardner said. "North Carolina is the only state in the union not to grant veto power. We could stop all the secrecy in state government," he said.

"(Gov.) Jim Martin is the most honest, straight-shooting man in politics. He's done an outstanding job," Gardner said. "Had he had any help from the legislature he could have done an even better one. Every single bill he introduced was stricken down. We're getting back to those eight men."

He also called for an elimination of the distribution of pork barrel money, which he said legislators can only get by following the Democratic power brokers.

Gardner dismissed complaints by fellow GOP members that he is not a true conservative, saying his voting record is more conservative than that of Republican U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms.

A Martin-Gardner ticket would offer North Carolina the strongest leadership it has seen in many years, Gardner said.

"In 1990 we'll see more Democrats put out of office than anyone can imagine. This will hurt the Democratic Party in a major way," he said.

Gardner's speech was sponsored by the College Republicans.

Council approves parking permit, discusses legislation requests

By BILL HILDEBOLT
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council took action on a number of issues at its meeting Monday night.

The council unanimously approved a resolution that will extend a special-use permit that allows employees of North Carolina Memorial Hospital to park in the adjacent parking deck.

The permit now specifies that by 1993 the entire parking deck be reserved for patients and visitors at the hospital. The permit was originally issued in 1978 and would have expired in June.

The council also voted to allow Mayor Jonathan Howes to speak with the state legislative delegation about the town's potential local bill requests, one of which is the entertainment tax. Howes is to report back to the council by May 25.

The council unanimously voted to request permission from the state to use funds from the local sales tax for purposes other than water and sewer facilities.

During public discussion, one citizen said that although this may be a good resolution, the water in Chapel Hill is less than totally satisfactory and needs further attention. Council member David Goshchalk agreed and said the water situation should receive further thought.

Status reports were presented on both the Rosemary Square Project and the Tandler Homeownership Project. Both projects are moving ahead steadily, according to the reports.

The Rosemary Square Project is moving towards setting a closing date for "pre-sales" of the hotel units. Fraser Development has filed revised documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission. SEC approval would allow the pre-sales to begin.

The main progress made on the Tandler Homeownership Program has been a new marketing push featuring advertisements on WCHL radio station.

The council also voted for an ordinance that will restrict traffic on

Briarbridge Lane. There was lengthy discussion on the resolution, which will close the road to through traffic by means of a gate.

The gate will have to be opened and closed manually by each motorist and should create a large enough problem that through traffic will be greatly discouraged. Although the council expressed concern over the idea of restricting traffic, they did authorize the installation of the gate.

The council also passed a resolution to restrict parking on the south side of McCauley Street between Ransom and Pittsboro streets from 8 a.m. until noon on weekdays. Parking permits for the area will be available for residents.

Chapel Hill town engineer George Small said the measure is necessary due to general overcrowding on the street.

Tests

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the recent trend in mushrooms' popularity, Riddick said. "I think people who don't normally get high might think shrooms are the better way to go," he said. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of negative talk about it. Shrooms haven't gotten the bad publicity that other drugs have gotten."

Riddick estimates that he has treated 150 people for substance abuse since joining Student Health Service's Health Education staff in

November 1987.

"About 10 percent of the folks I've talked to have done shrooms," he said. "Only three or four of them came (to Student Health) because of shrooms."

Psilocybin is not the only hallucinogen found in many of the mushrooms students use, Riddick said. "I would think that at least half of the shrooms on campus are soaked with LSD," he said.

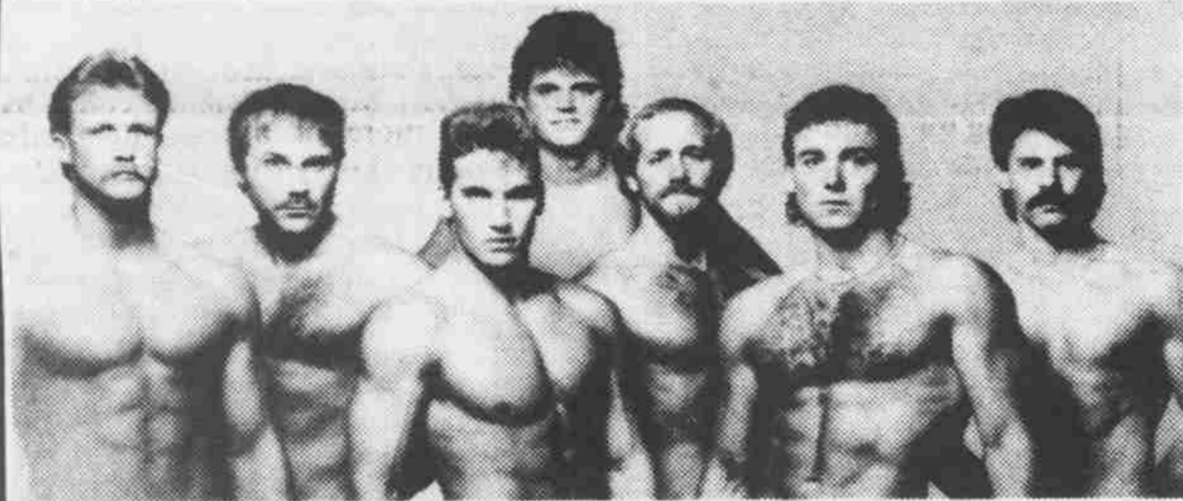
The average dose of LSD is 30

micrograms, Riddick said. "And when you do it with shrooms you get three to four times more (effect)."

Hallucinogens first distort perception, Riddick said, and give the user a feeling of security. "What you see, you literally believe," he said.

Mushrooms are one of the least understood drugs, according to McBey of the Chapel Hill Medical Examiner's office. "With mushrooms you're playing a very serious game of Russian roulette," he said.

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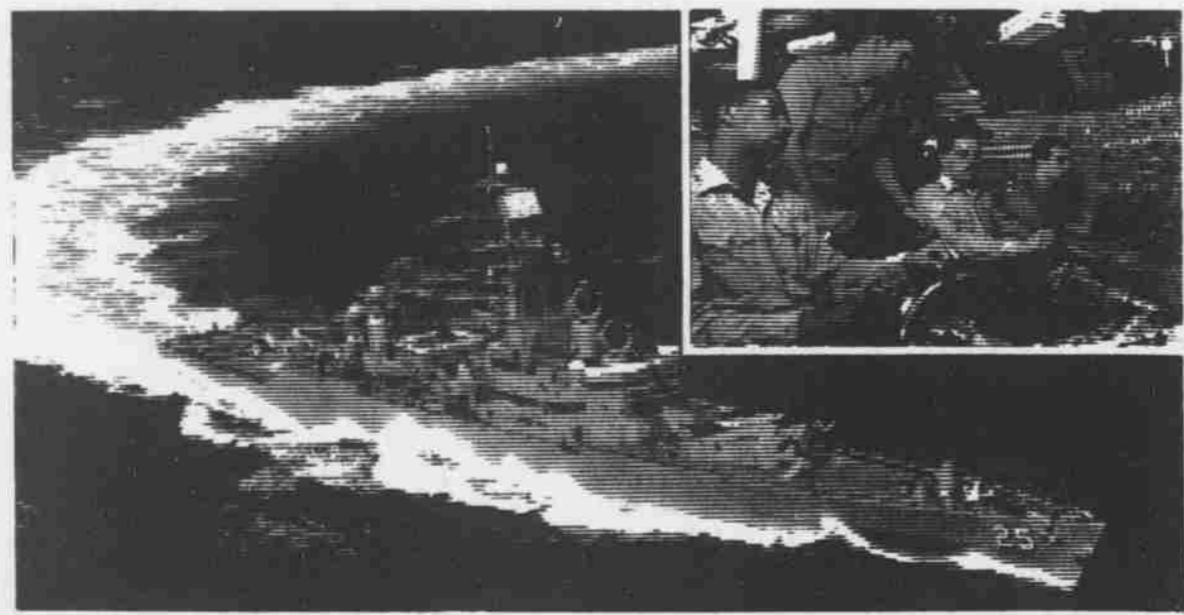
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