

Lake
Baldwin

Lake Baldwin tests to continue

By SHARON CARRASCO
the little sentinel

Orange County health officials will continue their testing this week at Winter Park's Lake Baldwin, which has been closed because of high bacteria counts.

"No swimming" signs have been posted since May 26 by both city and county officials at the lake, which is located near the intersection of Lakemont Avenue and Glenridge Way. The city and the Naval Training Center have swimming facilities on the lake.

"We are testing for coliform bacteria, which is an organism found in the intestines of humans, ducks and all warm-blooded animals," said Paul Morrison of the Orange County Health Division of Environmental Health.

In May, Lake Sybelia was closed for high bacteria counts but later was re-

opened. It has been closed since June 3 to protect swimmers against shallow water levels.

The high bacteria count can be attributed to several factors but the rain shortage is the most likely cause, Morrison said.

Under normal conditions, the lake is able to disperse duck feces, oil, grease and other materials that get into the lake, Morrison said.

But the strength of the rain-starved lake isn't up to par and bacteria buildup is the result, Morrison said.

All swimming programs and lessons at the lake have been canceled for the summer, recreation spokesmen said.

Morrison said it isn't known how long the lake will be closed but the situation may be eased with the advent of the rainy season, he said.