

Village third of nine selected cities

Living cost high in Chapel Hill

by Richard Whittle
Staff Writer

The cost of living in Chapel Hill is the third highest among nine key N.C. cities, according to two recent Chamber of Commerce reports. But the reports indicate that town residents have a big advantage over others in the state in lower transportation and utilities costs.

Compiled by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) and issued in June, the reports include average prices on 43 commodities and an inter-city index of living costs in 169 U.S. cities for the second quarter of 1975.

The inter-city index sets the national average at 100 for food, housing, transportation, utilities, health and miscellaneous services costs, and provides a composite index comparing all cities in the report.

Chapel Hill, with a composite index figure of 104.5, is slightly over the North Carolina average of 103.1. Chapel Hill's index ranks below the cities of Wilmington, indexed at 108, and Hickory, at 105.5.

The other N.C. cities included in the reports are Asheville, Durham, Greensboro, Rocky Mount, Southern Pines and Winston-Salem.

Transportation costs in Chapel Hill are lower than in seven of the state's key cities. The transportation index lists Chapel Hill and Hickory at eight index points below the other seven cities, having 86.2 and 86.6 index points respectively. All the cities are generally below the national average for transportation costs.

Chapel Hill is also the second lowest among the nine N.C. cities in utilities costs. Prices for electricity, natural gas and telephone service are lower only in Asheville.

But utilities costs in the state range as far as 71 points above the national average and are higher than the national index figure of 100 in eight of the nine N.C. cities listed.

According to the ACCRA, health, food and housing costs are the commodities which hit Chapel Hill residents hardest.

The price of a one-night stay in a semi-private hospital room here averages \$75, highest of the nine cities by \$11. And a simple visit to a general practitioner costs approximately \$10 in Chapel Hill, a figure matched only by Greensboro and Rocky Mount.

Food costs in Chapel Hill rank below only Wilmington, and prices for

particular items here are much higher than those for the same items in Durham.

For example, the average cost of a dozen grade A large eggs is 80 cents here, compared to 66 cents in Durham. Margarine costs an average of 20 cents more per pound in Chapel Hill than it does in Durham, and the average price of bread here, 51 cents for a 20-ounce loaf, is almost double the cost of the same item there, where bread averages 28 cents.

Apartment rents in Chapel Hill average around \$170 per month, a figure similar to those in the other eight N.C. cities in the ACCRA reports. But local housing costs in general are third highest among the nine cities due to the average monthly house payment here of \$299, exceeded only in Rocky Mount, with payments of \$350.

The big money-saver here is electricity. Average monthly consumption costs a Chapel Hill resident only about \$19, as compared with \$32.48 in Durham and \$68.50 in Wilmington.

Overall, the cost of living in Chapel Hill is only 4.5 index points above the national average of 100 in the 169 U.S. cities included in the reports.

The ACCRA reports are compiled by local chambers of commerce during each quarter of the year, according to specifications and instructions given each participating city.

The reports caution that index figures are not exact enough to calculate actual percentages in cost of living differences. The reports state however that a margin of two to five index points indicates a significant difference in living costs.

The reports do not provide past figures for comparison.

Freshmen closed out of French, Spanish

by Dan Fesperman
Staff Writer

Because of a decrease in departmental funds and an increase in demand for introductory foreign language courses, approximately 480 freshmen have been closed out of French and Spanish 1-2X courses.

The two courses are needed by many freshmen so that they may complete the foreign language requirements for General College.

The romance languages department had originally offered 21 sections of French 1-2X and 11 sections of Spanish 1-2X, but were forced to cut the numbers to 14 and 5 sections respectively when the department's budget allocation was cut nearly 30 per cent from last year's amount.

Last year the department offered 24 sections of the French course and 12 sections

of the Spanish course.

Jacques Hardre, chairman of the romance languages department, said that he would not increase the size of the classes to accommodate more students. "The nature of these courses requires that the class sizes be kept small. Any increase would destroy their quality."

Hardre said he plans to make an immediate request for more funds to Dean James R. Gaskin of the College of Arts and Sciences.

As bad as the situation is now, it could be much worse next year without a sufficient increase in funds, Hardre said. If this year's

closed-out freshmen are forced to wait until next year to take the courses, then an increased number of students will be closed out next fall.

Part of this year's problem is a result of a slight increase in the number of freshmen who need to take the courses. Last year approximately 250 freshmen placed into Spanish 1-2X, while this year the figure was 378. In French 1-2X there was no significant change.

Dr. Donald C. Jicha, associate dean of the General College, said there is always a great demand for the 1-2X courses because many students take their high school foreign

language courses too early.

"By the time they get to college they aren't prepared at all to take a foreign language placement test," Jicha said, "so they place into the lower level courses."

A secretary in the romance languages department said there were a few openings in the 1-2X courses left at the end of the day Wednesday, but added, "when I say few, I really mean few — like less than ten."

She said the best hope for someone trying to get into one of the courses is for them to find someone willing to drop one and to go with them when they did.

Anyone needing help in finishing the application forms for medical school admissions for the fall of '76 can come to a help session at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Guidance and Testing Center, Nash Hall.

Be a tutor. Join the Y's Tutorial Committee. Applications available at the Y. Orientation will be held at 8 p.m. Sept. 10 in 204 Peabody. For more information call 933-2333, Monday and Tuesday between 3 and 4 p.m.

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WANTED

The Daily Tar Heel is currently accepting applications for new staff writers and copy editors.

Any student, regardless of class or major, is welcome to apply for a position. Newspaper experience, while helpful, is not mandatory.

If interested, drop by our offices in the

Union building this afternoon, or any day next week except Monday. Prospective writers should see the editor of the department they are interested in working for — Jim Roberts for news, Alan Murray for features or Susan Shackelford for sports. Copy editing prospects should see Managing Editor Jim Grimsley.

75 parking spaces closed at Cobb

Construction work in the parking lot adjacent to Cobb dormitory has caused the closing of approximately 75 student parking spaces there. The lot lies in parking zone N-4.

Allen S. Waters, University director of operations and engineering, said the lot had been torn up to extend steam lines to the site of the proposed Paul Green dramatic arts theatre.

He said the work should take only two weeks but that the lot will be closed again in November to extend power lines to the site.

Director of Security Services, T. W. Marvin said, however,

students holding N-4 permits can also use the Park Place lot, located at the corner of Park Place and Boundary Street.

He said that while the Student Union lot was filled to capacity Tuesday, the Park Place lot had about 100 available spaces.

Parking enforcement in the faculty and staff lots in zones N-1, N-2, N-3, S-1, S-2 and S-3 will begin today with illegally parked vehicles given warnings, he said. Full enforcement, including towing will begin Tuesday. Parking in the student zones will not be enforced until Monday Sept. 8.

Space in the N-4 zone is also limited by scaffolding around Everett dormitory.

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