

Gas shortage alters few plans

By DIANE GILBERT

Will the gas shortage and increased gas prices keep Chapel Hill residents off the roads and closer to their own backyards during the summer of 1979? Apparently not, if an informal poll taken on campus is any indication.

Of the 20 people surveyed, only five said they had made any modifications in their summer travel plans. Of the remaining 15 people, two said they did not own cars so they had no reason to change their plans.

The other 13 said they were aware of the gas shortage and the high prices for gas but they were not going to change their plans. They said they would just worry more.

Changing travel plans for some people means cutting the distances they will travel. One woman said, "My husband and I were going to take the kids to Disneyworld in Florida, but now we are going to the North Carolina coast. It is just too expensive to drive all the way down there."

A man who planned to take his family to South Carolina and Atlanta expressed the same sentiments: "We are now going to southern Virginia, primarily because of the cost."



An older couple from Texas said their travel plans had changed significantly because of the gas shortage.

Public transportation is an option two people said they were considering, but not because of the price of gas. As one woman explained: "My husband and I go to Philadelphia twice a year, usually by car. This year we are taking the train, not because it's cheaper—it's not—but because we are anxious about the availability of gas."

A man who is taking his wife and two children to Colorado in August said he is

also considering taking the train: "Right now we will take the car, but if the situation gets worse we will look into the possibility of taking the train."

His 8-year-old daughter said she didn't want to take a car or train; she prefers to "ride a plane."

The people who plan to vacation as usual said they were worried about the availability of gas. One man's solution is: "I'm going to Oklahoma, but I am not going to travel the last five days of the month. If they are going to run out of gas, that's when it will be."

Another man who plans to vacation in North Carolina said, "I worry about the gas shortage. I'm still going to the Outer Banks. I don't know if I'll be stuck between here and there or not."

A young married couple plans to go on a tour of New England: "We feel guilty, but we are still going and we will drive a lot. The bus stations are always on the bad side of town and we would rather not contend with that."

One of the persons who does not own a car said she wasn't worried about the gas situation: "It hasn't affected my Moped plans any. I get 100 miles to the gallon."

A student summed up the findings of the poll well when he said: "I doubt the gas shortage will affect Americans very much. Those who can afford to pay the prices will buy the gas, and those who can't, won't."

Gas shortage: an alternative

By ROBERT FRIEDMAN

Four finalists have been selected for further consideration in the first annual Chapel Hill Alternative to Reliance on Gasoline Energy In Transportation (CHARGEIT) competition.

"We think this is an important step in using old-fashioned American ingenuity to solve our country's mounting energy crisis," said UNC President Freebee Friday, one of three judges of the 5,000 entries. Other judges were UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Frisbee Tuesday and his wife, Ruby.

Each of the four proposals will be tested in a pilot program administered by the Chapel Hill Transportation Department. Those found to produce significant energy savings will then be considered for full-scale implementation.

The winners, in alphabetical order, are:
 • **Dog Team**—submitted by Nanook Johnson. "We're going to use huskies in the winter months, and the Chapel Hill Animal Control Officer is already training other breeds for year-round use," said Johnson. "Our motto is: 'Why drive a Datsun when you can drive a dachshund?'"

• **Rickshaw**—submitted by Hsiao Yzc-Baad. A boatload of Vietnamese refugees currently in Hong Kong harbor will be shipped to Chapel Hill to work in this program, and Yzc-Baad is confident his plan will prove even more energy-efficient and economical than dog teams.

"The rickshaw may not be quite as fast as the dog team," he said, "but these refugees will be much less expensive to feed." Yzc-Baad, in an apparent jab at Johnson, introduced his own slogan: "Why drive a collie when you can drive a coolie?"

• **Roller skates**—submitted by Sue-Sue Sassoon. The pilot program calls for a mini-shuttle between Mayo's and Purdy's, each of which will be transformed into a roller-skate disco. Those traveling between the two establishments will be provided with a battery-operated AM-FM radio for use on the trip.

This suggestion, incidentally, produced the only public disagreement among the judges. Sassoon's plan, termed "ridiculous" by Freebee Friday, was called "good" by Ruby Tuesday.

• **Stagecoach**—submitted by John Ford. Roy Rogers employees have volunteered to drive the stages, and campus police will be riding shotgun. Ford said he was confident that marauding Indians and outlaw gangs would pose only a minimal risk, but he admitted downtown parking "poses a problem."

The first-place winner, to be selected after the six-month pilot programs, will receive a 1975 Lincoln Continental. The other three finalists will get all-expense-paid weekends for two at next year's World 600 stock car race in Charlotte.

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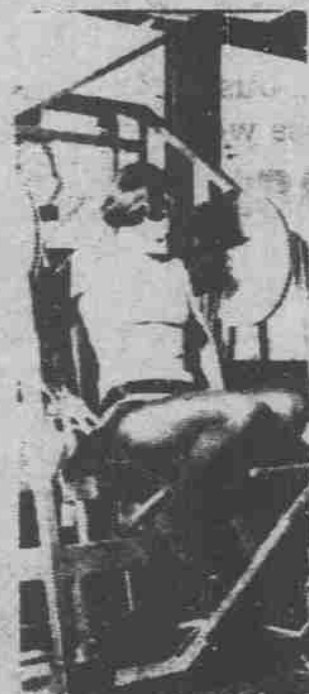
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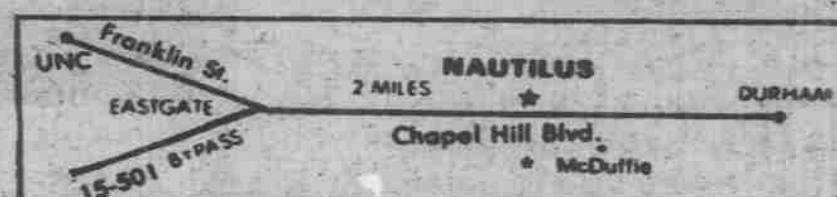
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