

Women's agencies receive county funds

By MARY BETH STARR
Staff Writer

The Orange County Board of Commissioners allotted funds last month to two county women's organizations, although they have requested research on whether the groups duplicate other county services.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Rape Crisis Center was granted its request for \$2,100, and the Women's Health Counseling Service received its requested \$4,150 from the county, said Richard Whitted, chairman of the board of commissioners.

The two groups were denied a request for additional funds from the Chapel Hill Town Council. In July, the town allotted \$2,600 to the Women's Health Counseling Service and \$6,024 to Rape Crisis. At the recommendation of Town Manager Gene Shipman, the council turned down a request for additional money for the two agencies.

"I recommended that the city not fund any outside service agencies," Shipman said. "The existing programs are being systematically phased out. That is, each year, their funding is reduced by one-third."

The county's allocation of funds to the two organizations on Dec. 10 also included a request that

the Orange County Health Department and the Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health Board research whether the women's groups duplicate services already offered, Whitted said.

At the end of a six-month in-depth study, the county will decide whether to increase or decrease the allotments to each organization.

Elaine Barney, director of the Women's Health Counseling Service, said, "I'm looking forward to discussions (with the health department) to explore the possibilities for the Women's Health Counseling Service. The decision exemplifies that the health department is being responsive to the issues of women's health care."

Barney said that the counseling service, which had been in operation for nine years, began seeking funding only in the past two years. The agency's primary services come from 20-23 active volunteers, she said.

"We are trying to develop long-range plans for funding so we won't have to depend solely on the county," Barney said.

The counseling service's budget goes largely for a staff person, with a small budget for pregnancy screening kits, brochures, bus posters and educational materials, Barney said.

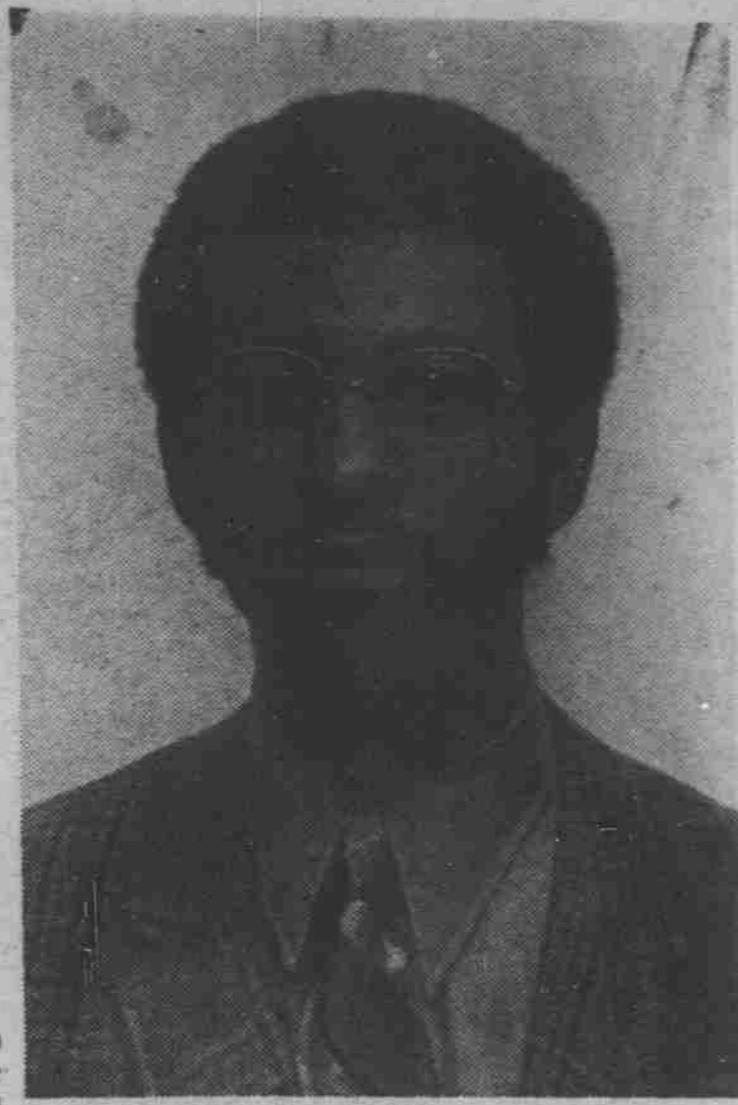
Janet Colm, director of the Rape Crisis Center, said that the center's funds went toward her salary, operating expenses, mileage, advertising, training materials and emergency assistance to women.

But she said most of Rape Crisis' service now comes from its 25 volunteers. "About half do counseling, and the others do public speaking, etc.," she said.

Colm said her main dissatisfaction with the amount of money allocated by the county was that the center needs to expand to cover an unmet need in Hillsborough. "We will have to ask the county for more money next year, because the town money is being phased out," she said.

"We are currently writing for grants and soliciting from sororities. There is a bill in Congress to provide federal funding for rape crisis, but we don't know when that will come through," Colm said. "The National Mental Health Institute provides research money, but not for service organizations."

The county funding for the Women's Health Counseling Service was distributed through the county health department. The Mental Health Board is expected to allocate Rape Crisis' county funding at the board's Jan. 22 meeting.



County commissioner Richard Whitted ...announced area women's services grant

Added hours aid owners' tag-buying

By JOHN DUSENBURY
Staff Writer

The Carrboro license plate agency, which serves the Chapel Hill area, has announced new operating hours during the 1979 license plate renewal period. In addition to regular weekday hours, the agency will be open Saturday mornings through Feb. 15 to encourage more people to buy early this year.

The sales agency, located at 201 W. Main St. in Carrboro, will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturdays.

Agency manager Ralph Teal says he hopes the new hours will be more convenient for people whose job time conflicts with normal office hours.

Despite efforts to encourage early renewal, Teal still expects lines to grow as the deadline draws near.

"The problem is people like to put things off," he said. "I don't know why, I guess they don't mind paying the fine. If people would just take 10 or 15 minutes of their time, they could have the matter done with no lines and no wait. If the person waits until the last day, complications will arise, along with a 30 to 40 minute wait."

Chapel Hill police officer Marvin Pack said if a motorist is stopped because of plate expiration he probably will have to pay a fine of \$25 or more. "The amount of the fine depends upon the judge's discretion," Pack said.

The current system of license renewal may be relieved when the state implements a staggered renewal system beginning July 31.

Sam Judge, assistant director of the Vehicle Services Section of the Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh, said that possibly by Feb. 15, 1981, a certain percentage of all license plates in the state will be due for renewal every month of the year, similar to vehicle safety inspection stickers. The play will not affect license renewal registrations this year.

In order to purchase a license plate or validation sticker, motorists should have proof of adequate liability insurance coverage. If someone does not have auto insurance he must post a bond to cover potential damages in case of a wreck, or qualify as a self-insurer, meaning he can pay for any damages incurred in an accident himself. The license agency can accept cash only.

Assistant named

By ROANN BISHOP
Staff Writer

Bob Cramer, a senior economics major from Raleigh, was appointed as new executive assistant to Student Body President J.B. Kelly Tuesday night.

Cramer replaces Glenn Cutler, Kelly's executive assistant, who resigned at the end of last semester to devote more time to the upcoming student body elections, Kelly said.

Before his appointment, Cramer had worked as chairman of the Student Government Housing Department. The new housing chairman is Joni Walsler, a sophomore from Lexington.

Kelly commended Cramer for his past performance in Student Government operations.

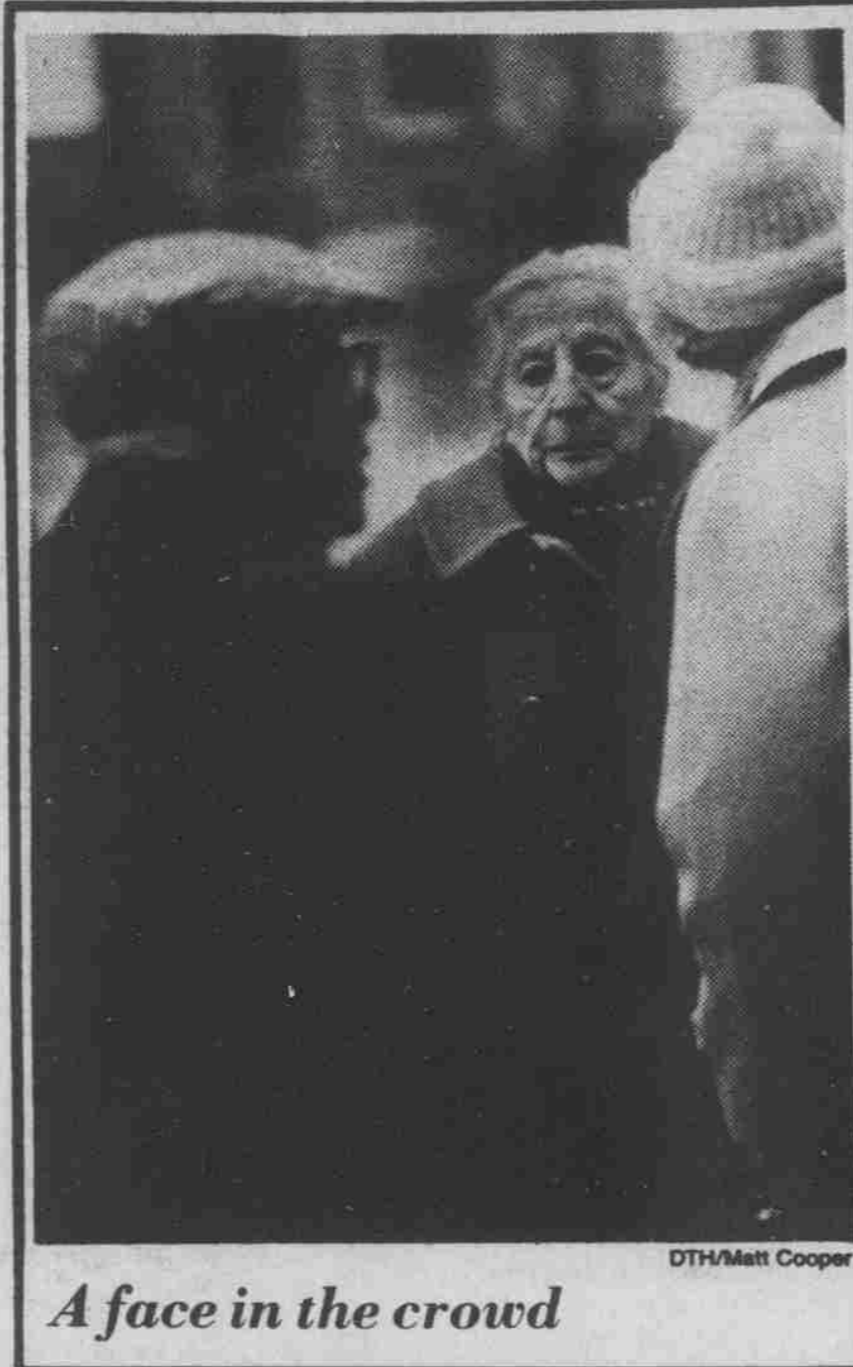
"As housing department chairman, Bob has done an excellent job, as has everyone during my administration," Kelly said. "He's put in a lot of time and I feel that he'll do a real fine job filling Glenn's shoes."

Kelly said he plans to devote the rest of his time in office to several projects, including a Majors Mart, Springfest, student health fees, a dispute over town zoning ordinances and getting class schedules mailed home. Kelly leaves office in March.

Referring to his new role, Cramer said, "I have five main areas: transportation, local affairs, housing, elections committee and overseeing Chancellor's committee."

Cramer said that his main concern is to keep people motivated. "We got a lot done last semester just because there is only a few weeks left in this administration. I feel that the structure of this administration has been amazing. No one here now started with J.B. in his campaign. The fact that this administration is still operating so smoothly is a tribute to this structure and to J.B. who developed it."

As the new executive assistant, Cramer supervises three department heads and works in cooperation with two other Student Government leaders, Scott Simpson who heads the election committee, and Bob Saunders who is in charge of the chancellor's committee.



A face in the crowd

DTH/Matt Cooper

Chapel Hill losing battle against steadily increasing energy costs

By JOHN ROYSTER
Staff Writer

The town of Chapel Hill won the battle but lost the war against rising energy costs in recent months.

Conservation measures reduced energy consumption in many town departments, but high prices still caused an increase in Chapel Hill's energy spending during the first three months of the fiscal year, which began in July.

Gasoline and diesel fuel expenditures by the town during that period exceeded those for the same months last year by 77.9 percent, Assistant Town Manager Tony Hooper said.

The increase in fuel spending was accompanied by a 4 percent drop in energy use in some city departments. But the victory was a small one. Even in the areas where consumption was reduced, cost increases drove spending up 3 percent, Hooper said.

A large part of the town's increase in fuel use came as a result of expansion of Chapel Hill Community Transit, the town's mass transportation service, Hooper said. New routes and expanded service resulted in a 13 percent increase in consumption by the transit system.

That translated into a 50 percent

increase in cost for the transit service, Hooper said.

The energy expense caused a problem with the budget, and the Chapel Hill Town Council had to make budget amendments to correct a \$25,000 deficit in the general fund and a \$55,000 deficit in the transportation fund. The funds were taken from capital improvements, budget surplus from the previous year and revenue sharing grants. More federal money is expected to arrive soon.

One of the largest conservation efforts was in town buildings, where consumption dropped 34 percent with reduced lighting and modified heating and cooling systems. And more conservation is on the way, Hooper said.

"We've already downsized our fleet (of cars)," Hooper said. "We replaced our large police cars with compacts, and the others in our fleet, which were a variety of sizes, with subcompacts."

"In the future, we'll continue that reduction in car sizes, and we'll look at how we deliver services to see if we can't improve. For instance, we may find that we can shorten routes for our sanitation department."

"We'll do studies throughout city government (for fuel-saving possibilities)," he added.

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