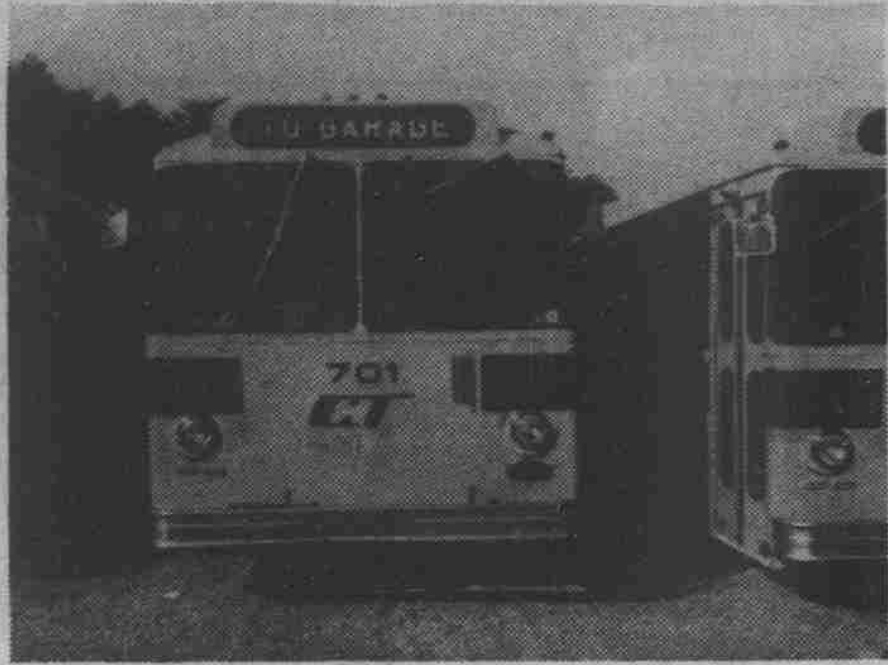


# Council votes for new buses

By ANNE-MARIE DOWNEY  
Staff Writer



Chapel Hill will get eight new buses ...DOT funds replacement programs

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted Monday to speed up the town's bus acquisition program in anticipation of a cutback in funds available in fiscal 1981 from the N.C. Department of Transportation.

The council voted to request \$1,592,363 from the state DOT for public transportation projects, including the purchase of eight new buses. In Chapel Hill's bus replacement program, the town was not scheduled to apply for the buses until fiscal 1981, which begins July 1980.

But Chapel Hill Transportation Director Bob Godding said he expected the money available from the DOT to decrease in 1981. Godding urged the council to apply early for eight of the 19 buses scheduled for purchase in 1981. Jan. 25 is the deadline for fiscal 1980 grant applications.

Godding explained that it was likely Chapel Hill would receive less Urban Mass Transit Administration funding from DOT because of a change in the allocation procedure for the grants.

In fiscal 1981 the DOT will begin allocating money to regional planning agencies. The agencies then will give the money to their members.

Chapel Hill is a member of the Triangle Council of Governments and will have to compete against other members, including Durham, Raleigh, Orange County and Carrboro, for the transportation money, Godding said.

The purchase of eight buses is part of the second phase of the bus replacement program. In the first phase, the town received a grant for the purchase of 16 buses, which are on order from General Motors Corp.

In related action, the council decided to apply for a DOT grant to finance transportation planning activities including exploring

## In kidnapping case

# McCrae sentenced 20 years

BY CINDY BOWERS  
Staff Writer

A Chapel Hill woman received a 20-year sentence Monday after she pleaded guilty to kidnapping a UNC senior Sept. 8.

Brenda McCrae, 21, of Pritchard Street Extension, also pleaded guilty in Orange County Superior Court to common law robbery and larceny of a motor vehicle. All three charges stemmed from the kidnapping of Chris Mackie of Carrboro, while he was delivering newspapers at The Village Apartments early that morning.

Curtis Parrish, 24, of E-4 Ridgefield, and Kenneth Watson, 16, of 601-B Gomains St. in Chapel Hill also were charged in the kidnapping.

Watson pleaded guilty in December to kidnapping, common law robbery and larceny of a motor vehicle. He received a 15-year sentence. Parrish is scheduled for arraignment and pre-trial motions in his case on Jan. 28.

McCrae, in addition to the 20-year sentence, received a sentence of not less than two years in prison for the robbery and

service increases and thoroughfare planning.

The council also accepted a petition from residents of Graham Street asking that parking be restricted from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. each day, with permits for residents. The petition was referred to Town Manager Gene Shipman.

Residents of the area have complained of parking problems, noise and disruptions in their neighborhood caused by the patrons of Elliot's Nest, a nightclub on Graham Street.

Following up on a suggestion from Town Council member Bill Thorpe, the council voted to eliminate the building fee charged by the town for the installation of insulation in existing buildings. The move, which was supported by Shipman, was an effort to encourage energy conservation.

Despite opposition to the proposal, the council also decided to help the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce pay for a community display sign at the Raleigh-Durham Airport. The council voted to pay the \$100 rental fee for the sign space for five months.

In response to a petition presented by UNC Student Government, the council voted to prohibit right turns on red at Raleigh Street and South Road in front of Woolen Gym.

larceny charges, which were consolidated by District Judge Coy E. Brewer Jr. The kidnapping sentence carries parole eligibility.

Ellen Scouten, assistant district attorney, said Mackie testified that he was delivering papers at the apartments when two men and a woman abducted him.

The three got into Mackie's car, with the female in the back seat, Mackie testified. Mackie said in court that the girl pulled out some of Mackie's hair and pulled his t-shirt so tight that he couldn't breathe, Scouten said.

Scouten said Mackie testified the three released him somewhere in Chatham County after threatening to kill him or throw him in the lake.

The three also took \$4 from Mackie, Scouten said, which was the basis of the common law robbery charge.

The kidnapping incident involving Mackie was one of two such incidents in September. In the other case, UNC sophomore Charlie Ellis told Chapel Hill police that he picked up three hitchhikers Sept. 6 who robbed Ellis at knife-point and drove him out of Chapel Hill in his car. Ellis said he was released unharmed near the county landfill off Airport Road.

# Search continues

## Tellers give good description of thief to police

By JOHN ROYSTER  
Staff Writer

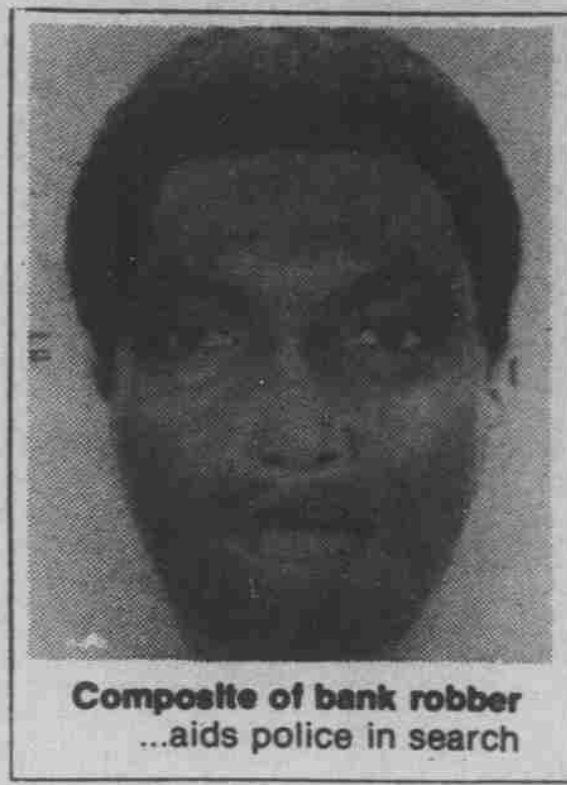
The search for witnesses and leads in connection with Monday's bank robbery in Chapel Hill continued Tuesday.

The First-Citizens Bank and Trust Co.'s Franklin Street branch was robbed of an undisclosed amount of cash just after noon on Monday by a man who left the bank on foot.

Ben Callahan, administrative assistant for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said no suspects have been named, but descriptions of the robber are good.

Authorities are searching for a black male, about 6 feet tall, weighing about 200 pounds. He is believed to have been wearing a light tan raincoat, said investigating FBI agent Link Lingenfelter.

"The police department and the FBI are looking for people who may have seen him (the robber) after he left the bank," Lingenfelter said. "We'd be very interested if someone turned up."



Composite of bank robber ...aids police in search

The bank's automatic camera reportedly did film the robbery. "It (film from the camera) should be here this afternoon (Tuesday) or tomorrow morning," said Barbara Pearce, the bank's assistant vice president.

"They're developing it frame by frame. I really don't know yet what we have on film."

"The girls' (tellers) descriptions coincided pretty well with each other. I'm sure we've got a good description," Pearce said.

The bank employees were interviewed separately by law enforcement officers, Pearce said. "We've got some good composite drawings from witnesses inside the bank," Callahan said.

The bank employees, however, did not see the robber for long after he left the bank. "We locked the door when he left," Pearce said.

Police responded very quickly to the bank's call for help, Pearce said. FBI agents and Chapel Hill police remained at the scene until about 3 p.m. investigating the robbery.



Bike paths almost ready ...construction finished

# Bikeways nearly complete

BY PETE KUEHNE  
Staff Writer

The bikeways that have been under construction in Chapel Hill since 1976 are almost complete, town transportation planner Janet D'Ignazio said Tuesday. Bikeways are one of several projects, including the bus system and carpooling, designed to decrease downtown traffic.

The idea for bikeways resulted from a June 1976 study of alternative methods of transportation. In November 1976 the town passed a \$340,000 bond referendum to pay for them.

Bicycle paths have now been built along Franklin Street, N.C. 54 and Airport Road. Special bicycle lanes are reserved for commuters 7 a.m.-10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.-6 p.m. on Cameron Avenue and Country Club Road.

"There are some problems with people parking in the bicycle lanes, but we eventually hope to eliminate parking on Cameron Avenue altogether," D'Ignazio said.

One problem for cyclists in the lanes is that motorists wait until parking is allowed at 10 a.m., and then rush to fill the vacant spots. "This problem could be eliminated if the bike lanes were open all day," D'Ignazio said.

The town also has started construction on a recreational bikeway along the U.S. 15-501 Bypass and other recreational bikeways are planned for construction in the future. These bikeways are intended for transportation to recreational facilities and for the enjoyment of the residents of Chapel Hill, D'Ignazio said.

"Although the existing bicycle lanes are still being worked on, they are ready for public use," D'Ignazio said. "The only remaining work to be done is the striping and signing of the routes."



# Rec center ready for summer

The new Chapel Hill Community Center on Estes Drive, with an indoor-outdoor swimming pool and gymnasium facilities, should be completed in July, Ron Secrist, town director of parks and recreation, said Tuesday.

The pool will be six lanes wide and will have access ramps for the handicapped. The roof above the pool will slide away to admit sunlight and fresh air during the summer, and the south wall also will be movable, Secrist said. During the winter, the pool will be enclosed.

"The gymnasium will be used for more than basketball," Secrist said. "The room will be ideal for such activities as concerts and get-togethers."

The gymnasium will have no bleachers because the center is designed for participants rather than spectators. "Any seating in the center will be portable,"

Secrist said. "There will not be enough room for bleachers."

The community center will include a teen room, devoted exclusively to the activities of local teenagers. The new building also will have showers and office rooms.

The community center began because of public interest expressed at town meetings. In the fall of 1976, a \$2.6 million bond referendum was issued and \$1.375 million was allotted to the community center. Construction started in September 1979.

—PETE KUEHNE



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