

Students discuss bus system inconvenience

By KERSTIN COYLE
Staff Writer

While most UNC students are satisfied with the Chapel Hill Transit System, several students in recent interviews complained about overcrowdedness, newly changed routes and frequency of stops.

"I've learned patience," said Lisa Lau, a junior who lives in Estes Park Apartments. "The bus doesn't run often enough. If you miss the bus in the morning, the next one comes 15 minutes later. When I think about being 15 minutes late for class, I say to myself 'Why bother?'"

Mitch Camp, a senior who lives in Sunstone Apartments, said, "I'd like to see them increase the number of stops. If you miss the 9:48 bus in the morning, the next one doesn't come until 10:38. One

particular driver comes early and stops on Franklin Street to get on time. I wish she would stop at the beginning of the route when she's running early instead of the middle."

Jodee Hibbs, a junior who lives in Whispering Hills, mentioned weekend scheduling. "They could fix the time better on weekends so students could catch a bus to the games. It's too hard to find a parking space."

Complaints of overcrowdedness and scheduling confusion came mostly from students who regularly ride on the C and J routes. Recent construction and traffic changes in the Chapel Hill area caused Chapel Hill Transit to reschedule these routes.

"The bus is usually on time but it's always crowded," said Jamie Swan, a senior who rides the J bus and

lives in Royal Park Apartments. "I'm just glad that we have one of the buses that runs at night."

Brooke Barker, a graduate student who lives in Ridgewood Apartments, agreed that the bus was usually on time but was often too crowded. Barker also said that the recent route changes were confusing at first but that she had adjusted to the alterations.

Despite the various criticisms, most students who use the transit system as their main means of transportation agreed that the service was fairly dependable as well as convenient.

"When I need it, it's there," said Kent Reynold, a senior who lives in Foxcroft Apartments. "It's a hell of a lot harder to try to find a parking space on this campus."

Increased bus ridership attributed to rise in gas prices

By ELISA TURNER
Staff Writer

The 1985 fall semester is the first time in three years that the Chapel Hill Transit System has reported an increase in ridership, said Alan Tobias, system director.

The transit administrative offices have estimated that there are over 10,000 riders per day.

Tobias attributes increased ridership to a rise in gasoline prices, which may keep students from using their cars.

"We have noticed a pretty significant shift in this year," he said. "We're seeing overloading in the afternoons, presumably after classes."

Approximately 60 percent of the riders use a bus pass, and 75 percent

are UNC students. "Like everything else in Chapel Hill, if it wasn't for the university, we wouldn't have a bus system," Tobias said.

"We have a policy not to leave someone behind and, although we naturally can't follow that rule on a day-to-day basis, we try."

In an effort not to lose support, the transit system has established "feeder areas," which are those places where ridership is low and there is not enough demand for a bus.

"For those areas," Tobias said, "I've provided a cab service to take the person to a bus stop."

Chapel Hill Transit works in cooperation with the Dixon Cab Company,

who charges the system \$9 an hour for a cab and driver. Cost to the rider is 50 cents, which is the same as normal bus fare.

"We, in essence, pick up the tab," Tobias said. "But the system has worked so far, and we have to meet the demands of all our riders."

Combining the stops at Columbia and Pittsboro streets has been one of the largest modifications to the bus system.

"We can no longer have a bus line in the southbound lane at the Carolina Inn, which was one of our major stops," he said. "We have had to move three of these major stops, but we are satisfied with the shift and think our riders will be too."

Other changes include a new stop facility at Airport Road and discontinued service at Morgan Lake and South Lake, Tobias said. Also, a route in north Chapel Hill has been extended

to Weaver Dairy Road.

Tobias said that services on Sunday were limited to the U bus because the demand was not great enough to warrant any other Sunday stops.

"The ridership hasn't indicated a need for Sunday bus service," he said. "If the occasion arrived, we would look into it."

Chapel Hill Transit, a division of the town, receives revenues from three sources: bus fares, town and UNC contributions, and federal assistance programs.

"There's no bus system that makes a profit," Tobias said. "But we're the fifth largest in the state, and so we do see a lot of ridership."

Bus drivers make approximately \$13,000 to \$19,000 a year and must have a class C chauffeurs license.

"Our drivers enter a two-week extensive training session, which familiarizes them with the town and our bus stops."

Chrysler negotiations ended

From wire reports

DETROIT — After 42 hours of negotiating to end a strike begun Oct. 15 by U.S. Chrysler Corp. workers, union officials emerged Wednesday with a tentative three-year contract settlement which would give workers wage hikes of 5.25 percent and bonuses in excess of \$2,000.

United Auto Workers President Owen Bieber said the main goal of the negotiations was to give Chrysler workers parity with GM and Ford employees. Under the agreement, workers will receive a 2.25 percent increase in each of the first two years and a 3 percent increase during the third year. They will also receive a bonus of \$2,000, with retired workers receiving a \$1,000 bonus and surviving spouses of workers receiving \$600.

Soviets deploy new missile

WASHINGTON — In what has been described as a statement designed to illustrate the tough strategy of President Reagan in his upcoming superpower summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger blasted the Soviet Union Tuesday for violating the SALT 2 arms treaty by deploying a new continent-spanning missile.

State Department and Pentagon officials, however, said the deployment of the single-warhead SS-25 was not a surprise, and the Soviets have denied that the missile is a new one, saying it is an updated version of the older single-warhead SS-13.

Increase lowest in decade

WASHINGTON — Because of a modest 0.2 percent increase in consumer prices during September which kept the annual inflation rate so far this year at its lowest level in nearly two decades, Social Security recipients will receive the lowest

news in brief

increase in a decade, the government reported Wednesday.

Social Security recipients will receive only a 3.1 percent increase, the lowest since 1975, the Social Security Administration said.

The modest increase in the Consumer Price Index was due mainly to a rise of 0.3 percent in food prices. This increase, however, was offset by the declining cost of transportation, which fell for the fifth consecutive month.

Daylight-saving time extended

WASHINGTON — A bill that will expand daylight-saving time by four weeks passed in the House Tuesday by a 240-157 vote.

Daylight-saving time now begins on the last Sunday in April and ends on the last Sunday in October. If the bill passes in the Senate, daylight-saving would begin on the first Sunday in April and end on the first Sunday of November.

Although proponents of the bill say that it will save energy, reduce traffic deaths, cut the crime rate, boost the economy with more daylight hours for shopping, and make Halloween trick-or-treating safer, opponents of the bill charge that it will mean darker mornings, which could endanger children who leave early for school.

Revenue collections increase

North Carolina's revenue collections for September amounted to \$387.4 million, a 10.33 percent increase over September 1984, Revenue Secretary Helen A. Powers said Tuesday.

General Fund collections for the first three months of the fiscal year, which began July 1, climbed to \$1.143 billion, compared to \$1.043 billion for the first three months of the 1984-85 fiscal year, representing an increase of nearly 9.6 percent.

U.S. Senator to deliver lecture

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., will deliver the 1985 Weil Lecture on American Citizenship Monday, Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Kassebaum, a former Kansas housewife, was elected to the U.S. Senate in

1978, the first woman elected who was not the widow of a congressman.

The free, public lecture is sponsored by the Weil family of Goldsboro and is one of three University-wide lectures.



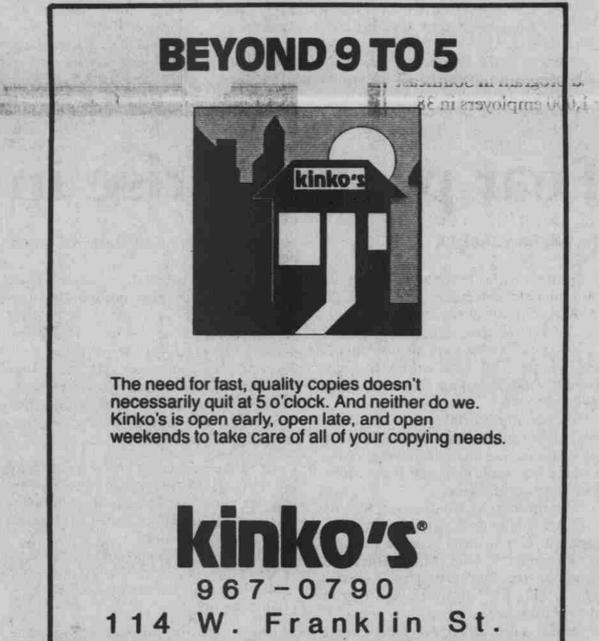
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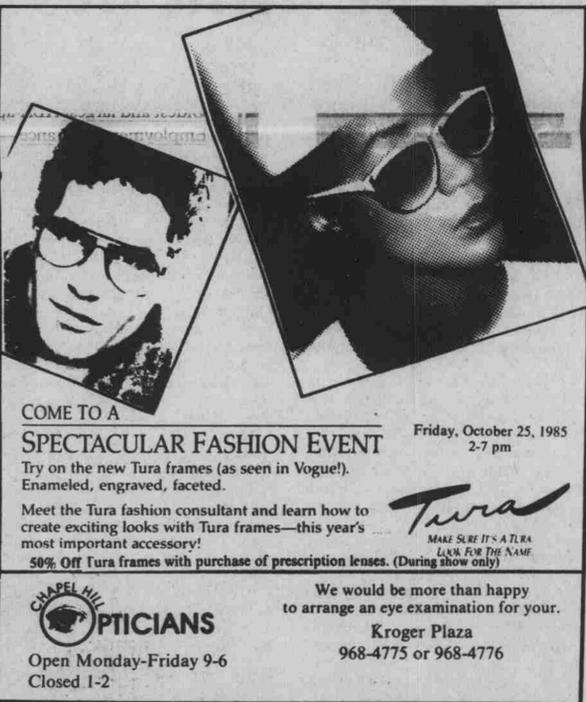
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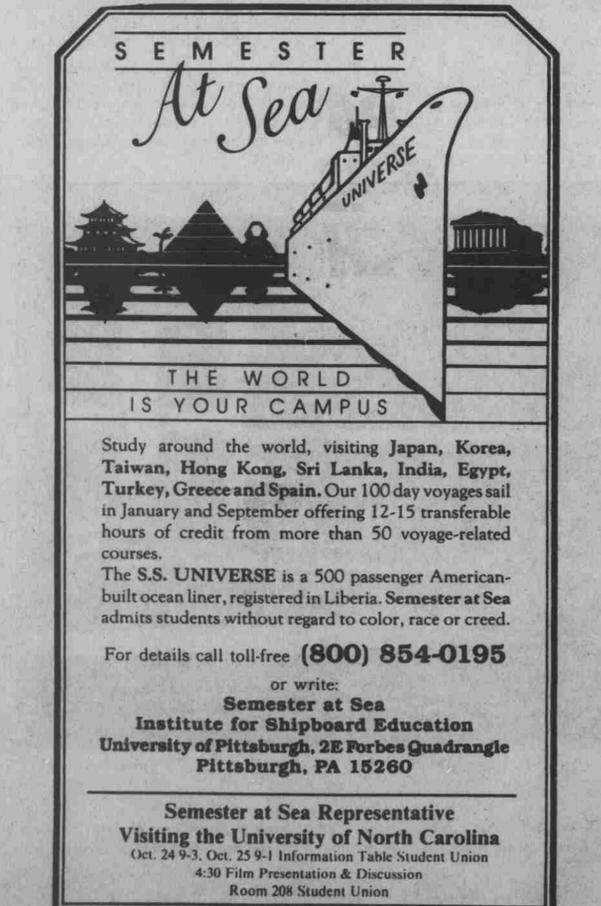
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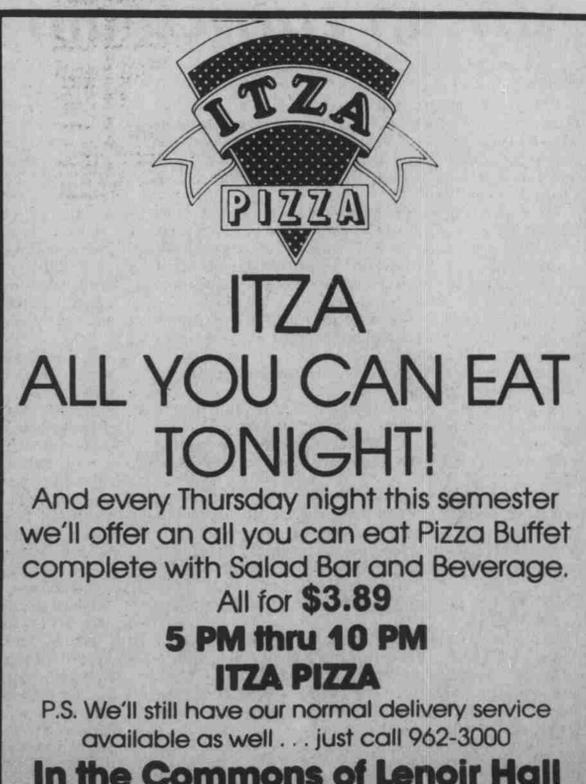
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