



Station attendant Freddy Ivey pumps gas at McFarling's Exxon on West Franklin Street

DTH/Steve Matteson

## Housing

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■ Serving as a link between the housing department and the student body.

■ Gaining support and cooperation for the department's mission from all segments of the University community.

Kuncl said Thursday that Boulton

will appoint five students and five faculty or staff members to the board. From the group, Boulton will appoint a chairperson to serve for a specified length of time.

Five non-voting members will also serve on the board. Kuncl said the

ex-officio members will be the student body president, the Residence Hall Association president, the director of Housing and Residential Education, a representative from the Office of Admissions and a representative from the Department of Athletics.

# Gasoline prices on the rise due to OPEC agreements

By BILL YARDLEY  
Staff Writer

Students driving out of town for Easter weekend may want to withdraw a little extra money with their bank cards in order to pay for gas.

It seems that the short-lived break from skyrocketing pump prices may be coming to an end.

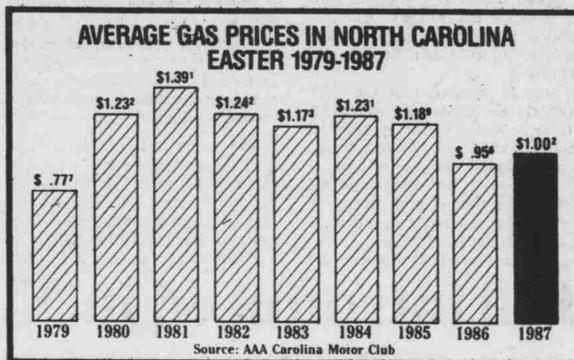
"Average gas prices are eight cents a gallon higher than they were in December (1986)," said Ralph Peters, the American Automobile Association (AAA) president for North and South Carolina. "With the summer vacation season coming up, many people will be driving and the demand for fuel will be heavy, causing prices to increase."

The average price of a gallon of gas in North Carolina, based on both self-service and full-service pump prices, rose to just above a dollar, marking the first time in a year that the average price has reached the dollar mark, according to figures released by AAA earlier this week.

Despite the high average price, self-serve prices remain well below a dollar at 83.6 cents per gallon for regular and 89.4 cents per gallon for regular unleaded.

"What is causing the price increase is that there is no longer a plentiful supply of oil coming from the OPEC nations," Peters said.

"In the past couple of years, all of the OPEC nations have not been able to form a completely unified cartel because of renegade nations



that were willing to lower their prices in an attempt to underprice the unified nations," he said. "By underpricing the other nations, the renegade nations forced the rest of the OPEC nations to compete with them."

Peters said that the competition between the nations for buyers was what caused gas prices to fall last year.

"However, the countries that were underpricing the cartel in previous years have now rejoined the majority of OPEC nations to demand a higher price and offer less oil at the same time to increase demand and therefore force buyers to pay the high prices," he said.

Peters said that about 70 percent

of the state's 148 service stations will be open for the holiday weekend, compared to only about 50 percent of the stations that were open last year at this time.

"Our prices will stay the same through the weekend unless we hear something new from our supplier," said Freddy Ivey, an employee at McFarling's Exxon on West Franklin Street.

Nelson Morrow, of East Gate Amoco at East Gate Shopping Center, said it was hard for the stations to know when prices would change. "We don't know that prices are going to change until we receive a call from Amoco's headquarters, which is usually the day before the change."

## Town Council to consider proposal for development of low-cost housing

By LEIGH ANN MCDONALD  
Staff Writer

A development group will build 34 lower-priced houses for the town's affordable housing pilot program if the Chapel Hill Town Council approves the project.

The town would sell the houses built for the program with mortgages between \$44,807 and \$48,717, which is about a 13 percent price reduction.

The development group, comprised of Isler and Associates of Durham and Capricorn Construction Company of Carrboro, agreed to lower architectural fees, marketing costs and developer's fees for the program after negotiating with town manager David Taylor.

"When the council first looked at the prices for the proposed project, they said the fees needed to be lowered," said Chris Berndt, long-range planning coordinator for the town. "We passed this information on to the developers, and they agreed

to lower their fees."

"Fees are associated with risks," said Marshall Isler of Isler and Associates. "We negotiated by discussing who's going to take which risks, the town or the developers."

Berndt said the council will examine the project on May 11. Advertising for the houses will begin about two weeks after the council approves the development agreement.

"We will advertise for a one-month period in which people can call and ask for an application for the houses," Berndt said. "When we receive the applications, we will sell people houses on a first-come, first-serve basis, taking out the applications that do not fit the criteria," he said.

The criteria are:

- Families must have an income of less than \$26,720, which is 80 percent of the area median income.
- Families must have an income of at least \$17,000.

■ Families must live or work in Chapel Hill.

"Our objective is to reach the working people such as the police, teachers and firemen," Isler said.

Berndt said another objective of the program is to provide housing for the people who work in Chapel Hill, but cannot afford to live in the town.

The average price of a new house in Chapel Hill is more than \$100,000, but the appraisal price for the houses in the program is \$75,000 to \$80,000, Isler said.

The houses will be single-family detached houses, Isler said. People can buy the houses in one of three basic designs. Two-thirds of the houses will have three bedrooms, and one-third will have two bedrooms. Some of the houses will also have a garage, he said.

Berndt said some of the houses should be completed by late fall 1987.

## Duke Power initiates new meter system

By TONI LYNN CREECH  
Staff Writer

Duke Power has initiated a new hand-held computer system for reading meters, which the Chapel Hill office started March 30. By the end of May, all Duke Power offices

should be using the new system.

"The meter, before . . . you're going to have a problem, is going to beep and tell you what you've got to do at that next account, whether it's a bad dog, leave a notice or whatever," said Earl Turner, meter reading supervisor for the Chapel Hill Duke Power office.

The computers are programmed with a year-long history of each meter and shows the average meter reading for each account.

"If the meter reader punches in a high reading or a low reading, the computer will tell him that something is wrong," Turner said.

"This (new technology) won't cause an increase in a person's light bill," he said.

When Duke Power used paper cards to read meters, a courier

service had to drive them to the main office in Charlotte, which usually took up to 2 days. Now the Duke office sends readings directly to Charlotte with the computers in 4 to 5 minutes, Turner said.

"Duke Power looked into this idea six years ago, and it's slowly . . . taken that long to get it on the road and get it started," said Natalynn McClean, training specialist at the Chapel Hill office.

Duke Power's computerized system was initiated last January in Anderson, S.C., and the Salisbury office followed in February, Turner said.

"Now all of the eastern division (including Durham, Chapel Hill, Burlington and Greensboro) is using it," Turner said.

# IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING

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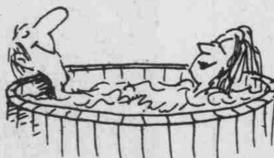
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