

# Residents petition for traffic light

By JESSICA LANNING  
Staff Writer

Many Chapel Hill residents are raising concerns again about the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Mason Farm Road and the U.S. 15-501 bypass.

Traffic on one side of the Mason Farm Road-U.S. 15-501 intersection includes the Aldersgate United Methodist Church and the St. Thomas More Catholic School and Convent.

On the other side, traffic includes the Highland Woods residential area, the N.C. Botanical Gardens, Finley Golf Course, the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill, the University playing fields and several fraternity houses.

This heavy volume of traffic, and the almost constant traffic on the bypass, make turning in either direction onto the bypass difficult.

Since the intersection is under the jurisdiction of the state, approval and funds for a stoplight at the intersection must come from the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Residents kicked off the effort to get state approval at the town council meeting, where several residents of the area spoke of the need for the light.

The town council instructed the

town engineer to look into the issue again and to contact the DOT about the possibility of getting a stoplight installed. A proposal has been made before, but it was denied.

Persis Van Wyk, a Highland Woods resident and member of the Highland Woods Homeowner's Association, is a strong advocate of the installation of the light.

"During rush hour it is utterly impossible to make a left-hand turn," Van Wyk said.

School buses are no longer allowed to make left turns out of the neighborhood onto the bypass and now must make right turns, which still causes a wait, she said.

Van Wyk felt there was a great deal of support at the town council meeting from the neighborhood residents. The residents, however, represent only a small portion of the traffic using the road, she said.

"Our experience in a lot of places is that they (DOT) drag their feet until someone is killed," Van Wyk said. "Of course, then it's too late."

Barbara Palmer, manager of the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill, said she believes visitors to the house, who are unfamiliar to Chapel Hill and its traffic patterns, would benefit from the installation of the

light, since they must make a left turn to reach the hospital.

On the other side of the road, traffic from St. Thomas More Catholic School would no longer be able to use Carmichael Road to reach the Glen Lennox overpass. So they too would have the problem of accessing the bypass, a school spokesman said.

Ernie Mallard, the assistant state traffic engineer for field operations, said the town's request for the stoplight will be submitted to John Watkins, the DOT division engineer in Greensboro.

Watkins' staff will then update the traffic count in that area and conduct an accident history on the intersection, Mallard said.

If a stoplight is warranted at the intersection, the proposal will be put on a list of available funding, Mallard said. If the funds are available, the light will be installed.

The biggest delay is receiving traffic counts. There is a backlog of projects to be considered, and a count may take several weeks to get, Mallard said.

Mike Taylor, an engineering technician for the Town of Chapel Hill, said a considerable number of accidents at this intersection have not been reported by the police department to the motor vehicle division.

Mason Farm Road is also very close to the Manning Drive intersection, Taylor said. Since this intersection already has a stoplight, some people question the need for another one. However, there are other conditions that may warrant the installation of a second stoplight.

Another delay in getting the stoplight is a result of the plan to widen U.S. 15-501 to four lanes, Taylor said. There are no final construction plans for the widening yet, but DOT officials have said they want to wait until the four-laning project is complete before any new stoplights are installed.

Residents of the Highland Woods area often resort to passing through the Botanical Gardens parking lot, up Laurel Hill Road and on to Coker Drive to the traffic light at Manning Drive in order to access the bypass.

The proposal to close Laurel Hill Road through the Botanical Gardens would eliminate the cut through and cause even more traffic to have to enter the 15-501 intersection at Old Mason Farm Road.

Van Wyk was supportive of closing of the road, but felt it should only be eliminated if there was an alternative. "It's not an easy decision, I know."

# New developers to bring in money for Rosemary Square

By AMY WEISNER  
Staff Writer

They needed \$25 million.

They're trying to develop a downtown hotel-shopping complex which some residents have called "a three-story hole on the corner of Rosemary and Henderson streets."

They are Fraser Development Company of North Carolina, and they believe they have finally found the cash for their baby — Rosemary Square.

Fraser has resorted to importing two multi-million dollar real estate developers, who will hold 80 percent of the equity interest in the "locally-owned" project.

The Algonron Blair Group of Montgomery, Ala., and Aircoa Equity Interest Inc. of Denver, Colo., are the two newest partners. "Fraser Morrow Daniels (the partners) simply did not have deep enough pockets," Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes said.

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted Sept. 12 to allow the two new partners to join the development group, and they also granted the proposal its fifth closing date extension.

"The two (new partners) had the financial capital available," Howes said. "We checked them both out thoroughly, and we found them both to be very experienced developers."

Fraser Development and the Town of Chapel Hill entered into an agreement on the Rosemary Square project in February 1985. Since that time, various delays have plagued the extremely controversial project planned for town-owned land.

While Algonron Blair and Aircoa have had considerable involvement in other North Carolina

projects, they are not locally owned and operated companies.

And some town council members did not welcome the new developers with open arms.

Town council member Jim Wallace has been an outspoken opponent of the project almost from the beginning. He voted against the proposal to add the new partners and grant another extension.

"In the beginning we had these two young fellows here in Chapel Hill, but then at the last minute, when they haven't got a dime, they bring in two huge outside developers," Wallace said. "What happened to the local boys? They disappeared."

Contrary to Wallace's opinion, Howes said, "Fraser was a mixed group from the beginning since Fraser himself was one of the original developers in Hilton Head, South Carolina."

According to Howes, Algonron Blair is the general construction contractor who recently closed on the Mecklenburg County Municipal Building in Charlotte.

The company is a subsidiary of Algonron Blair Inc., whose annual sales volume reached \$90 million in 1987.

Aircoa, the nation's largest independent hotel operator, is primarily associated with the Clarion Inc. hotel chain. Council members predict that a Clarion hotel will probably be the hotel that occupies Rosemary Square.

Walter Daniels of Fraser Development said, "They (Algonron Blair and Aircoa) have recently completed several public-private projects very similar to Rosemary Square and fully understand the long public process, delays (and) changes in this type of venture."

# Report to list dangerous intersections

By LARRY STONE  
Staff Writer

A recently completed study rates for the first time the five most dangerous intersections in Chapel Hill.

The list was compiled by analyzing the intersections with the greatest number of accidents in 1987.

Mike Taylor, an engineer for the town, said this first report has not been released, and even when it is, corrections will not be made automatically at the five intersections.

The intersection in Chapel Hill with the greatest number of accidents last year was the Europa Road/U.S. 15-501 intersection. Twenty-three

accidents occurred at that intersection in 1987.

Next was the Estes Drive/Franklin Street intersection, which accounted for 20 accidents in 1987.

The intersection of Airport Road and Estes Drive had the third highest number of accidents, followed by the Columbia Street/Rosemary Street intersection and the Eastowne Drive/U.S. 15-501 intersection.

Taylor said the next step after looking at this study will be to examine the severity of the accidents and the ratio of accidents to the number of vehicles which travel through the intersection.

"We want to try to correct the areas where the accidents are the most serious," Taylor said. "The most common accident is the rear-end at slow speeds."

"Those are not of the serious nature that a Class A would be."

A Class A accident is one in which someone is killed.

The engineers will also look for patterns in accidents over several years, especially in areas where the number has steadily progressed, Taylor said.

"I guess the main thing the report will trigger is more study," he said. "We can eliminate wasting time with

people calling in saying 'this is a terrible intersection'."

"We can start with the worst cases first."

The report will not mean that immediate action will be taken at any of the intersections, Taylor said.

"We can't look at the report and say we will fix this, this, and this," he said. "It certainly needs more study."

The community will be able to study the report when it is released by the Town of Chapel Hill at the beginning of next week. This report is supposed to be the first of what will become an annual project.

# Police examine connection in recent assault cases on campus

By ANDREW WATERS  
Staff Writer

Two separate assaults that occurred on campus late Tuesday night were committed by some of the same assailants, said Sgt. Ned Comar of University police.

"Some of the same guys at the second assault were involved in the first assault," Comar said.

The assaults, which were committed at 11 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. Tuesday, added to the list of recent crimes on campus, including an

armed robbery Sept. 13 and a sexual assault Sept. 10. The recent crimes have raised many questions about student safety.

In the first assault a woman and a man were sitting on a wall near Vance Hall. A group of men came

up to the couple and one put his hands on the woman. The woman's companion told the man to stop and was struck from behind by another man in the group.

The second assault occurred when two men were walking by Silent Sam and a larger group of men passed by them. As the two groups passed each other two of the men touched

shoulders. A man in the large group asked the two men if they had a problem. The two men attempted to keep walking but one of the men in the large group struck the victim on the back.

The woman from the first assault identified the man who touched her but refused to press charges against the man. The other victims could not identify the assailants, Comar said.

Comar said one reason that people might not press charges in cases like these is that they think taking the person to court is not going to do any good.

"People don't see a court case as a way to solve this kind of problem," Comar said.

Anne Presnell, Scott Residence College area director, said area directors (AD's) encourage students to take normal security precautions, such as walking in pairs and avoiding dark places. AD's have also provided

programs, presented by resident assistants and student government, dealing with safety on campus.

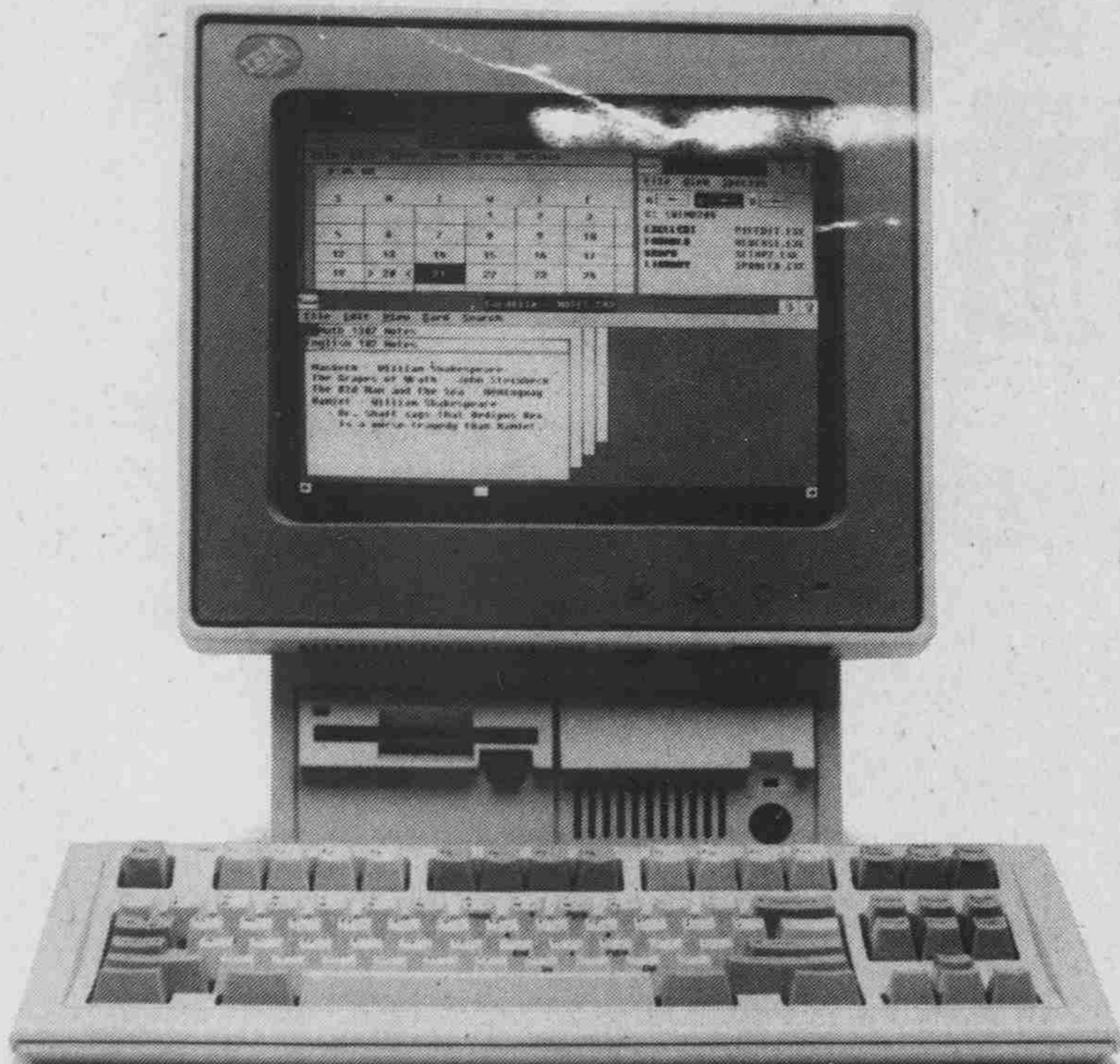
Donald Boulton, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, agreed that personal precaution is the best way to handle danger. "Please don't be walking the campus by yourself," he said.

"People have always heard that Chapel Hill is the southern part of heaven, but we have pockets of hell here," he said. "This place is real. People think that Chapel Hill, as is any college campus, is fair game for robbery and assault."

Fred Schroeder, dean of students, said campus officials always want people to be on guard. "There's always the normal level of concern about people wanting to protect themselves." But since the rumors of several rapes on campus were dispelled, students' concern about protecting themselves dropped off, he said.

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## ANNOUNCING

### STUDENT AFFAIRS SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARD

The 1988 Orientation Counselors from the following residential areas

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>STOW</b>        | <b>SCOTT</b>      |
| <b>MOREHEAD</b>    | <b>EHRINGHAUS</b> |
| <b>OLDE CAMPUS</b> | <b>JAMES</b>      |
| <b>HENDERSON</b>   | <b>MORRISON</b>   |
| <b>GRANVILLE</b>   |                   |

and the JUNIOR TRANSFER COUNSELORS

are recognized for the outstanding performance of their duties as counselors for New Student Orientation.

Thank you and congratulations for a job well done. Also, the **Morehead Confederation** is this year's recipient of the **Rufus Edwards Stutts Award for Outstanding Team Spirit** during Orientation 1988. Congratulations to Olde Campus as first runnerup for this award.

Donald A. Boulton, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs  
Shirley Hunter, Director of Orientation