

BUSINESS

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Gas prices relatively lower in Chapel Hill, 2 surveys show

By TOM PARKS

Chapel Hill is known for its high cost of living, but not everything costs more in Chapel Hill.

The price of gasoline is almost three cents less in Chapel Hill than at the average N.C. station, according to two surveys taken earlier this month.

The average price for a gallon of unleaded, self-serve gasoline at 12 area service stations surveyed last Saturday was \$1.024.

The Fast Fare store at 321 W. Rosemary St. posted the lowest price among the surveyed stations at 93.9 cents a gallon. Top of the Hill, at the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets, was the most expensive at \$1.179.

According to a survey taken by the AAA Carolina Motor Club before Labor Day, the statewide average for self-serve unleaded gasoline was \$1.052. The Carolina Motor Club conducts regular surveys of gas prices in North and South Carolina before major holi-

days as a service to the club's members.

Prices in Raleigh and Durham averaged \$1.063 and \$1.067, respectively.

Quentin Anderson, the Carolina Motor Club's public relations director, said N.C. prices dropped by one cent per gallon since early July although they increased eight cents since last September.

N.C. gasoline prices might have been lower had the state gas tax not risen 5.25 cents a gallon in August, Anderson said. The state's gas tax is the second highest in the nation at 21.15 cents per gallon.

Ed Crane, manager of Walker's Gulf Service Center at 1500 E. Franklin St., said prices have declined for the past two months despite the gas tax increase. "The last couple of times [prices] changed, they've come down," he said.

Crane said he was surprised Chapel Hill's average gas price was lower than the state average. "It's quite possible for Chapel Hill

[prices] to be a few cents less," said Penni Gibson, a spokeswoman for the Carolina Motor Club. Also, it is not unusual to have two nearby cities with different gas price averages, she said.

She said the Carolina Motor Club surveys about 10 stations per city but did not include Chapel Hill because the club has no branch office in town. The surveyed stations include convenience stores, stations owned by larger companies and independently owned stations.

While average prices tend to be lower in small towns, gas is usually sold in a wider price range in larger cities, Gibson said.

Anderson said gas prices over the past two years tended to rise at the beginning of summer, peak in July and then gradually lower until the beginning of winter.

"That seems to be the trend now, more than jacking up prices before a holiday," Anderson said.



Another one bites the dust

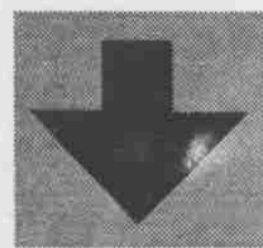
Benetton clothing store, at 153 E. Franklin St., has been vacant since closing last year. Accord-

ing to a July survey 5.4 percent of downtown retail space is not occupied.

DTH/Schuyler Brown

Stocks

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE



2679.52

DOWN 27.74

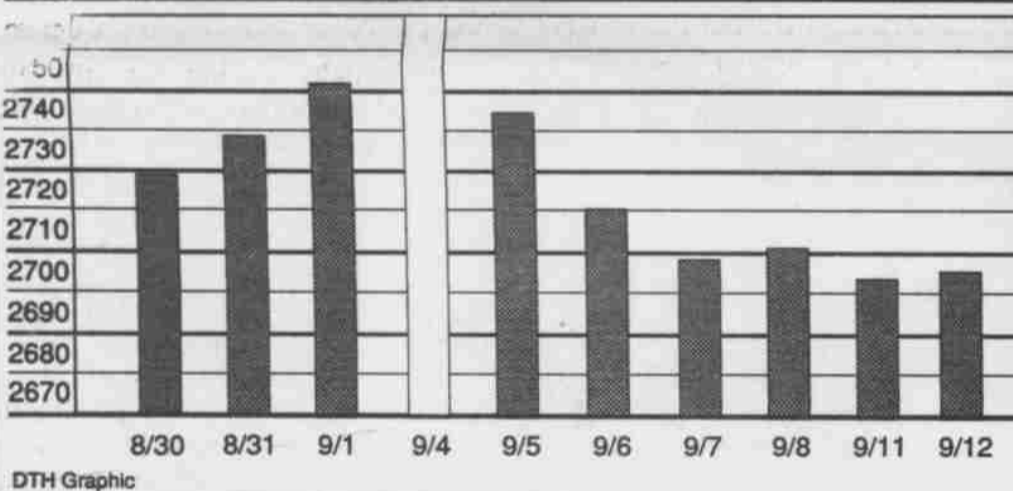
Volume: 125 million shares

NORTH CAROLINA STOCKS

COMPANY	CLOSE	CHANGE	HIGH	LOW	WK. AGO
BellSouth	52	- 1/8	53 7/8	39	41 5/8
Duke Power	50 5/8	—	53 1/4	42 3/4	44 3/4
Food Lion	12 5/8	+ 1/8	13 5/8	9 5/8	10 1/8
NCNB Corp.	49 3/8	- 1 1/2	55	27	35

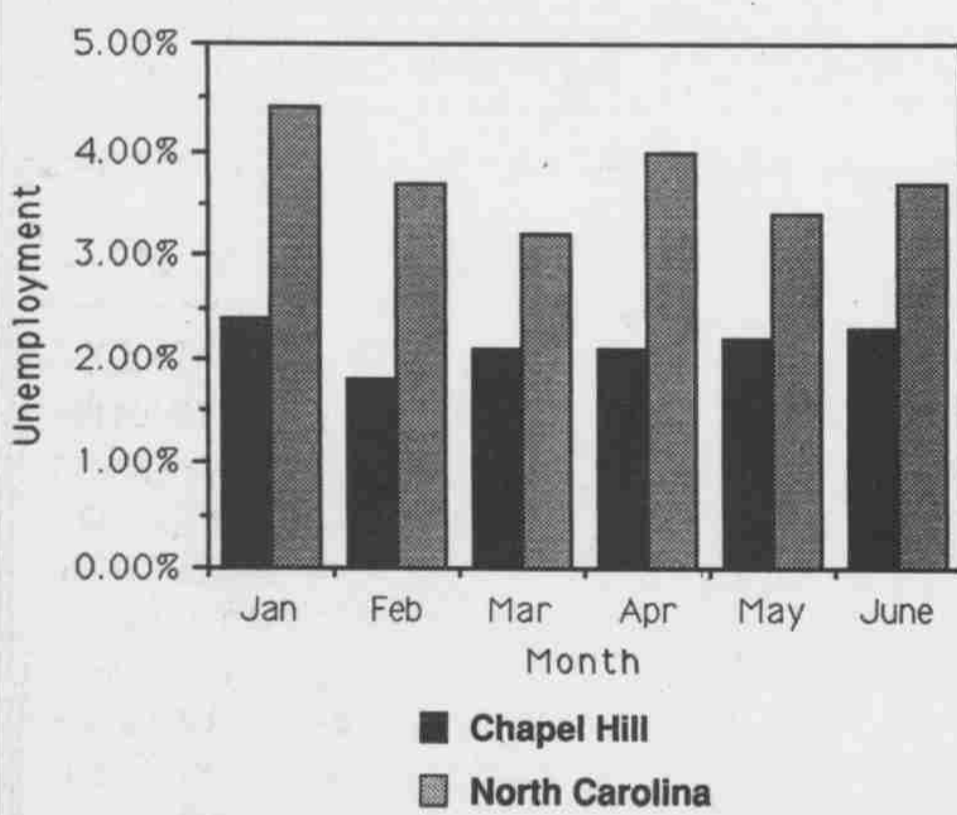
RJR/Nabisco was purchased by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and is no longer public.

TREND



DTH Graphic

1989 Unemployment



Carolina Students' Credit Union Rates

SHARE CERTIFICATES

30-89 Days	8.000 simple
90-179 Days	7.980/8.306%
180-269 Days	7.980/8.306%
270-364 Days	7.980/8.306%
365 Days	7.785/8.095%

Compounding is daily. Rates subject to change daily. \$100 minimum deposit. Insured up to \$100,000. Rates for longer terms and larger principals are available.

LOANS

Share Secured	11.00%
Co-Signer	14.00%
Travel	16.00%

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat. 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. Phone: 962-CSCU

CSCU is not affiliated with UNC-CH

DTH Graphic

Helium Highs to stop outdoor releases

By TOM PARKS

When John Haydock, the owner of Helium Highs, learned this summer that helium balloons were killing sea turtles, he did something about it.

He told his customers he would no longer supply balloons for mass releases because of the damage balloons were causing at the N.C. coast.

"If you throw a can out the window of your car, it's pollution. If you throw a balloon out the window, it's pollution. So what justifies releasing balloons?" Haydock said Tuesday.

Haydock said he had considered researching safer ways to release balloons. Those ways include allowing balloons to sit in the sun for a few hours before their release, filling balloons with a helium and air mixture and using

balloons with a lower sulfur content, because they decompose faster.

But it may not be possible to ensure that released balloons do not reach the coast. Once a balloon reaches the jet stream, it can be blown to the coast in only a day or two by high winds. And although the balloons may not reach the coast, Haydock said they would still be a form of pollution.

Released balloons that do reach the coast might be swallowed by sea turtles, porpoises and even whales.

The Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) had planned to release balloons twice this year during the football season, but both were cancelled after Haydock asked them to stop releasing helium balloons, said Lisa Frye, CAA president.

"We won't be releasing balloons

because of the danger to sea animals," she said. The CAA had planned a release of 10,000 balloons for the Blue Blitz celebration and a smaller release for the Homecoming celebration, Frye said.

"If balloons get over to the coast, the sea turtles think they're jellyfish, and they eat them," said Lisa Albright, Helium Highs' retail manager. Albright said the company contacted the CAA and told them about the danger to the endangered species.

This summer, Haydock got in touch with Frank Schwartz, a UNC professor with the Marine Science Institute in Morehead City, after reading about the harm balloons were causing to sea animals.

Schwartz, in a telephone interview Tuesday, said balloons and other plas-

tics have been found in the stomachs of dead porpoises and sea turtles.

Schwartz began performing autopsies on turtles to find out if the animals were being killed by shrimp trawlers, and he often finds Styrofoam, plastics and balloons in the turtles' stomachs.

Whales also could be eating the trash, but fewer autopsies are performed on whales because of their size, Schwartz said. "It's kind of a big job to hack up a whale."

Schwartz complimented Helium Highs on its concern for the environment. "Most businesses would say 'So what?' and go about making a buck," he said.

Haydock has been telling other schools and businesses to about the possible danger of balloons since he learned about it.

New trolleys making impact downtown

By CRAIG ALLEN

Despite their short existence and limited operating hours, Chapel Hill's trolley buses have drawn rave reviews from some of the town's business owners.

The two teal trolley buses have been in operation for only nine days, and during lunch hours only, but business owners say they have noticed a slight difference in lunchtime foot traffic.

Jack Tomkovic, owner of the Gold Connection at 128 E. Franklin St., said the trolleys were a step in the right direction for the downtown business district.

"The trolley is having a positive effect already," said Tomkovic, who has been in business for five years. "Today, I had a lady who boarded the trolley at the hospital on her lunch hour come in to visit the store. I can only be positive about the trolleys."

Chapel Hill and the Downtown Commission bought the trolleys for

\$300,000. The town paid \$270,000 using state and federal transportation grants, and the Downtown Commission paid \$30,000.

The Downtown Commission, UNC and N.C. Memorial Hospital will pay the trolley's annual operating costs of about \$30,000, according to the Downtown Commission's August newsletter.

The Trolleys run from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays. Riders are charged a dime.

Scott McClellan, an assistant to the Chapel Hill transportation director, said the trolleys have been heavily used since they were christened last week.

McClellan has recently inspected the trolleys and checked to see which stops riders are using most often, he said. "People have definitely been riding the trolleys," McClellan said. "The hospital and the Health Sciences stops seem to be well-used as well as the West Franklin street stop, according to the driver I talked to."

"That makes sense, because those stops are the longest distance from downtown."

Jackie Perry, manager of The Hub Ltd. at 103 E. Franklin St., said the trolleys are bringing more people downtown even though his business has decreased since the trolleys began running.

"I can't really say that (the trolleys) have improved my business," Perry said. "But every time it goes by here, it's jammed."

Perry said his business always sees a slight slump this time of year, when it is hard to sell his stock of winter clothing.

The trolleys were purchased from Chance Coach in Wichita, Kan. and arrived in Chapel Hill July 29. They seat 24 passengers with standing room for an additional 16.

Despite their early success, the trolleys are not the final solution for the parking problem, Tomkovic said.

The next step in alleviating downtown parking woes would be to build a

parking deck, he said.

A special town council committee on parking has proposed building a 350-space parking deck on town-owned land now used as a parking lot behind the downtown post office.

The plans for Rosemary Square included a downtown parking, but the Rosemary Group scrapped the \$25 million project in April, calling the development "financially unfeasible."

Tomkovic addressed the town council in April and said the lack of parking along Franklin and Rosemary streets was killing downtown merchants.

Tomkovic said the planned Craig parking deck will help ease parking problems. UNC is scheduled to begin construction of that deck soon.

UNC needs to carry their share of relieving the parking problem, especially since the failure of the Rosemary Square project and because students use a large amount of parking spaces downtown, Tomkovic said.

Career Corner

Resume Drop Sept. 19
Open Sign Up Oct. 4

PRESCREENING COMPANIES

Date	Company	Job	Major
10/9	Andersen Consulting	Management Software Des.	BU/BS, ECON/BA, APMS/BS
10/9	Collins & Alkmen	Comp/Chem Mgt. Info. Sys.	CHEM/BS, COMP/BS/MS, COMP/PHD
10/10	Great American Ins. Co.	Insurance	ANY/BA/BS
10/10	Hewitt Associates	Acctg., Fin. Info. Proc. Mgt. Mgt. Counseling	BU/BS, COMP/BS, MATH/BA/BS
10/10	Jefferson Pilot	Insurance, Sale	BU/BS, LIBA/BA
10/10-10/11	McNeil, division of Johnson & Johnson	Gen. Mgt., Marketing	ANY/BA/BS
10/10-10/12	Peace Corps	Accounting, Gen. Mgt., etc.	AFRI, AFAM, BIOL, CHEM
10/11	Ell Lilly & Company	Tech. Sls. Mkt.	ENVR, MARS
10/11	United Carolina Bank	Acct., Bank., Fin., Gen. Mgt.	BU/BS, LIBA/BA
10/12-10/13	Burlington Industries	Acctg., Fin. Mgt. Info. Sys.	BU?BS, ECON/BA
10/12	Federal Home Loan Bank	Banking	INDR/BA, CHEM/BA/BS
10/12	Isotechnologies	Sales	BU/BS
10/12	Westvaco	Mktg., Sales, Chemistry	BU/BS, LIBA/BA, APCS/BS, BIOS/BS/MS, CHEM/BS
10/13	NCR Corp.	Programming, Sci. Research	ANY/BA/BS
10/13	NCR - Business Forms Div.	Software Des. Mktg., Sales	ACPS/BS, COMP/BS, COMP/MS, COMP/PHD
10/13	NCR - Business Forms Div.	Software Des. Mktg., Sales	ANY/BS/BA

OPEN SIGN-UP

10/9	Morgan Stanley & Co.		
10/10	Castner Knott		
10/10	Honeywell	Sales	BU/BS, LIBA/BA
10/10	International Paper Co.		
10/10	James R. Worrell Agency	Insurance, Sales	ANY/BA/BS
10/10-10/12	First Brands Corp.	Gen. Mgt., Mktg.	BU/BS
10/11	Procter & Gamble	Sales	CHEM/PHD
10/11	Stuart James	Chemistry	ANY/BA/BS
10/12	Ames Department Stores	Retailing	ANY/BA/BS