

# Locals Face Soaring Gas Prices

By HEATHER TART  
Staff Writer

With a steady increase in gasoline prices during the past months, locals have expressed varied feelings over the impact the rise has had on their wallets.

In the last month, gas prices have gone up 10 cents a gallon, making the price of regular gasoline \$1.39 a gallon, \$1.49 a gallon for plus unleaded and \$1.59 a gallon for supreme unleaded gasoline at some Exxon stores.

Consumers are not the only ones affected by the change in prices. Managers of some gas stations and convenience stores have expressed concerns, as well.

"If there is a reason for it, I don't know what it is," said Jeff Jenkins, manager of McFarling's Exxon station at 126 W. Franklin St.

Jenkins added that the prices of gasoline were expected to further increase

and might reach \$2 a gallon for regular unleaded gasoline by July 4.

Jenkins said he saw the price increase as an industry-wide event and that prices of gas at individual stations such as his were set by company and industry officials, not by owners of individual stations.

Consumers did not have a uniform opinion on the situation. Some, like Jason Mangum of Durham, who was purchasing gas at the Franklin Street Exxon station, thought prices had increased too much and needed to drop soon. "I think it's ridiculous," Mangum said.

Kristi Foster, a mother of two in Chapel Hill, said the gas hike was more drastic than in previous years.

"In the winter, it always goes up and this year it went up a lot more than usual," Foster said.

Allen Glazner and Mary Olney, Chapel Hill residents who were walking

down Franklin Street, saw the increase in a positive light and said they hoped it would help consumers realize the importance of an important but limited resource.

Both Glazner and Olney said consumers needed to begin thinking about the importance of fuel reserves and gasoline costs because in the future this area would become even more important as fuel supplies were depleted.

"I think it's a good thing," Olney said.

Tony Morrow, manager of Airport and Intown Taxi, said his business used fuel-saving cars and other measures in order to keep costs under control. He said the company did not plan to raise rates because of the increase in fuel prices.

"We've been doing things all along," Morrow said.

Morrow said Airport and Intown Taxi switched to more economical cars about two years ago, meaning that each car gets 20 to 25 miles per gallon compared with older cars that averaged only 10 to 15 miles per gallon.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.



UNC junior Lisa Ellis fills up at the Etna gas station on Franklin Street. Gas prices have shot up by 10 cents in the past month.

DTH/MARTHA HOELZER

# Aldermen Ponder Park Plan

Hiring a firm to design the green space is the next step in Carrboro's plan to build a new recreational park.

By SABINE HIRSCHAUER  
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen set another cornerstone to secure a recreational park for the town's residents.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Kinney presented a project schedule to the board in Tuesday's meeting concerning the construction of a park on 9.4 acres of land on Hillsborough Road.

The board mapped out a schedule to complete the park by 2002. Alderman Joal Broun said she was pleased with the tentative schedule.

"I feel very comfortable with the schedule," Broun said. "We need to keep some sort of schedule to get something going."

The next step in building the park is to hire a design firm to map out the park.

The board estimated the cost to hire a firm would range from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

The lack of a specific budget was criticized by some aldermen.

Alderman Jacquelyn Gist raised the concern of not knowing from where the money for the park would come.

"When it was time to get the land, I was for the land, to get it off the market," Gist said. "Now, I feel we are up to a lot of money. I'm not comfortable with the master plan."

Alderman Alex Zaffron also expressed concern about how the town would finance the park, claiming more research was necessary before moving further in the park's development.

"I would like to see more information on what the budget would be," Zaffron said.

Kinney said there was no set budget as of yet, but one would be developed sometime in the future.

He asked the board for its support for this presentation.

"We need to go through with this schedule, otherwise we do not have anything specific when we raise money," Kinney said.

The schedule proposed to start advertising for bids for contractors by summer 2001 and is aiming to finish construction of the park by spring 2002.

The board eventually approved the park's development schedule.

Carrboro Mayor Mike Nelson said he was pleased by the presentation.

"I know this is a very ambitious, even scary ambitious plan, but this is a good start," Nelson said.

"The citizens of Carrboro demanded this park and I think we should go for it."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

## Campus Calendar

Today

12:30 p.m. - A discussion on World Trade Organization pros and cons will be held with expert professors, activists and students on both sides in Koury Auditorium.

Hear UNC alumnus Dave Beal talk about what happened in Seattle, and why he was there. Find out more about the face of neoliberalism in our global economy. The event is free, and the public is welcome.

4 p.m. - Grammy-nominated Columbia-Sony jazz recording artist David Sanchez will lecture on the influence of Latin music on jazz in Person Recital Hall. The lecture is open to all students and is free.

8 p.m. - Carolina AIDS Resource Education Service (CARES) will be holding an elections meeting in 108 Murphey Hall.

8 p.m. - The Grammy-nominated David Sanchez Sextet will perform in Hill Hall Auditorium.

Tickets are available at the door or by calling the Carolina Union Box Office at 962-1449. The cost is \$4 for all students and \$8 for the general public.

Thursday

8 p.m. The North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra will perform in Hill Hall Auditorium. Tickets are \$4 for all students and \$10 for the general public. Tickets are available at the door.

## SPORTS SHORTS



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# Truckers Rail Against Fuel-Tax Hike

A 50 percent increase in diesel fuel prices prompted a convoy of truck drivers to head to Washington, D.C.

By JESSICA CHISM  
Staff Writer

A three-mile convoy of truckers rolled into Washington, D.C., on Tuesday blaring their horns in protest of the rapid increase in the price of fuel throughout the nation.

According to the American Trucking Association's Web site, the price of diesel fuel has risen 50 percent in the past six months, and the price of regular unleaded gasoline has jumped an average of 8 cents nationwide in less than a month, marking the highest prices since the Gulf War.

Officials attribute the increase to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting

Countries withholding crude oil to increase prices and a cold winter forcing the use of fossil fuels for heating.

The majority of the 300 trucks involved in Tuesday's protest parked near the Washington, D.C. Mall, while group delegates marched into the Capitol to voice the group's concerns.

The main request of the truckers was a temporary relief from the 24-cent federal fuel excise tax, part of which is used for the U.S. Highway Trust Fund.

"The decision to increase the price of oil was a political one, not an economic one," said UNC political science Professor Timothy McKeown.

Kristy Tolley, a representative of AAA of the Carolinas, said a combination of factors had contributed to the increase in gasoline prices.

"OPEC has deliberately slowed the production of crude oil in order to pump up prices," she said.

"Also, we had an especially cold winter, so a large amount of crude oil was

used for heating instead of the production of gasoline."

Tolley also explained that if OPEC did not increase the production of crude oil, fuel prices would rise to \$1.50 per gallon by Labor Day. "Prices have not been this high in over 10 years," Tolley said. "If things don't change, they will just keep increasing."

But McKeown had a different view on the situation. "(The increases) are much smaller than the increases that occurred in the late 1970s."

McKeown said the economic effect of the price increases were uncertain.

"There is a conventional wisdom that because of changes in American industry, gas prices have less effect on the economy than they did 20 years ago," he said. "But I don't necessarily agree with that. I am just not sure what is going to happen."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

## In Honor Of BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This week the Black Student Movement would like to call your attention to our heroes at the UNIVERSITY

Harvey Beech - the first African-American student to graduate from UNC School of Law in 1952; has held a private practice in Kingston for over 40 years.

Richard Epps - the first African-American Student Body President (1972-1973).

J. Kenneth Lee - the second African-American Carolina Law graduate; founded the American Federal Savings and Loan Foundation in 1959, only seven years after graduating from Carolina

Karen Stevenson - the first African-American woman Morehead Scholar in 1975; in 1979 she became the first African-American woman in the country to receive the Rhodes Scholarship

Dr. Sonya Haynes Stone - namesake of the Sonya Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center; professor of African and African-American Studies; died unexpectedly in 1991 in the midst of a crusade for the establishment of a black cultural center.

The Black Student Movements meets every Wednesday at 5:30 PM in Upendo Lounge

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