

Survey shows rise in bus use

BY MEREDITH MILLER
STAFF WRITER

A recent transit survey confirms the success of the fare-free bus system, revealing a 40 percent increase in ridership since January 2002, when Chapel Hill Transit instituted its fare-free service.

The survey also found that the most common response for why passengers used the bus system was because of the lack of convenient parking, with 45.7 percent of riders citing this reason. In the 1997 transit survey, 47.3 percent stated the same reason.

Chapel Hill Town Council member Ed Harrison said there are significant problems with finding parking, especially for those who attend or work at UNC. "It is just as hard for faculty as it is for anyone else," he said.

Harrison said, "It is expensive" when people do find a place to park.

According to the survey, 92 percent of weekday riders said they either worked at or attended the University.

"That struck me the most," council member Cam Hill said about the ridership findings concerning UNC students and employees.

Council members also noted the socioeconomic findings in ridership. "There is a more middle class ridership than you are used to seeing in other places," Harrison said.

The survey found that the average income of transit riders had increased since 1997. Almost 18 percent of riders reported incomes at more than \$75,000 in the 2003 survey, compared with



DTH/PATRICIA LAPADULA

According to a recent survey, Chapel Hill Transit's ridership has increased 40 percent since the buses became fare-free in town two years ago.

8.5 percent in 1997.

"The system is convenient and has the ability to take (people) where they want to go," said David Bonk, the survey's supervisor and the principle transportation planner for Chapel Hill.

The 2003 Chapel Hill Transit Rider Profile Survey, designed to analyze ridership patterns, was conducted by Chapel Hill Transit in cooperation with the University.

"It is a tool for us to use to develop programs and look at larger issues," Bonk said.

"We need to look at ways to make (the transit system) more useful for residents (who are not part of the University)," Hill said.

Early this winter, the council discussed the transit system and

the idea of merging with the Triangle Transit Authority, but council members said there is no intention to do so at this time.

A merger would force Chapel Hill Transit to eliminate its fare-free system. "We have an established, successful bus system," Hill said, citing the survey as evidence.

Harrison said he thinks there is nothing for Chapel Hill to gain from merging with other bus systems in the Triangle.

"There was no economic advantage," he said about the possibility of joint transit. "There is no intention to merge or to restore fare service."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

UNC's Paul named ACC Coach of the Year

FROM WIRE REPORTS

North Carolina men's tennis coach Sam Paul was honored as the ACC Coach of the Year for the fourth time in his 11-year career on Thursday.

Paul led his team to an overall record of 21-3 and a share of the ACC regular-season title with a 7-1 mark.

In 11 seasons at the helm of the Tar Heel men's tennis team, he has posted an overall record of 170-93 while going 63-24 in ACC dual match play.

"This honor is really about my senior captains — Nick Monroe, Andy Metzler and Ben Aiken — as well as all the players on this team and my assistant coach, Don Johnson," Paul said. "They all deserve this award much more than I do."

The defending ACC champion Duke led all teams with five players on this season's All-Conference team. Co-regular-season champion North Carolina placed four on the team while Clemson, Florida State and co-regular-season champion Virginia each had two student-athletes selected. Georgia

Tech, N.C. State and Wake Forest rounded out the all-conference team with one selection apiece.

The UNC All-ACC players include senior Nick Monroe, junior Geoff Boyd, junior Jonathan Janda and sophomore Raian Luchici.

Florida State's Mat Cloer was selected as the ACC Men's Tennis Player of the Year for the second consecutive year, and Wake Forest's Todd Paul was tabbed as the ACC Men's Tennis Freshman of the Year.

ACC honors Mojzis, Cline

The ACC announced its All-Conference Team for women's tennis on Thursday. North Carolina's Aniela Mojzis and Kendall Cline both earned spots on the 18-member team.

Mojzis, currently ranked 28th in the nation, finished ACC play at 5-3. She pulled an upset win against ACC Conference Player of the Year Julie Coin of Clemson,

who is ranked eighth nationally, in her final regular-season match.

Cline finished 3-5 in the ACC, taking three of her four losses to third sets. Cline and Mojzis, both juniors, currently are ranked 23rd in doubles. The pair posted a final ACC record of 8-1. Their only loss, to Florida State's Roxanne Clarke and Mihaela Moldovan, was in a tiebreaker at 9-8(2).

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WALK TO CAMPUS CHARMING NEIGHBORHOOD! Furnished basement apartment separate entry. \$550/month includes utilities, A/C, parking. No smoking / pets / loud music. Walk / bike / bus. 12 month lease starts August 16. privatebasement@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NEW 1BR furnished apartment with hardwood floors, W/D, in Governors Park. Heat, water, and sewer supplied. Available now. \$700/month. Non-smokers only. No pets. Call 969-9871 or 422-5656 for appointment.

SUMMER HOUSING: Wesley Foundation at UNC. Facilities include single or double AC room with use of kitchen, W/D, lounge with TV/VCR. Parking. Walking distance to campus. For more info call, Laura 942-2152.

ROOMS FOR RENT. Immediate availability. Large house on Finley Golf Course Road with free parking on 5 busline. Shared kitchen & common areas includes basketball court, pool table, foosball table & grill. \$362.50/month or \$1,450/semester. Summer months available for \$200/month. Call 929-7070.

TWO STORY 2BR/2.5BA Finley Forest condo for rent. Two private balconies, large private deck, fireplace, hardwood floors, W/D optional, pool and tennis. On busline. Convenient to Meadowmont. \$1,050/month. 704-892-7579.

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4BR/4BA HOUSE, all appliances. 919-219-2891.

1BR TOWNHOUSE. 766 sq/ft. End unit, overlooks woods. Available starting 04/27/04. Neighbors mostly UNC-Chi faculty and grad/professional students. Call Erin 704-521-2936 or eriks@myer.net.

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Look for application forms at 103 Phillips Annex. The deadline for returning applications to Phillips Annex is Friday, April 16 at 5pm. Interviews are required, and you should sign up for an appointment when you return your application. If you have questions, please call the Learning Center at 962-3782.

Sublets

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VERGE APARTMENT SUMMER sublet. \$375/month 08/01 - 01/01. 2 rooms. 2BR/2BA new first floor apartment. Shuttle, pool, W/D. Available 05/11-07/31. Price negotiable. 919-923-6326 or LJSmith@email.unc.edu.

Rooms

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