The Daily Tar Heel

Carolina Compass

Chapel Hill Transit a free, simple service

Other options available for area travel

the council in March 2007. Steve

Spade, town director of transpor-

tation, called Chapel Hill's transit

system "head and shoulders above

the bus a few times every week to get his car, which he parks about

three miles from his dormitory.

Freshman Brandon Prince rides

everybody else.

too far," he said.

BY MAX ROSE

Chapel Hill might not be a big town, but it does have a public transportation system to rival one. Many residents choose to bike or

walk, but some choose the free bus system to get to their destinations. Chris Fuhrmann, a graduate

student in the College of Arts and Sciences, had never used public transportation before he transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill from UNC-Wilmington.

He now rides the bus back and forth from home every day. "For all the routes that I've

taken, it's been pretty efficient," he said as he waited for the bus on South Road.

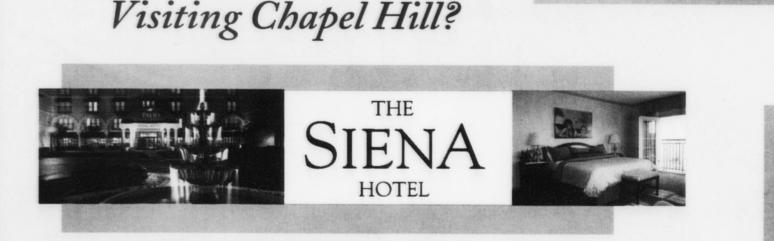
The Chapel Hill transportation system became fare-free in January 2002 and now has 31 routes that stretch throughout the town, Carrboro and the University.

The three bodies pay for transit together based on census popu-lation counts, Chapel Hill Town Council member Ed Harrison said. The University is the biggest

financial contributor to the system. "Students and employees together have got to represent the major-

ity of riders," he said. The total ridership in 2007 was about 6 million people, Harrison said. That is up from about 3 million before the system went fare-free.





Let The Siena Hotel's European Charm and Southern

ED HARRISON, CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER

skateboarders because it's so hilly," he said.

riders."

bikes are common. "There are obvious concerns with

versus cars," said Adrienne Edwards, marketing and design coordinator for the Student Union.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Diesel, which most buses run on, has more than doubled in cost in the past four years, Harrison said. "As the cost of fossil fuel goes up,

they sort of pay themselves off faster," he said. "We're really trying to invest in getting rid of the older buses." Last summer the Town Council

reduce gas use. And the transit system might

the future.

ove toward more hybrid buses in

Since I'm on North Campus, I don't have to go anywhere that's upped the technology factor for the town's transit system by imple-The fleet of 99 buses includes menting NextBus Inc., a real-time

Capture the Feeling at

Family Weekend

recently introduced hybrids to reduce gas use. tracking technology that allows patrons to check their bus's arrival times from their computers. The town awarded a \$950,000

contract to the California-based company to install the Internet sites, as well as on-site digitized signs at 14 bus stops that predict the buses' arrivals.

Harrison, who is active on trans portation issues in his role on the uncil, is also an avid cyclist.

Fuhrmann said some alterna-tive transportation is not as common here as in past places where

he has lived.

Parents, Welcome to Carolina!

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"Here you don't dodge many

But anyone who walks from "It gets kind of unnerving after South Campus will tell you that a while."

bikers versus pedestrians and bikers

It's YOUR Office on Campus...

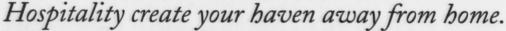
Carolina Parents Association

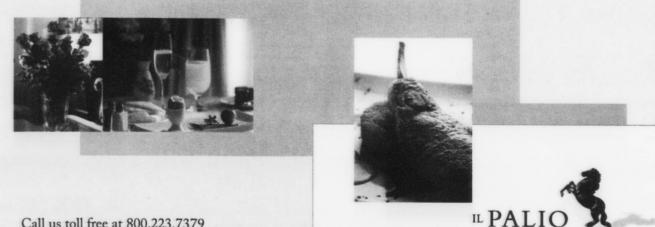
Ristorante

Carolina Family Magazine

"Students and employees together

have got to represent the majority of





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