

## Campus bus-driver

# 'Yes Sir'-he likes his job

by David Perry  
Feature Writer

Charles Jackson, for those of you who don't know him, is the friendly campus bus driver. He tells funny stories, philosophizes, predicts the weather, and smiles a lot. He also finds time to transport from south campus to north campus and back again.

The fortyish-looking Jackson, with his blue-visored hat, twinkling dark eyes and ample figure has become familiar to bus-riding students.

He first began working the UNC route in the fall and his infectious smile was just the lift sleepy students needed as they headed for 8 o'clock classes.

A native North Carolinian (he presently lives in Garner), Jackson has been working for the Raleigh City Coach Lines for the past eight years.

His 12-hour workday begins at 6:45 a.m. when he slips behind the wheel of his bus in a downtown Raleigh garage. He makes a quick trip down I-40 and by 7:30 he is ready to make the first of 63 daily trips from Chase Cafeteria to Wilson Library.

"That (the repetition) don't bother me," Jackson said. "I take it as a part of the route. I look for different things every time. Take the bell tower. Have you ever seen how it's constructed? You see something different every time you look at it." Jackson enjoys riding with the students as much as they enjoy riding

with him, and he is especially impressed with student niceties.

"You know what knocks me off my feet about the people here? The courtesy. I get 'yes sir' and 'no sir' all the time. It really floored me the first time I heard it," he said.

"The kids here at Carolina act more like young adults, which they are. There are a few that aren't up to par, but no matter where you go you've got that 10%."

Jackson should know. He has been driving trucks, cars, and buses professionally for 28 years.

He was with Southern Life, an insurance company, for ten years, working himself up from an agent to the district manager. But the work was too demanding and he returned to buses.

In the past eight years he has driven over 240,000 miles. He couldn't even estimate the miles he drove in the first 20 years.

In all those years of driving, Jackson had had only one accident. "The first time I ever hit anything it was right here at UNC," he said. "This car stopped real quick and I didn't."

He was suspended without pay for two days and placed on probation for 90 days. "Anytime you scratch one of these things," he said with a sigh, "it's an automatic suspension."

Before he took the UNC route, Jackson drove high school and junior high school students in Raleigh. "They're a mean bunch," he said and told two

stories to prove his point.

Once there was a fire on his bus. A few enterprising students "wadded up notebook paper and set it on fire." Students packed the bus aisle, blocking Jackson's view of the back seats and the fire.

"A fella came up by me blowing his horn," he said. "He told me that my bus was on fire. The paper was burning like you've never seen. I took a fire extinguisher and put it out."

Then there was the hanging.

"This cord came loose," Jackson said. "Two high-school students made a noose and put it around a girl's head. Then they pushed her off the seat. It (the noose) slid down and tightened so we couldn't get it off. She turned blue."

Jackson whipped out a pocketknife and began cutting the cord. After several anxious moments, the girl was freed.

Despite her plea to let the boys go, he turned them in to school officials. "They were expelled for 30 days each," he said. "I got all kinds of threats on account of that. As far as I know, the girl was all right."

Jackson hasn't saved any students lately. His good deeds are presently restricted to relieving the anxiety of exam worried students, rushing them up campus to class, and generally cheering up anyone and everyone who boards his bus.

"You meet so many different people," he said. "You be a little nutty and you cheer them up. That satisfies me."



Charles Jackson

## Octopus Dance Group initiates Fine Arts festivities tomorrow

by Harriet Sugar  
Feature Writer

Body movement—that aesthetic art with an alluring appeal to all—will invade this campus Saturday. The Octopus Dance Collective, eight individual dancers from New York sharing a common desire to express themselves through the art of modern dance, will begin the 1973 UNC Fine Arts Festival.

Highlighting the group's visit will be a dance concert Saturday night at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. The dancers are also holding an open rehearsal Saturday morning from 8 to 10 a.m. in Memorial Hall.

The six female and two male dancers all choreograph their own material. Many of their routines begin with improvisations. "We work in the abstract, not the theatre," emphasized Jessica Sayre, leader of the group. Costumes, props, and excess makeup are avoided. "We work in leotards most often. We like to be able to see the entire body as it moves."

Music is often utilized to enhance the effect of the dances, but the creation of the dance always precedes the creation of the music. The group will demonstrate this technique on stage: during their performance, they will tune into a local radio station and then adapt a dance to the music.

The Octopus Dance Collective was established approximately two years ago and has been performing for the past few months. According to Ms. Sayre, performances have mainly consisted of "small hole-in-the-wall operations."

Individual involvement as students of noted dance master Alwin Nikolais brought the eight dancers together. All but one of them are college graduates. Unlike many professional dancers who have studied the art since childhood, these dancers all began studying the art in either high school or college. Ms. Sayre took her first dancing lessons from the badminton teacher at Oberlin College.

Despite the appeal of the movements of modern dance, dancing, as a profession, is not totally glamorous. "Dancing demands total commitment," commented Ms. Sayre, which means studying and rehearsing each day. Like the other dancers, Ms. Sayre finds it hard to support herself. "The pay is low." Dancing is the only performing art without a union.

Ms. Sayre does foresee a brighter future in the field. "Dancing as a performing art is the rawest field of art. And it's about to break wide open. Who knows where it will go?"

The movements and mystiques of modern dance will break open at UNC Saturday, as the Octopus Dance Collective opens the Fine Arts Festival. Admission to the program is free.

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

## J. GEILS BAND

Plus — New From England —

## STEELEYE SPAN

8 P.M. Saturday, April 14

Tickets \$4 by mail order:

WFU College Union  
7225 Reynolda Station  
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109

Please include stamped, self-addressed envelope.

## NIT SPECIAL

KEEP THAT BEER COLD  
WHILE THE HEELS RACK UP  
ANOTHER NIT CHAMPIONSHIP  
CAR SHOP WILL HELP!

FREE

SIX PACK WITH PURCHASE OF  
ONE UNC MONOGRAMMED COASTER  
FOR ONLY \$1.49

(THIS WEEKEND ONLY)

## CAR-SHOP

HELPING TO CELEBRATE ANOTHER  
GREAT TAR-HEEL WEEKEND.  
1305 E. FRANKLIN 942-2626  
KEGS & CASES OF BEER, WINE, CHAMPAGNE

# IS COMING

4:30 & 8:00 UNC STUDENTS \$1<sup>00</sup>