

Bus service to suffer; UNC refuses hike

By **NANCY OLIVER**
Managing Editor

Next year, owning a bus pass may not guarantee a seat on the bus. In fact, it may not even guarantee a bus. Rates on bus passes will be cut in an effort to increase ridership, but so might the number of buses and the length of service.

The University's portion of the bus system payment will probably remain at its 1976 level of 37.5 per cent, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance Claiborne Jones said in a letter this week to Town Manager Kurt Jenne.

Negotiations over *who* will contribute *how much* to the Chapel Hill bus system have been intensified by the letter. Negotiations will probably continue for the next couple of weeks.

By remaining at the 1976 level, the University will decrease payment from its \$366,000 last year, to \$338,000 for 1977-78, according to figures that reflect the town's reduction of bus service.

"By 1976-77, the University's portion of the Town Transit system had reached 37.5 per cent, and we do not think it appropriate for that percentage to be increased for 1977-78," Jones' letter read.

Chapel Hill officials have been hopeful of an increase in the University's payment after a Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce study showed that 90 per cent of all bus riders have a UNC affiliation.

Alderman Ed Vickery favors a plan whereby the University contributes at least two-thirds of the transportation system's deficit, the amount not taken care of by University bus pass sales.

The University maintains that it is not a partner in the Chapel Hill—only a consumer.

The University presently funds the U and S bus routes entirely.

John Temple, of the UNC Business and Finance Office, said, in an earlier interview,



that the University should expect service for the amount it pays and should services be cut, so should the funds.

Jones' letter to Jenne also says that, according to the 1977-78 proposal, the system's operations would be decreased by 20.5 per cent. During the regular semester, service hours would be cut 6.7 per cent and 52 per cent during the summer.

Chapel Hill Mayor Jim Wallace and Alderman Ed Vickery both decline to comment on the situation until further negotiations between the University and town were possible.

UNC student body president Bill Moss said Tuesday that once again the student body had been forgotten.

"The University's stand at 37.5 per cent

undermines the intent of the town. It also undermines the students' attempts to get to campus," Moss said.

"South Building—the Administration—is not looking carefully at all the ramifications. I'm more concerned with the level of service, not the cost. They're more concerned with the cost."

Student Transportation Board member Paul Arne agreed. "Students will have to find another way to get to campus. They'll try to get parking stickers which aren't available either."

"Both the town and the University are saying, 'I only want to pay so much.' Both are looking at the amount they have to put in and both are considering reducing their share of payment. They are not looking at how much the service is needed," Arne said.

"Both feel that the service the bus system provides is good but nobody is really willing to pay for this service."

"Getting rid of the bus system will cause a lot of problems for the town. It will cause parking problems, cut off the central business district, and produce traffic congestion," Arne said.

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