

University and town reach bus compromise

By STEPHEN HARRIS
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill buses will run for another year, at least, as UNC accepted a compromise on its bus payments Monday. But the issue is still simmering.

Chapel Hill Mayor Jim Wallace seemed apologetic when he explained his compromise in the bus system controversy to the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen last

News analysis

week. When the Board heard the compromise, it grumbled, made a few protests and then went along with it. The compromise squeaked past the board, 4-3, but only on the promise that next year's bargaining would be different.

The Board had wanted to drop some of the bus system's huge expense, but found the University unwilling to take up the slack. An August agreement deadline hurried the Aldermen into taking what the University would give them. But next fall, the town will have plenty of time to drive a hard bargain. And this summer's show could be a skirmish compared to the next bus negotiations in the fall.

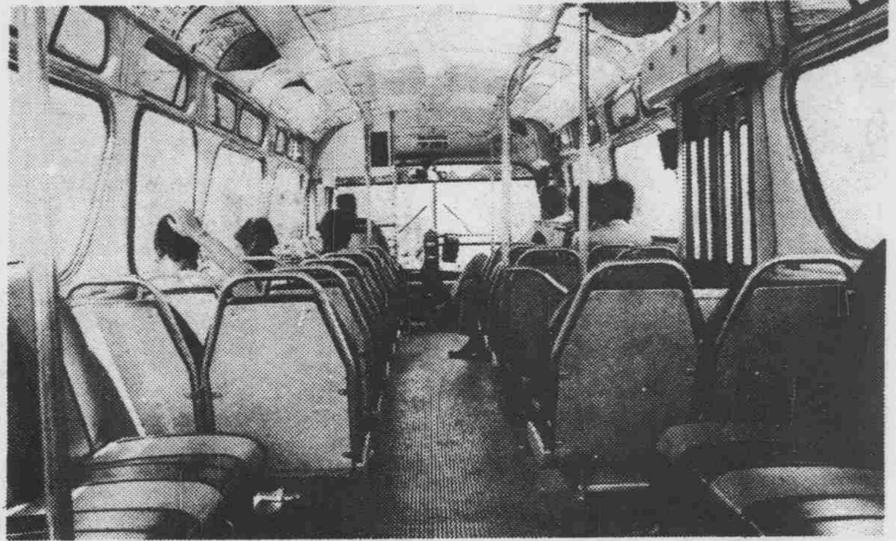
Money drives wedges between the best of friends and Chapel Hill's buses have become a wedge between a town government and a university that has gotten along with each other remarkably well.

But the problem is not with the town or the University, but empty buses. The system so far has proved to be a big lemon, threatening to eat up revenue from either the town, the University, or both.

People are just not using the buses enough. Though few city bus systems make money, Chapel Hill buses are light years away from breaking even. Some interesting figures came out in a letter by UNC Assistant Chancellor Claiborne Jones that was published in the *Chapel Hill Newspaper*. Out of a \$977,130 budget this past year, the buses raised only an estimated \$119,170 of it, or 12.3 per cent. The town and the University paid the other \$857,960.

The town will not continue to pay \$500,000 bus bills, as it did last year. Especially since the townspeople do not use the buses. When the bus system first started, the standard joke was, "What is big and orange and empty?" Chapel Hill buses are no longer orange, but they are often empty, except when hospital employees and a few students ride to and from the University.

A Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce study showed that 90 per cent of



all bus riders have a UNC affiliation. This figure has become the Aldermen's banner to charge to South Building and dump the town's busses into the University's lap by sticking the University with most of the bills. Alderman Ed Vickery has stated that UNC should pay two-thirds of the bus budget and that figure could become the town's target.

But the University is not going to accept this, unless trends change.

The University's enthusiasm for the Chapel Hill Bus System has waned. Since the system began, the University has pursued a policy of, not encouraging bus use, but a policy of providing all the parking spaces it can on campus. The new parking deck at N.C. Memorial Hospital two years ago did not help the bus system. And a second

parking deck, approved early this year, certainly rubbed the Aldermen the wrong way.

The University "introduced" the bus system to students two years ago by tacking on a bus pass to student's parking stickers, which about doubled the sticker's price to \$54. Last year, suddenly bus passes were offered at "half price." Next year, the stickers will be at a "discount."

Meanwhile, Franklin Street continues to hold heavy traffic, even in the summer. This fall, the streets will be packed. The 15-501 by-pass is and will continue to be bumper-to-bumper during rush hours. It may take another gas crisis to wake people up to Chapel Hill's reliance on private transportation.

Village Opticians

- PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED
- LENSES DUPLICATED
- CONTACT LENSES fitted—polished—cleaned
- SUNGLASSES prescription—non-prescription



John C. Southern, Optician

121 E. Franklin St. | 942-3254
Next to the Varsity Theatre

PAPER, THESIS, DISSERTATION?

When time is running out, you can rely on us to live up to our name. Get it copied, collated, quick! At Copyquick. Above the N.C. Cafeteria.

133 1/2 Franklin Street/929-4028

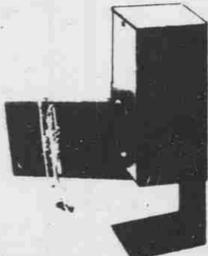
COPYQUICK



Sheer Realism . . . at a realistic price.

The high fidelity receiver was first developed by harman/kardon.

Other manufacturers have offered units with multi-colored lights, multiple knobs and switches and two-level illumination, while harman/kardon has striven to advance the state of the art. The harman/kardon 430 receiver achieves a standard of performance unique among stereo receivers.



The BIC 940 turntable is so famous and so utterly reliable that nothing more need be said about it.



We supply it with a walnut base, dust cover and a Shure M91ED cartridge.

\$676

Instant Credit

If you're between the ages of 21 and 65, employed full time and live within 50 miles of Chapel Hill, your credit is automatically approved for up to \$525 if you have any of the following credit cards: BankAmericard, American Express, Diners Club, Carte Blanche, JC Penney, Master Charge, Western Auto, Singer or any major air lines. Amounts over \$525 can also be easily arranged.

The Infinity Qa is the realization of a dream (yours, perhaps, as well as ours): For the first time—a modestly-priced speaker employing state of the art technology. The clarity and transparency throughout the sound spectrum, the spatiality and depth of imaging of the Qa have not even been approached by any other speaker in its price category. Listen to the end result. Bring several records with which you're intimately familiar to Vickers. A common discovery—other speakers that used to sound good, or even great, now sound wrong.

Hours:
Mon.—Thurs. 10am—6pm
Fri. 10am—8pm
Sat. 10am—5:30pm
210 W. Franklin
Chapel Hill
(Between Fowler's & Bell's)

Vickers Audio

929-4554

CAT'S CRADLE

405 W. Rosemary St.
967-9053

Cat's Cradle features Live Music Tuesday through Sunday evenings; The Bluegrass Experience performs every Thursday night and every Sunday is Jazz night. Starting in the fall, we will have Sports on a 7' Advent video screen Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Monday night (no cover charge). We will also run special evenings for Tar Heel basketball games. Come join us.