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Buses, car pools getting more use

By Jim Faddis

As the price of gasoline continues to increase, more and more people are looking for ways to save gas and money.

According to the Lincoln Transportation System and the Lincoln Carpool Program, many are turning to car pooling and riding the bus.

The number of people car pooling in Lincoln has doubled in the past year, Shirley Maly, Lincoln Carpool Program coordinator, said,

Maly said her office statistics indicate 1,082 car poolers in Lincoln. These people form 369 car pools, which average 2.85 people per car pool, she said.

The number of car poolers has steadily increased during the past year, with the biggest increase coming in the last few months, she said.

Union Bakery candy prices increase

Folks with a sweet tooth will have to pay quite a bit more for candy at the Union Bakery, according to Kathy Tiekotter, kitchen manager at the Nebraska Union.

Beginning March 3, the price of candy, especially chocolate, increased substantially.

Chocolate peanuts, which used to sell for \$1.89 a pound, are now \$2.99. Malted malk balls, which were \$1.99 a pound, have also gone up to \$2.99.

have skyrocketed to \$3.19, and M&M's have gone up from \$2.18 to \$2.69 per pound.

been increased since October of 1978.

said. Tiekotter explained that the costs were increased because competing stores had raised their candy prices.

"We checked Brandeis, Penneys and Wards, and found that we were selling at far below their cost," she said. "Also, the cost to us had increased quite a bit."

Tiekotter said the price of baked goods at the Bakery will remain the same.



Gas prices

"People have different points where the price of gas becomes too expensive for them," Maly said. "When the price reaches that point, many people turn to car pooling."

Others start riding the bus, LTS General Manager Jerry Olson said.

Olson said 11,000 people in Lincoln ride buses every day. Bus customers from September to January in 1979 increased 12 percent from what it was during the same period in 1978, Olson said.

He said bus customers in January 1980 increased 21 percent from the previous year. The increase for December was 13 percent, November 12 percent and October 9 percent, Olson said. He added that for February, LTS has estimated a 30 percent increase.

More convenient

Olson said he attributes the customer pincreases to the higher price of gas.

"But the figures also show that people are finding riding the bus more convenient than what they believed it to be in the past," Olson said.

Maly said car poolers get preferential parking in many areas and gas discount cards. Maly said her office will assist employers and individuals in forming pools.

Employers interested

"Many employers are interested in setting up car pools for their employees to alleviate parking problems," Maly said.

LTS offers monthly bus passes for \$12, a new express service and more buses during rush nours, Ulson said.

The 13 new LTS buses also have attracted new riders, he said.

"Many started riding just to see what the new buses are like, liked them, and started riding more often," Olson said.

Even with the 13 new buses, Olson said, Lincoln still has a bus shortage.

"If the number of bus riders keeps increasing, we'll have to make our fleet larger every year," he said.

LTS has requested that the city allocate funds for eight new buses in the 1980-81 budget, Olson said. The 13 new buses the city purchased cost \$95,000 each, Olson said, but the federal government paid 80 percent.

Car pooling and riding the bus are becoming more common among UNL students and employees, Maly said. She said 224 university people now car pool, compared with 26 in 1978.