

News

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In the last 10 years, there have been no major claims paid out by the insurance company on UNCA's existing student policy.

If that should happen, Peyeritz warned, there would be no way that the approximately 60 to 80 students who routinely sign up for insurance through the university each year could afford to pay the overall cost of the premiums.

In the end, he said, the result would likely cause the cancellation of the policy.

"All we need is one major claim against us, and we will probably not be insured by that company again," Peyeritz said. "That's the problem with the way the system is now."

Under the guidelines of UNCA's current policy, brokered by ABCO 100 insurance brokers in Greensboro, N.C., basic coverage pays medical costs up to \$2500.

If health care exceeds that amount, a student must then pay a \$50 deductible and 20 percent of the total bill up to \$10,000.

If a student has paid for additional catastrophic coverage, which costs about another \$250 in annual premiums, the insurance company will pay total medical costs up to \$100,000.

"It's really a good policy for students," Peyeritz said. "But it does focus more on injuries. The coverage is better for injuries than for sickness."

Like any insurance policy, Peyeritz advised students to read the fine print before committing to it.

There are many situations and procedures, like dental problems, that are not covered in this particular policy. It also excludes pre-existing conditions diagnosed within the previous two years.

Contrary to the occasional campus rumor, health service workers said they do not administer drug screens to insurance applicants or

those filing claims.

Peyeritz said that in this era of managed care, many students who think they are covered by their parents' insurance plan often find out too late that they are only insured at designated medical facilities, and those are generally close to the residence of the policy-holder.

In an age of expanding health maintenance organizations, Peyeritz said, many insurance plans only work with specific doctors, hospitals, or even labs.

It is important to find out this type of information before emergencies arise.

Finally, one unique feature about the student insurance policy concerns where to initially seek medical attention.

Because rates for UNCA students are based in part on the services and abilities available at the on-campus health center, students are required to first consult with the staff at Weizenblatt Health Center whenever possible.

The physician and his staff will then refer patients to other doctors or specialists. It is also worth noting that students are responsible for filing all insurance claims for off-campus medical care.

For more information, contact student health services at 251-6520.

Ever wondered what your health fees really buy you?

First of all, it gets you a free trip to the doctor at Weizenblatt Hall. On an average day, health services staff members tend to about 21 patients, said office manager Donna Parker.

With the exception of nominal lab fees, for example an HIV test is \$20, students pay no money for office visits.

Student health services also administer work- or school-related physicals, provide counseling and stress management, sponsor sub-

stance abuse and smoking cessation programs.

Condoms and other educational materials are also included at no cost in the \$47 semester fee.

"Student fees pay for all professional services and office visits," said Clinic Coordinator Linda Peyeritz. "Here at UNCA, we have the second lowest health service fee in the whole North Carolina collegiate system."

According to UNCA physician Eric Peyeritz, the sum total of these fees, or about \$150,000 annually, accounts for 92 percent of health services' entire revenues.

The remaining eight percent comes mostly from procedural charges. A minor procedure, such as the extraction of an in-grown toe nail, for example, costs \$5.

Laboratory work, which includes screening for sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, thyroid problems, or other blood-related illnesses, range in price from \$9 to \$30.

They also have antibiotics on hand, and sell them cheaper than most pharmacies.

"All prescriptions are \$7," Ms. Peyeritz said. The only other pharmaceuticals they dispense are birth control pills, which cost students \$5 for a month's supply, she added.

The Mountain Area Family Health Center on W.T. Weaver Boulevard is open to UNCA students for after-hour medical care and emergencies, Peyeritz said.

Student health services do not operate when classes are not in session. They will be closed during spring break, and will resume their normal schedule on March 17.

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March is Women's History Month

By Stephanie Hunter
Staff Writer

UNCA's women's studies program has planned many events, presentations, exhibits, and workshops in March to celebrate Women's History Month.

"The purpose of this month is to focus on some of the aspects of academia, history, and different issues that have been ignored traditionally," said Debra Van Engelen, director of the women's studies program and coordinator of UNCA's celebration of Women's History Month.

"One of the purposes of the women's studies program and this month, in particular, is to highlight women who have made significant contributions throughout history that were often not included in the formal course work," said Van Engelen.

"I think this is an opportunity to feature that."

"It is an opportunity to talk about current events and current issues. It's also an opportunity for people, just on an individual basis, whether they are men or women, to learn and experience some new ideas," said Van Engelen.

Campuses everywhere commemorate this month which Congress has named Women's History Month, said Van Engelen. She indicated that UNCA alone has numerous events scheduled for March.

On March 4, Louly Peacock Konz, an art historian for UNC-Chapel Hill, will talk about 19th and 20th century women artists who used a specific art style.

Also, on March 4, photographer Priscilla Turner, will talk about some of her work. "She will be displaying some of her work that she did in a stay in Meriwether

County, Georgia," said Van Engelen. She will describe some of the unique features of women's lives in that particular area, and she will show some perspectives of women in that distinctly southern culture.

Singer/songwriter Christine Kane will perform in the Highsmith Center Lounge at 9 p.m. on March

ality, and their relationship to one another.

The Women's Annual Overnight Retreat, held at Bonclarken Assembly in Flat Rock, will commence over the weekend of April 4. This retreat will focus on discovering purpose in life. The retreat does have limited enrollment, so individuals interested in this event

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Debra Van Engelen, coordinator of Women's History Month

5. Underdog Productions is sponsoring this event.

Kathryn Liss from the Asheville Mediation Center will hold a special workshop designed for both men and women on March 19. "She specifically said that she hoped both men and women would enroll in this," said Van Engelen.

Entitled "Essential Peacemaking: Women and Men," the workshop will work to help men and women work through their differences and will help create better understanding and communication between men and women.

The women's health classes will also sponsor two events which are included in this month-long celebration.

On March 20, Susan Fazio's presentation, titled "Running with Empowerment," will instruct women on how they can empower their lives. She will focus on how to fulfill goals in order to live a happy and healthy life, said Van Engelen.

The women's health classes will also sponsor a special presentation by a practitioner, Skakira Khan, on March 27, who will lead students in a discussion on intimacy, sexu-

should plan early and make reservations, said Van Engelen.

On March 5, in the Humanities Lecture Hall, the Asheville Women's Ensemble will present a concert featuring works by women composers and

positions by two local composers, said Van Engelen.

Besides these events, "there will be a brown bag lunch series virtually everyday at 12:15 p.m. throughout March," said Van Engelen. Featuring primarily on-campus speakers, these lunches range in topics from historical to current issues for women. "They tend to be quite informal and very interesting."

Some topics for discussion at these lunches include: "Carnal Israel: Sex and Women in Talmudic Judaism;" "Dreamworlds: Desire, Sex and Power in Music Video;" "Women, College Teaching and Careers: Panel Discussion with UNCA Faculty;" "Women and Violence;" "The Welfare Reform Act: Its Effect on Women and Children;" "Witch or Goddess: Versions of Medieval and Renaissance Womanhood;" and "History of Women as Mediators."

"We have five talks of particular interest for women in science," said Van Engelen.

Mike Ruiz, of the physics department, will give the first special presentation called "Women in Science" on March 18, at 3:15 p.m. in Karpen Hall.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER THURSTON

Public safety officers found hypodermic syringes, along with other drug paraphernalia, at the campsite on UNCA property.

Campsite

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An abandoned well off the trail is another safety concern, Martin said. The well is about 50 feet deep and attempts had recently been made to re-open it. The physical plant will close the well.

The area is often used by people to drink alcohol and dump garbage, Martin said. The Physical Plant will also begin cleaning up the entire area over the next few months. "It's a shame because people are trashing an area, and now you've got an environmental problem," Martin said.

Martin discovered the campsite while searching the area for abandoned stolen property from the campus car break-ins last fall. Public safety officers made numerous trips to the site at different times to try to find the occupant. But in lieu of making a charge, it was better to

clear the site, Martin said. "You've got a guy sitting down there, maybe hiding from the law, probably drunk, with drugs and firearms, just off the trail. The potential is scary. That's why we wanted to rip it down quickly," Martin said.

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