

Biodiesel

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2007 issue of *Foreign Affairs* journal, a comprehensive look is given to the effect that increases in ethanol production have on the food supply in developing countries, as well as the environmental impact of increased corn growing.

In Southeast Asia, large areas of tropical rainforest are being cleared and burned to plant oil palms intended for conversion to biodiesel, according to the article.

"Rather than placing stress on the Third World for increased crop production, it is more important to focus on resources coming from within the community," said junior environmental studies student Rose Freer-Lancaster. "However, alternative fuels are just one piece in a multi-faceted approach to changing the way we live day-to-day."

In addition to the ecological and social negatives, it is also more expensive to produce biodiesel and therefore more costly for consumers.

At the Gas Up in West Asheville, the B20 blend is currently \$3.67 per gallon and the B50 blend is \$3.93.

The overall cost for the university is more exorbitant, but Koslen is confident the benefits outweigh the negatives.

"We're able to all of a sudden turn operational vehicles into vehicles that meet the goals of the university using biodiesel and other alternative fuels," Koslen said.

Despite the international negatives of biodiesel production, there is a change in the way individuals are approaching their

"Our goal is to displace as much petroleum as possible."

BRIAN WINSLETT
Blue Ridge Biofuels

means for transportation in WNC.

Petroleum-based fuels are no longer the only option for drivers, and the grassroots company, Blue Ridge Biofuels is largely responsible for the change.

The company is an employee-owned business producing and distributing biodiesel for Asheville and Western North Carolina, according to the Blue Ridge Biofuels Web site.

"Our goal is to displace as much petroleum as possible," said Brian Winslett, emphasizing the need for energy efficiency above all else.

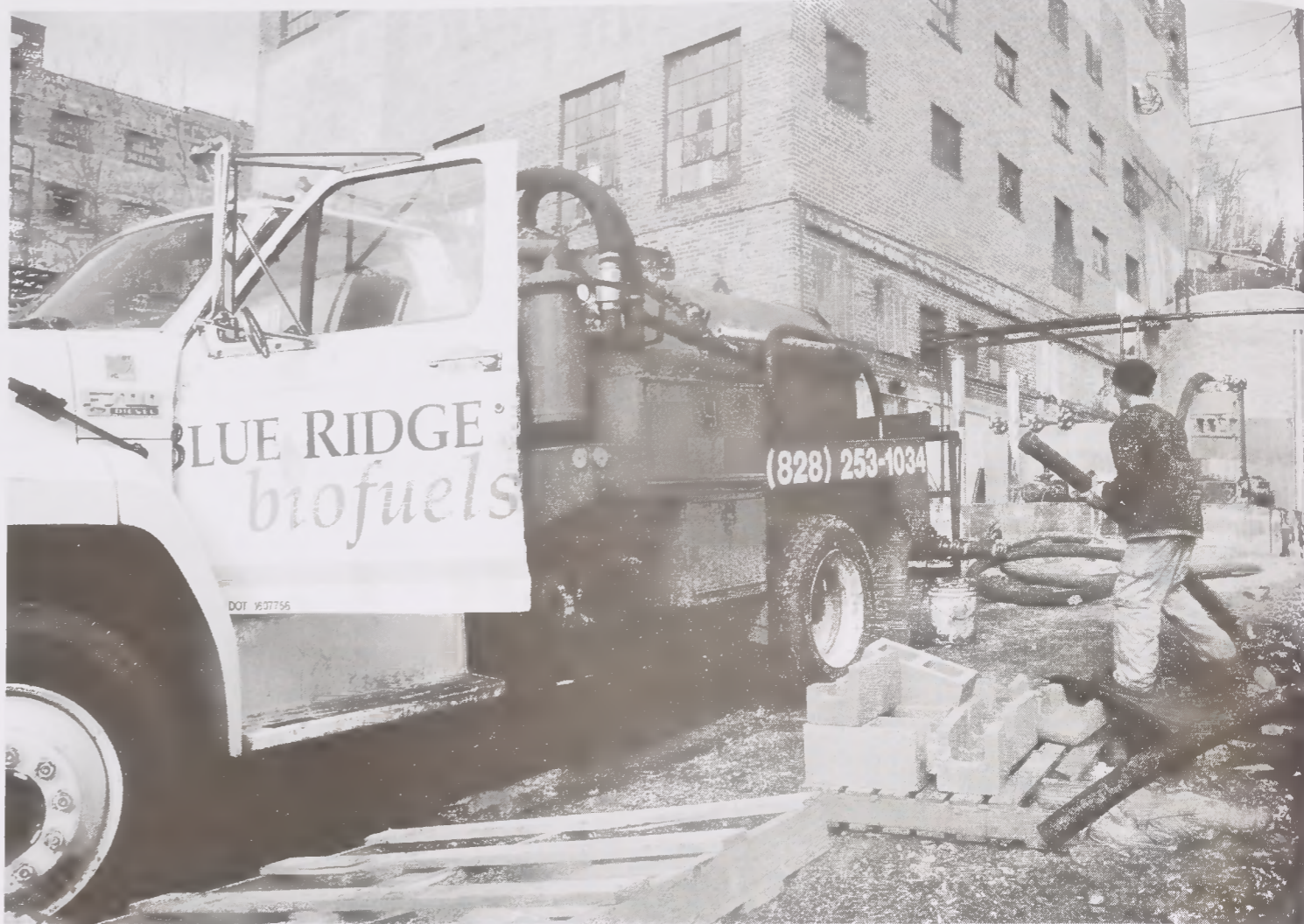
The company is witnessing a growing community embrace and healthy expansion since it first started producing biofuels at its North Asheville facility on Roberts Street in 2005.

There are now eight self-serving biodiesel pumps intended for public use, representing every region of Asheville.

A full list of biodiesel pumps can be found on the Blue Ridge Biofuels' Web site.

Bruce Hauman, a 38-year-old biodiesel user originally from Connecticut, puts Blue Ridge's alternative fuel in his diesel Mercedes 300B.

He says he made the switch two years ago and is happy to support a homegrown local enterprise.



TREY BOUVIER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Co-owner and Asheville native Micah Nerenberg fuels up his rig. Blue Ridge Biofuels, founded in 2005, is the sole supplier of biodiesel in Western North Carolina.

"It's great because I can buy fuel from my friends, people I know and trust and care about," Hauman said.

Hauman also supports the growing popularity of biofuel production because of the stark contrast with petroleum fuel

production. "The motivations for producing and buying biofuels are very transparent," he said, referencing

the highly publicized corrupt practices of big oil companies.

Health

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be very frustrating to deal with."

Like UNCA officials involved in the choice to implement mandatory health insurance, Simpson said the choice to implement mandatory insurance was made to keep students at WCU healthy and in school.

There have also been no problems with students not being able to afford the health insurance, according to Simpson.

"Let's face it, if you don't have any type of health insurance, you are more reluctant to 'dodge the doctor,' in return, putting yourself and others around you in jeopardy of catching an illness."

On a college campus that can be very dangerous," Simpson said.

WCU is just one of the many examples of a North Carolina college that requires mandatory health insurance, according to Bill Haggard, vice chancellor of Student Affairs at UNC Asheville.

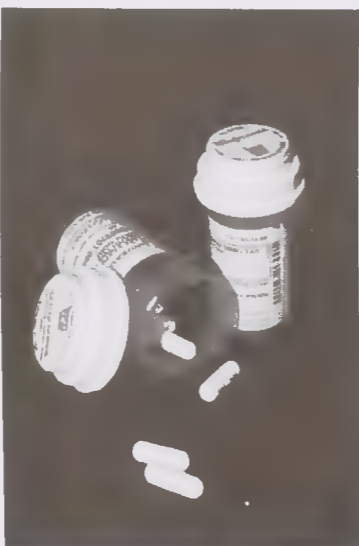
"All the health directors at the 16 state institutions in the UNC system agreed four to five years ago that this was a good direction to move in," Haggard said. "There are 10 UNC institutions that currently have a mandatory or hard-waiver health insurance policy, and three more plan to begin it in fall 2008."

Locally, Warren Wilson College is also considering a mandatory health insurance plan, according to Karen Weinberg, family nurse practitioner at Warren Wilson. Warren Wilson, a private school in Swannanoa, charges \$29,782 for tuition and room and board.

"At this point, health insurance is not mandatory, but it may be in the near future," Weinberg said. "Warren Wilson administration is still discussing it, but the trend in North Carolina private colleges is to start making it mandatory."

UNC Chapel Hill is another college currently discussing mandatory health insurance for students, according to Dr. Mary Covington, assistant vice chancellor for Campus Health Services at UNC.

"While voluntary health insurance has been the standard, more and more universities and university systems have been making having health insurance required or mandatory," Covington said. "It is my personal opinion that health insurance should



CLINT LATHINGHOUSE - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Under the new mandatory health insurance plan, prescriptions from health services are covered 100 percent.

be mandatory, and I think the implementation of mandatory health insurance is a complicated one and should involve discussions with parents, students, health center staff and administrators."

Miya Shitama, a freshman student at UNC Chapel Hill, said she thinks the growing trend for colleges to provide health insurance to students is a good idea.

However, she is undecided whether or not it should be mandatory.

"While I agree that getting college students insured is important, I think we have to seriously think about if this is a personal choice that should be left to students and their families to make," Shitama said. "If it were made to be a mandatory requirement, I would be afraid that the burden would fall on those students who can't afford the insurance and just want an education."

Mandatory health insurance goes into effect in the fall of 2008.

For The Blue Banner's opinion on mandatory health insurance, see our editorial on page 11.

Western Carolina University Health Insurance Policies

-Provided by Pearce & Pearce, a private health insurance company founded in 1947.

-Health care at the student health service center is free.

-Emergency room visits have a \$150 copay.

-The maximum benefit for injury or sickness is \$30,000.

-Visits to the doctor have a \$10 per visit copay.

-Surgery, ambulance rides and dental visits are covered within the network 80 percent.

-Out of network visits are covered 60 percent.

-Assistant surgeon and anesthesiologist visits are covered 25 percent.

-To receive benefits, covered students must first visit student health services for treatment or referral.

-Inpatient and outpatient options are available.

-All prescriptions available on campus have no copay.

Bikes

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JESSICA BLYTHE - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Campus police encourage students with bikes to purchase locks and register them with the university.

Bike thefts rose as last semester drew to close

Students should stay informed of the best ways to protect their belongings, Green said. A stronger bike lock, called a U-bolt, is sturdier than the standard lock and-chain system.

"If I would have known that, I would have thought nothing of going out to make a small purchase on a different kind of lock for better security," Green said.

Campus police encourage students to record the serial numbers for all of their valuables and register bikes, Bayne said. Without the serial number, recovering lost items becomes significantly more difficult.

"Be responsible for your items," Bayne said. "If you take the time to take your iPod and write down the serial number, keep a list separate of all the items you bring to campus with serial numbers."

Having the serial number for an item helps campus police and multiple police agencies in the area locate stolen property, according to Bayne. If any other agency recovers an item which has a serial number matching an item in the database, they notify campus police of that recovery.

Many thefts that occur on campus are crimes of opportunity, according to Steve Lewis, the

UNC Asheville chief of police. Securing property is imperative in maintaining a safe living and learning environment.

"Know where you parked your bike," Bayne said. "Park it safely. Put the chains around it because I've noticed some of the bikes don't have chains."

Students should lock their dorm rooms to help prevent theft as well, according to Bayne. Leaving the room, even if just for a moment, invites anyone to take anything from the common areas.

"I want everyone to feel safe in their environment, but even at home we lock our doors," Bayne said.

If campus police recover an item, they match serial numbers or any identifying detail such as color to the initial police report and return the property to the student, Bayne said.

In a continuing effort to increase campus safety, campus police recently purchased radios operating on the Asheville Police Department's radio system, Lewis said. Now if an issue on campus arises in which Asheville Police could be of assistance, officers can contact each other directly rather than through multiple dispatchers.

Only some of the operating channels will connect directly

to the Asheville Police, while the others operate solely among campus police, Lewis said.

"This will save valuable time and possible lives in the event UNCA police need immediate assistance or immediate aid, by eliminating the need to relay information by radio to the dispatch office and the dispatch office making phone calls to request assistance," said Daryl Fisher, police captain and support services division commander at the Asheville Police Department. "Phone calls and response times related with that could take five minutes or more. In an emergency, five minutes could seem like an eternity. Immediate communication allows for immediate response."

Theft remains a small issue at UNCA, Bayne said. The student reporting system works well to prevent crime on campus. To improve upon this system, Bayne encourages campus police and students to build a relationship.

"The officers need to get out and just talk to the people more," Bayne said. "That's the only way to start, is to build a communication link."

Appearing more approachable to students would improve the image of Campus Police, Green said.