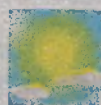
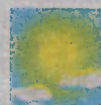


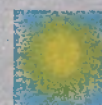
THURSDAY
45
30



FRIDAY
52
30



SATURDAY
55
35



SUNDAY
58
33

Student body re-examines insurance

By Cassady Sharp
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
CBSHARP@UNCA.EDU

Full-time UNC Asheville students can no longer count themselves as members of the swelling uninsured club, whose enrollment recently reached 47 million Americans.

"One of the biggest growing populations of uninsured Americans are the college-age population. The health insurance requirement is part of a national trend providing college students with affordable health insurance," said Jay Cutspec, UNCA's director of Student Health and Counseling Center.

Nearly 30 percent of 18-to-24-year-olds remain uninsured, according to a 2007 Census Bureau report.

Beginning last fall, UNCA required full-time students to purchase the university health insurance if they were not already covered. The university's provider, Pearce and Pearce, specializes in student insurance.

"Pearce and Pearce was chosen by the UNC system as a whole a few years ago," Cutspec said. "Chapel Hill and NC State are the only two that do not use it."

The annual charge for the school's insurance is \$612, which financial aid can cover.

"You're looking at a \$1,100 annual insurance plan if you opt out for something like Blue Cross," Cutspec said. "25 percent of our students were uninsured, and most of them purchased the Pearce and Pearce plan."

Hannah Drum, 19, just enrolled in the student insurance because her state insurance expired when she turned 18.

"I am here to find out if they will cover my eye doctor bill and going to the dentist," said the Maiden native, while waiting in the Student Health Services Center in Weizenblatt Hall.

Pearce and Pearce covers outside medical treatment, but only if student health services issues a referral. The plan does not cover treatment such as regular check-ups, eye examinations or regular dental care. The insurance plan will cover treatment for injury to natural teeth.

"Pearce and Pearce does not cover routine

health care. There has to be a problem," said a customer service representative for the AIG subsidiary.

Nearly 25 percent of the full-time UNCA population enrolled in the student health insurance last fall.

Only 9 percent enrolled for the spring semester, but this decrease is most likely because students have not renewed their coverage online. Online renewal at Pearce and Pearce's Web site is required for covered care for the spring semester.

"I can't afford health insurance at all, not even the school's insurance," said Rachel Lawless, a biology major. "I am going to school part time and working until I can afford it."

Nearly 2,000 full-time students waived the school's insurance for their own plan.

Many of these plans are part of a family plan which expire when the students graduate.

"My parents wanted to make sure my insurance would last long enough if I took a semester off to do the Appalachian Trail," said Megan Chalk, an art and education major. "The insurance under my parent's plan

SEE Insurance PAGE 5

Pro-anorexia group forms on Facebook

By Rhys Baker
STAFF WRITER
RDBAKER@UNCA.EDU

A pro-anorexia group on Facebook sparks a debate of free-speech, sensitivity and safety.

The mission statement of the group is: "motivate friends to refuse food immediately!"

The group's membership climbed to nearly 500 while a group called Facebook to Remove Pro Anorexia and Bulimia Groups enrolls more than 4,000 members.

According to Dr. Amy Lanou of the Health and Wellness Department, anorexia is a mental illness characterized by rapid weight loss, inability to retain weight and a distorted body image.

Often fatal and hard to diagnose, the illness afflicts many high-risk groups including youth, domestic abuse victims, homosexual men, heterosexual women and those whose careers require a specific body type, she said.

"I definitely had to change my eating habits," said Ian Shannon, UNC Asheville junior and 2006 N.C. wrestling champion, about the weight control practices of his high school wrestling team. "There's a lot of pressure to be at the right weight."

Wrestlers are susceptible to eating disorders because of the strict diets that they undertake, according to Shannon.

"Preparing for the wrestling season is tough," Shannon said. "I generally weighed 15 pounds less in season."

The pro-anorexia side argued that freedom of speech grants them the right to promote the disease.

"I have seen pro-anorexia Web sites before," Lanou said. "There are anorexic support groups that help people perpetuate self-destructive behavior."

They also argue that those who oppose the group should ignore it since

SEE Anorexia PAGE 5

