

Insurance rates announced

by Vernon Loeb
Staff Writer

North Carolina became the first state in the nation to take the insurance burden off male drivers under 25 years of age.

Before, males under 25 paid a base rate, excluding additional surcharges for driving violations, of approximately \$250 a year for auto insurance while all other drivers paid approximately \$75.

Under the new system, base rates for auto insurance will be based solely upon the way an individual uses his motor vehicle.

For example, the base insurance rate for an automobile to be used for pleasure by either male or female, young or old, will be \$70.24.

Other base rate categories defined by Ingram are: driving to work—\$77.08 (large cities) and \$70.24 (small cities); farm use—\$53.00; business use—\$106.00.

The new insurance plan has also changed the surcharges for driving violations in two ways. First, age and sex have no bearing on the additional charges levied against traffic violators, and second, the insurance companies will use the same driving violation point system used by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The new insurance plan also uses a system of progressive driving violation surcharges

intended to place a greater burden on the habitual traffic offender.

Under the old system, for example, all drivers except males under 25 were charged \$164 in violation surcharges for a drunken driving conviction. Now, the charge will be a unilateral \$320 in surcharges for that same conviction. In the past, males under 25 paid a surcharge of \$592 for a drunken driving conviction.

As of Sept. 3, a male under 25 with two points against his record will have to pay \$80.24 annually for auto insurance. Had he incurred two points for driving 40 miles per hour in a 35 m.p.h. zone before, he would have had to pay \$292 annually.

In a statement issued Tuesday, Ingram called the new insurance plan "the culmination of a long and difficult fight against tremendous odds. It highlights a victory by the people for the people. It signals a new era of fairness and equality in automobile insurance in North Carolina—and, indeed, in the nation."

Many political analysts saw the elimination of age and sex as factors in setting auto insurance rates as the major accomplishment of the 1975 General Assembly.

No energy shortage for UNC

Engineer: Alternatives found for natural gas

by Tim Pittman
Staff Writer

North Carolina faces major cutbacks in its natural gas supply this summer, but due to alternative energy supplies UNC will not feel the fuel crunch.

"As far as this university is concerned, there is no energy shortage," E.W. McKnight, chief engineer of the University power plant said. Coal and no. 6 fuel oil will be used during the winter to offset curtailed supplies of natural gas.

"Natural gas is a convenience for us when we can get it, not a necessity," he said.

But according to Jack Knox, consumer affairs director for the Public Service Co. of North Carolina, the statewide supply of natural gas will be curtailed 60 per cent. Transcontinental Pipeline Co. (Transco), the only supplier of natural gas to North Carolina, has not been able to meet its distribution contracts, Knox explained.

"The natural gas supply for this state has gotten increasingly worse since 1971," Knox said. "And I don't expect any improvements

this year."

Knox explained that the Public Service Co., which supplies UNC with natural gas from Transco, uses a priority system established by Transco. Residential homes and most commercial businesses are given high priority ratings, meaning their natural gas usage will be the last to be cut off. Knox predicted that home and store owners will not suffer any major natural gas cutbacks.

Industrial usage of natural gas, however, receives a low priority rating, and most North Carolina industries will receive little or no natural gas for the coming winter. The severe reduction of natural gas during the winter will force many industries to find alternative energy supplies.

But UNC, with over a million gallons of fuel oil and 10,000 tons of coal, is prepared for the winter.

"We are set up to burn coal and fuel oil during the winter, so a natural gas shortage will not hurt us badly," McKnight said. He added that coal miners are eager to sell their supplies of coal.

Campus dorms and most buildings are

steam heated, McKnight said, adding that only the University laundry will feel the natural gas crunch. According to McKnight, the laundry service uses some natural gas driers which are faster than steam driers.

"Last year our natural gas supplier came in here and cut off and locked the natural gas pipes running into the laundry," McKnight said. He added, however, that steam-powered driers continued to do the work during the winter.

McKnight said that since the last fiscal year, during which the University spent \$2,418,839 on energy supplies, fuel costs have risen consistently.

Natural gas cost 76 cents per thousand cubic feet in June, 1974; the following June the price rose to \$1.08. Similarly, the costs of coal and fuel oil have risen. Coal was \$30 per ton in June, 1974, and no. 6 fuel oil was 18 cents per gallon. By June, 1975 coal had risen to \$46 a ton and fuel oil to 31 cents per gallon.

But McKnight said that the high prices would not change the University's ability to procure coal and fuel oil.

Professors object to transcriber service

by Chris Fuller
Staff Writer

Several UNC professors recently have objected to students' subscribing to Triangle Transcribers Verbatim Lecture service, which provided students with class lecture transcripts.

The company advertised in the Aug. 25 issue of the *Daily Tar Heel* "verbatim transcripts of all lectures from every class meeting, for each course offered," for \$15 a course.

Several weeks ago a member of Triangle Transcribers sought official authorization from the administration, according to a memo sent to department heads by Chancellor N. Ferebee Taylor. However, the Chancellor's Administrative Council has decided not to grant authorization.

Crawford Gilligan, vice president of the service, declined comment on the council's decision.

At least one instructor of the advertised courses is not going to allow a tape recorder in his classroom, and a second is advising students against purchasing the transcript.

History professor Stephen B. Baxter said he was not aware of the plan to record and transcribe until he read the advertisement in the *Daily Tar Heel*. He said he does not like the idea of transcribing courses and is not going to allow a tape recorder in his class.

Baxter said it has been his experience that students get more out of a class when they

take their own notes, therefore the transcripts are not useful to learning.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Ross L. Purdy disagreed. Many students cannot take good notes. If the transcripts help them learn the information, then he is in favor of them, he said.

Purdy said his task is not to insure attendance, but to make sure the student learns a certain amount of material. He said it does not matter to him how a student learns the material as long as it is done honestly.

Art professor John M. Schnorrenberg said he will grant permission for his lectures to be taped because he said he is a believer in open classrooms. But he said he will advise his students against purchasing the transcripts.

Schnorrenberg listed four reasons against buying the transcripts. First, he said re-reading a lecture one has already attended is a slow and inefficient method of studying.

Secondly, reading a lecture instead of attending it prevents the clear understanding of certain visual aids referred to in the lecture, Schnorrenberg said.

Also, "an accurate and full transcript of a tape—as Watergate has shown us—is not easy to make," he said. He said some words and phrases may be difficult to hear clearly on tape.

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