

Blue Cross Mulls Job Eliminations

Blue Cross & Blue Shield is considering eliminating 150 positions in an effort to reduce operating costs.

By ANGELA LEA
Staff Writer

In an effort to cut administrative costs, Orange County's largest private employer is considering eliminating 150 job positions.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina, a health insurance company based in Chapel Hill, is in the process of implementing policies to reduce its overhead, said Lynne Garrison, public relations director.

Although the insurer earned a profit in 1997, the company suffered operating losses of \$62 million, Garrison said.

The losses were mostly due to rising technical costs, ongoing investments in technology and improvements in customer service, she said.

In light of these new financial challenges, special teams were formed within the company last January to assess operations, Garrison said.

Blue Cross & Blue Cross also contracted with Ernst and Young, an independent consulting firm that helped with assessment process. The company is ready to begin implementing some of the recommendations which have been made during the past several months, Garrison said.

"Our administrative overhead had gotten fat," she said. "And now we're looking to go on a slow, steady diet, but not a crash diet."

Although this "diet" will almost definitely cost some employees their jobs, other positions that might be cut are currently vacant, Garrison said.

She also said some positions would likely be eliminated through normal attrition - resignations and retirements - that all companies experience.

But those who lose their jobs during the changes at the company will immediately be placed in a transition pool, Garrison said.

They will be assisted in transferring to other jobs within the company or securing positions outside of Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Garrison said.

In addition to lowering overhead through possible position cuts, the insurer will aim to cut its medical costs by collaborating with doctors, hospitals and others within the healthcare system to hold down price increases, she said.

Company executives hope these changes will cut operating losses by half, Garrison said. The new practices will be implemented systematically during the next few months.

Although these structural reforms might make a big difference for the company, Chapel Hill officials said the process would not seriously impact Chapel Hill and the surrounding area.

"When we have an unemployment rate of less than 2 percent, you know those people are going to be able to find jobs," Chapel Hill Town Council member Pat Evans said.

Council member Joe Capowski said layoffs were not desirable, but town residents and officials must try to view the situation from the perspective of companies like Blue Cross & Blue Shield.

"We're never happy when a company eliminates jobs, but we also understand that we're the town, not the company, and we don't control private business," he said.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

"Our administrative overhead had gotten fat. And now we're looking to go on a slow, steady diet, but not a crash diet."

LYNNE GARRISON
Blue Cross Public Relations Director

Low Demand Limits Dining Hall Hours

Carolina Dining Services officials say some venues close between meal times because of costs.

By CAROL ADAMSON
Staff Writer

Eat, drink and be merry - but not on campus between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sunday mornings.

Director of Auxiliary Services Rut Tufts said many Mainstreet Lenoir venues were closed during these in-between-meal times because it was too expensive to keep them open without customers.

"When there's not a lot of demand for food at a certain time, we'd end up wasting food, and we'd have higher labor cost," Tufts said.

Jim Glinos, a manager at Lenoir, said Carolina Dining Services used off-hours to prepare for the lunch and dinner rush.

"We do a tremendous amount of business - I'm going to guess about 2,500 students at lunchtime, and it takes a tremendous amount of work to restock."

CDS Director Scott Meyers said

CDS studied past eating times of students to determine when Lenoir should stay open.

"Basically, we try to look at past patterns of what people eat," Meyers said. "The card office supplies us with customer count information and so we're able to see what time we're busiest."

However, there are times when Lenoir remained open despite lagging sales, Meyers said.

"Actually there are some hours that we're open that really aren't profitable, but stay open to service students - like Union Station at one in the morning," he said.

Glinos said closing Lenoir for two hours gave employees time to eat and discuss staff issues.

"Usually at this time, our associates will take their lunch breaks. They clean up, (and) they have meetings," Glinos said.

Tufts said the decision of which venues to keep open depended on the most economically feasible option.

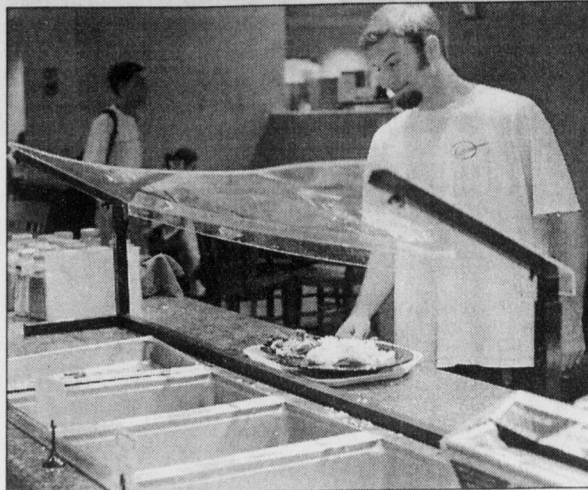
"What we know is that a lot of people eat on the weekends, and so it is a question of which areas to keep open from a cost-effective standpoint."

But some students said food hours remained inconvenient.

Chris Allen, a senior from

"When there's not ... demand for food at a certain time, we'd end up wasting food, and we'd have higher labor cost."

RUT TUFTS
Director of Auxiliary Services



Austin Hollar, a freshman biology major, waits Monday in Lenoir Dining Hall. Food availability is a problem for students eating during off-hours.

Youngsville, said he has had trouble finding food after working late hours.

"All they had left to choose from was one cold pizza," Allen said. "So, that was my lunch - one cold pizza."

Namita Shah, a sophomore from Charlotte, said a lack of late-night options left her with hungry evenings after meetings.

"It's a dining hall for students, but it doesn't have the hours that students

have."

Meyers said that CDS would continue to arrange scheduling to better meet student needs.

"There's nothing set in stone that says we have to be open at certain hours," Meyers said. "You'll notice we'll change a lot of things throughout the year."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

AmeriCorps Grant to Help Students Pay for School

By JESSICA McNALLY
Staff Writer

A \$280,000 grant donated to local branches of Habitat for Humanity will help some people pay for their college educations.

The grant will be used to pay AmeriCorps members who need to repay student loans or who finance college in return for their work with Habitat.

"The grant was desperately needed," said Bob Calhoun, executive director of

the Durham branch of Habitat.

AmeriCorps, now in its fourth year, solicits funds from national organizations to sponsor workers who provide services from child immunization to public safety education.

Members are paid \$4,725 a year in return for their efforts.

There are more than 400,000 members working in 600 programs across the country.

The North Carolina Commission on National and Community Service will fund the AmeriCorps grant for the sec-

ond consecutive year.

Calhoun said the grant would be used to hire four AmeriCorps members who would serve to coordinate volunteers, supervise at the work sites and help with processing applications.

This year, 21 AmeriCorps members will be hired to work in 10 different counties in North Carolina, including Orange County.

"It's a great experience," said Webster Grimes, Orange County volunteer coordinator and AmeriCorps member.

"I've met all kinds of people. It's just

such an eclectic mix," she said.

Most AmeriCorps members said the benefits were nice but that they were more motivated by the work they were able to do.

"I'd love to volunteer for the rest of my life," said Sid Pillai, an AmeriCorps member from Long Island, N.Y., now working in Southern Pines.

"It's a very rewarding experience, and I like the work a lot."

The State & National Editors can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

\$3 OFF any single dinner entree
OR **\$2 OFF** any single lunch entree
OR **½ Price** single latte or mocha
WHILE THIS AD EXISTS 12/1/98

The Daily Grind's new off-campus sister
Serving Lunch, Dinner & Brunch.
Shade-grown coffees, fresh seasonal cuisine
in a casual atmosphere.

HUMMINGBIRD
CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR

153 W. FRANKLIN ST./UNIVERSITY SQUARE CHAPEL HILL, NC 919-929-0296
MON 7:30AM-3PM • TUES-SAT 7:30AM-10PM • SUNDAY 10AM-3PM

A Triangle Women's Health Clinic
Low cost termination to 20 weeks of pregnancy.
Call for an appointment Monday - Saturday.

FREE Pregnancy Testing
"Dedicated to the Health Care of Women."
942-0011
www.womanschoice.com
101 Connor Dr., Suite 402
Chapel Hill, NC
across from University Mall

ABORTION TO 20 WEEKS

7 Tans Good for 7 Days
Only **\$7**
942-7177

MUST HAVE COUPON
EXPIRES 10/5/98

Tan Your Hide
New Customers Only
Expires 7 days after purchase

3 Miles from Campus • 15-561 S. & Smith Level Road
HOURS: Mon-Th 11-8, Fri 11-7, Sat 10-4
Extended hours in January

Man Breaks Into Fraternity

Staff Report

Chapel Hill police arrested Reginald Lee Williams of 1126 Old Sawmill Road early Monday morning after he entered Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, police reports state.

Williams was arrested at 2:23 a.m. on Cameron Avenue and charged with one felony count of first degree burglary, reports state.

He was confined in Orange County Jail around 4 a.m. and was held on a \$5,000 secured bond, police reports state.

Williams' trial was held Monday in Orange County Superior Court in Hillsborough, police reports state.

Fraternity member Will Sherlin said one of the members saw a man enter the

house through the side door.

"He just pushed his way in through one of the doors that wasn't completely locked," Sherlin said.

"One of the brothers saw him, he left and got on his bike, and one of the brothers called the cops."

Pi Kappa Alpha has been robbed five times this year, but Sherlin said he did not think Williams was involved in previous burglaries.

Although nothing was stolen Monday, the fraternity lost about \$1,000 worth of prepackaged meat products in a robbery Wednesday and has had its kitchen targeted by robbers several times this year.

As a result of these robberies, Pi Kappa Alpha members have had to pay more for their meals.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday
12:30 p.m. - The Presbyterian Campus Ministry will hold a community lunch forum on a student trip to Haiti in the Breakout Room of Lenoir Dining Hall.
3:15 p.m. - The University Counseling Center in Nash Hall will conduct a career clinic to help students learn the steps to making an informed choice of major and career.
3:30 p.m. - The Center for

Teaching and Learning's Graduate Teaching Consultants will present "General Principles of Assessing Student Learning," a workshop for teaching assistants, in Union 206. To register, call 966-1289.
5 p.m. - The Society of Anthropology Students will hold a meeting in room 313 of the Alumni Building. Elections will be held.
6 p.m. - Students for Choice will hold an informational meeting about reproductive rights issues in North Carolina and the country.

Perry Deane Young will discuss his new book
The Untold Story of Frankie Silver

Wednesday
Sept. 30
2:00pm

The Untold Story of Frankie Silver
Perry Deane Young

Frankie Silver was hanged in 1833 in western North Carolina for killing her husband. She claimed it was in self-defense. Her story became legend. Come hear the truth behind the legend.

Bull's Head Bookshop
UNC Student Stores • 962-5060
bullshead@store.unc.edu

DUKE TEST PREP

GRE • GMAT • LSAT

- > Convenient Weeknight or Weekend Classes
- > Reasonably Priced

Fall Schedule

GRE.....\$360 6 weeks, Sun. or Wed. Evenings, start 9/27 or 9/30
GMAT...\$360 6 weeks, Sat. am or Mon. Evenings, start 10/31 or 11/2
LSAT.....\$295 Thursday Evenings or Saturday Mornings, start 10/31 or 11/5

Call 684-3379
OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

THE GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
in conjunction with
THE ORIENTATION OFFICE
&
UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES
invites you to

"Major In Success"
90 CAREER-BUILDING MINUTES WITH THE DYNAMIC PATRICK COMBS
Thursday, October 1 at 6pm
Murphy Hall, Room 111

Make College Easier!
Improve Your Grades!
Get Real World Advice!
Land A Great Job!

You'll regret missing this program!
Guaranteed this is not a boring lecture.

The first 300 students at the lecture will receive a FREE copy of Patrick's best selling book "Major in Success".

Questions? Call General Alumni Association at 962-3582
University Career Services at 962-6507 or
Orientation Office at 962-8521

Offered in support of the "First Eight Weeks" initiative.
"Major in Success", a part of the VISA Success Tour, is brought to you by MBNA America and the Carolina Alumni VISA Card.