

Health Care Plan Gains Mixed Reactions

By JAMIE DOUGHER
Staff Writer

Graduate students have mixed feelings about the efforts of the Student Health Advisory Board to create a plan that combats health insurance increases.

The advisory board approved a plan April 22 to change the University's health insurance plan that will increase health-care costs by about 8.3 percent, while nationwide costs of health care will increase by an average of 17 percent.

Michael Pook, advisory board member and assistant dean of the graduate school, said members tried to minimize cost increases with the changes. "We're trying to maintain the integrity of the plan while keeping costs from rising and less than the national average," he said.

The BlueCross BlueShield Association raised the rates for UNC's health insurance when it became a for-profit organization this past year — increasing the rate to about 32 percent for the UNC's plan.

The advisory board was able to lower

the increase to 8.3 percent by doubling the co-payment at the Student Health Service Pharmacy to \$20. The board also agreed to decrease the reimbursement rate from 90 percent to 80 percent for in-network services and from 70 percent to 60 percent for out-of-network service. A network is a list of doctors approved by the insurance company for its clients to use.

Pook said that he is not sure what step of approval the plan has reached but that he hopes the plan is on the desk of Sue Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs, who has to approve it next.

Graduate student Marc David said the advisory board did what it could, but the University should contribute more money to fund health insurance.

Bethany Burgon, a law student and a board member, said some students have expressed concern about the rising costs because they are uninformed. "Students don't realize that the most they'll pay is \$20," she said. "You still save a lot more than you would at Eckerd or Kerr Drug."

Burgon also said that when students realize that the increase is less than the nationwide hike, they will understand that

the board acted justly. "Everyone that I've spoken to seems to think positively, and they understand that insurance rates, like postage, are ever-increasing," she said.

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Branson Page said graduate students have not responded negatively because the increase is not drastic. "Honestly, I think that most students don't know what they have or what they've been given."

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

Developments in the War on Terrorism

Turkey Joins Peacekeeping Mission

■ With strong U.S. backing, overwhelmingly Muslim Turkey officially agreed Monday to take command of the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan. The change supports Washington's position that the war against terror is not between Islam and the West.

America Attacks

Flights in Four Cities Detained

■ A jet that took off from Philadelphia headed for Florida was forced to return to the airport because several passengers of Middle Eastern appearance had purchased one-way tickets with cash, passengers said Monday.

Ridge: Alert System Might Be Adjusted

■ Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge said Monday that the color-coded alert system used to keep the nation apprised of the danger of terrorist threats might have to be "tweaked" in the days to come. "There has been some criticism," Ridge said.

Man Charged With Stalking at UNC Pleads Not Guilty

By JOHN FRANK
Assistant University Editor

HILLSBOROUGH — A man charged with assaulting and stalking a woman at UNC pled not guilty to the charges in an Orange County District Court on Monday.

Samuel Ferebee, 62, of 130 E-8 S. Estes Drive, was arrested by University police March 27 and charged with two counts of misdemeanor assault and one count of stalking.

The charges stem from an incident in which Ferebee allegedly put his hands

on a Duke University student's shoulders and back while the student was on UNC's campus. University Police Chief Derek Poarch said the acts constituted simple assault. Poarch said Ferebee then allegedly invited the student to walk down a hallway with him, which resulted in the charge of stalking.

At the hearing today, a Hillsborough judge continued Ferebee's trial for the UNC incident to June 3 because the alleged victim did not appear in court.

Afterward, Ferebee and his attorney Glenn Veit told reporters that Ferebee still should a right to visit campus.

"We are going to vigorously defend these charges that have been filed against him, and he hopes to continue to exercise his constitutional rights to take advantage of the intellectual and cultural experiences that are offered at the University of North Carolina and on other public properties that are also available to anyone who pays taxes and is a citizen and resident of North Carolina, like Mr. Ferebee," Veit said.

Ferebee said the charges against him were just a misunderstanding.

"If anyone has a problem with my immediate presence, my conversation

with them or any action — however unintended it may be — that may cause any one apprehension or discomfort, all they simply have to do is inform me of the problem they have, and I will be more than glad to apologize to them and leave their immediate proximity," Ferebee said.

Veit also contested a notice that the Orange County Sheriff's Department served to Ferebee that banned him from all property owned and leased by Orange County. A sheriff's deputy said that the notice would be posted on all county buildings and that Ferebee will be arrested for trespassing if he violates the order.

Ferebee already had a trespassing order against him at UNC, which prohibited him from attending anything other than public events. The order was amended after the March 27 incident to prevent him from attending all events on campus.

A similar provision allowed Duke police to arrest him when he came on campus April 19. Police charged Ferebee with one count of resist, delay and obstruct of an officer, for which he will appear May 27 in a Durham County court.

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TIME.....10:30am - 3:00pm

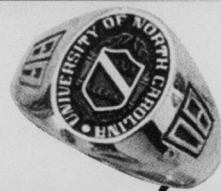
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Congratulations!

DTH's Graduation 2002 issue will feature your graduating seniors as they once were... in DTH racks Thursday.