

The Daily Tar Heel

Once again

Mostly cloudy today with a 50% chance of thunderstorms. High in the mid 80s.

Rock 'n' roll

Nantucket to release new album, *No Direction Home*, this month. Find out more on page 4.

Serving the students and the University community since 1893

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Foreign students in health insurance bind

By DAVID LAMBERTH
Staff Writer

Nicholas Graham, a library science graduate student from England, faces eventual deportation from the United States because of his failure to comply with a University policy.

If he does not buy the health insurance policy required by the University prior to matriculation or receive an exemption, he will not be able to register. He would then lose his status as a student and be required to leave the country in no more than 60 days from the time of his arrival.

According to U.S. Immigration laws, international students must have adequate health insurance, said Jill Bulthuis, director of the UNC International Center. Only in the last three years has the University required that international students buy its recommended health insurance plan, currently Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The one exception to that regulation is given to foreign students who are sponsored by a group such as the Agency for International Development or Rotary International, Bulthuis said. The spon-

soring groups are considered responsible to assure that their students are covered. There are some 375 international students at UNC.

Graham's problems with purchasing the required plan, which costs \$315.60 a year, is that he has already purchased a health insurance policy elsewhere. His coverage, through the leading health insurer in England — the Enleigh Insurance Service of Britain — pays benefits up to 20,000 pounds (approximately \$40,000). Blue Cross/Blue Shield pays up to \$20,000 in benefits. Graham's policy also states that the insurer is not liable to pay any benefits if the insured is doubly insured.

"I'm being asked to pay \$315 for the privilege of more than halving my health insurance," Graham said.

The requirement that foreign students must buy the recommended health insurance plan came as a result of the tragic experiences of some students who did not comprehend the high cost of medical care in this country, Bulthuis said.

"One case representing this was a student who became ill and in the hospital for some time before

ultimately dying," said James Cansler, associate vice chancellor for student affairs. "An enormous medical bill was accrued."

Cansler pointed out another difference in the case of American and international students — most students have the support of their families nearby to meet their immediate needs while international students do not have that support.

Cansler addressed the question of why adequate policies could not be accepted from students. "In a rush of some 200 students, how can the question of what is adequate be addressed?"

"If health insurance is required, the level of coverage becomes substantially important," he said. "The director of the international center does not have time to acquaint herself with all the different companies (that might be represented in the students' policies)." There would be problems getting claims from an agency located in another country, he said.

The UNC Student Health Service's Insurance Board Committee currently is considering requiring mandatory health insurance of all students at the University. Presently students have an option

to buy the University's recommended policy, have their own policy, or have no coverage.

"If this goes into effect, the form it might take is that students would have to take initiative to 'opt out' (of buying the University's recommended plan) instead of signing up for it as it is now," Cansler said.

An expert on health insurance policies would have to be involved in deciding whether students with adequate coverage should be allowed to buy the policy.

That same sort of system could have saved money and hassles for many international students this year, had it been in effect. The University is considering something of this nature for international students next year, Cansler said.

"In the same way that we trust a sponsoring agency about health insurance for their sponsored student, there might be (or ought to be) some agency which does the same for international students," Cansler said. "If such an agency (with a relationship to the University) said they had an

adequate policy, that would be sufficient."

Such an arrangement would alleviate the mandatory requirement to buy the University's recommended plan, yet maintain the desired level of coverage. Cansler noted that Jill Bulthuis was actively exploring that possibility for the next academic year.

The only possible requirement other than specific levels of coverage would be that the foreign insuring company would have to have offices in the United States (so that it would be accessible for court claims), Cansler said.

Janice Lester, a second-year graduate student from South Africa, found herself in the same position as Graham this year at registration. Although her insurance was never questioned a year ago, she was told she could not register until she bought the insurance plan. She was eventually granted an exemption though she is not a sponsored student. Her insurance, a joint policy with her husband through Northwestern University, is held by a United States company.

Step 'up' to college disastrous for some

By LYNN PEITHMAN
Assistant Managing Editor

For many students, the transition from high school to college life is a smooth one. But for others, it is a frightening step down from popularity at a small high school to relative obscurity as one of 22,000 students at UNC.

Most college students go through a period of readjustment and re-evaluation of themselves at the beginning of their college career. Nancy Jones (not her real name), a senior from Rocky Mount, has had a tough time of it.

"I think that happens to a lot of people," said Sherry Stuckey, assistant director of the University Counseling Center's Outreach program at UNC.

No matter how high an achiever a person was in high school, there are going to be a lot of people who turn out to be "mediocre" compared to everyone else, especially when considering the quality of students at UNC, Stuckey said.

"A lot of people go through a period of losing their identity" in college, she said. They do not have the activities they had in high school. "They're stripped of everything that's been a part of their self-image."

"Not everyone graduates sixteenth (of 581) in their class and flunks out," Jones said with a bitter laugh.

In her first semester at UNC, she failed a course. Last year she came close to failing school, with only a year left to start in the Pharmacy School. "After I flunked Chemistry 11, I realized I wasn't invincible," she said. "I had never flunked anything before. I probably could've passed that course. I didn't go to class and I didn't study," she said.

"I guess it really didn't hit me. I never sat down and looked at myself and said, 'What are you doing right? What are you doing wrong? What do you want to change?' I guess I should have."

Jones' self-image was low her freshman year, and she was not doing well academically. "I didn't think it was going to be harder than high school. I was taking accelerated classes. I was real involved in high school and I thought I was going to be involved up here."

What's tough coming from high school to college, she said, is that "you feel like you want to be involved, to be somebody... I went everywhere and met everyone," which was a big step for her since she had been shy in high school.

"It's tough to come up here and be nobody." She was groping for something, she said, and her school work suffered.

A lot of people go from a small town and school to a large school, such as UNC, to be somebody.

"The first very critical time is after they (students) start college," said Kandi Stinson, a graduate student and former instructor of the course Family and Society. "That is something... that is going to cause anxiety, some re-evaluation," she said. "They ask themselves 'do they belong here? Why did they come here?' regardless of where they came from."

Once at college, Jones said, people are "growing up, and making your own decisions and being responsible for yourself. You become a little more responsible. It comes kinda quick."

Another UNC student undergoing such a self-examination is Beth Parolari, a sophomore from Charlotte. She was a music major, wanting to incorporate piano, music and education.

"And I still do in a way. It's a change within me. The grades are fine. I was doing just as well as anybody, but the dedication wasn't there," she said.

Her first semester at UNC, she practiced her music every night until 10, came home, went to bed and rarely went out. "I just wasn't strong enough to handle all that stuff. I went through a period of depression. Now I feel locked in."

But she is going to start over. "I thought the only way to find out if I wanted it was to get away from it. I knew the decision wouldn't come like that," she said, snapping her fingers, "but I knew I had to try it."

Parolari said she feels it is important to get involved in things and "not lock yourself in the practice room. And next semester I'm going to take advantage of things." She was an orientation counselor this year and wants to get involved in other student activities.

Jones has taken some time out to decide if the route she has chosen is really for her. After she flunked out of the Pharmacy School, "I made tentative career decisions." She still wants to be a pharmacist, but she wants to do other things too.

People are important to her. "There are so many opportunities for sitting and talking to people — you can learn so much. Spending time with people and having friends — that's what keeps you sane," she said laughing.

When she came to college, her mother told her: "Now be careful. College isn't hard. It's college life that's hard."

"You do whatever the hell you want," the senior said. "That's an adjustment and that's what's hard."



Day care kids

A study conducted at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center in Chapel Hill shows that children attending day care centers like the one shown here may be more physically assertive than other children. See page 3.

Labor Day auto deaths expected

By TAMMY DAVIS
Staff Writer

The Carolina Motor Club in Charlotte has projected that 18 automobile-related fatalities will occur state-wide over the 78-hour Labor Day weekend.

This figure compares with the fatality rate of 16 persons killed in automobile accidents over the same period last year.

Dr. John Frazier III, president of the Motor Club, said the club predicted the 18 deaths would occur in 14 accidents, while 895 additional people would suffer bodily injuries in a total of 1,480 accidents on North Carolina streets and highways between 6 p.m. Friday and midnight Monday.

"Labor Day weekend ends summer vacation and signals the return of normal routine for families," Frazier said. "This means kids are returning to school and adults are concentrating on getting back to work."

Frazier said that statistically, Labor Day is the third most deadly holiday of the seven during the year. "Thanksgiving and Christmas have consistently averaged higher fatality rates over the last 12 years," he said.

"The purpose in making this prediction is to make people aware of the dangers..."

Dr. John Frazier III
Motor Club President

Frazier said in the past the club predictions have been accurate within one or two deaths.

"Our predictor, Jane Hartsel, has been doing this for years and has been consistently accurate," he said.

Frazier added that if a person is injured in a car accident during the weekend and dies within 30-90 days, the death counts on the Labor Day fatality total.

"The purpose in making this prediction is to make people aware of the dangers this weekend (to motorists). We want to make people more safety conscious," Frazier said.

Lt. Arnold Rector, public information officer for the Traffic Safety Division of the State Highway Patrol, said Labor Day is one of the state's most dangerous driving holidays.

"It's the last long weekend of summer. People will try to stretch more mileage (in a trip) than they should," Rector said.

Rector said he believed there would be a criss-cross of traffic between the beach and the mountains this weekend. Certain highways will be designated as Combine Accident Reduction Effort highways, he said.

"This effort will increase the visibility of troopers to discourage violators. We'll be looking for speeders and drinking drivers," Rector said.

Rector said that drinking is naturally more noticeable on weekends, especially on holiday weekends. Most driving under the influence arrests take place during weekend travel from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening, he said.

"Combined with the extension of travel this weekend, this may result in more traffic accidents," Rector said.

Rector advised motorists to drive within the speed limit, allow proper time for travel, stay alert and drive defensively.

"You have to watch out for the other driver," he warned.

Students confer with town on ordinances

By LYNDIA THOMPSON
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill officials and UNC student representatives met twice last month to discuss a joint effort in enforcing the town's alcohol and noise ordinances.

The meetings, which included Student Body President Mike Vandenberg, Town Relations Committee Chairman Frank Hirsch, Chapel Hill Mayor Joe Nassif, Police Chief Herman Stone and Major Arnold Gold of the Chapel Hill Police Department, brought no official changes. Hirsch called the meetings "an attempt to iron out town policies concerning alcohol and noise ordinances."

"At first we thought it was becoming a dictatorial situation, but that's not the case at all," Hirsch said of the town's recent crackdown on illegal drinking.

"This is not a case of the cops versus the students. There has been a very cooperative atmosphere," he said.

At one of the meetings the police asked for cooperation and the same kind of commitment from the school that was shown last year, Gold said.

Vandenberg said the need to inform students was

stressed at the meetings.

"I intend to help spread the word of the ordinances," he said. "Student Government is trying to serve two roles: First, we want to protect students by providing information on the ordinances. Second, we plan to work with the town council."

Student Government is planning to publish a pamphlet concerning the ordinances for the students.

Along with that information, Hirsch said there will be efforts to inform students about the laws concerning drunk driving.

"Students need to be ready for a crackdown on drunk drivers," Hirsch said. "Police will not have sympathy for these people. They will be prosecuted for .10 (the legal intoxication level)."

In a meeting with Nassif, Vandenberg suggested that it would be in the best interests of the town if the police issued warnings to first-time offenders of the alcohol ordinance. He said he felt this was necessary because enforcement laws change from year to year.

Vandenberg said the mayor responded positively. "As I said earlier, the police will not give warnings," Gold said.

"People who violate the public consumption ordinance will be given a citation — a citation like the one given for running a red light."

Gold said that since Aug. 19, 31 people have received citations for public consumption. Four underage drinkers were also caught, but not charged. A fifth underage drinker was caught with possession of drugs.

"Arrests have decreased," Gold said. "We hope it's because people have decided to comply with the law."

Vandenberg said Nassif expressed his concern with underage drinkers.

Hirsch said the town council was concerned with underage drinkers and with the reputation of Chapel Hill.

"It's great for the University to be called the drinking capital, but they (town council) don't want the town to have that reputation," he said. "I also think it's politically popular to be against it."

"High school students can become anonymous, especially during rush parties at fraternities and sororities. In the past, bars have not been diligent in

carding, and high school students have been able to get in," Hirsch said.

Vandenberg warned that people responsible for dorm parties should be aware of underage high school students. He said campus parties should be regulated, but should not have to card or have undercover police attend.

Hirsch said recent actions with underage drinkers have scared local restaurant and bar owners. "You practically have to have gray hair before they won't card you," he said.

Gold said some bars have called the police when they discovered using a driver's license that has been tampered with or that belongs to someone else.

He said one person has been charged with using a friend's license and the person loaning the license was caught. Another person has been charged with altering the license date.

"Through education and talking with people, we hope to inform them about ordinances. If that doesn't work, the police must use enforcement," Gold said.