GSA to study student health plan

By ROBERT P. KING
Collegian Staff Writer

Skyrocketing costs and a growing deficit have prompted the Graduate Student Association to re-evaluate its graduate student health insurance program, the GSA president said.

Jeff Dooling said GSA asked Director of Personnel Services Jim Wagner to look into various options for altering or replacing the Blue Cross/Blue Shield policy GSA offers to graduate students and their families.

According to an information sheet supplied by GSA, the health care plan provides coverage for health-related expenses such as hospitalization, doctors' fees, office visits and prescription drugs.

GSA Executive Secretary Lauren Miller said the association serves as a liaison between the graduate students and Capitol Blue Cross in Harrisburg. Graduate students apply for the policy at GSA's office in 305 Kern and can obtain their claim forms there.

Dooling said rates for the policy have been going "through the roof" in recent years.

For example, he said the per-semester rate for basic coverage for a single graduate student has risen from about $25 in 1980 to $96.03 this year.

The rate for the same policy for a family is $344.88, with dental and maternity care at additional cost, Dooling said.

Dooling said one reason for the rising rates is that students tend to pick up the coverage when they anticipate major medical expenses. After the expenses are paid they often drop the policy.

This is a particular problem with maternity coverage. Students or their wives have been known to pick up the coverage when they are eight months pregnant, Dooling said.

Such practices have led to a $180,000 deficit for 1983-84, Dooling said.

To correct the problem, GSA is taking measures such as making new policy-holders wait nine months for coverage for prediagnosed conditions, including pregnancy, Dooling said.

Also, GSA is raising the portion of the health cost that must be paid by the patient and is encouraging international students to take advantage of insurance policies created especially for students from foreign countries.

Jim Lynch, senior assistant director of the Office of International Students, said these policies are cheaper and provide much the same coverage as GSA's program.

He said the office merely provides information about the policies, which have been approved by the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs, of which OIS is a member.

Although international students tend to have a greater need for health care because of stress due to changes in climate and diet, their policies are less expensive because the companies are able to treat international students across the country as a group and thus work from a larger base.

Wagner said he was asked by Dooling in August to help GSA work out its health insurance problems.

"The basic question is what kind of a plan do we have, and are we getting a good value for our dollar. My initial reaction is that yes, we are," Wagner said.

> **'The basic question is what kind of a plan do we have, and are we getting a good value for our dollar.'**
>
> —Jim Wagner, director of personnel services

Wagner said the main reason for the rising cost of the plan is inflation.

"Most of us working in health care are set back by the sobering effect of inflation," he said. "I don't believe the health plan has suffered much more of an effect than the national statistics indicate, it's just a fact of life. I wish it were different."

Changes in the plan design may include raising the front-end deductible, the part of the plan that is paid by the patient, Wagner said. This would keep costs of the policy down while providing coverage for catastrophic illnesses.

However, he emphasized he will not be able to make any recommendations until the end of September at the earliest.

"It's just too early to tell what we'll do," Wagner said.

Wagner said he does not anticipate recommending a plan to leave Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

"They've given us a good value for the money. The options we're really looking at are for changing the plan design rather than switching carriers," Wagner said.

Dooling said he is hoping the University will step forward and take control of the insurance program.

"GSA is trying to do a lot of things that might not be our job," Dooling said.

Although the University is helping GSA with its health insurance problems, Dooling said he would like the University to "take some responsibility to take it out of our hands."

Help wanted:

Women's Resource Center seeks volunteer counselors

By TIM EYSTER
Collegian Staff Writer

People interested in helping women cope with traumatic situations may now apply for the fall volunteer training program of the Centre County Women's Resource Center, the outreach coordinator for the center said yesterday.

Teri Locacio said the training will include an orientation to the center and its services and education on issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, women's health issues, legal concerns and minority women's concerns.

The training program meets the standards set by both the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, Locacio said.

Upon successful completion of the program, trainees receive certification as domestic violence/sexual assault volunteer counselors.

Anyone interested may obtain an application at the center, in Room 210 of 111 Sowers St. from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, Locacio said.

Applications are due tomorrow, although the deadline could be extended if the class is not filled by then, she said.

After successfully completing the training program, Locacio said, persons will be able to perform the following services for the center:

- Answer calls on a 24-hour hotline for victims of rape and domestic violence and people involved in other crises.
- Work with an information and referral phone line.
- Work in a library that contains a collection of books that interest women and research files on areas such as aging, child care and sexual assault.
- Work at a shelter where women who have been victims of domestic violence can go for up to 60 days to talk about their situations with counselors and each other.
- Participate as a supervisor in a children's program held at the same time as a women's support meeting once a week. The program consists of children discussing their problems with each other, reading, doing projects and completing exercises that get them to think about themselves as people.
- Do public outreach speaking.

Other services offered by the center are advocacy for victims and a newsletter, Locacio said.

While only women usually volunteer for the program, men may also volunteer if they desire, but they will not be permitted to answer phone calls, she said.

The first training session, which will begin with the orientation to the center and its services, will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Sept. 21, Locacio said.

Volunteers will then learn listening techniques with role playing and group exercises included from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 22 and 23, she said.

The trainees will then meet from 7 to 10 p.m. on five consecutive Tuesday evenings, Locacio said.

After completing the training program and beginning their services to the center, volunteers should get a feeling of satisfaction from helping other women, Locacio said.

> **While only women usually volunteer for the program, men may also volunteer if they desire**
> **— Teri Locacio, outreach coordinator of Women's Resource Center**

The training program could also supplement volunteers' education in areas such as social work, counseling, psychology and individual and family studies, she said.

The volunteer work has also helped volunteers obtain jobs, she added.

Beth Resko, direct services supervisor and volunteer coordinator for the center, said women who have been through traumatic experiences such as sexual assault and domestic violence may benefit from learning to help other women who have been involved in similar situations.

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1. **Relationships** — Learning to handle various difficulties, such as conflicts with peers, intimates, parents or other authorities; break-ups; loneliness, etc. Offered at various times.
2. **Stress Reduction** — Learning to relax and examining beliefs and feelings in order to effectively handle a variety of stressful situations. Tues., 2:30-4:00 P.M., Wed., 3:35-4:45 P.M., Thurs., 2:30-4:00 P.M.
3. **Weight Control Readiness** — Dealing with attitudes, beliefs, and feelings related to being overweight so as to more effectively participate in various weight control programs. Fri., 10:15-11:45 A.M.
4. **Bulimarexia Readiness** — Identifying emotional and personal patterns related to binging and weight reduction as a first step in dealing with these problems. Wed., 3:30-5:00 P.M.
5. **Bulimarexia** — Focusing on problem eating patterns and the personal/emotional concerns that accompany binging and weight reduction. Wed., 7:00-8:30 P.M.
6. **Bulimarexia, Self-control** — Behavioral self-control for dealing with problems of binging and weight reduction. Tues., 2:30-4:00 P.M.
7. **Art of Friendship Building** — Learning to make, deepen, and sustain friendships by examining blocks and learning communication skills. Tues., 2:30-3:45 P.M.
8. **Beating the Clock with Time Management** — Focus on strategies to better planning and managing time pressures, or dealing with procrastination. Tues., 2:30-3:45 P.M.
9. **Perfectionism: Fear of Being Human** — Focus on measuring success and failure realistically and valuing yourself without the pressure to be the Perfect Person. Tues., 2:30-3:45 P.M.
10. **Assertiveness** — Learning to effectively assert personal rights and what you stand for, without harmful aggression. Fri., 10:15-11:45 A.M.
11. **Self-criticism/Self-esteem** — Exploring and modifying the harsh judgments we make toward ourselves; learning self-acceptance. Wed., 3:30-5:00 P.M.
12. **Loss** — Examining and dealing with reactions to personal loss of someone close resulting from death or serious illness. Thurs., 7:00-8:30 P.M.
13. **Graduate Student** — Exploring and dealing with the problems and stresses of graduate student life, such as with relationships and academic progress. Time to be announced.
14. **Substance Abuse** — Learning to control abuse of alcohol and other drugs and to resolve the personal/emotional difficulties that may be related to abuse. Time to be announced.
15. **Personal Problems/Emotional Concerns** — Learning to better deal with anxiety, depression, confusion, anger, frustration, etc., in various aspects of your life. Offered at various times.

For information and help in deciding about participating, call 863-0395 or stop by Monday-Friday, 8:00A.M. - 5:00 P.M. at 217 Ritenour Health Center.

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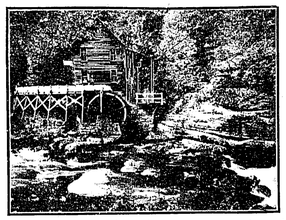

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Film star Reems to take part in debate about pornography

By PAT COLLIER
Collegian Staff Writer

Pornography, a topic quite well known to both of the principals, will be the topic of debate in Colloquy's first presentation the organization's president said.

The University's lecture-sponsoring organization will present a program titled "The Pornography Debate" at 8 tonight in Eisenhower Auditorium, the organization's president Deneen Silviano said.

The program will be presented in the form of a debate between infamous pornographic film star Harry Reems and founder of Women Against Pornography Dolores Alexander. The two have debated before, Silviano said.

Reems, known as the "Porno King," made his film debut as Linda Lovelace's partner in the movie "Deep Throat," Silviano said.

Reems is a professional actor with traditional training and experience who supposedly turned to pornography because he was in need of money, Colloquy member Gene Golbus said.

Reems gained national attention when he was arrested by the FBI for transportation of pornographic material accross state lines, he said.

At that time, many noted celebrities, among them Warren Beatty and Barbra Streisand, came to Reems' defense, and he was later acquitted, Golbus said.

Alexander, who will oppose Reems in tonight's debate, is a noted feminist and chairwoman of the National Organization of Women, Siviano said.

The debate is part of a series of lectures about sexual exploitation, Colloquy's Fall Semester theme, she said.

Silviano said that because of the controversial nature of Harry Reems' past, the organization was at first hesitant about hiring him.

FAO official to speak at seminar

A senior officer with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will speak at an international service programs seminar today.

The seminar, co-sponsored by the College of Human Development's Office of Commonwealth Educational Systems and the Department of Community Studies, will be held from 2:30 to 4 this afternoon in 101 Human Development East.

T.C. Varghese will speak on "FAO Technical Assistance Operations."

Abram Snyder, associate professor in the College of Human Development, said FAO was established because of concern about food and agricultural enterprises, as well as resource management, in underdeveloped countries.

Snyder said the seminar will be an informal discussion to explain the operations of FAO. Anyone interested in the seminar may attend.

The seminar will be the first in a series of eight scheduled international seminars to be sponsored by the College of Human Development to inform students of domestic concerns throughout the world and of career opportunities outside of the United States, Snyder said.

— by Kim Bower

police log

- A female student reported to University Police that she was raped the morning of Aug. 30 in a male residence hall. No further details are available.
- The State College Police Department reported that three stereo components valued at $660 were reported missing Tuesday from Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, 403 Locust Lane.
- Denise Frodeman, 220 Easterly Parkway, reported to State College police that her 10-speed bicycle was missing from her residence Tuesday. The bicycle was valued at $80.
- State College police reported Tuesday night that two cement lawn decorations valued at $100 were missing from 125 S. Patterson St.
- The University Police Services observed a student Tuesday shooting bottle rockets from a window in Packer Hall. The student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct Standards.
- Charles Lone Wolf, 480 Airport Road, told University police that his motorcycle helmet was missing when he checked his motorcycle in Parking Lot Green B Tuesday night. The helmet was valued at $60.
- Joann Toby, 5 Hartranft, reported that a female student was missing Monday night from Cooper Hall and had left a note saying goodbye. University police said the individual later was found on the HUB lawn in an incoherent state. She was escorted to Ritenour Health Center.

—by John Mollo

collegian notes

- The Association of Health Planners and Administrators will meet at 7 tonight in the Living Center of the Human Development Building.
- The Student Assistance and Information Center will sponsor a study skills program at 4 this afternoon in 319 HUB.
- The Penn State Sailing Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 106 Boucke.
- The Hellenic Society will meet at 7 tonight in 111 Kern.
- The History Roundtable will meet at 7:30 tonight in 119 Boucke.
- The Penn State Karate Club will hold a demonstration and class sign-up at 7:30 tonight in 106 White Building.
- The Anthropology Club will meet at 8 tonight in the Anthropology Museum.
- The Penn State Indoor Winter Guard Association will practice at 8 tonight in the lobby of the White Building. Those interested are reminded to bring their equipment.
- The Geoscience Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 341 Deike.

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