

AIDS bill to shift funds to South

Amendments part of reauthorization

BY NICK BUTLER
STAFF WRITER

Pending legislation in Congress might bring new hope to North Carolinians with HIV and AIDS.

Southern states, including North Carolina, will receive more federal funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention if proposed amendments to the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990 are approved.

The act is up for renewal, and the proposed amendments have been approved by committees in the House and Senate.

However there is not yet a specified date for when the bill will reach

the Congress floor for debate. "It certainly is exciting that they're redistributing the funds," said J. Wesley Thompson, a certified physician's assistant at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. "It will allow us to do so much more for the patients."

Thompson is also a spokesman for the Ryan White ACTION Campaign, which has been lobbying for the renewal of the CARE Act.

The UNC Student Global AIDS Campaign also is pushing for renewal of the act. It is hosting an event where supporters can sign a petition and view a documentary on HIV and stigma in Washington, D.C.-based black communities at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Saunders 220.

Supporters of the petition pledge

"There has been an attempt to counter the growing epidemic in the South. ... It needs to be a national issue."

EVELYN FOUST, HIV DIRECTOR FOR N.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

that their vote will hinge on the candidate's support of the act.

With the proposed amendments, the bill will send more money to North Carolina for treatment and prevention of HIV and AIDS.

"North Carolina will see a \$16.7 million increase in funding," said Ashley Hoy, spokeswoman for U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C.

Myrick, a member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, voted for the bill on Wednesday, Hoy said.

She added that the legislation

passed by a wide margin in the committee.

But U.S. Rep. Edolphus Towns, D-N.Y., introduced a resolution expressing concerns that areas with high prevalence of HIV and AIDS, including New York and California, would lose vital funding.

The original law allocated much of the funding to those areas.

In a press release, U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., cosponsor of the Senate bill, stated, "Ryan White CARE Act funding must be distributed more equally among states."

"In North Carolina we have approximately 18,900 residents living with HIV and AIDS. It is time for Ryan White funds to be distributed more evenly so all patients, not just those living in New York, San Francisco and Boston, can receive the care they need."

Evelyn Foust, the HIV and sexually transmitted disease director for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said the reallocation will bring much needed aid to Southern states.

"There has been an attempt to counter the growing epidemic in the South," she said, adding that she hopes leaders will support the bill.

"This can't just be a North Carolina issue. It needs to be a national issue."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

UNC wants more awareness of HIV

Offers free testing and counseling

BY EMILY STEPHENSON
STAFF WRITER

"HIV doesn't have a face."

Sarahmona Przybyla, a counselor at Counseling and Wellness Services, said she wants students to know that the stereotypes about HIV no longer apply.

The virus doesn't affect only urban dwellers, and young people are not immune, said Przybyla, who works with Carolina Health Education Counselors for Sexuality.

The demographics of those affected by HIV are changing, and Przybyla said counselors want students to be aware that they are at risk.

She said that in the state of North Carolina there have been close to 160 cases of college students infected with HIV in the past five years.

Przybyla said counselors are determined to educate students about the risk of HIV on campus and to make it easier for them to be tested for the virus.

To ensure that students have basic knowledge about HIV, its transmission and how to protect themselves, the service provides a three-step testing and counseling session.

Students can make appointments anonymously to receive a free blood test or, for \$22, an oral HIV test.

Przybyla said the next step is acquiring knowledge about what HIV is and how it is transmitted.

The third step is to work with a counselor to create a risk-reduction plan that gives students guidance about how to protect themselves from HIV exposure.

These plans can include the use of condoms or reducing the number of sexual partners.

"The whole point of that is the client-centered counseling model," Przybyla said. "We are helping people to assess their own risk."

Between 600 and 800 students participate in this testing and counseling each year. In an attempt to reach the rest of the UNC community, CHECS counselors hold free HIV testing events three times a year.

These events, held in the Student Recreation Center, offer free oral tests which are open to students, faculty, staff and the community.

"It is a way to go to students and make it easier for them," Przybyla said. "Students said it was important to them."

Students said they appreciate that UNC offers testing and counseling free of charge.

"They provide support and discussion on a very taboo topic," said sophomore Lindsey Dvorak.

In the past as many as 250 people were tested at the outreach events. Some arrived alone, others with friends.

Students can contact Counseling and Wellness Services to set up testing appointments. On Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, an outreach-based testing event will be held in the SRC.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

ON THE FLY



DTH/LAUREN COWART

Sophomores Kaila Ramsey and Kevin Garret play a game of "Frisbee Roulette" between the Undergraduate and Wilson libraries Monday afternoon. The game involved tossing the frisbee toward the ground at an angle toward each other, and sometimes accidentally at unsuspecting passersby. "Grass doesn't bounce," Ramsey said. "(Playing on the walkways) helps you fine-tune your accuracy because you can't miss!"

National and World News

Potential rival to President Hu fired

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Shanghai's top leader was dismissed Monday for alleged corruption, the highest level official to be sacked in more than a decade as President Hu Jintao consolidates his power.

Chen Liangyu was fired as Shanghai's Communist Party secretary, kicked off the party's powerful Politburo and is under investigation by its anti-graft watchdog, the official Xinhua News Agency said. His dismissal "demonstrates the party's determination to fight corruption," Xinhua said.

The move ends a potential challenge to Hu, who has been targeting political opponents through an anti-corruption crackdown in the run-up to a key party congress in 2007. That meeting will reappoint jobs among the political elite.

U.S. airliners lift total ban on liquids

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The government is partially lifting its ban against carrying liquids and gels onto airliners, instituted after a plot to bomb jets flying into the United States was foiled, officials said Monday.

"We now know enough to say that a total ban is no longer needed from a security point of view," said Kip Hawley, head of the Transportation Security Administration, at a news conference at Reagan National Airport.

He said that most liquids and gels that air travelers purchase in secure areas of airports will now be allowed on planes. He called the new procedures a "common sense" approach that would maintain a high level of security at airports but ease conditions for passengers.

Activist slain in Kandahar

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Gunmen on a motorbike Monday killed an Afghan women's rights activist who ran an underground school for girls during the Taliban's rule — the latest victim of increasingly brazen militants targeting government officials and schools.

Safia Ama Jan, a provincial director for Afghanistan's Ministry of Women's Affairs, was slain outside her home in Kandahar as she was on her way to work, said Tawfiq ul-Ulhakim Parant, senior adviser to the women's ministry in Kabul.

Top al-Qaida leader killed

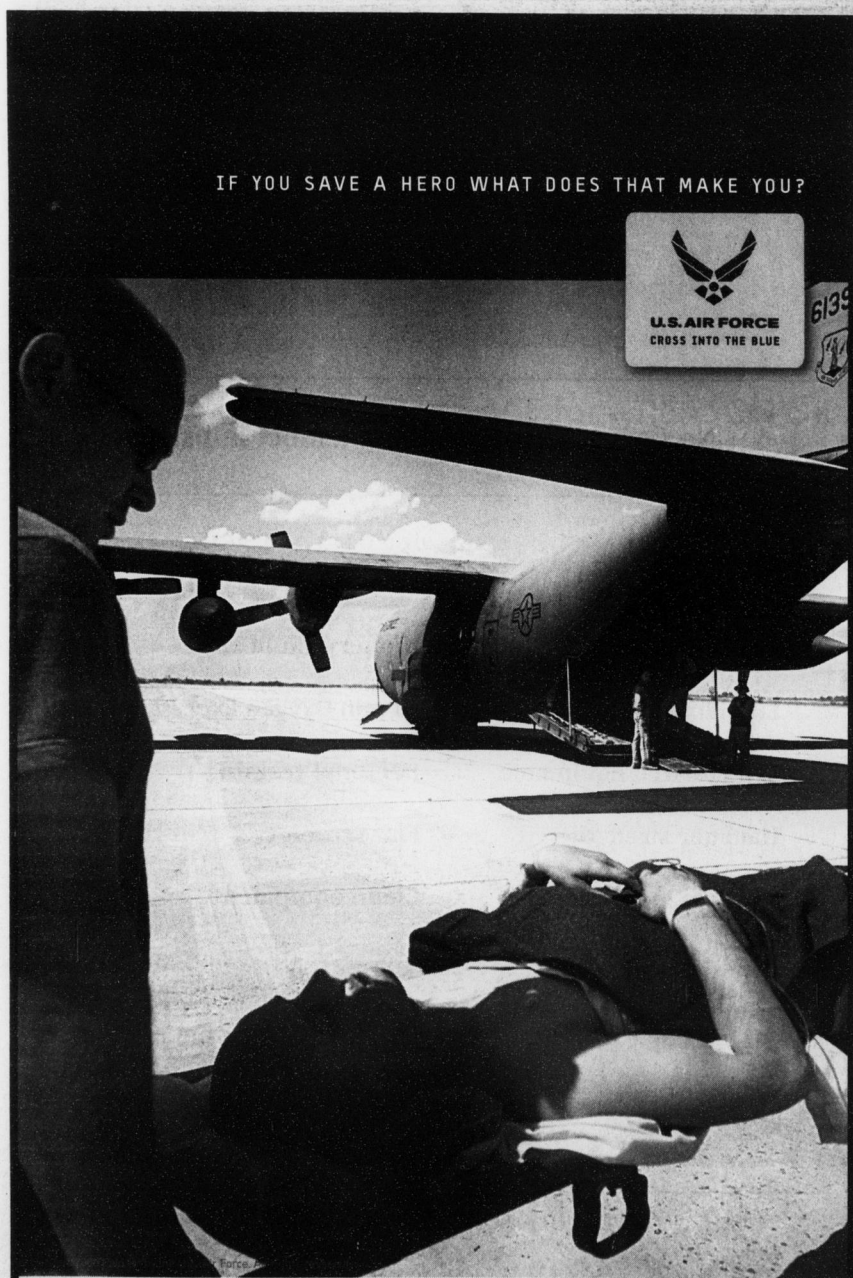
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — British forces shot and killed a leading al-Qaida terrorist Monday more than a year after he embarrassed the U.S. military by making an unprecedented escape from a maximum security military prison in Afghanistan.

Omar al-Farouq was gunned down after he opened fire on British forces during a raid on his home in Basra, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, British forces spokesman Maj. Charlie Burbridge said. Across Iraq, official observances of Ramadan were punctuated with violence.

Division of Iraq delayed

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's feuding ethnic and sectarian groups moved ahead Monday with forming a committee to consider amending the constitution after their leaders agreed to delay any division of the country into autonomous states until 2008.

The deal was a victory for Sunni Arabs, who had been fighting the federalism bill proposed by Shiite cleric Abdel Aziz al-Hakim, the leader of the United Iraqi Alliance. They fear that if not amended, it will splinter the country and deny them a share of Iraq's oil.



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WISDOM TEETH?

UNC School of Dentistry is presently enrolling healthy subjects who:
 • are non-smokers between the ages of 18 and 35
 • have pain and signs of inflammation (pericoronitis) around a lower wisdom tooth (3rd molar)

Participation requires three visits. Benefits for participating include:
 • free initial treatment of painful problem
 • a free dental cleaning
 • up to \$50.00 payment for your time
 • free consult regarding options for 3rd molar treatment

If interested, please contact: Tiffany V. Hambricht, RDH
 Clinical Research Coordinator • Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
 919-216-0493 (pager) • or email Tiffany_Hambricht@dentistry.unc.edu
 all pages/emails will be returned within 24 hours.

It is very important that we collect our data during a painful episode. Please call as soon as you begin to experience symptoms to schedule a screening appointment.

Questions or concerns may also be directed to Dr. Matthew McNutt, DDS at 919-966-4428