

World and Nation

Major earthquakes unlikely in N.C., geologists say

By ERIC LUSK

Geologists say North Carolina is in very little danger of experiencing a catastrophic earthquake such as the one that rocked Northern California last week.

The California quake, which struck at the height of rush-hour traffic, was centered about 10 miles north of Santa Cruz and resulted in scores of deaths, thousands of injuries and billions of dollars in damage.

The quake also caused the postponement of the third game of the World Series in San Francisco until Friday.

"We are in a very stable area," said Jose Rial, UNC professor of geology. "There is very little chance of having a

major earthquake like the one that hit California occur here."

The chances, although very slim, are still not zero, he said. Some quakes have been felt in the western part of the state within the past decade but were too weak to do noticeable damage.

"The most frequent activity is reported in a small pocket south of Asheville and in eastern Tennessee," said UNC geology professor Robert Butler. "Some of the quakes measured close to 5.0 (on the Richter scale), but most aren't even felt."

The Richter scale measures the amount of ground motion caused by an earthquake. Each increment of one whole number, such as going from 5.0 to 6.0, denotes an increase in the energy

of a quake by 10 times.

Butler said people feel earthquakes registering above 3.5 and noticeable damage occurs if the quake exceeds 5.0.

The quake that caused over \$5 billion in damage to Northern California last week measured 7.1 on the Richter scale, an upgrade from the first estimate of around 6.9, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The largest quake to hit the eastern part of the United States occurred in Charleston, S.C., in 1886 and is estimated to have had a magnitude equivalent to around 6.9 on the Richter scale.

Most other notable quakes shaking the eastern U.S. occurred in the 19th century in western North Carolina and

in the New Madrid, Mo., area, Butler said.

"The biggest difference between the East Coast and the West is that California is located on the edge of a giant tectonic plate and we are sitting on the middle of one," said Michael Follo, assistant professor of geology at UNC. "There is much more stress and movement on the edge of these giant plates."

The small activity that occurs in the East is due to ancient faults formed when Europe and Africa pulled away from North America, Follo said. While most of these faults are inactive today, some — such as the one present in New Madrid and one that runs beneath Charleston — are capable of causing some activity.

"North Carolina has hundreds of faults running throughout the state, including one located in Chapel Hill," Follo said. "But just about all, including the one in Chapel Hill, are inactive."

If an earthquake did occur on the East Coast, a larger area would be affected due to the nature of the rock present in the earth's crust, he said. The rock is harder in content and transfers ground tremors farther and more efficiently than the softer rock found in California.

"A greater number of metropolitan cities would be affected by a major quake in the East, and a lot of damage could be anticipated," Follo said. The N.C. Emergency Management

team is ready in case the unexpected quake happens.

"Emergency Management is ready in the event of any type of emergency," said Graham Wilson, director of public affairs for N.C. Crime Control and Public Safety. "Whether it be hurricanes, tornadoes, nuclear emergencies or even earthquakes, our set procedure is the same."

"The state Emergency Response team is activated by Emergency Management and is given full power to call on any source, such as the Highway Patrol or Red Cross, for help," he said. "We then monitor the situation from our nerve center in Raleigh and keep up-to-date with the latest developments."

Flag-burning issue continues as Senate rejects amendment

By EMILIE VAN POUCKE

Conflict between protectors of the American flag and defenders of the Bill of Rights continues since the U.S. Senate defeated a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit flag burning.

"Our position is that basically this is one more attempt of the Republican Party to wrap themselves in the American flag at the expense of the Constitution," said Amy Isaacs, national director of Americans for Democratic Action.

Some amendment supporters contend "What is wrong with letting the people decide whether this nation should protect the honor of the American flag under which so many fought and sacrificed?" Sen. Jesse

Helms, R-N.C., said to Congress.

The pro-amendment group won the majority during last Thursday's vote but lacked the necessary two-thirds of senators present. The count was 51-48 with 33 Republicans and 18 Democrats for the amendment, and 11 Republicans and 37 Democrats against it.

President Bush's call for an amendment began after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Gregory Lee, who was being prosecuted under a Texas flag-burning law. The Supreme Court maintained the law violated Johnson's constitutional right to free speech under the First Amendment.

The Supreme Court equated flag burning with speech because it reflects a political attitude.

"The strip of cloth is not words on paper, it is not words spoken," said

Duke University law professor William Van Alstyne.

The Court ruled a similar verdict in 1969 in the Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent Community School District. Mary Beth Tinker wore a black arm band to school in protest of the Vietnam War. She was told she had to take the arm band off or be expelled from school. The Court ruled in favor of Tinker.

The Senate did pass a statute that amends the Texas law banning flag burning. The new statute focuses on the act of burning, not the place of the burning, the desecration or mutilation of the flag or the expression of political contempt.

"Remarkably, I think that people feel that to tamper with the First Amendment is a drastic thing to do, so they

want to try the statute route," said Richard Richardson, chairman of the UNC political science department.

The proponents of the Texas statute, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., and the Senate Judiciary Committee, have reshaped the amendment so it will be similar to the federal statutes forbidding the burning of draft cards.

The Supreme Court ruled those statutes unconstitutional in United States vs. O'Brien (1968). The Court decided O'Brien interfered with Congress's conduction and regulation of the draft when he burned his card.

"Suppose there is an ordinance that disallows burning in Chapel Hill's city streets," Van Alstyne said. "Because the law does not make references to desecration, the act of burning an object is illegal whether you burn a copy

of the flag, a copy of the Constitution or a copy of the Bible."

The Judiciary Committee's statute will have a better chance of surviving constitutional scrutiny than the Texas law because the Supreme Court is more sensitive to Congress, Richardson said.

"In other instances the court has given signals that it will back away if Congress will give some sort of firm position. The Court rarely declares national acts unconstitutional."

The question of amendment or statute divides legislators supporting limitations on flag burning. One group contends that an amendment weakens the Bill of Rights and infringes the rights of the American people.

"With various constitutional amendments we have strengthened the freedoms and rights of the people in Amer-

ica, but we have never set out to diminish those rights," Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., said to Congress. "Today we are talking about the right to protest — the right to protest against the government."

Another group interprets flag burning as an offense to American democracy, not a protected form of speech.

"Since that dark day (the Supreme Court's ruling) in June, a flood of self-anointed 'legal scholars' and self-proclaimed guardians of the Bill of Rights have praised those five justices for their bewildering 'contribution' to political discourse — precisely what we have come to expect of people locked in ivory towers insulated from reality," Helms said.

Domestic violence centers to receive \$2 million in state funds

By KYLE YORK SPENCER

The N.C. General Assembly will fund North Carolina's 61 domestic violence centers with \$2 million over the next two years, according to a press release from the Legislative Services Office.

The program of "equal grant support," which began in 1987 providing 56 domestic violence centers with equal funding, will provide each center with \$15,000 for the 1989-90 fiscal year.

Because domestic violence centers

have received increased media attention over the past few years, there is a continual increase in the number of women and children who seek help, said Joanna Parker, director of advocacy and community education at the Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women. There is a need to expand services, and in dealing with this increase the General Assembly will allot an additional \$17,500 in grants for the 1990-91 fiscal year.

To receive the grant, centers must meet certain standards, such as provid-

ing a hotline, transportation services and community education programs.

Before 1987 the General Assembly appropriated a lump sum of money for domestic violence centers. The funds went to the Council On The Status Of Women, which was in charge of allocating the money to each center.

The unified approach alleviates dissonance among the centers, and prevents competition for funds, Parker said.

The bill appears to be a response to individual center demands for state financial aid, Parker said. The General Assembly was faced with two other similar bills. One involved the Domestic Violence Shelter and Services of The Cape Fear Area Inc. The shelter requested \$100,000 in state funds. The other involved a Swain County center that requested \$10,000 in aid. Both bills were rejected.

Most state centers receive other financial aid from county governments, other state and federal grants and the United Way, said Jo Sanders, director of the Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Chatham County. In Chatham County the center also receives funding from the school board, fund raising and "offender fees," the cost of an eight-week program for men who beat their wives.

In the past year, North Carolina's centers for domestic violence treated 22,000 patients. Domestic violence includes wife beating and child abuse.

Because North Carolina's domestic violence centers provide most of the same programs, one center can be used as an example of services offered by the state. The Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women has been open for 12 years and offers five component

programs:

- The Advocacy program is run by 50 active volunteers who provide counseling, information and referrals.

- The Community Education Program focuses on public awareness.

- The CHANGE program provides counseling for the abuser.

- The Support Group, which began a year and a half ago, meets weekly to provide "rap sessions" for women suffering with domestic violence.

- The shelter houses up to 20 women and children at a time and provides emergency housing for battered families.

While available programs offer much support for abused women and children, many specialists still feel that services must be expanded and awareness must be increased. In order to fully combat the problem society needs to

change its attitude about household crimes, Parker said. She said that courts were too lenient on household abusers and that they did not treat their offenses as crimes because they intimately know the victim. Courts need to impose higher fines and increase the length of sentences for abusers, she said.

"Violence is sanctioned and glorified. Men feel it's OK to use violence to get what they want."

Renee Stephens, director of the N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, said society sees domestic violence as a race and class problem when it is not. But poorer women who seek help are more likely to seek public help, while wealthier women who seek help tend to have increased resources. They are less likely to seek public assistance, she said.

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Guerrilla violence rocks Colombian towns

From Associated Press reports BOGOTA, Colombia — Leftist guerrillas armed with mortars and automatic weapons stormed two northeastern towns Wednesday in Colombia's worst rebel violence since 1987.

Initial reports from helicopter crews who retrieved the dead indicated five

policemen and one guerrilla were killed and nine policemen wounded, the army reported.

Military spokesmen said the attackers apparently were from the National Liberation Army, a group led by a defrocked Roman Catholic priest who patterns his insurgency on the teach-

ings of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Wednesday's raids apparently were not related to the government war on drug traffickers that began Aug. 19.

The army has claimed for seven years, without proof, that some leftist guerrillas and drug traffickers work in tandem.

It has had difficulty supporting the claim because right-wing death squads financed by the cocaine barons have killed hundreds of the guerrillas' supporters.

More than 700 members of the leftist Patriotic Union party alone have been killed by death squads that began operating six years ago, after guerrillas kidnapped a drug trafficker's sister and a \$10 million ransom was paid.

On Wednesday, about 60 men and women invaded Cachira, a town of 15,000 people 250 miles northeast of Bogota, at 1 a.m. and destroyed the police station with mortar fire, said a statement from divisional army headquarters in Bucaramanga.

Two policemen and a guerrilla were killed and four policemen were wounded during five hours of fighting in Cachira, said the statement broadcast by the Caracol radio network.

Police reinforcements arriving along a dirt road at 6 a.m. were ambushed by

the guerrillas, who killed three more officers and wounded three, the statement said.

Another band of guerrillas tried unsuccessfully to overrun the police station at La Vega, about 15 miles from Cachira, and two policemen were wounded in a seven-hour battle, the army statement reported.

It said the raiders left pamphlets and wall graffiti in both towns indicating they were from the National Liberation Army led by Manuel Perez, the defrocked priest.

His group has become the most active of a half-dozen guerrilla organizations and has blown holes in Colombia's biggest oil pipeline several times.

Perez organized it in 1960 and is believed to have about 2,000 followers. Army reports said his guerrillas dynamited a power line and killed two peasants accused of being informants Tuesday, and shot down a helicopter carrying about \$84,000 to a government-owned farmers' bank Saturday, killing the pilot and a bank employee.

The rebel violence Wednesday was the worst since guerrillas raided an average of one town a week two years ago and more than 50 people were killed in one month.

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