

Cuts in number of housing administrators considered by appropriations subcommittee

The Associated Press
 RALEIGH — An appropriations subcommittee is considering whether the state can save money by cutting out administrators for the migrant housing inspection program or by turning the inspections over to county officials.
 "We're doing 2,000 pre-occupancy inspections a year and 2,000 follow-up inspections and you're suggesting we have no administrative support?" asked Charles Jeffress of the state Department of Labor. "I'm shocked."
 Staff members for the appropriations subcommittee on environment, health and natural resources had indicated the panel might want to consider cutting out all four administrative jobs in the inspections department, moving those duties to other administrators.
 The staff also had indicated the panel could consider cutting one administrator and one clerical worker.
 "I don't know how we could be expected to do 4,000 inspections a year with no administration," Jeffress said later. "I'm hoping this is just something that came from the staff without being run by legislators on the subcommittee."
 Earlier, Rep. Dan Devane, D-Hoke, asked if the state inspections for migrant housing could not be shifted to county health departments, since counties must inspect water and sewer facilities at the

labor camps.
 "We have tried that before, several times," Jeffress said.
 "But the county officials worked hard against it and it failed. The counties don't want it."
 Rep. Vernon James, D-Pasquotank, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, criticized migrant housing officials for describing labor camps where migrants are crowded into crumbling structures without running water or other amenities.
 "There are a lot of people that have grown vegetables in this state, who have used migrant labor for a long time, that have facilities that are comparable to motels," James said. "Some of them are better than some of the motels we have."
 Jeffress conceded there had been a significant improvement over the last 15 years in migrant housing. But he said inspectors still come across inadequate labor camps each year that farmers have attempted to hide.
 And he said the state requirements such as 50 square feet of living space per person — the same amount of minimum space federal officials recommend for prison inmates — are not oppressive.
 "You could own a slum and still meet these requirements," he said.
 In other budget discussions:

■ State Utility Commission member Larry Cobb told the subcommittee on environment, health and natural resources that it appears unlikely natural gas companies will extend lines into eastern North Carolina anytime soon.
 "These expansions are done on an economic feasibility basis," Cobb said. "To be honest, the chances of expansion into eastern North Carolina are not good."
 Cobb said natural gas companies want assurances that enough customers will use their fuel to pay for the cost of extending the lines.
 "It seems to me you cater to already congested areas," said Rep. Vernon James, D-Pasquotank. "You need to spread out."
 "What I want us to do as a state is try to move industry where we don't have it," he said. "Every governor we've had for 25 years has said that's what we're going to do. But we haven't and the people in my area tell me the main reason is that there is no gas line."
 Rep. Bruce Ethridge, D-Carteret, said the state should examine helping to pay the cost of extending a gas line as an inducement to economic expansion and to keep rates down.
 "I don't think it's too much for the state to get involved in something to help economically deprived eastern

North Carolina," he said.
 Rep. Joe Johnson, D-Wake, who serves on a legislative utilities committee, said if the cost of extending a gas pipeline were included in the rates for gas customers, it would make natural gas less competitive with fuel oil, electricity and other fuels used by industry.
 "Supply alone will not solve eastern North Carolina's problems," Johnson said. "The problem is nobody wants to pay to run the line down there."
 ■ Banks Talley, executive director of the North Carolina Symphony, said additional cuts threaten the orchestra's existence.
 The symphony operates on a \$5 million budget, of which \$1.7 million comes from the state and the rest from contributions.
 Talley said salaries already have been trimmed to meet budget cuts of \$700,000.
 "If we reduce (the budget) very much more what we will do is destroy the orchestra as a performing group of people who have worked very closely together," Talley said.
 ■ The state's library program could have to repay money to the federal government because of state budget cuts, State Librarian Howard McGinn told the subcommittee on general government.

Society considers admitting women

The Associated Press
 NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Skull and Bones, the secret society at Yale University that counts President Bush among its members, is considering admitting women after being a bastion of male bonding for 159 years.
 Members of the oldest and most prestigious of Yale's secret societies will get a chance to voice their opinions at meetings around the country before the board of directors votes on the issue in April.
 "As long as the issue remains unresolved, the uncertainty will become increasingly detrimental to our organization," Muhammad A. Saleh, a 1968 Yale graduate, wrote in a letter to Skull and Bones alumni last month.
 Saleh is president of the Russell Trust Association, the name under which Skull and Bones is incorporated.
 Skull and Bones, surrounded by legends of arcane rituals and fanatical secrecy since its founding in 1832, is one of only two secret societies at Yale that have not moved to admit women since the university went co-educational in 1969. The other is Wolf's Head.
 Women have complained that the all-male policy denies them access to the network of "Old Blues" that generations of Yalies have tapped into after graduation. Other Bonesmen in addition to Bush have included columnist William F. Buckley, publisher Henry Luce and former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.
 Sara Romeyn, a Yale senior from Rochester, N.Y., and projects coordinator for the Yale Women's Center, said the societies are less important than when her father and grandfather attended Yale.
 But the fact that clubs like Skull and Bones and Wolf's Head are still

seen as "icons of the Yale experience" sends "a strong message that Yale women are still not 100 percent welcome," Romeyn said.
 The society taps 15 juniors for membership each year. Initiates must take a pledge of secrecy and bare their souls in a rite designed to build lifelong bonds.
 Admitting women could require the society to alter some of its practices. In baring their souls, some Bonesmen discuss sexual experiences, according to accounts of the society's rituals.
 Bonesmen meet in a windowless, mausoleum-like building at the center of the Yale campus. To members of Skull and Bones, the building is known as the Tomb.
 Saleh's letter did not go into detail about the debate over admitting women, noting that the directors did not want to risk "compromising our privacy."
 He wrote only that the society has "an important and pressing issue at this time: the issue of coeducation."
 "There is nothing to be gained by postponing a resolution of the issue, and the issue, we are convinced, will not go away by ignoring it," Saleh said.
 Saleh, a resident of Woodbridge, did not immediately return a call to his home. The letter was obtained from a source other than Saleh.
 Alexander T. Ercklentz of Greenwich, class of 1959 and the association's treasurer, said Wednesday that neither he nor any other officers would comment on anything dealing with Skull and Bones.
 "We don't discuss things in public or in the press. You do your thing, and we do our thing," he said.

Troops' counties declared emergency areas

The Associated Press
 RALEIGH — The four North Carolina counties that are home to the troops deployed in the Persian Gulf were declared economic emergency areas Thursday as Gov. Jim Martin continued seeking federal aid.
 Martin said the loss of 75,000 troops deployed to the Middle East for Operation Desert Storm hit local businesses hard in Craven, Cumberland, Onslow and Wayne counties.
 "Troop deployments to the Middle East and the return of many military families to their native states have dramatically reduced the population and economic activity in these four areas," Martin said at a news conference.
 Bases with troops in the Middle East are Camp Lejeune, Fort Bragg, the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, the New River Air Station and Pope Air Force Base.
 "I urge all banks and businesses in North Carolina to lend a hand to businesses in these four counties that are suffering economic stress as a result of

Operation Desert Storm," Martin said.
 The declaration will encourage banks to help affected businesses by restructuring loans and interest payments, Martin said. Federal funds will have to wait until a bill is worked out.
 "We are working on legislation," he said. "We want to be sure it is designed correctly."
 The governor said he would work with the entire North Carolina congressional delegation to get relief for the troubled areas.
 State government also will look for ways to use state purchasing to help eligible businesses, and officials will continue to work on federal legislation to expand aid, he said.
 Martin repeated his intention to have a "stars and stripes sale" to bring people to the military counties to spur retail businesses. The state also will offer financial counseling to troubled companies.
 Military communities are learning that they need to diversify to weather times of war, and the military itself is coming around to the idea, Martin said.

"Now the military commanders are offering to be a part of these economic development plans," he said.
 State officials were to arrive in Jacksonville later Thursday to visit with local business owners and discuss specific steps the state could take.
 Jeff Downin, executive vice president of the Greater Jacksonville-Onslow Chamber of Commerce, said, "They want to see first hand the impact on the community and gather suggestions on what can be done."
 "They want to discuss specific steps the state could take to address the (economic) problem." The meeting was held

at the Chamber of Commerce.
 Mary Gillenwater, Havelock Chamber of Commerce executive director, said she did not know what impact the declaration would have on Havelock businesses.
 "I don't know if it will help," Gillenwater said. "It's really just to help bankers process loans for people in need. I don't know if it can change things."
 Utley Stallings, co-owner of Stallings Brothers Furniture, said easier loans won't bring the troops home.
 "If the business is not there, surviving is not the answer," he said.

World's oldest woman celebrates 116th year

The Associated Press
 ARLES, France — Jeanne Louise Calment, named by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's oldest person, celebrated her 116th birthday on Thursday, proud that she can still drink and smoke.
 Miss Calment, who knew painter Vincent Van Gogh, inherited the title "oldest living person in the world" on Feb. 14 after the death of 116-year-old Carrie White of Palatka, Fla.
 She became slightly ill with the flu four days ago and celebrated her birthday quietly, mostly in the company of curious journalists, an official at her retirement home said.
 Despite being able to blow out only three of the candles on her birthday cake Thursday, Miss Calment enjoys remarkably good health for her age.
 She is proud of her three remaining vices: smoking one Dunhill cigarette a day while drinking a glass of port wine with it and rapaciously devouring chocolate.
 "I've been very happy with my life,"

she said during an interview last month, as she sipped a glass of champagne for the benefit of a photographer. "I think I'll probably die laughing."
 Born Feb. 21, 1875, Miss Calment rode a bicycle until she was 100, and had a passion for hunting, fencing, tennis and mountain climbing.
 Retirement home officials say her current passion is to follow news about the Persian Gulf War on television and radio.
 Miss Calment said she met Van Gogh at her father's shop in southern France, where the artist used to buy his canvases in the late 1880s.
 "He was hardly a well-recommended man," she said, adding that Van Gogh "frequented bars and prostitutes.... He drank. If he hadn't drunk so much alcohol, maybe he would have gotten farther."
 Miss Calment appeared briefly last year in a film on Van Gogh called "Vincent and Me," during which she shared recollections of the painter.

Editor fired for peace article

The Associated Press
 KUTZTOWN, Pa. — A weekly newspaper editor has been fired over "philosophical differences" that included an editorial headlined "How about a little PEACE!"
 Joseph Reedy wrote the headline for his signed editorial Jan. 24 in The (Kutztown) Patriot. The last word was set in type 2 inches high.
 "I just got tired of seeing the word 'war' enlarged beyond even Attila the Hun's wildest dreams," Reedy said in the editorial.
 "Doesn't 'peace' look better? I thought I'd publicize it, just to give it a chance."
 The editorial also described President Bush as "the world's No. 1 hawk" and asked why American blood is "being spilled for the obscenely rich kings of Kuwait?" The editorial prompted angry and supportive letters from readers and withdrawn advertisements.
 The 4,000-circulation newspaper

founded 116 years ago "appears to be more of a SCUD than a Patriot," a reader wrote.
 In an editorial the next week, the owners said, "We want you, the Patriot readers, to know that the opinions of the editor of this paper expressed in last week's editorial are not the opinions of the publisher (Jacob R. Esser) or the Esser family."
 "It is the opinion of the publisher and owners of the Patriot that the time for debate has passed. The time has come to stand behind those people that we have put into positions of power," it said.
 Reedy, who had been editor five years, was fired from the \$22,000-a-year job Feb. 4.
 The editorial was not the sole reason for Reedy's dismissal, said Steve Esser, president of Kutztown Publishing Co. and son of Jacob Esser. The owners wanted the newspaper to be locally focused and non-political, Esser said.

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Walk from page 3
 Fearington House Book Store, Steve Friedman's Pro Shop, Kappa Delta sorority and Delta Delta Delta sorority.
 The sponsors contribute money to pay for the Walk for Humanity T-shirts. A planning committee also intends to provide free food for participants after the walk.
 "We've changed the route of the walk to take it through Carrboro to make it an awareness walk," co-chairwoman

Ashley Moore said. "A lot of people don't know that Chapel Hill isn't all nice neighborhoods."
 Typically most of the walkers are University students, but people from the community are encouraged to participate, Moore said.
 About 150 walkers participated last year, and the committee would like to have more this year, she said.

Exhibit
 The work displays an actual skull of a cat with a toy soldier in the cat's mouth. The cat is attached to a body bag resting on a Native American burial scaffold. The work contains a great deal of Native American symbolism, Davies said.
 "One of the reasons I react so strongly against the war," he said, "is that we are about to subject another set of young

men to the same horror (as Vietnam)." On the body bag he placed his service ribbon from Vietnam and a small plastic piece with the word "release" that he got from the firing mechanism of a rocket launcher in an attack helicopter.
 The hours of the exhibit will be weekdays 5-10 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 2-10 p.m. Works of art are still to be accepted by the organizing artists.

Statue from page 3
 was completed.
 "The foundation will probably take three or four weeks at most, depending on its sophistication," he said.
 The statues will be displayed in the same configuration at the new site. The present site will probably be converted into a planter, Massey said.
 "Initial drawings for the foundation have been received from the Physical Plant," he said. "If they fit into the context of what we've asked for, the next step will be to get together with

APO from page 3
 the correct number of passengers, they also record the other data correctly, he said.
 Bonk said APO had done the survey for the last six years and had been doing the survey twice a year since 1987-1988.
 "The survey is designed to try and take a snapshot of a service day," he said.
 The survey helps determine the proportion of money UNC, Chapel Hill and Carrboro must pay for the bus service, Bonk said.
 Although the survey was started as a way to determine these costs, it has evolved into a way to determine other valuable information such as peak hours of bus use, he said.
 "It gives us a tremendous amount of raw information that we can use for a variety of purposes. It's a way for us to get the kind of information we need reliably year after year."
 Smith said APO tried to raise \$10,000 to \$20,000 in charity fund-raising projects every year.
 Bruick said the fraternity tried to raise at least \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year to donate to different causes. APO also ushers at basketball and football games and at concerts to raise money, he said.
 Smith said the fraternity divided money among 10 charities last year, but this year decided to narrow its focus to three charities to make more of an impact and be more effective, he said.
 "I think it would just be more of an efficient way to target our efforts."

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