

# Babbitt Focused on Environmental Problems

The Secretary of the Interior visited Duke to discuss the environment.

BY JAY MURRIE  
STAFF WRITER

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt criticized Congressional Republicans for trying to weaken the Endangered Species Act and slash funds from the Environmental Protection Agency.

In a panel discussion at Duke's Comprehensive Cancer Center Wednesday, Babbitt said Congressional Republicans were attacking environmental laws that have protected endangered species and reduced pollution for decades.

"They have set out on a systemic effort to rip apart the environmental laws that have been built over the last two or three decades by Republicans and Democrats alike," Babbitt said after a tour of the Duke University Medical Center's Pediatric

Ward. "Congress has expressed its complete contempt for the environment."

Babbitt visited Duke Medical Center as part of a 23-state tour to raise awareness of dangers facing the environment.

Research conducted at the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center led to the creation of the cancer-fighting drug Taxol, which was developed from extracts of the Pacific Yew, an endangered tree.

Such research emphasizes the importance of the Endangered Species Act, which applies to animals and plants, and other environmental protections, Babbitt said.

"After research like this, we should stand in a hopefully more humble and steward-like attitude towards the land," he said.

The American people are awakening to the dangers currently facing the environment Babbitt said.

"All of the sudden there was this juggernaut pointed across the country, and it really had potential to do quite a bit of damage," he said. "If it takes this kind of conflict with Congress to awaken our community to what is at stake, then we should

take advantage of it. I really think we are going to be able to turn this threat into a powerful new opportunity."

According to Babbitt, recent Congressional proposals included closing national parks, weakening the Clean Water Act and reducing EPA funding by 30 percent.

Babbitt said he believed the environment would be a major issue in the 1996 elections.

"These laws will, and should, be an issue," Babbitt said. "It's a chance to have a serious debate about this whole issue, the progress of man."

When asked if he thought a conflict existed between environmental protections and the creation of jobs, Babbitt said that



Secretary of the Interior BRUCE BABBITT spoke in a panel discussion at Duke University.

during his time as secretary of the interior, he had become convinced the issue was a "red herring" exploited by the Republicans.

"Sure, you can create a few more jobs by cutting down the Southern pines, but what about our kids?" Babbitt said.

Panelist Eve Vitigiano, a member of the Environmental Stewardship Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, echoed Babbitt's opinions.

Vitigiano, who is also a member of Religious Partnerships for the Environment, said people needed to see the environment as an interconnecting network of essential parts.

"All things are connected," she said. "I feel proud to live in a country that has an Endangered Species Act."

Vitigiano said the Endangered Species Act needs to be expanded, instead of restricted as Congressional Republicans are proposing. "The Endangered Species Act is essential," Vitigiano said. "(The environment) needs the creation of similar legislation all over the world."

## IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

### FDA Gives No-Calorie Fat Substitute Thumbs Up

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Americans will soon be eating potato chips made with the first zero-calorie artificial fat.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Procter & Gamble's olestra Wednesday, over the protests of some scientists who called the fake fat dangerous.

The FDA warned consumers that olestra can cause such gastrointestinal side effects as diarrhea and can literally wash out of the body certain nutrients when it is eaten along with that lunchtime bowl of soup or pile of carrot sticks.

But the FDA concluded that while some people will find olestra unpleasant, it is safe for the general population to eat in potato chips and other snack foods — as long as the foods bear a label warning of those side effects.

### Chechen Rebels Free 46 Hostages; 14 Still Captive

MOSCOW — Dozens of hostages seized by Chechen rebels in a raid outside their separatist republic this month were released Wednesday in an exchange clouded by new clashes between rebels and Russian troops.

The Chechens continued to hold 14 Russian policemen taken after the Jan. 9 raid in neighboring Dagestan that touched off a bloody siege and escalated the 13-month-old war.

Television footage showed the 46 hostages filing onto a bus in the Chechen village of Novogroznsky after talks between rebel leaders in camouflage fatigues and impassioned Dagestani elders in tall

sheepskin hats.

Two hours later, when the police convoy escorting the 40 men and six women arrived at its final destination of Khasav'yurt, Dagestan, the freed hostages were greeted by relatives with shouts, smiles and hugs.

The release, originally planned for the previous day, came after Russian authorities turned over the bodies of 42 Chechen fighters killed in the previous week's fighting, the Interfax news agency reported.

### O.J. Simpson Speaks Out On Black Cable Network

LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson agreed to a live, one-hour interview Wednesday night on cable's Black Entertainment Television in what the channel promised would be a no-holds-barred session, with no topic off limits.

Simpson, acquitted Oct. 3 in the slayings of ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, has spent much of the week in the offices of a Goldman family lawyer answering questions about the murder case under oath.

The victims' families have filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Simpson. Simpson's answers in the BET interview will be closely watched by attorneys in the civil case for any departures from his sworn testimony.

### Suspect's Accomplice Testifies in Jordan Trial

LUMBERTON — Daniel Green's former co-defendant in the slaying of Michael Jordan's father testified Wednesday that his childhood friend taught him how to rob people "without getting caught."

Larry Martin Demery, who pleaded guilty to murder in exchange for testimony for the prosecution, said he and Daniel Green robbed four people outside a motel less than three weeks before James Jordan was killed. Demery took the stand during a hearing to determine whether evidence in a store robbery eight days before Jordan's 1993 death would be admitted in Green's murder trial.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

# Colleges Not Teaching Sex Ed to Future Educators

A sex education group want teachers to be trained how to teach kids about sex.

BY TRICIA JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

A recent study of 169 colleges and universities across the nation revealed that undergraduate education majors were not required to take a sex education course, although 23 states mandate that some form of sex education must be taught in the classroom.

"We wouldn't let a math teacher teach adding and subtracting without first learn-

ing it, but that's what we're doing when we let untrained teachers teach sex education," said Monica Rodriguez, a school health coordinator for the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

SIUCUS was founded in 1964 with the goals of providing a clear, objective sexual education for all and of providing support for the idea that sex education is a profession.

SIUCUS and the national Centers for Disease Control found that 87 percent of the schools studied offered at least one health education course, and 94 percent had at least one human development course. Human development courses teach sex education from behavioral and rela-

tionship perspectives. Although one out of every seven colleges and universities polled required a health education course for all education majors, none of the schools required specific sex education courses, said Debra Haffner, president of SIUCUS.

"We think that because they're adults and they've had sex that a seminar is enough to train them," Rodriguez said. "Physical education instructors are less likely to take sex education courses, although many times they are the people who teach it."

Haffner also said 38 states required students to learn about AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases to complete their secondary education. AIDS is a big issue that some schools have not incorporated into teachers' training programs, she said.

Michelle Hooper, a physical education major at UNC, said that UNC did not require her to take any sex education courses and did not offer a health education major, even though she would have to cover the curriculum when she started student teaching in two weeks. "I'm terrified about going into the health ed. curriculum," Hooper said.

At UNC, only elementary education majors are required to take a human development course, which includes sex education. No other education majors are required to take the course, but they can take an elective that also involves sex education issues, said Sherry Salyer, a professor who teaches physical education and works with the education and general college depart-

# Gingrich Offers Clinton Compromise

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Clinton administration signaled interest today in a deal to make a "down payment" on a balanced budget, leaving major spending disagreements until after the November elections.

Clinton called Gingrich from Air Force One to discuss the possible deal and "look for common ground," a top Republican aide said.

The aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the two men did not get into details in their 12-minute talk but that it was a "favorable, positive conversation."

Clinton was en route to Louisville, Ky.

Such an agreement could accompany efforts, moving on a separate track, to avert another partial government shutdown.

"We have agreed with the president on enough things I think we can get to a down payment," Gingrich told a Capitol Hill news conference. "This is a good test of how serious [Clinton's] words were last night" in his State of the Union address.

Gingrich proposed Clinton accept his offer as part of a bill extending the government's borrowing authority. Gingrich also said tax credits for families with children and lower capital gains taxes

should be part of any deal.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry cautiously welcomed Gingrich's remarks, saying Republicans "may feel they've suffered enough pain because of the government shutdown. They seem to be having a more encouraged tone today than they did last night, so we're encouraged, too."

The administration is blocking an overall balanced-budget agreement by opposing overhaul of major entitlement programs, such as Medicare and welfare, Gingrich asserted on ABC's "Good Morning America."

That leaves the option of enacting spending cuts the two sides can agree on and letting voters decide in November which party is correct.

"I'm prepared to say 'Let's take what we can get, make it a down payment on balancing the budget, recognize the job

can't be done this year but we'll go ahead and do the best we can," Gingrich said. Those reductions could be attached to a bill renewing the government's authority to borrow, which he said could be passed as early as next week.

Responding to Gingrich, McCurry said, "The president would look very carefully at anything that would result in real budget savings that might be attached to a continuing resolution."

He stressed the words "look very carefully," adding "obviously we have priorities and concerns that would have to be addressed."

Gingrich said Democrats and Republicans agreed on spending reductions totaling about \$100 billion spanning seven years.

In his speech, Clinton urged a resumption of negotiations on long-range reductions while calling for enactment of those changes the two sides already agreed on.

House Republicans have drafted another plan they say could — if accepted by Clinton — prevent a third government shutdown. While targeting a dozen minor programs for extinction, the proposal carefully avoids taking money away from several of Clinton's favorite programs, including the AmeriCorps community service program.



House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH said he wanted to make a "down payment" toward a budget deal.

BOYCHUK  
FROM PAGE 1

George Daniels and W.J. Goodfellow said Karen Boychuk, 31, also had fractures that could have been caused by the fall.

Police reports state that Karen Boychuk was clutching her head that could have been torn from her husband's head before the fall.

Although the final autopsy report had not been released as of Wednesday afternoon, police still provided enough evidence for the arrest warrant, Cary police Lt. Steve Gillikin said.

"We provided the grand jury with all the evidence we had gathered from our investigation, which was enough to make the arrest," Gillikin said.

Gillikin would not disclose exactly what evidence was obtained in the investiga-

tion.

He said he doubted any bail would be set in the case.

To help William Boychuk's colleagues cope with the arrest, MBA Director Andy Bunch distributed a memo Wednesday providing information about counseling services at the University.

Dean of Students Frederic Schroeder said a committee suspended Boychuk from attending classes at the University on Tuesday afternoon.

Boychuk had been attending class regularly since his wife's death.

"The matter is currently before the court, so we don't feel it's appropriate to comment at this time," said Kathy Phillips, media relations manager at the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Daira Jarrell contributed to this article.

SENIOR CLASS  
FROM PAGE 3

Serious fundraising would begin Monday, when the senior gift phone-a-thon got underway, Bunte said. Phone-a-thon workers will contact every senior in hopes of raising money for the gift.

Dolby said he thought the gift would only be successful if a large number of seniors got involved. "Participation is key," he said.

Woody said plans for several events to promote the senior gift were in the works.

"One of the things we're going to do is have a big blowout in the alumni center to really bring seniors together," he said.

Two months of planning by the senior class officers, senior marshals and the Development Office went into the kickoff festival.

Local businesses such as Spanky's and 411 West donated prizes given away throughout the day.

The weather did force the cancellation of two planned attractions.

Jugglers and the University mascot, Rameses the Ram, were unable to perform in the rain.

# Auditor Surprised by Travel Office Firings

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An accountant who audited the White House travel office said Wednesday he was surprised when the workers were fired before his staff finished its report.

But he also said the audit did find "clear evidence of financial mismanagement."

Meanwhile, the former director of the travel office testified that the rush to produce the audit report was evidence that the May 1993 firings by the Clinton White House were politically motivated.

In his first appearance before Congress, ex-travel office director Billy Dale said former presidential aide Janet Green told him two days before the firings that "there is one person and only one person responsible for what has taken place with your office, and he occupies the Oval Office."

Dale also said he believed the White House had decided long before the audit that his staff should be fired.

Peat Marwick accountant Larry Herman, taking exception to comments attributed to him at the hearing by a key Republican, said in a telephone interview that the audit did turn up mismanagement that might have justified the firing of Dale at least.

Still, "At the time they fired them, we were still writing our draft report and I was surprised," he said.

Rep. William Clinger, R-Pa., chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, opened the hearing by saying Herman had told committee investigators he "did not think his review warranted the firings."

"We never made any recommendations nor were we ever asked for any recommendations on whether the president should terminate anybody," Herman said in the interview.

"We never made any recommendations ... on whether the president should terminate anybody."

LARRY HERMAN  
Peat Marwick Accountant

But he said his audit turned up evidence that Dale had written petty cash checks to himself and deposited them in his account.

Such action, "I think, probably does warrant some immediate action," Herman said.

"My personal assessment is ... that most companies today would question that and would include questioning whether to remove that person from that position."

Dale disputed Herman's statement to The Associated Press when a lawmaker asked him about it during the hearing.

"I dispute that any petty cash funds were put into my account," he said.

Herman said he did not have an opinion as to whether the other six workers should have been dismissed.

Five of them were reinstated to other jobs and the sixth retired. Dale was tried on embezzlement charges and acquitted late last year.

Dale has conceded that \$55,000 in travel office funds passed through his personal bank account, but he has denied taking any money for personal use.

At Wednesday's hearing, some skeptical Democrats challenged Dale and the other six workers fired along with him.

Rep. Cardiss Collins of Illinois, the committee's senior Democrat, said, "None of these witnesses has any firsthand knowl-

edge" of the background behind their firings.

But Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., told them, "The way you guys were treated is beyond comprehension. It rivals, in my opinion, the Spanish Inquisition."

Rep. Steve Horn, R-Calif., said, "We have a pattern and a practice of deceit and abuse by the White House ... We're talking about arrogance with a smile."

Freshman GOP Rep. Matt Salmon of Arizona, who is not a member of the committee, said he planned to propose legislation Thursday to require the White House to compensate the seven fired employees for "reasonable" attorneys' fees they incurred.

The seven longtime travel office workers arranged flights for the White House press corps.

A short time after they were fired, in May 1993, a 25-year-old distant cousin of President Clinton was put in charge of the office.

Since then, presidential aides have insisted that the firings, while badly handled, were justified by the findings in the Peat Marwick audit.

Clinger's investigative panel has been gathering evidence it says shows that both Hillary Rodham Clinton and Clinton friend Harry Thomason pressured White House aides to fire the staff.

Both Mrs. Clinton and Thomason have denied any wrongdoing. The first lady said she only expressed concerns after hearing reports there might be mismanagement in the office and never ordered anyone to fire workers.

Recently disclosed memos by a former White House official state that Mrs. Clinton was "ready to fire them all" and that there would be "hell to pay" if such action were not taken quickly.

## HORACE WILLIAMS

FROM PAGE 1

ness and finance, said the University was still working through the planning process.

"The University has been very open in this process," Jones said. "Even when the plan is finalized, actual development is a long way off."

He said the University had neither plans nor money for specific projects yet. The plan for development of the land is going to take years to come about, and actual realization of development will be far into the future, Jones said.

The council discussed the possibility of

interim zoning for the property at its Monday meeting. Waldorf said the land eventually would be rezoned, and the town's planning board is currently working on the new zoning. The property is currently classified as Office/Institutional-2 (OI-2) and Office/Institutional-3 (OI-3) zones.

Waldorf said a new zone could be cooperatively worked out, provided the University took the needs of the town into account. "OI-3 is a very broad and liberal zone," she said. "It is clearly inappropriate for that property."

A Chapel Hill Planning Department report described OI-3 as a zone for land owned by the University and stated that it was mainly applied to UNC's central campus. This zone permits structures such as offices, clinics, day-care facilities, hospi-

tals, hotels and residence halls.

Capowski said the rezoning process would consist of two parts. An interim zoning would act as a protection against immediate development by the University. When UNC presents a development plan, then the council would look at the proposal and consider whether to rezone the property to permit the construction, he said.

"If Chancellor Hooker is willing to extend Chancellor Hardin's promise, there is no interim zone needed," Capowski said.

The council members discussed interim zoning but did not reach any firm decision, Waldorf said. The council asked the town manager and staff to look into the possibility of an interim zoning and procedures regarding it, she said.

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