

AID

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The N.C. General Assembly convened in December and voted to allocate more than \$800 million in state funds to help residents recover from flood damage.

The move forced the state to scale back some construction projects.

The total cost of damage from the snowstorm will not be finalized until all the counties have submitted their reports.

But the estimated damages stated by Hunt in the press release were \$16.5 million for state agencies and \$8 million for local and private organizations.

"(The estimated cost) won't change for some time," said Tom Hegele, chief public information officer of North Carolina's emergency management. "The counties still have to submit their damage."

Hegele said the federal government did not specify the official amount it would reimburse to the state, but the federal government would most likely pay 75 percent of the damage costs, and

the state government would pay the additional 25 percent.

Agency costs not covered by the federal government would have to be addressed by the state budget office, said Marvin Dorman, state budget officer. "Certainly it will mean that agencies that deal with the storm have to work with us to match federal funds," he said.

The N.C. Department of Transportation faces the highest costs, Dorman said. The agency tallied a total cost of \$15 million in damages and materials used to clear snow-covered roads.

Officials said major interstates and highways were blocked by trees and poles that caused some road damage and accidents.

But most of the DOT funds were spent on plows and salts to clear the roads. "Most of the costs were for salt and sand," said Nicolle Burris, public information officer for the DOT.

She said the DOT planned to cover the state's portion of the costs through its maintenance budget.

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Scientists Trace Origin of AIDS Back to 1930

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The worldwide AIDS epidemic has been traced back to a single viral ancestor — the HIV Eve — that emerged perhaps around 1930.

Earlier research had suggested that the epidemic began in the first half of the 20th century, but the latest analysis, done at the Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico, appears to be the most definitive so far.

Bette Korber, who keeps a database of HIV genetic information at the lab, calculated HIV's family tree by looking at the rate the virus mutates over time.

CONGRESS

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(plan) shouldn't include dipping into students' pockets."

He said this could give other groups the idea to increase their programs with grant money and then expect Congress to pick up the tab when the funds disap-

peared. Robin Schryer, ap.p.l.e.s. representative, emphasized the need to maintain the group's autonomy. "We want student funding so that it's student-controlled," Schryer said. "Otherwise it's vulnerable to outside funding and control."

The third referendum will propose the recognition of double minors on transcripts. Though it passed easily,

She assumed these genetic changes happen at a constant rate, and using a supercomputer she clocked the mutations back through time to a common ancestor.

Korber estimates that the current epidemic goes back to one or a small group of infected humans around 1930, though this ancestor virus could have emerged as early as 1910 or as late as 1950.

From this single source, she suggests, came the virus that now infects roughly 40 million people all over the world.

Patrick Link, a representative from District 9, fought the legislation. "This is a liberal arts institution. If you encourage students to superspecialize by allowing them to double minor, you are discouraging a liberal arts education."

The work challenges a theory that AIDS actually began in the 1950s, when HIV was accidentally mixed with the polio vaccine.

Francisco.

Experts believe that HIV's ancestor is a virus that ordinarily infects chimpanzees. Somehow it spread to people — perhaps through a bite or hunting mishap — in west equatorial Africa.

Just when this happened, though, is still a mystery, Korber said. The leap from chimp to man could have been around 1930.

Or it might have occurred much earlier and the virus stayed within a small group of humans.

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Richardson said he could not give out information about the other potential speakers who were considered along with Albright.

"We're still considering some of the other people, so I'm not going to talk about them until (the committee) meets again," Richardson said.

"(The candidates) are not all political figures. They're all over the ballpark."

Conner said he was optimistic about finding a speaker suitable to students' tastes.

"I'm sure (the committee) will find a great speaker," Conner said.

"It's a big deal to speak at a school of our caliber, and there are many people who would love to do it."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

GRADUATION

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"We haven't even gotten a final list of people," Richardson said.

"We are constrained by needing to move on it (in time for the commencement)."

Graduate and Professional Student Federation President Lee Conner said the speaker was an important part of students' Commencement.

"A Commencement speaker should be someone that's memorable and has a message that graduates and their families will be inspired by," Conner said.

"I think students want a speaker to be someone that's memorable, which could mean someone famous, but doesn't have to mean that; most importantly, (students want) someone who says something that's relevant to them."

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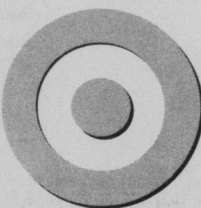
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LIABILITY

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break my jaw," he said.

But Songer, who had to get 11 stitches in his chin, said he did not hold the University accountable for his injuries. "People get hurt all the time (on campus). It's not the University's responsibility."

Student Health Service Director Bob Wirag said many students had come to SHS with weather-related injuries.

As of Monday night, he said SHS had seen several lacerations, knee injuries, one ankle injury and one toe injury.

Grounds Services Director Kirk Pelland said his crews' primary concern the last few days was clearing walkways to classrooms, but were focusing greater

attention on South Campus on Tuesday. Junior Will Morris said it was obvious Ground Services was not prepared to handle the mess left by the storm.

But Morris said students should be more careful. "It takes common sense not to walk as fast."

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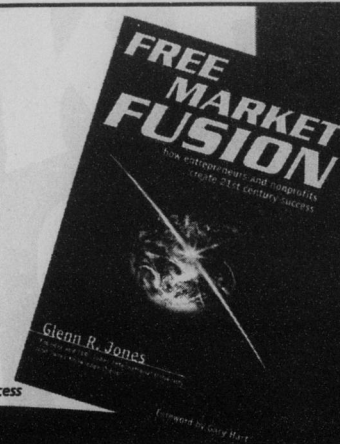
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