

Senate OKs \$300 Million in Floyd Aid

WASHINGTON — The House approved a \$13 billion measure on Thursday for the Pentagon, Colombia and recovery from Hurricane Floyd after refusing to threaten European allies with a pullout of U.S. peacekeepers from Kosovo.

Amid dissent from both ends of the political spectrum, the overall measure was approved by 263-146 after two days of debate. That shifts the focus to the Senate, where the Appropriations Committee plans to write a roughly \$6 billion version of the bill next week, despite long-running opposition by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

"It's a problem in terms of the schedule" of the Senate, "and it's way out of

control in terms of cost," Lott said Thursday.

But Lott is under growing pressure to reverse himself.

The legislation provides money for popular causes like American soldiers and drug-fighting overseas and road-building, natural disaster recovery and farmers at home. And the effort is supported by President Clinton, strong majorities of both parties in the House and many senators.

Underlining the effort to spark Senate action, Barry McCaffrey, director of the White House drug control office, called a reporter to say money in the bill for combating Colombian coca production would help "protect our country from what are essentially 52,000 dead a year." That is the number of Americans believed to die annually from illegal

drug use.

Before the House approved the bill, lawmakers voted 219-200 to kill a bipartisan amendment aimed at pressuring European allies to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars that they have promised to help rebuild Kosovo.

The bill includes about \$2.2 billion for natural disasters at home, including more than \$300 million that North Carolina lawmakers say are for that state's costs of rebuilding from last fall's Hurricane Floyd.

Hurricane Floyd drenched eastern North Carolina with 20 inches of rain last September, spawning floodwaters blamed for the deaths of at least 51 people.

Thousands of homes were destroyed, and thousands more remain uninhabitable. Damage has been estimated at \$6 billion

or more. The federal government already has provided about \$2 billion in Floyd-related aid.

Among other things, the bill approved Thursday includes \$81 million for tobacco, cotton and peanut farmers; \$77 million for replacement housing; \$60 million in Small Administration loans; \$29.5 million to help build 1,000 low-income rental housing units and provide rental assistance for families that move into them; \$43 million to repair highways and bridges; and \$1.5 million for the Army Corps of Engineers to study flood damage reduction measures in Princeville.

"The people of eastern North Carolina who were hit hard by Floyd absolutely need this assistance if they are going to get their lives back to normal," said Rep. Bob Etheridge, D-N.C.

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TRANSIT
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about women's issues.

Kooistra, a member of the Week's steering committee, is hands-on when publicizing women's issues.

"The first step we can do is get it into people's brain," she said.

She said supporting survivors by creating outlets of expression, dialogue and communication was also key.

And if a picture is worth a 1,000 words, ASAP is displaying more than 14,000 with its exhibit, "Breaking Silence."

The photography art show in the Carolina Union Gallery displays the text of interviews with 14 sexual assault survivors.

ASAP is also responsible for such events as the 24-Hour Rape-Free Zone and Take Back the Night march.

But even though her voyage has taken a pit stop at UNC, her social work isn't limited to campus.

She also extends a hand to the community to help spread social justice.

Kooistra worked in the Durham District Attorney's Office last year as a victim and witness advocate in domestic violence criminal court.

She helped victims wade through the court process by helping with protective orders and offering sympathy.

But Kooistra's voyage doesn't stop when May rolls around because she plans to spend her summer trying to empower others — globally.

Through a Class of 1933 fellowship, Kooistra will travel to Nicaragua for eight weeks to work in a women's health clinic.

She will help a domestic violence support group and teach prenatal care, among other things.

"I will be learning at the same time," Kooistra said. "I'm hoping we'll be able to engage in a dialogue that will highlight our differences and share our experiences."

And she says what she'll do this summer is what keeps her going.

Considering the task Kooistra accepted, she said she realized that her journey might be lifelong. "I want to be doing social justice and change for the rest of my life," Kooistra said.

But when she reflects on the past and sizes up the future, she is unfazed.

"It's a daily struggle between hope and despair," Kooistra said. "I don't ask myself why. It's never been a question for me. I've just fallen into this role."

was a necessity given the parking dilemma and increase in student population.

However, the issue of fare-free transit does have opposition. Loren Hintz, a member of the Chapel Hill Transportation Board, said he would rather see taxpayers' money going toward improving existing services.

"Why not use the additional money to expand services, such as more frequent trips and late-night riding?" Hintz said. "For example, some of the routes serving Carrboro stop at 6:30 p.m. We could have more routes after that time."

But Carrboro Alderman Jacquelyn Gist was confident that any change in the public transit system would be a step in the right direction. "No one would design the transportation system we have now," she said. "We need to look at more than this year's bottom line — anything that lessens traffic and congestion would be beneficial."

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BARBECUE
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diversity UNC has to offer, and today we're specifically targeting the entire Greek community," Sawyer said.

CHiPs performed free for the event, drawing the audience into the act by asking them to write down phrases to use for a game.

CHiPs member Tiffany Bennett said that, as one of only two women in the group, the barbecue was something she was glad to take part in.

"It's our responsibility as an organization here on campus," she said. "It's something we definitely wanted to support."

Member Tia Lendo said the group participated because the members enjoyed performing.

"It's great to do it when it's for a good cause," she said. "We just want to make people laugh."

Kristin Csehil, a member of Kappa Delta sorority, said it was a great idea to bring the entire Greek community together.

"I think it's a really cool thing that the Greeks can collaborate to support a big cause," she said while collecting donations. "It promotes brotherhood and sisterhood between fraternities and sororities."

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Top Stories From the State, Nation and World IN THE NEWS

Cuban Boy's Father Applies For U.S. Visa

MIAMI — Elian Gonzalez's father asked for a visa Thursday to come to the United States and take the boy back to Cuba, as dozens of anti-Castro activists linked arms outside the 6-year-old's Miami home, practicing resistance techniques.

Discussions between immigration officials and the boy's Miami relatives, meanwhile, ended Thursday evening without a resolution. The talks were set to resume Monday, Immigration and Naturalization Service officials said.

U.S. immigration officials have demanded that the boy's Miami relatives promise in writing to turn over the boy if they lose in court. The INS had warned that it would revoke Elian's right to stay in the United States unless the relatives signed. But after the meet-

ing, the INS pushed back the deadline for a second time to at least Tuesday.

The Justice Department and the INS hoped "to continue to move forward on Monday," said Robert Wallis, INS director for the Miami district. "Like the family, we are monitoring developments concerning the possible arrival of (Elian's father) Juan Miguel Gonzalez in the United States," he said.

In Washington, a Justice Department official, requesting anonymity, said that the agreement contained a third clause that would allow INS to end great-uncle Lazaro Gonzalez's temporary custody of the boy if a major development occurs in the case, "including his father's coming to the United States."

Sect Head's Wife Pins Blame on Visionary

KABUMBA, Uganda — Eight years after Joseph Kibwetere abandoned his family to help form a doomsday sect, his faded black-and-white photographs still adorn his wife's home, alongside pictures of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Pope.

They are reminders of happier times, says Therese Kibwetere — before self-described visionary Credonia Mwerinde moved into her home and took over her husband's life.

Joseph Kibwetere, a former school administrator who had a lifelong interest in Catholic visionaries, has been widely touted as the leader of the Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God. But his

estranged wife said this week it was Mwerinde, not her husband, who controlled the sect, where she was known as "The Programmer."

"Whenever anything was to be done, it was Credonia," she said.

Who orchestrated one of the worst mass murders in recent history became even more pressing Thursday, as authorities unearthed 80 more bodies in a compound linked to the sect. The discovery brought to 724 the number of dead found so far. A fifth property used by the cult has yet to be excavated.

Judge: Carruth Counsel Can Continue Case

CHARLOTTE — Superior Court Judge Charles C. Lamm rejected a motion by Carruth's attorney, David Rudolf, and attorneys for the two other defendants to disqualify James Exum as Michael Kennedy's attorney. The lawyers claimed Exum leaked confidential information to the media and could be called as a witness. Exum denied it.

In his order, Lamm agreed with the claim that Exum shared confidential information at least once with a reporter. But he said his actions did not justify his removal as Kennedy's lawyer.

"... The potential likelihood of Attorney Exum being a necessary witness in such a trial is not so substantial and certain at this state in the proceedings so as to require that he be disqualified from further representation of Defendant Kennedy at this time," Lamm wrote in his order, which he filed

late Thursday afternoon.

Both Exum and Rudolf did not immediately return messages left with their law offices.

Adams, 24, was shot four times as she drove through a southeast Charlotte neighborhood on Nov. 16. She gave birth to Carruth's son, Chancellor Lee Adams, by emergency Caesarean just after the shooting. Adams died Dec. 14.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against all four defendants.

Lott Asks Senate to Act On Bill to Halt Gas Tax

WASHINGTON — Majority Leader Trent Lott pushed the Senate toward a vote Thursday on legislation to roll back temporarily 4.3 cents of the federal tax on a gallon of gas, a move with little chance of House passage and not much relief anyhow for motorists coping with spiraling prices at the pump.

But GOP presidential candidate George W. Bush favors the idea and Republicans are making it prime fodder for action in this election year by referring to the tax as the "Gore tax" because Vice President Al Gore cast the 1993 tie-breaking Senate vote to make it law.

Suspending the tax, said Alaska Republican Sen. Frank Murkowski, "represents us doing something and the administration doing nothing."

Lott, R-Miss., faced an uphill fight Thursday to gain the 60 votes necessary to overcome the bipartisan opposition to his legislation.

Associated Press

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FIRST AMENDMENT DAYS

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

A campus outreach program of The Freedom Forum and the First Amendment Center, the goal of First Amendment Days is to raise awareness of fundamental rights of free expression through education, information and entertainment. The First Amendment Center is funded by The Freedom Forum, a nonpartisan, international foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Friday, March 31

INSIDE THE FIRST AMENDMENT 9-9:50AM

Participants: Ken Paulson, executive director, First Amendment Center
John Seigenthaler, founder, First Amendment Center

Location: Carroll 111

"THE FIRST FREEDOM" 10AM

Charles Guggenheim's new documentary examining the power of the First Amendment

Location: Carroll 111

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT & THE FIRST AMENDMENT 2-2:50PM

Participants: Horace Carter, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, editor and author
Eugenia Seaman Marks, student at Women's College during Greensboro sit-ins
Reavis Mitchell, history department chair, Fisk University
John E. (Jack) Semonche, professor of history, UNC-Chapel Hill

Moderator: John Seigenthaler, founder, First Amendment Center, U.S. Justice Department official during the civil rights movement

Location: Carroll 111

"THE FIRST FREEDOM" 3PM

A repeat showing of Charles Guggenheim's documentary about the First Amendment

Location: Carroll 111

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