

State Department to Issue Visas for Elian's Playmates

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At the request of Juan Miguel Gonzalez, four playmates of his son, Elian, will be allowed to come from Cuba to visit him here for about two weeks, the State Department said today.

Spokesman James P. Rubin said visa requests from the four will be dealt with on an expedited basis once they are received. One adult will be permitted to accompany each child.

Rubin noted that the department issued visas almost three weeks ago to Elian's former kindergarten teacher, a pediatrician and a male cousin. They have not used them but might still do so.

President Clinton urged that Elian's family be given "the space it needs to heal its wounds and strengthen its bonds." He also commended federal agents for their armed seizure of the boy

from relatives in Miami. "They had a very, very difficult job to do with no easy choices," the president said. "I am grateful that they were able to safely reunite the young boy with his father."

He spoke at a White House ceremony about anti-hate crime legislation, and warmly commended Attorney General Janet Reno for her leadership.

Elian, his father, stepmother and half brother were moved today from nearby Andrews Air Force Base to an undisclosed location, the Marshals Service announced. There has been speculation the family would be taken to the secluded Wye Center on Maryland's Eastern Shore to await court action over whether Elian should be allowed to return to Cuba. The Marshals Service remained with the family for protection, said Marshals spokesman Drew Voiced.

Meanwhile, Reno, who has voiced "no regrets whatsoever" for the raid that

returned Elian to his father, defended her tactics in a one-hour closed-door session with lawmakers. She declined to speak to reporters as she left the Capitol.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the first senator to leave the meeting and a defender of the administration's handling of Saturday's seizure of the 6-year-old boy, said Reno "was objective."

"The law was followed," Leahy told reporters. However, he said the atmosphere was "still very partisan."

Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla., a critic of the military-style raid, said after the session his mind had not been changed by Reno's presentation.

"I am going to recommend ... that the Senate engage in a hearing with respect to the use of force," Mack said. "I am deeply troubled, horrified as a matter of fact, that our government would use armed force in a family home to remove a 6-year-old child."

Teen Arrested in Zoo Shooting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Police arrested a 16-year-old boy Tuesday in a shooting at the National Zoo that wounded seven youths and stunned visitors of one of the capital's most popular tourist attractions.

The teenager was taken into custody 24 hours after the shooting at the home of a relative in northeast Washington, Assistant Police Chief Terrance Gainer said.

The suspect was taken into custody without incident and a shotgun was recovered at the scene, Gainer said. He was charged with assault with intent to kill.

Police Cmdr. Peter Newsham told a news conference that authorities would attempt to charge the youth as an adult.

Officials had said the weapon used in the shootings was most likely a 9 mm handgun but none was found.

But Gainer said he believed ammunition used in a 9 mm handgun was recovered.

The investigation into the shootings continued but "we're still operating under the presumption there was one

gunman, one gun," Gainer added.

The shootings prompted calls Tuesday from local and federal officials for stricter gun controls, but they insisted the National Zoo and the capital's other tourist attractions are safe.

Mayor Anthony Williams said more must be done to reduce teenagers' access to guns and discourage them from resorting to deadly force to resolve conflicts.

"Instead of reaching for a bottle or a rock," as children used to do, "you're now reaching for guns," Williams said.

President Clinton echoed that theme during a White House event on hate crimes.

"It should be obvious that we can do more and we must do more," Clinton said, calling the shootings "a senseless act."

But Williams and zoo officials said devices like metal detectors would not be immediately added to the zoo when it reopened Wednesday.

"I don't think that's called for," Williams said. "It's certainly safe. This is a rare event."

Seven children between the ages of

11 and 16 were shot Monday following a fight at the zoo, which was crowded with thousands of people at an annual black family celebration.

A high-ranking police official had said Monday and again early Tuesday that doctors told him the most severely wounded, an 11-year-old boy, was brain dead.

But Children's National Medical Center said the child was never brain dead, his condition has improved and he was responding to care.

"Although the child remains in critical condition, a repeat CT scan of the head continues stable," said Dr. Martin R. Eichelberger, director of trauma services at the hospital.

A 12-year-old girl and 14-year-old boy were both in good condition with wounds to the pelvis and leg, respectively. The other children were hospitalized with lesser injuries.

Although police say the fight involved two large groups of young people, they have stopped short of labeling the violence gang-related.

"It was one person with one weapon," Newsham said.

STATISTICS

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"There are one-hour first-year seminars and first-year colleges," he said.

"If you were to call all the programs that aid in graduation and retention rates, you would contact 50 to 100 on-campus organizations."

After administrators implement their newest strategies to improve the advising system, Barnes said Moeser might not need to make graduation rates a priority at all.

"The chancellor has to choose areas that need improvement, and this may not be one of them."

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INITIATIVE

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facets of college life and included the summer reading program, which required all incoming freshmen to read a specific book and attend a discussion group. First Year Initiative Theme Housing established a community encouraging freshmen to take advantage of UNC's options, and First Year Seminars launched courses with small class sizes and active student participation.

All of these programs grew out of the 1997 Report of the Chancellor's Task Force on the Intellectual Climate.

To provide an initial common experience for freshmen, administrators initiated the

"The goal of summer reading was dealing with the intellectual climate. It was a nice way to have stimulating discussion before classes started."

Freshman Sarah Godfrey said she

had a mixed response to the summer reading program. "It gets you in the frame of mind of doing academic work before you get here," she said. "But (the discussion groups) were not a good way of getting to know people. No one really wanted to be there."

A voluntary program for freshmen was the First Year Initiative Theme Housing option. The Department of Housing and Residential Education created this option to provide a living environment that introduced freshmen to what UNC has to offer.

FYI, which will hold its end-of-year celebration tonight in the Union Great Hall, houses about 140 students on the fourth and fifth floors of Ehringhaus Residence Hall.

"The goal (of summer reading program) is to provide opportunities for students to spend the 80 percent of time outside of the classroom," said Ehringhaus Area Director Karen Hauschild. "It's a close community that's intellectually stimulating. It makes it seem like a small, private college."

The program includes small group dialogue discussions of 20 students that met once a week for the first eight weeks and every other week thereafter.

"The goal of summer reading was dealing with the intellectual climate. It was a nice way to have stimulating discussion ..."

SUE KITCHEN
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

The freshmen in FYI must meet three times a year with resident assistants and twice a year with faculty associates to discuss their college transition.

FYI also required the students to participate in service projects and attend a number of special programs such as ropes courses, presentations by Career Services and talks by special guests like a World War II veteran.

Freshman Erin Mahoney, an out-of-state student from Boston, said she joined FYI in order to get to know people. "I came in not knowing anybody," she said. "Now I know a lot more people because of the program."

George Leach, a freshman from Shreveport, La., said FYI was a positive experience.

"It was an environment in which I could learn about school faster," he said.

"They also cultured you a bit. We went to the opera, which is stuff I really enjoy but wouldn't have done otherwise."

He said students in FYI had a range of reactions to the program and some found the requirements too rigorous.

"It would have been better if I was able to put more time into it," Leach said. "But it gets you involved in stuff

other than hanging out in your dorm room and going to class."

The format of some classes also changed for freshmen with the implementation of the First Year Seminar program.

FYS consists of courses designed to encourage self-directed knowledge and taught by accomplished faculty.

The program limits classes to a maximum of 20 first-year students and includes a large variety of course topics.

Tom Tweed, director for FYS, said the program went spectacularly well in its first year.

"The idea behind it was to put the best researchers and teachers in front of students in their first year," he said. "It's a common experience to be in lecture halls in your first year and then get into smaller classes your later years."

"But it's not just a small setting with the best faculty," Tweed said. "Students are not just receiving knowledge but also producing it."

He said FYS would expand next year by offering more courses, encouraging faculty to have more contact with students outside of class and including more classes involving projects and research.

Tweed said the only problems the

"It's a class I look forward to every Thursday. I have one simple goal and that is to convey the excitement of physics ..."

WAYNE CHRISTIANSEN
First-year Seminar Professor

program had run into were a part of a national trend with seminar classes.

"The only downside is that sometimes a few seminars in natural sciences or romance languages have trouble with enrollment," he said. "To help that, we're trying to focus on writing longer, more vivid course descriptions."

Tweed said FYS also brought him some welcome surprises. "The most unexpected development is how excited some of our senior and distinguished faculty are about the classes," Tweed said. "They're astonished and thrilled at what first-year students can do."

Wayne Christiansen, a professor of physics and astronomy, said teaching his first year seminar, "Catastrophe and Chaos: Unpredictable Physics," restored his faith in teaching.

"It's a class I look forward to every Thursday," he said. "I have one simple goal and that is to convey the excitement of physics and astronomy."

Freshman Jason Puffinberger said he was looking for a straightforward art history class when a first-year seminar, "World Art as a Visual Culture," jumped off the page at him.

"It was something completely different," he said. "It's better than having it my fourth year. It kinda gets you into the mind set of active participation and discussion, which carries over into other classes."

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OPTIONS

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Southern Village is a development in Chapel Hill, located at 206 Arlen Park Road. It was based on concentrated development, a Smart Growth concept.

The area incorporates several services for residents and is based on the idea of self-contained development.

Carrboro Alderman Mark Dorosin explained that such examples of mixed-

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use developments were important to urban planning.

"There's a phrase, 'Live, work, play,'" Dorosin said. "You're able to do all these things (in a mixed-use development). The encouragement of mixed-use is one of the key functions of any Smart Growth plan."

Meadowmont, a new Chapel Hill neighborhood, located off of N.C. 54, will also concentrate mixed-use development. Schools and businesses will be within walking distance to residences, and sidewalks will be available to encourage walking.

Foy said the council wanted to keep growth maintained and supported developments such as Meadowmont as means to do so.

"A lot of it is respect for the future," he said. "It's rejecting selfishness and the idea that someone else can deal with it later on. That is morally indefensible and just plain wrong."

Like Chapel Hill, Carrboro has specific zoning guidelines, which maintain and define development, an extension

of Smart Growth principals.

For example, Carrboro has open space requirements, a 20 percent minimum for downtown developments and 40 percent in other zones, Trish McGuire, planning administrator for Carrboro, said. This means that new developments could only build on part of the land, leaving the rest for park land or other natural purposes.

"We have greenway and conservation areas as part of open space requirements," she said.

McGuire said certain mixed-use guidelines had been introduced on a voluntary basis in Chapel Hill's Northern development area, just south of Homestead Road, and those guidelines applied to other areas in Carrboro, as well.

"We adopted implementing ordinances — a village mixed-use conditional use," she said. "It has to be requested (by the developers). The town did not rezone any property in that district."

Several neighboring towns are discussing measures similar to Smart

Growth.

The town of Cary is attempting to slow the rate of its development by passing new guidelines. Jeff Ulma, planning and zoning director of Cary, said the town adopted a new Growth Management Plan at a January meeting.

Ulma emphasized the rate and timing of development, which was tied to maintaining adequate resources for Cary.

To accomplish this, temporary growth restraints would help to ensure that new developments did not deplete the town's water supplies, according to the city's Growth Management Plan.

Cary's water scarcity is intertwined with the town's development, Ulma said. "Things have slowed down here (already)," he said, "because of other issues such as water shortage (and not the Growth Management Plan adopted in January)."

He said the adequate facilities goal was crucial to the plan.

"One of the concepts we've been using (is) adequate facilities — ensuring that roads, facilities and parks are going to be sufficient," he said.

There is a provision for open spaces and natural resources, he said, which will identify areas that need to be pre-

served.

"The business of growth has been the lightning rod in this community for years," Ulma said. "The consensus in the community (was) that we needed better direction in development management."

Raleigh has also found the need to check its rate of urban growth, said Watson Brown, the city's senior planner.

"The City Council just adopted a strategic planning proposal incorporating smart growth policies," he said.

The new strategies include three main goals — increasing pedestrian oriented growth, increasing transit-oriented growth on existing rail corridors and increasing village center growth, he said.

Orange County Commissioner Barry Jacobs said Smart Growth was not an issue primarily based in North Carolina. "It's a growing national consciousness in places as diverse as California," he said. "It's been going on for a while. We've been after Smart Growth for a long time."

Joseph Pardington contributed to this article.
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