

# Senators: Plane Crisis Hurt China Relations

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China is eager to keep tensions with the United States over the spy plane incident separate from trade relations between the two countries, but both Democrats and Republicans say that may be difficult. "They've already paid a price," Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." The Chinese "will find harder going for them in the United States Congress."

Several other lawmakers agreed with that assessment on the Sunday TV talk shows.

A top Chinese trade official, meanwhile, cautioned against linking the incident with an expected vote over China's trade relations with the United States. Trade ministry spokesman Gao Yan was quoted by the government-run China News Service as saying "China doesn't

wish to fight a trade war with any country."

The Bush administration is likely to face a decision this summer on whether to propose trade benefits to China for another year because Beijing's efforts to be admitted to the World Trade Organization, which sets rules on international commerce, have bogged down.

But several lawmakers said the standoff involving the collision of a Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter jet two weeks ago is likely to have lasting effects.

"This is not some incident that will pass in the night; this will cause a fundamental change in our relations with China," Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "There will be retribution."

Other lawmakers counseled caution in handling decisions affecting China.

"It is in the best interest of our country and the world to put this relationship back on track," Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., said on CBS.

## DEATH PENALTY

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ishment system," he said. "The system we have now treats people differently based on their color."

Fitzsimon said he is in favor of a moratorium on the death penalty until more investigation is done on the issue.

He added that the study will be distributed to members of the N.C. General Assembly for review. The legislature is currently considering a bill put forth by Sen. Frank Ballance, D-Warren.

Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, said the study raises issues about the justice in death row decisions.

"This study shows what concerned people have known all along, that there is a deep legacy of racism that pervades our death penalty system," Dear said.

He said the General Assembly needs to look into this evidence and examine the apparent correlation.

"Nobody wants a death penalty system that is racially biased," he said.

And like Fitzsimon, Dear agrees a moratorium on capital punishment is in order. "The study shows why we need to put a moratorium on executions," he said.

But Rep. Robert Rucho, R-Mecklenburg, said the death penalty has proven to be an effective deterrent against murder and the justice system is still mostly effective.

"(The system) will still determine in a complete manner the guilt of an individual," Rucho said.

He added that the death penalty can only be a feasible deterrent if done quickly and fairly.

But Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, said she believes the death penalty is an unfair measure.

She said she favors calling a moratorium on the death penalty, but would like to see it ended permanently.

"From my standpoint, I'd like to see the death penalty changed to life in prison," she said. "That's an option now and I'd like to make that the only option."

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## MARSHALL

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tor of her campaign.

Marshall, an attorney, said she first became involved with politics when she saw the example her parents set in their own community in rural Maryland with their nondomineering way of giving to the community.

She said she hopes to use her parents' example of public service and the lessons she learned from the 4-H program to help North Carolinians in the future. "I'm the kind of person that speaks out," Marshall said. "Being elected to public office has served as a remedy for my need to help everybody."

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## TECHNOLOGY

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chance to reach their full potential in both his January inauguration and February State of the State addresses.

"Every citizen of every age and every location must be included in our one state — the young and the old, the rural and the urban, large cities as well as small towns," Easley said in February. "And as the new economy demands more technology, so must we teach it."

The UNC system, whose 16 campuses educate rural and urban students statewide, is another agency trying to erase the digital divide through education.

While some system campuses, such as UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University, are located on the edges of Research Triangle Park, other campuses like Western Carolina University and UNC-Pembroke are located in rural areas where Internet access is sparse.

UNC-system leaders say they are working hard to provide equal technological resources for all of its campuses, no matter where it's located to make sure all students have equal experience dealing with modern technology.

Robyn Render, UNC-system chief information officer, said each campus must meet minimal standards for technology set by UNC-system leaders.

But Render said that while each campus has not met all the standards, each is able to provide Internet access through the N.C. Research and Education Network, a statewide telecommunications network reaching all UNC-system campuses and several other universities and community colleges.

Render said funds for NC-REN are distributed to campuses based on their student population and the number of campus buildings so each can meet the

minimal requirements. "In that respect, it's equal," she said. "Everyone gets enough to cover the baseline standard."

But she said that while the UNC system is working hard to ensure all students have adequate access to technology on campus, problems still exist off-campus for students in communities without good Internet connections.

"I think that on the campus itself, whether in the computer labs or dorm rooms or in class, that all students do have adequate access to the Internet," she said. "But in cases where the community does not have good (Internet) access, then those students may not have equal access to the Internet."

### Unity Through Wires

Ron Hawley, chief information officer for the N.C. Office of Information Technology Services, said that statewide, the digital divide causes a great problem for officials trying to unite the state.

He also said that while different areas of the state focus on separate issues, technology is the common link, and N.C. leaders need to make sure all residents have equal access to the Internet.

"Internet technology is bringing those two together, and we have to work on closing the gap, the digital divide," Hawley said he believes it is the state's obligation to find ways to link all areas to the Internet to ensure its future success.

Hawley said he believes improving technology in the state will help residents remain competitive with each other.

"It's important, that's the bottom line," he said. "It's how you're going to deliver education, it's how you're going to get access to our state government. It's critical to our citizens, to our future."


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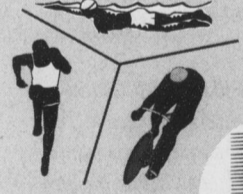
### Intramural Sports

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"It's time to start training for the Splash and Dash Triathlon on Sunday, Apr. 29, 9am start. Entry deadline is Wed. Apr. 25. This 3-sport challenge includes a 500 yard swim, 5K run and an untimed 12.5 mile bike ride. Cost is \$10; everyone receives a t-shirt and water bottle."



### Sport Clubs

**COME SUPPORT THE UNC WATER SKI CLUB ON APRIL 21-22 IN LILLINGTON, NC!**

The Water Ski Club is dedicated to promoting water skiing and wake boarding in the University's community. We welcome all students, faculty, and staff to join us at our meetings and tournaments. We have weekly meetings on Mondays at 7pm in Fetzer 104. Our club includes skiers of all experience and performance levels. Even if you're just interested in learning to ski, feel free to join us. We train at the Coble Ski School in Lillington, NC.

Our team members participate in four tournaments per semester. Our closest tournament this spring will be held on April 21-22 at the Coble Ski School in Lillington. The tournaments consist of the slalom, trick, jump, and wake board events. Competition begins at 8:30 on Saturday and admission is free.

Directions: Take I-40 East to Exit 298A, turn right onto 401 S, and continue 28 miles into Lillington, NC, turn left onto E. McNeil St. Coble Ski School will be 3 miles down on the right.

\*\*Please send any questions or comments to Meredith Pressley at [mpressle@email.unc.edu](mailto:mpressle@email.unc.edu)

**OTHER WEEKEND EVENTS:**

**April 21-22**  
UNC Roller Hockey Club competes in South Eastern Collegiate Roller Hockey Association Championship @ Wayne Gretzky's Roller Hockey Center For more information and directions go to [www.unc.edu/student/orgs/hockey](http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/hockey)

**April 22**  
UNC Women's Club Lacrosse vs. Wake Forest and George Washington, E-haus Field, 10-3PM

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