

Presidents tour ravaged area

Bush, Clinton lament disaster

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton visited Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province on Sunday, flying over a vast wasteland of destruction, the likes of which Bush said he'd never seen.

The two former presidents, who are leading private U.S. tsunami aid efforts, met with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono after arriving from Thailand, where they got their first look at the devastation and grief unleashed by the Dec. 26 disaster.

Yudhoyono said he "conveyed to them the gratitude of the Indonesian people for all these donations contributed by friendly nations, by their people, and by their NGOs (non-government organizations)."

Bush and Clinton said they came away reassured that Indonesia would channel aid funds in a trans-

parent, effective way.

"Nothing turns private donors off more than if they saw waste, or fraud, or something like that," Bush said. "But we don't anticipate that. We're very reassured by what the president said, that it's essential that not only our observers and our NGOs, that the Indonesians go forward with us and with other donor nations to be sure that it's delivered most effectively, less overhead and certainly no corruption."

Bush and Clinton flew in U.S. military helicopters from the provincial capital Banda Aceh over a barren, desert-like landscape that was once a patchwork of rice paddies, to the village of Lampuuk, where the sole structure left standing is a large white mosque.

The village had 6,500 inhabitants before the disaster. Only 700 remain.

"I've never seen anything like this in my entire life. Ever," Bush said.

Clinton asked a villager, Akhi Sukri, what the survivors needed most. "They need everything," Sukri replied.

"It's almost impossible to appreciate the scope of this if you haven't physically seen it," Clinton said, adding it would take three to five years to complete the reconstruction effort.

Rahmayadi, who goes by one name, is among thousands of survivors left homeless by the disaster. He said his house in Lampuuk "was around this neighborhood and now it's flattened."

"My children and wife died and I didn't get their bodies, so now it's only me and two sons," said the 53-year-old Rahmayadi, who shook hands with Clinton. "All we ask for now is shelter because we can't live in tents forever. I will keep being patient until someone helps me."

Bush and Clinton later flew on to the USS Fort McHenry, a vessel ferrying supplies, rice, water and clothing to shore.

The United States deployed a carrier battle group and about 20 helicopters for relief operations off Aceh's western coast — its biggest military operation in Southeast Asia since the Vietnam War. Washington has pledged \$950 million for relief efforts for tsunami-hit countries.

KASA shares Korean culture, food

BY STACEY CARLESS
STAFF WRITER

As Korean rap music blared in the background, six members of the Carolina Tae Kwon Do Club performed in the Great Hall of the Student Union for an audience of more than 150 people for KoreaNite 2005 on Saturday.

In one stunt, three students bent over to make a human bridge as one student held a wooden board with both hands. From backstage, another student ran, jumped over the bridge and kicked the wooden board into two pieces.

As the performance progressed, the audience erupted with screams, whistles and applause.

KoreaNite 2005, sponsored by the Korean American Students Association, provided a diverse group of students, families and community members the opportunity to experience the Korean culture through dinner and entertainment.

Trey Mack, a junior physics major, said he was excited to attend KoreaNite for the second time.

"(The night allows) Korean American students on campus (to) have a chance to share their culture," he said.

The night kicked off at 6 p.m. with a dinner in which those in attendance sat at white-lined tables and talked as they took part in an evening of Korean culture.

"It's my culture," said Jenny Kim, a sophomore chemistry major. "(The event is significant because it is) a chance to show people our culture."

Plates were packed high with traditional Korean cuisine. Dishes



DTH/JULIA LEBETKIN

Timothy Bulla (left), 16, and Peter Robinson, 16, of Fayetteville perform with the Tae Kwon Do Club on Saturday in the Great Hall of the Student Union.

included *bap* (rice), *kimchee* (fermented cabbage), *bulgogi* (Korean BBQ) and *dubu buchim* (fried tofu).

After dinner, the lights dimmed, and the entire hall was transformed into a Korean market.

As audience members followed KASA Vice President Day Kim and KASA member Daniel Chun, they experienced traditional as well as modern Korean culture through different forms of entertainment.

There was a fashion show, movie skit, taekwon do demonstration, karaoke and music, including traditional drumming by the Poongmul band, folk music and Korean rapping.

Sam Chin, a sophomore pharmacy major, said his favorite part of the evening was the Korean rapping.

"They show a different aspect of Korean culture, the modernization of it," Chin said.

The show ended with students from UNC's dance group, Kamikazi, dancing to Korean rap as well as other current songs such as Usher's "Caught Up" and Snoop Dogg's "Drop It Like It's Hot."

Chin said the event was definitely something students should attend every year.

"There is good Korean food," Chin said.

"You learn about Korean culture and you meet new people," he said. "It's once a year, so if you miss it, you have to wait another year to see it again."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Carrboro leaders to lobby for taxes

BY MICHAEL TODD
STAFF WRITER

Carrboro's Board of Aldermen is proposing increases to a pair of taxes in an effort to stimulate funding for the town's public transportation system.

The increases in the sales tax and motor vehicle tax are some of the town's legislative requests, up for discussion today at a breakfast held with the area's legislators at 7:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Alderman Mark Chilton said he thinks a \$10 increase in the annual motor vehicle tax is the most important and feasible of the town's propositions.

"The reality is that it is generally difficult to get Carrboro to get things passed by the General Assembly," Chilton said, adding that Chapel Hill has initiated a similar request.

The motor vehicle tax covers the town's public transit costs and is levied as a flat tax by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Chilton said residents who own automobiles should assist in fund-

ing public transit.

"Those who are clogging our streets should pay the tax," he said.

The state limits the annual motor vehicle tax to a maximum of \$15 per registration, the current rate levied by Carrboro.

But other cities have succeeded in bypassing the restriction.

Chilton added that the legislative session is longer this year, possibly making the General Assembly more likely to pass the tax request.

Raising the town's motor vehicle tax to \$25 would add \$125,000 annually to the public transportation budget, according to regional agenda reports from the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Dr. Lee Mandell, director of information technology and research at the N.C. League of Municipalities, said the motor vehicle tax is feasible for Carrboro because Charlotte and the town of Matthews levy at similar levels.

"There is already a precedent for (the motor vehicle tax)," he said.

But the proposed sales tax increase is not expected to get very

far in the legislature.

"A city sales tax increase would be unprecedented," Mandell said.

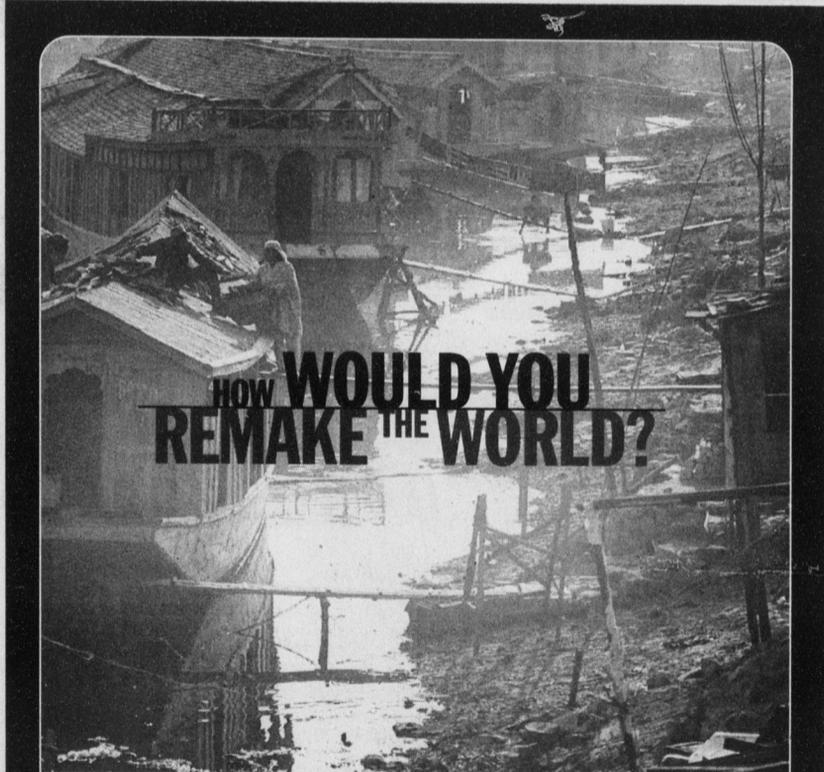
A few counties — Mecklenburg and Dare — have been able to raise their sales taxes with authorization from the state, but no municipality has yet been allowed to raise the tax.

Bing Roenigk, assistant town manager, said that a half-cent raise in the town's sales tax rate — the current proposal — would contribute at least \$60,000 annually to total public transit revenue.

Other requests the town plans to make include: a challenge to a proposed constitutional recognition of the state's Defense of Marriage Act; opposition to a bill restricting driver's licenses for immigrants; and support for the county's request that the state fund Medicaid.

North Carolina and New York are the only two states in the nation that require counties to assist in Medicaid expenses.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



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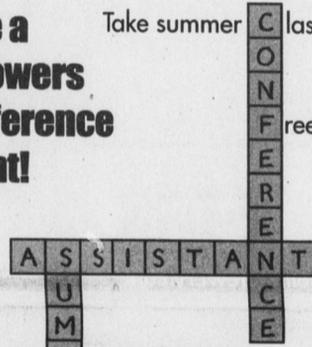
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PROGRAMS

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CAREER SUCCESS WORKSHOPS: We bring our workshops to you! We will hold the following session in 176 Ehringhaus South at 6p. **Make the Most of Your Internship—Feb. 23**

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HOW TO FIND A JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Learn how UCS can assist with your job search. In this session, students will learn how to search for job leads, search alumni and employer research databases, and learn how to participate in on-campus interviews. Thurs. Feb. 24 4p 239B Hanes

SUMMER INTERNSHIP STIPENDS FOR NON PROFITS AND THE ARTS: UCS is offering stipends of up to \$1,000 to support undergraduates who will be performing unpaid internships in Non Profits or the Arts this summer. Students must be returning to UNC in the fall. Further information and applications are available at the UCS front desk. Applications are due by 5 pm on March 31, 2005.

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