House, Senate see bevy of legislation

BY WHITNEY ISENHOWER

The temporary gas shortages and ationwide price spike brought on by Hurricane Katrina are spurring some lawmakers to take action.

Several proposals put forward in the U.S. House and Senate are designed to combat the post-Katrina price jump and minimize the impact of similar situations in the future.

Many experts, however, said more regulation would do little to

improve gas scarcity.
"I am just very skeptical that any government control won't just make things worse," said Ed Erickson, professor of economics at N.C. State University.

U.S. Sens. Richard Burr, R-N.C., and George Allen, R-Va., proposed legislation that would require prompt reporting of fuel shortages so the public would be quickly informed about any problems with energy availability.

Doug Heye, Burr's spokes-

man, said current procedures failed to get the information out effectively. Burr's legislation calls for the Department of Energy to combat future communication

"With what we've seen in the past couple of weeks, there wasn't a clear line of communication," Heye said. "Clearly, we need to ensure that we've got a stable supply of

A bill offered by U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y., proposes that gas prices be frozen at pre-Katrina levels.

Jeff Lieberson, Hinchey's spokesman, said the gas companies have reported substantial profits in recent years, demonstrating little need for them to continue benefit-

ing in a crisis situation.
"This is a way in which (Hinchey)

thinks he can effectively help the

American people at the gas pump," Lieberson said.

price controls for gasoline doesn't really address the problem, said

Tom Crosby, vice president of communications for AAA Carolinas.

ments try to regulate and legislate in these situations, it just doesn't

"That's penalizing private busi-sses," he said. "Whenever govern-

With fuel costs having risen

steadily for most of the last year, the sudden jump after Katrina might have put pressure on law-makers to provide relief. "Some of (the legislation) is

well thought out and overdue," said John Tobin, executive direc-

tor of the Energy Literacy Project

Inc. "But some of it is, I'm afraid, frankly political."

"Between the energy crisis and the public, frankly, Congress doesn't know which way to go." Katrina did help spotlight the

long-running issue of tightening fuel supplies, Tobin said.

er a renewed push for conserva-tion will take hold once supplies

are back up and prices begin to

"Regretfully, if history repeats itself, we do panie," Tobin said. "But once the issue goes away ... we tend to return to our old habits."

Erickson said that the gas short-

age is primarily a supply issue and that legislation could have done little

to prevent the hurricane from knock-

is not going to cause Katrina to do

anything but what Katrina did," he

"All the legislation in the world

Contact the State & National

Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

ing out refineries and pipelines.

But it remains to be seen wheth-

But implementing government

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines Inc. and Northwest Airlines Corp., hobbled by high fuel costs and heavy debt and pension obligations, filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors Wednesday, becoming the third and fourth major carriers to enter Chapter 11 since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Delta's late afternoon filing included its low-fare carrier Song and was followed shortly after by Northwest's.

Delta's total debt is roughly \$28.3 billion, and it listed \$21.6 billion in assets, according to the filing. The asset figure would make Delta's bankruptcy the ninth-largest in U.S. history, according to bankruptcy tracker New Generation Research Inc. The ranking did not change following Delta's recent \$425 mil-

ngers were not expected to see any immediate effects from the filing.

Colleen Fischvogt, a spokeswoman for Raleigh-Durham International Airport, said she does not anticipate any disruptions in flight operations. "We do not expect an impact on the flights that they currently have scheduled," she said.

Because RDU doesn't serve as a hub for the airlines, longer-term operations are likely to continue as normal, she added.

Delta also promised to honor all tickets and sent a letter to frequentflier customers seeking to reassure

We are operating our full schedule of flights, honoring tickets and reservations as usual, and making

lion sale of feeder carrier Atlantic Southeast Airlines to SkyWest Inc. Delta and Northwest said pas-Octation of the description of the said in the letter.

Chapter 11 protection will allow Delta to pursue wage cuts for its 65,000-plus full-time employees, as well as to change pension and health benefits for workers and retirees, that would have been difficult or impossible without protected status.

Delta was expected to continue its normal schedule. But as the com-pany makes its way through bankruptcy court, some changes to Delta's operations could occur, analysts say.

Atlanta-based Delta, the nation's third-largest carrier, has lost nearly \$10 billion over the last four years despite announcing it would cut up to 24,000 jobs. In September 2004, it also said it would shed its Dallas hub as part of a sweeping turnaround plan aimed at saving

its operations in Dallas.

Even the stronger carriers are finding business harder with fuel prices soaring, carrying crude oil futures past \$70 a barrel earlier this

Some smaller carriers, including Honolulu-based Hawaiian Airlines and Indianapolis-based ATA Airlines Inc., also have filed for bankruptcy in recent years. Hawaiian emerged from bankruptcy in June.

The airline industry was devastated in the aftermath of the 2001 terror attacks, which prompted many people to cut back on air travel. The recession and slow economic recovery in the early part of the decade also eroded airlines' business, and the rise of low-cost carriers such as JetBlue Airways Corp. further stymied the big carriers' rebound.

THE MESS AROUND



DTH/WHITNEY SHEFTE

ole Yonkers, 4, plays in the hay outside Maple View Farm Country Store in Orange County on Tuesday. The farm, a family-owned dairy farm that sells ice cream, recently opened a store in Carrboro on Weaver Street. They raised \$30,000 for Katrina relief in a fundraiser Sept. 5.

Mass. stays firm on gay marriage

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Legislature rejected a proposed change to the state constitution Wednesday aimed at banning gay marriage, a striking reversal that preserves the state's status as the only place in the nation where same-sex couples can wed.

A year after Massachusetts politicians appeared destined to undo a court order that has allowed thousands of same-sex couples to marry since May 17, 2004, the Legislature voted 157-39 against the proposed constitutional amendment.

It was the second time the Legislature had confronted the measure. Lawmakers were required to approve it in two con-secutive sessions before the proposal could move to the statewide ballot in 2006 for a final decision

The measure, which would have allowed Vermont-style civil unions, won passage by a 105-92 vote last year. But the political and social landscape had changed dramatically since then.

Gone was the intensity, the end up on the ballot is 2008.

seemingly endless debate and, in some quarters, the taste for strip-ping away the right to marry for

ay and lesbian couples.

"Gay marriage has begun, and life has not changed for the citizens of the commonwealth, with the exception of those who can now marry," said state Sen. Brian Lees, a Republican who had been a co-sponsor of the amendment. This amendment, which was an appropriate measure or compro mise a year ago, is no longer, I feel, a compromise today."

The proposal also was opposed by critics of gay marriage, who want to push for a more restrictive

"The union of two women and two men can never consummate a marriage. It's physically impossible," said state Rep. Phil Travis, a Democrat. "The other 49 states are right and we are wrong."

Lawmakers already are prepar-

ing for a battle over another pro-posed amendment that would ban both gay marriage and civil unions The earliest that initiative could

World leaders convene to sign terrorism accord

UNITED NATIONS - World leaders began signing a global treaty Wednesday making it a crime to possess radioactive material or weapons with the intention of committing a terrorist act or to damage a nuclear facility.

The Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was the 13th anti-terrorism treaty to be adopted by the U.N. General Assembly but the first since the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States Russian President Vladimir

Putin, whose country sponsored the seven-year effort leading to the treaty's adoption by consensus in April, was the first leader to sign the document Wednesday morning at a desk in a makeshift hall on the sidelines of the U.N. summit.

President Bush signed next, followed by French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, as the first of more than 50 leaders who were expected to sign by the end of Thursday. The treaty must be ratified by 22 countries to take effect.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, who was the fourth to sign, said it was important that the document be followed quickly by a broad treaty covering all aspects of terrorism - an effort that has been blocked for years by disagreements over defining terrorism and other

"With the other signatories we have taken an important step for-ward in reducing the risk of nucle-

ar terrorism," Martin said. "That being said, if we are to make the ed in such crimes, as well as outlinworld a safer place, clearly we need a more comprehensive approach to disarmament and proliferation,

and we must get on with it."
A U.N. document that the national leaders are to adopt at the end of the three-day summit stresses the "need to make all efforts to reach an agreement on and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism" in the

The nuclear terrorism treaty makes it a crime for any person to possess radioactive material or a radioactive device with the intent to cause death or injury or damage property or the environment. It also would be a crime to damage a civilian or military nuclear facility.

Threatening to use radioactive material or devices — or unlawfully demanding nuclear material or other radioactive substances also is outlawed.

Such activities would have to involve actions across national boundaries. Offenses committed by people within their own country are excluded, along with the activities of military forces during conflict.

Countries that are party to the treaty will be required to make the covered acts criminal offenses under their national laws, "punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account the grave nature of these offenses."

The treaty also calls on countries to cooperate in related investigaed in such crimes, as well as outlining the rights of the detainees.

Steven Welsh, a research analyst and legal expert with the Center for Defense Information, welcomed the emphasis on international cooperation and using the rule of law to fight terror.

'It's an important step toward finding a more comprehensive way of dealing with terrorism," he said.

Russia began campaigning for the treaty in 1997, but it was stymied for years because some countries believed the draft was trying to define terrorism and they fear such a definition would implicate those involved in independence struggles, such as the Palestinians

Diplomats said the roadblock was broken late last year when the 57-member Organization of the Islamic Conference decided the treaty could focus on criminalizing specific actions — in this instance, nuclear attacks - as other anti-terrorism treaties have done.

The drafting committee th quickly agreed on a text April 1. leaving the difficult issue of defining terrorism to a new overall convention on terrorism.

All states that sign the treaty must adopt measures to make clear that acts designed to provoke terror in the general public or in specific groups cannot be justified under any circumstances "by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature."

Iraq shaken by bombings

BAGHDAD, Iraq — More than a dozen highly coordinated bombings ripped through Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least 160 people and wounding 570 in the capital's bloodiest day since the end of major combat. Many of the victims were day laborers lured by a suicide attacker posing as an employer. Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for the attacks in the name of Sunni insurgents, saying it was a retaliation for the rout of militants at a base close to the Syrian border.

The spasm of violence terrorized the capital for more than nine hours. The first attack, at 6:30 a.m., was the deadliest: a suicide car blast which tore through the predominantly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Kazimiyah.

In what was believed to be a new

tactic, the bomber set off the explosive after calling the construction and other workers to his small van and enticing them with promises of employment, a witness said. At least 112 people were killed and more than 200 were wounded, according to Health Ministry officials Twisted hulks of vehicles blocked the bloodstained main street in Kazimiyah's Oruba Square.

Al-Qaida's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, purportedly declared "all-out war" on Shiites, Iraqi troops and the government in an audiotape posted Wednesday on an Internet site known for carrying extremist Islamic content.

The al-Zarqawi tape was a clear attempt, coming on the heels of the attacks, to create a climate of fear. sow deeper sectarian discord and scare Iraqis away from the Oct. 15

referendum on a new constitution. Iraqi forces arrested two insurgents in connection with the Kazimiyah bombing, one of them a Palestinian and the other a Libyan, Iraqi television quoted Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari as saying. Al-Jaafari also said the suicide bomber was a Syrian, without offering any details how the identi-

fication was made so quickly.

The attacks came as U.S. and
Iraqi forces pressed their offensive against insurgents in the north-ern city of Tal Afar and along the Euphrates River valley, striking hard at what officials have said were militants sneaking across the border from Syria. Al-Qaida in Iraq said in a Web

posting that it launched the attacks, some less than 10 minutes apart, in response to the Tal Afar offensive, which began Saturday and evicted most insurgents from the city about 50 miles from Syria and 260 miles northwest of Baghdad.

"To the nation of Islam, we give you the good news that the battles of revenge for the Sunni people of Tal Afar began yesterday," said the al-Qaida statement posted on a militant Web site. Its authenticity could not be confirmed. It was unclear why the statement referred to "yesterday." The audiotape was posted later

Wednesday. The speaker, introduced as al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian, said his militant forces would attack any Iraqi they believe has cooperated with the Tal Afar offensive. "If proven that any of (Iraq's)

national guards, police or army are agents of the Crusaders, they will be killed and his house will demolished or burned - after evacuating all women and children - as a

punishment," the speaker said.

But most of the victims

Wednesday were civilians.
At Baghdad's Kazimiyah Hospital, dozens of wounded men lay on stretchers and gurneys, their bandages and clothes soaked in blood. One older man in a traditional Arab gown and checkered head scarf sat in a plastic chair, his blood-soaked underwear exposed and a trail of dried blood snaking

down his legs.
As the hours ticked by, at least 11 other car or roadside bombs shat-tered what had been a few days of relative calm in Baghdad. Two mortar attacks were reported and a multitude of gun battles broke out between U.S. and Iraqi forces and insurgent attackers.

In addition Wednesday, attackers killed 17 men — including Iraqi drivers and construction workers for the U.S. military — in a Sunni village north of Baghdad before dawn. That raised the death toll in and around the capital Wednesday to 177. A senior Health Ministry official said 570 people were wounded in all.

At least six attacks targeted U.S. forces, Iraqi authorities said. The U.S. military said there were four direct attacks on Americans, with 10 soldiers wounded. No U.S. deaths were reported.

Al-Jaafari, in the United States for the annual U.N. General Assembly meeting, expressed "his personal sorrow for the victims of the attacks," his office said.

In Dearborn, Mich., a Detroit suburb with a large Iraqi popula-tion, al-Jaafari vowed to fight back.

The Daily Tar Heel

For Rent

KENSINGTON TRACE CONDO off We Dairy Rd. 2BR/2BA, On busline. New a

UNIVERSITY COMMONS: 4BR/4BA, 2nd floor, W/D, couch, full kitchen, pool, clubhouse. J/D buslines. 51,300/month or \$325/bedroom. 919-444-7739/919-541-6309.

2BR APARTMENT in beautiful woods. 1102 East Franklin St. 1 mile from campus, on busline, carpet, W/D available. Private 2 car parking. Call 929-1714.

BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS 3BR/2BA condo. Busline. Near Timberlyne. Huge loft, private deck. \$900/mo. 919-929-1309.

Classified Advertising

For Rent

LIVE IN THE COUNTRY.A short drive to campus from 303 Homestead Road, 2BR/I BA brick ranch house with carport and yard with room for garden. Full kitchen with dishwashe, hardwood floors, W/D. Just S625/month! Call Cindy at 967-0776. Cats welcome with pet fee.

2BR APARTMENT - SUBLET \$600. Merritt Mill Road. Short walk down McCauley Street to campus. Plenty of parking, includes W/D. Call Arbor Realty 942-9937.

For Rent

APARTMENT IN HISTORIC HOME: 405 Ransom St. Excellent location very near campus. Top floor of his-toric home is 28H/DR apartment with full kitchen. Shared W/D. Extra large rooms with hardwood floors, domer windows, large kitchen, good closet space. Extra nice setting. You need to see to appre-ciate. No undergrade please. Rent is \$1,200/month, available now. Call Cindy at 967-0776.

48R/4BA WITH walk-in closet, W/D, dish-washer, central air. Near campus, on 2 bus-lines. Pool, clubhouse. \$415/month, utilities included. Furmished/unfurnished. 933-2215, 808-281-7691.

MARRIED STUDENT HOUSING: A short drive gets you so much more for your money! Just twelve minutes south of campus of 11 57501 to your own private, quiet setting. A newly remodeled duplex with 28r/18A, all new appliances, all new flooring, wood burning fireplace, W/D, centre Island in kitchen, out-

For Rent

ROOM FOR RENT on second floor of my home. Ve quiet, responsible non-smoker. 967-0558.

FOR RENT: 103-C Isley Street. 2BR/1BA. 10 minute walk from Franklin Street. \$595/ month. Call Carlos at 908-392-6020.

HOUSE FOR RENT. 1923 Homestead Road. Split level, 4BR/2.5BA, Walk to all three Chapel Hill schools. Sits on large shaded corner lot. Plenty of room for parking. \$1,150/month, 919-942-8005. STUDIO APARTMENT AND 1BR APARTMENT. Close to UNC, Quiet wooded area in Greenwood subdivision. Includes utilities, deposit required. \$500/month and \$695/month. Call 967-0558.

Rooms

Rooms

ROOM FOR RENT in a cottage in downtown Chapel Hill. 2 blocks to UNC, 1 dog, 2 cats, \$500/month + 1/2 utilities. 919-928-9849.

Sublets

UBLEASE MY APARTMENT in Stratford Hills \$347.50/month. Close to campus, need to know by September 30th. Email Eric at eneff@email.unc.edu.

Roommates

3 FUN FEMALES SEEKING roommate to share 48R/2.5 BA Vineyard Square apart ment starting NOW. Has deck, W/D, dish-washe, and on busline. Available room furnished. \$435/month not including utili-

Roommates

ROOMMATE WANTED FOR 3BR/2.5BA condo. Or busline, W/D, internet, pool, tennis. \$400/month + 1/3 utilities (about \$100). Call Geoff, 919-593-5269, orbel@alumai.urs.edu.

Parking

PARKING CLOSE TO CAMPUS, 923-6787.

Travel/Vacation

SPRING BREAKERS: Book early and save. Lowest prices. Hottest destinations. BOOK 15, 2 FREE TRIPS OR CASH. FREE MEALS/PARTIES BY 11-07-2005. Highest commission. Best travel perks. www.sunsplashtours.com. 1-800-426-7710.

Instruction

CLAY: LEARN IT... MASTER IT

tery lessons, wheel and hand building at the Clay iter at 402 Lloyd Street, Carrboro. Call 967-0314

Volunteering

The Daily Tar Heel

LIKE HELPING CHILDREN LEARN? Sign up to VOL-UNTEER for a variety of roles, all grade levels with the Chaple Hill-Carrboro Schools: www.chccs.kt2. ncus. Information on UNC campus in Student Un-ion, September 7, 8, 13, 27 in Room #2510 from 10am-4pm. Drop in anytime! Email: gmccay@chcs. kt2.nc.us.

SCHOOL READING PARTNERS1 Help beginning readers practice reading skills, 1-2 hours weekly, Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public Schools. Training 09-15-05 or 09-20-05, 5:30-9pm, or 09-22-05, 9am-12:30pm, Preregister: srp@chccs.k12.nc.us, 967-8211 x336.

Lost & Found

LOST MONDAY 09/12!!! Family picture & frame between Stadium Drive & Davis Library. Call Sue

LOST YOUR KEYS? YOUR WALLET? YOUR MIND?!?

LOST & FOUND ADS RUN FREE IN THE DTH

RECENTLY UPDATED 2BR/2BA Finley Forest condo. All appliances included, tennis and pool included, minutes from UNC, large deck, \$850/month. Call Chris, 919-201-3075.