

Senate votes down ban on aid to U.N. family planning programs

WASHINGTON — The Senate rejected a move Thursday to prohibit U.S. aid to U.N. family planning programs. But while losing that battle, Sen. Jesse Helms still managed to put his stamp on foreign aid spending.

The North Carolina Republican, who is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, won approval of amendments blocking the Agency for International Development from moving to new quarters and setting conditions on future aid to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Senate voted 57 to 43 to reject a Helms amendment restoring a ban on U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund unless it terminates its activities in China. China is widely accused of forcing women to undergo abortion.

The bill, approved by the Senate

on a vote of 91 to 9, appropriates a total of \$12.3 billion — \$2.4 billion less than President Clinton requested — for foreign aid and other international programs in fiscal 1996 beginning Oct. 1.

The measure now goes to conference with the House, which passed a bill providing \$300 million less than the Senate version and also included strong anti-abortion language.

After the vote, State Department lobbyist Wendy Sherman said the bill "has some problems and we hope they'll get worked out in conference."

Before the bill reached the Senate floor, anti-abortion language approved by the House was deleted. Helms told senators that "the foreign aid conference report may experience some trouble in the House unless this and other pro-life and pro-child provisions remain."

Noting that the measure would give \$35 million to the U.N. agency, Helms said, it was "\$35 million too much of the taxpayers' money."

Supporters of funding the U.N. family planning activities argued that the fund has a strict policy against paying for abortions.

In addition, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said that the bill before the Senate also bars use of funds for abortion.

"I want to make sure everybody understands, no money in this bill can be used for abortion," Leahy said.

Behind the scenes, senators were trying to come up with a compromise on a Helms proposal to eliminate AID, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the U.S. Information Agency and transfer their functions to the State Department.

School board pulls book for review

EUREKA, Ill. — "The Canterbury Tales," that sometimes bawdy staple of English literature, is off-limits to high school seniors during a debate over whether it's too raunchy for the classroom.

Parents and students in this central Illinois community have quietly complained that portions of the 14th Century classic are too racy, school officials said Thursday.

As a result, the Eureka School Board told Nancy Quinn to stop discussing Geoffrey Chaucer's tales with the 45 students in her college-preparatory English class while the school board reviews the textbook.

"I don't lose anything by not teaching Chaucer, but I think my students do," Quinn said.

Board president Eric Franz says the issue is about education, not censorship. Portions of "The Canterbury Tales" undoubtedly will be approved, he said, but the board must make sure sensitive material is handled appropriately.

"Our intent was to choose the best material, to do what's best for the students," he said. "If the students complain that it's excessive and embarrassing, then we need to take a look at community standards."

Franz said Quinn's discussion of marriage and adultery in some of the tales prompted complaints early this year, and dozens of people have expressed support for the board's action.

Franz, other officials and teachers

refused to identify anyone with concerns. Franz said they were private discussions.

The tales are fictional stories told by people on a pilgrimage to Canterbury. The collection was among the first major works written in commoner's English and addressing issues in everyday life, from religion to sex.

Juliette Cunico, a Bradley University literature professor, said prime-time television contains more sex than anything in "The Canterbury Tales."

"I think it would be a tragedy if Chaucer were not included in an advanced English college prep class," she said.

Long-delayed conference on crime and genetics starts despite criticism

BALTIMORE — Amid criticism from some scholars and black leaders, researchers will hold a long-delayed conference this weekend on whether some people are genetically inclined toward crime.

The conference, which was originally scheduled for 1992 but postponed after an uproar, will also examine possible screening for genetic markers to indicate criminal tendencies.

The three-day conference, organized by the University of Maryland, starts today at the private Aspen Institute in Queenstown, Md. It will be attended by researchers in sociology, neuroscience, psychology and genetics, along with legal scholars and historians.

Alvin F. Poussaint, a Harvard professor of psychiatry and a black civil rights activist, said blacks should be leery.

"There's a history going way back to slavery of white Americans and Europeans saying that blacks are in some way inferior genetically," he said. "There's such a strong chance of misuse that we have to be extremely cautious."

Some academics question whether the research would divert funding from education, unemployment and other causes of crime. One researcher is criticizing a study that proposes inmates be tested for levels of a brain chemical that supposedly predicts violent behavior.

Conference organizer David Wasserman, a legal scholar at the University of Maryland, said the research deals with the relationship between crime and genetics

in individuals, not groups.

In 1992, the National Institutes of Health in 1992 froze the \$78,000 in funding it had promised for the conference, prompting cries of academic censorship from University of Maryland officials.

The NIH said a brochure publicizing the conference gave the impression that the agency endorses a connection between genetics and crime.

Funding was restored last year after an NIH appeals board found the agency didn't have the power to freeze already-approved funds.

About 35 participants at the conference will present papers and discuss whether tendencies toward violent or otherwise criminal behavior can be inherited and, if so, how this can be measured. Testing for genetic markers and other social and ethical issues of the research also will be discussed.

Evan S. Balaban, a geneticist and neurobiologist at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego who will attend the conference, cautioned against applying the research to public policy.

"I think the problem is a lot of people on the fringes of science, in government and law, have this almost religious belief that things science produces are true and you must act on them," he said.

However, Dorothy Nelkin, a New York University professor of sociology, questioned the motives of many researchers.

"People doing the work are not geneticists; they are behavioral psychologists," she said. "I think it's research with a social agenda."

Man with semiautomatic pistol arrested

From Staff Reports

A man arrested outside Avery Hall Thursday afternoon was carrying a loaded .38-caliber semiautomatic pistol, police said.

Malcolm Komer, 21, was arrested by Lincoln police on charges of carrying a concealed weapon and giving false information. Komer refused to give his address to police.

Police gave the following account of the incident: Officers noticed what appeared to

be a domestic disturbance between Komer and a woman at 12th and O streets.

Police stopped a man fitting Komer's description at about 2:30 p.m. outside Avery Hall. When asked to identify himself, Komer gave a false name, saying he was carrying no identification.

While patting him down, police discovered the pistol, an extra clip of ammunition and Komer's driver's license.

He was arrested without incident.

Violence

Continued from Page 1

at least one each year.

She said abuse cases were different depending on whether the abuser was male or female.

When men abuse women, she said, they typically are bigger and stronger than the women.

But when a woman abuses a man, she doesn't have to be bigger and stronger than he is, Cauble said. Sometimes the man just doesn't want to fight back, she said, and he takes the abuse, hoping it will calm her.

The Women's Center, which is in room 340 of the Nebraska Union, offers a support system for victims of domestic violence.

Judith Kriss, center director, said domestic violence was a very real problem.

"At least half of the women I've talked to have had domestic violence in their past," she said.

She said the Women's Center tried to help in two ways.

The first, and most important way, she said, is insuring the safety of the person. If a person is in immediate danger of being harmed, Kriss said

WARNING Signs

You may be involved in an abusive relationship if your boyfriend/girlfriend:

- ◆ Is always jealous.
- ◆ Loses his/her temper easily.
- ◆ Is always giving advice and expects it to be followed.
- ◆ Wants to be with you all the time.
- ◆ Tells you how to dress.
- ◆ Is always watching you.
- ◆ Had a violent upbringing.

Where to find help:

- 1-800-944-6282 Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime
- 475-7273 Rape and Spouse Abuse Crisis Line
- 472-0203 Victim Services
- 472-2597 Women's Center

Source: Lisa Cauble, UNL Victim Services

she would do whatever she could to help.

The second way is building up the person's self esteem. Kriss said victims of domestic violence typically had their self esteem destroyed by the experience. She encourages people so they will have the confidence to make a decision to get out of the situation.

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