

business. When we plug marginal wells, we also lose jobs in our communities back home. Plugging a well is permanent. The only way to recover these resources is to drill a new well, which is extremely costly.

Nationally, we plug a marginal well every 30 minutes. In Oklahoma, we plug eight marginal wells per day. In 1993, the State of Oklahoma had over 70,000 marginal wells in operation. The same year, nearly 1,356 marginal wells were abandoned. As a result, my State of Oklahoma lost nearly \$20 million in gross revenues.

This bleak situation has forced businesses to close, imperiled thousands of jobs, and caused States to lose large amounts of production and income taxes. Over the last decade, this country has lost nearly 500,000 jobs as a result of low domestic oil and gas productivity.

It's time for the U.S. Government to open its eyes and support a plan to help restore our domestic industry. I believe that the bill we introduced today marks the first step in this plan. It will help stop the abandonment of wells, pump revenues back into State and Federal budgets, and preserve our Nation's natural resources.

It is in the best interest of our country to support this bill and protect our Nation's oil supplies. It would be one of our Nation's darkest days should we awaken to find ourselves with a depleted oil supply, leaving us totally at the mercy of the world's unstable oil producing nations. Our Nation's oil and gas supplies are a national treasure that must be preserved and maintained. I look forward to working with my colleagues and I urge them to support this critical legislation.

LONG ISLAND'S OWN EINSTEINS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is quite an honor for any Representative to have one finalist from the Westinghouse science competition from their district. I have the unique honor to represent two budding scientists recently named finalists for the Westinghouse science competition.

Neil Catillo Srivastava, 17, of Ward Melville High School in East Setauket researched nitric oxide and its effect on cell movement and wound healing.

Debleena Sengupta, 17, also of Ward Melville High School, completed a project in biochemistry that was designed to remove toxic metals, such as uranium, cost-efficiently from water.

Their outstanding results were made possible by the effort of local high schools to establish and maintain intensive research courses, staffed by experienced teachers. Since the 1980's the number of high schools on Long Island offering such research courses have more than tripled; now 40 of 114 public high school are in my eastern Long Island district.

High-technology medicine and environmental sciences are the wave of the future. On eastern Long Island, from Smithtown to Montauk and across the Nation, parents and teachers are working together to foster and

support student's natural interest in the sciences. It is this natural interest that we must cultivate for the future of this Nation. Budding young scientists, like Neal and Debleena, illustrate the possibilities for years to come.

Please, join me in recognizing the incredible success not only of Neil and Debleena, but also their teachers and all of eastern Long Island's quality schools. I submit for the RECORD an article in Newsday from January 25, 1995, that details their accomplishments.

[From Newsday, Jan. 25, 1995]

LONG ISLAND'S EINSTEINS

(By John Hildebrand)

Long Island led the nation yesterday in the number of students named finalists in the Westinghouse science competition, capturing nine slots out of 41, nearly double the number produced by traditional powerhouse New York City.

Honored for their research in fields ranging from genetics to treatment of municipal wastewater, the Long Island high-school seniors were hailed by teachers and principals as persistent, self-motivated students who had helped their schools "come of age." The nine finalist positions are the most ever won by students on the Island, and surpassed the city's total for the first time.

Three of the Island's schools produced two finalists each—the same number as New York City's legendary Bronx High School of Science. Island schools with twin finalists were Ward Melville High School in East Setauket, John F. Kennedy High School in Bellmore and Paul D. Schreiber High School in Port Washington.

Three other Island schools—Jericho, Long Beach and Lawrence High Schools—had one finalist each. Jericho's Soo Yeun Kim, who died in a car crash Nov. 28, was honored posthumously—the first such award in the competition's history.

Results were announced yesterday from the science competition's Washington, D.C., headquarters. All finalists will receive cash awards of at least \$1,000, and the top 10 will receive larger scholarships including a first prize of \$40,000.

As news of the latest honors swept through school hallways, results were attributed to efforts by local high schools to establish intensive research courses, staffed by teachers experienced in prepping students for competition. Since the 1980s, the number of high schools in the region offering such opportunities to students has more than tripled, to a total of about 40 of 114 public high schools on the Island.

"This says something about the caliber of Long Island schools—we've come of age here in terms of the programs we're offering," said Steven Kussin, principal of Lawrence High School. He formerly taught at Brooklyn's Midwood High School, another city school that traditionally excels in the Westinghouse contest.

Lawrence High School's winning student, Joel Wollman, 18, had submitted a project involving extensive psychological research.

Like many colleagues, Kussin views the focus on science research in his school as part of a broader movement that also involves encouraging larger number of students to take college-level Advanced Placement courses. "Standards are back, and the proof is in the pudding," the principal added.

Local educators say this year's Westinghouse results are all the more remarkable since the national contest has grown increasingly competitive. Since 1985, the number of science projects submitted by high-school seniors nationwide has jumped more than 60 percent, to 1,660 this year. Local teachers and principals generally voice satisfaction

over results, though some worry the competition and publicity surrounding it could put undue pressure on some students.

Finalists themselves accepted the backslaps of classmates and teachers yesterday, while also trying to focus their attention on midterm exams that are being administered this week across New York State. Many school authorities said official recognition would be extended to finalists as soon as normal classes resume.

"I was just totally shocked," said one winner, Supinda Bunyanich, 17, of Port Washington, who received the news by phone on Monday afternoon. "I was having a snack and watching TV, and then I was nearly screaming."

Another finalist, Daniel Sims, 17, of Bellmore said that school officials "went nuts" when he called them with the news after being notified himself by contest officials.

For Lawrence's Joel Wollman, finalist status brought special satisfaction. The teenager long had endured good-natured ribbing from classmates over his psychological research, which involved efforts to discover why one person's yawning prompts the same behavior in others. "Once I entered the finals, all that stopped," the teenager said.

Finalists were drawn from 300 national semifinalists, including 41 on the Island. They will be flown to Washington in March to compete before panels of eminent researchers for \$205,000 in scholarships. The competition, known as Science Talent Search, draws funding from a foundation established by Westinghouse Electric Corp.

New York City, as usual, produced far more semifinalists than the Island this year, with 84. But the advantage shifted with the announcement of finalists—New York had five—an irony not lost on educators who have seen Long Island schools draw upon the experience of city high schools.

"What suburban schools are beginning to understand is that if you want to win, you have to give teachers enough time to work with students on their projects," said Stan Teitel, coordinator for student research at Manhattan's Stuyvesant High School. Stuyvesant produced 29 semifinalists, the highest number for any school. It had two finalists.

Directors of school research programs on the Island acknowledge their debt to the city's schools, while adding that their recent success is due to other factors as well. Among these are the support of parents with enough money to send their teenagers to summer research institutes on college campuses, and the presence of local research centers, such as the State University at Stony Brook, which supplement the training provided by high schools. A majority of the Long Island finalists attended such summer programs.

"It's Long Island coming into its own," said Melanie Krieger, research coordinator at Ward Melville High School, which produced 12 semifinalists this year. The schools' finalists are Debleena Sengupta, 17, whose project dealt with removal of metal contaminants from wastewater, and Neil Castillo Srivastava, 17, who examined the use of nitric oxide in healing wounds.

Some of this year's local finalists drew on personal experience for their projects. Reed Levine, 17, of Bellmore, did an extensive study of ski accidents in an attempt to improve safety, after a neighbor died in an accident. Tracy Phillips, 17, of Long Beach, developed an electronic sensor to help the sight-impaired count currency, in memory of a brother who was blind and died young.

But there was no award more poignant than that given posthumously to Jericho's

Soo Yeun Kim. Jericho High School will receive a special \$5,000 grant in her name. The school's principal, Mathew Mandery, said the news of Soo's award was welcome, but it also brought back the sadness of her loss.

"I guess in moments like this, we are undeniably proud of her accomplishments, but just wish she were here for us," he said.

As the number of students entering the Westinghouse competition has mounted, teachers in both city and suburban schools have tried to encourage students to look upon research as an activity to be enjoyed for its own sake, rather than for winning prizes. Ward Melville High School's research program has adopted the motto, "To Be In It Is to Win It." The Bronx High School of Science takes a similar approach.

Some educators worry, nonetheless, that students who don't win at least semifinalist status might become discouraged, especially in light of the fact that many devote two or more years to their projects. "Kids who might have the potential to be wonderful researchers later on might come away from this experience with a bad taste in their mouth," said Carole Greene, an assistant principal at Bronx Science.

Others insist that most students involved in Westinghouse competitions have wide enough interests that they are unlikely to become unraveled over a single contest.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA VICTORIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Ms. Maria Victoria, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year, members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the city of Brownsville, TX, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville, TX. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a 4-day international event in which the United States and Mexico are joined in celebration of the cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances, and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a well planned, major function which is enjoyed and eagerly anticipated by many south Texans as well as our winter visitors.

Ms. Maria Victoria is the 31st Mexican citizen to be honored by the Mr. Amigo Association. She has been a successful artist whose talent dates back to the Golden Cinema Era of Mexican music and films. At the tender age of 9, with the encouragement of her two sisters, Maria debuted in "La Carpa Mexico" for which she was paid 9 pesos. In 1949, however, she launched her enormously successful adult career at the Teatro Margo in Mexico City. Her first hit, "Soy Feliz", catapulted her to the top of the popularity charts. Then there followed an avalanche of musical hits, to name but a few: "Esta Sellado", "Eso", "Como un Perro", "Mi Ultimo Fracaso", "Mil Besos", "Sabes Que Te Tengo Ganas" . . . She has appeared in such classic Mexican films as: "Serenata de Acapulco", "Sí mi Vida", "Mujeres de Teatro", "No me Vuelvo a Enamorar", "Monte De Piedad". For 14 uninterrupted years, Maria Victoria has turned to comic roles such as TV series, "La Criada

Bien Criada". Maria Victoria has made 48 movies, turned out more than 100 albums, starred in numerous TV programs, and has made five theater performances on the stage of Mexico City.

Ms. Maria Victoria is the perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award, for she has, over the long period of her career, taken her unique song, screen, and stage performances to numerous countries, including sold-out performances in the United States. A true ambassador of her country and her culture, she has been praised by numerous organizations for her unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Ms. Maria Victoria should be recognized for both her artistic ability, and for her contribution to the commitment of understanding between nations.

Mr. Amigo, Ms. Maria Victoria, will receive the red-carpet treatment when she visits Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During her stay on the border, she will make personal appearances in the parades and at other fiesta events. Official welcome receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, TX, and the cities of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Ms. Maria Victoria for being honored with this special award.

IN HONOR OF SGT. LEWIS J. PERRY, JR.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today I'm pleased to honor a distinguished citizen from Hamden, CT, Sgt. Lewis J. Perry, Jr. After 25 years of exemplary service, Sergeant Perry will retire this week from the Hamden Police Department.

I have known Lew Perry for many years and have always found his dedication and compassion inspiring. Lew is well known to our community for his extraordinary commitment to his public responsibilities. An exemplary police officer and a caring individual, Lew finds the time to help at every level. During his long career, Sergeant Perry has received over 35 commendations and letters of recognition for exemplary performance.

In 1982, he was honored as the Police Officer of the Year and earned the respect of his superiors who promoted him in September 1992 to administrative assistant to the chief of police. Lew Perry stands out as a shining example of the positive effect that one person can have in his community.

Sergeant Perry is also a prominent leader in his hometown of Clinton, CT. He serves as a selectman and as chairman of the Democratic Town Committee. He has given of his time in the past as a member of the Board of Finance and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Lew Perry has compiled a remarkable public record and I know that his wife, Pamela, and his two sons, Michael and Lewis, take great pride in his many accomplishments. Sergeant Perry is admired by all who benefit from his work and his public commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute and honor Sgt. Lewis J. Perry, Jr. I commend him

on a lifetime of invaluable service to the citizens of our community and wish him well in his new position as associate director of public safety at Southern Connecticut State University.

GO AFTER THE CROOKS AND CHISELERS WHO ARE DEFRAUDING THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP PROGRAM; SUPPORT THE FOOD STAMP TRAFFICKING AND PENALTY ACT OF 1995

HON. RON WYDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Food Stamp Trafficking and Prevention Act of 1995, a measure which will step up the penalties levied on criminals intent on tearing large holes in this Nation's most valuable social safety net.

Each year, waste, fraud and abuse in the Food Stamp Program costs taxpayers as much as \$2 billion. Laundering for cash, or exchanging food stamps for contraband items such as guns or drugs, accounts for hundreds of millions of dollars of that total. Occasionally, this activity occurs through retailers who have been initially certified as bona fide grocery stores, but which are, in effect, no more than fronts for the processing of illegal stamp transactions.

This activity not only denies fundamental nutrition to some of our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. It also destroys public confidence crucial to the continuation of a very valuable program.

I have long been a critic of our Government's lackluster efforts to investigate food stamp fraud, and bring to justice persons who are ripping off the system. Our investigative strength at the Food and Consumer Services Division, for example, is about half of what it was a dozen years ago—despite steady growth in food stamp use and fraud. These personnel cuts make no sense. We need more cops on the beat. Improvements in anti-fraud technology such as the electronic benefits transfer program will not produce maximum results until we have more people to make cases and bring the crooks to trial.

I have recently pressed my case on this subject with White House domestic advisors. I am hopeful that the administration's welfare reform efforts will improve our capacity to police fraud in this important program. I believe my position has strong, bi-partisan support in this House.

Beyond increasing our investigative effort, we must also look to establishing real penalties that will cause real pain for the chiselers who are, quite literally, taking food from the mouths of this Nation's poverty-stricken elderly, working poor and defenseless, destitute children.

The Food Stamp Trafficking Prevention and Penalty Act has three important elements.

First, we will strengthen current forfeiture provisions to allow the Government to take all assets resulting from, or involved in the commission of food stamp trafficking. I have devised this language in close cooperation with