

Each Monday afternoon, Armando, Joe and other teens meet at the Boys & Girls Club of Indio to talk about the trials of gang involvement. They agreed to share their stories on the condition that no real names be used. They're afraid of reprisals.

During a typical meeting, they stroll in, shake hands with everyone in the room and plop down for an hour of honesty.

As threatening as their looks appear—some with freshly shaved heads donned what they described as the gang uniform, white T-shirts, dark work pants and Nikes—their words reveal the opposite.

These boys are scared.

"I look around the room and wonder how many of us are going to wind up dead, how many will be in prison," said Raymond, a 16-year-old fresh from Indio Juvenile Hall.

"Personally, it scares me," said Armando, who added that he now spends all his free time at the club on Date Avenue. "These guys are tough. And they think by shooting someone, it makes them the toughest."

What are they killing and dying for?

"Race, property, land, streets, neighborhoods, girlfriends," Armando said.

"Every day's a risk," said Joe, a 16-year-old Indio boy who has been in Juvenile Hall three times. "You could be driving to pick up a girl, and somebody shoots at you."

Or, he said, you might get it just for looking at somebody wrong.

A self-described "mean guy" before being exposed to the Boys & Girls Club, Joe gave animated descriptions of why he participated in gang activity.

Once, he said, he got into a battle with a white man who, he claimed, was "looking kind of crazy at me."

Another time, Joe said, he beat up an elderly white man who was coughing near the pay phone he was using. He said his friend "decked" the man's wife.

Joe said he felt bad about the second incident when he learned the man had cancer.

Exaggerated, perhaps, said program counselor Ron Houston. But, by the same token, such testimonials are evidence that everyone—regardless of race or gender—is at risk of gang violence.

"You never know exactly what motivates or drives them," said Houston, who was an Indio police officer for 17 years. "A lot of it is peer pressure. They commit these violent acts to be accepted."

Frightening for society, the number of gangs continue to grow, he said. During his early years on the police force, there were a few gangs in town.

"Now every section of town has its own," Houston said. Even worse, the members are being recruited at 11 and 12 years old.

"They're the scariest," he said. "They don't have any remorse. They'll do anything to impress the older members."

Houston and Program Director Tony Williams have become father figures to the teens, many of whom never had one. Houston said the body language of the teens—the light punches, arms around him, the kidding—lets him know a connection has been made.

"We take this seriously," said Williams, 29, who worked more than two years with some of the teens during their time at Juvenile Hall. "We are genuinely concerned about kids. We want them to know that once they walk in that door, there's somebody here who cares about them."

## NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR, FELIX GUADARRAMA, HONORED

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Officer Felix Guadarrama has been selected by a committee of his peers to be the North Miami Police Department's Officer of the Year, 1995. I am certain you will agree with me that Officer Guadarrama is a fitting choice. His actions on the force since 1990 have distinguished him as an officer of valor.

During 1995, Officer Guadarrama received numerous commendations from his supervisors, the community, and other police agencies. Many noted his compassion, expertise, and judgment in handling chaotic situations. His superiors credit Guadarrama with saving the life of the victim of a violent attack.

In addition to his daily activities, Officer Guadarrama serves on the North Miami Police Honor Guard and is assigned to the motorcycle unit. He actively raises money for the Police Officers' Assistance Trust Fund and has represented the department in motorcycle escorts at local prestigious events like the recent Summit of the Americas.

Thank you, Officer Guadarrama for your bravery and diligence in the line of duty. You are certainly a credit to our community.

## IN MEMORY OF CHRISTA MAULIFFE AND THE ENTIRE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "CHALLENGER"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the crew of the space shuttle *Challenger*, and to recognize in particular, Christa Corrigan McAuliffe, one of Framingham State College's most distinguished graduates.

Ten years ago, on January 28, 1986, the *Challenger* disaster occurred and changed millions of lives instantly. For the families and friends of the astronauts, it meant incomprehensible loss. For young school children throughout the world, a dashing of hopes. But hope springs eternal.

We are fortunate in this country that our citizens respond so well to adversity. This national tragedy of a decade ago also served to spark the imagination of educators and students to develop a fitting tribute to our Nation's first teacher-astronaut.

In October 1994, Framingham State College opened the Christa Corrigan McAuliffe Center and the Challenger Learning Center, two innovative educational facilities. Inspired by the memory of the *Challenger* crew, the learning centers serve as a continuation of part of the *Challenger* mission: to motivate students to pursue math, science, and technology studies by providing them with exciting educational programs which use space exploration as a theme, and to energize teachers by providing new and interesting training.

In addition, Framingham State College is commemorating the 10th anniversary of the *Challenger* mission by sponsoring a program entitled "Christa's Teachers," a teachers' honor roll which pays tribute to Christa McAuliffe, America's teacher in space, by recognizing the best teachers in America.

Christa Corrigan McAuliffe and the *Challenger* crew were true American heroes. They have left an indelible mark on the fabric of our society, particularly in education; and their enduring legacy is the network of Challenger Centers throughout our Nation which links our students and teachers and captures the imaginations of millions.

## SAMHSA REGULATION

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, the Food and Drug Administration and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA], both of which are located in the Department of Health and Human Services, have proposed tobacco regulations. FDA has just begun its regulatory process by issuing proposed regulations last August, while SAMHSA's final regulations are set to take effect this February. SAMHSA's regulations implement the so-called Synar amendment, which Congress passed with bipartisan support in 1992 to address the problem of underage tobacco use.

The SAMHSA regulations are superior to FDA's more extreme approach. The SAMHSA regulations implement a clear congressional mandate. They will do a better job in a shorter time, with much less Federal involvement and much greater respect for the proper role of the States in our constitutional system.

The Synar amendment conditions substance abuse grant assistance to the States on their taking steps to reduce youth access to tobacco and directs SAMHSA to issue implementing regulations. Today every State prohibits the sale of tobacco products to minors and imposes penalties for violations. In fact, as a result of the Synar amendment, since 1992 some 30 States have taken additional legislative steps to reduce youth access to tobacco.

While the SAMHSA regulations were still pending within HHS, FDA—an agency with no jurisdiction over tobacco and no authorization from Congress to act on youth tobacco issues—published its own extreme proposal to regulate tobacco products as medical devices. FDA is engaged in a blatant attempt to circumvent Congress and override the States. FDA's rules would nullify or supplant dozens of State youth access laws, in favor of an extremist, one-size-fits-all regulatory straight-jacket imposed by Washington bureaucrats. FDA's proposed rules are an end-run around Congress and the States.

Mr. Speaker, in contrast to FDA's extreme proposal, SAMHSA's approach allows flexible responses by the States to reduce underage smoking. FDA's proposed regulations should be withdrawn in favor of SAMHSA's final regulations, which directly implement Congress's will show proper respect for the constitutional authority of the States.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 1996*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, after reflecting on the President's State of the Union Address Tuesday evening, I am deeply disturbed over the many contradictions in his speech. In one breath the President declared: "The era of big Government is over." And in the next he states: "But we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left to fend for themselves."

The President is again trying to be all things to all people. But, he is being dishonest with the American people. The President knows the magnitude of our Government's financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker, he knows our Nation is nearly \$5 trillion in debt. He knows that Government subsidized programs and entitlements are draining our Nation's Treasury. And, he knows that to continue down this road leads us to moral and financial bankruptcy.

Yet, the President continues to try and please everyone. He continues to pander to every person and every group that has come to depend on a Government subsidy paid for by the American taxpayer. He continues to pander to his voting base for the 1996 Presidential campaign.

The elections of 1992 and 1994 were about change. The people of this Nation said "enough is enough." The people told Washington they were tired of big government. They told Washington they were tired of the Democrat's tax and spend policies.

Mr. Speaker, 1996 is another election year. And the President can read the polls. His State of the Union Address played to the people's desires and emotions. The President challenged Republicans in Congress to give him a balanced Federal budget, tax cuts for working Americans, welfare reform, educational scholarships, crime prevention programs. And the list goes on and on.

Well Republicans have already met the President's challenge. But he failed to tell the American people that in his State of the Union Address.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a balanced Federal budget—and he vetoed it.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill that cut taxes for all working Americans—and he vetoed it.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill to reform welfare as we know it—and he vetoed it.

The President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill providing \$2 billion in new crime prevention programs—and he vetoed it.

And, the President failed to tell the American people we gave him a bill that increases Federal funding for education, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans and all the Federal programs that help people help themselves. The President failed to tell the American people he vetoed it.

Mr. Speaker, we did all of this and cut wasteful Federal spending and the Washington bureaucracy. We also did all this and returned the power and decisionmaking to individuals, families, and States.

The President failed to tell this to the American people in his address. Why? Because Bill Clinton believes in big government. Bill Clinton believes in Washington bureaucrats making decisions instead of the people.

The President was right when he said the era of big government is over. But the rest of his address was a last gasp for tax and spend big government. The American people rejected that philosophy in 1994 and we in Congress reject it now. We will not continue to pass on more and more financial obligations to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton needs to be more honest with the American people. He needs to have a change of heart or we need to change President.

## FAREWELL TO INDIA'S ENVOY TO WASHINGTON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 1996*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the very finest diplomats it has been my pleasure to work with during my tenure on the House International Relations Committee, India's Ambassador to the United States, Siddhartha Ray.

I worked closely with Siddhartha during my service as chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and we have enjoyed a close friendship for the last 4 years.

During his years in Washington, Siddhartha worked tirelessly to improve Indo-United States relations, and to promote policies designed to reduce tensions between India and Pakistan. In both of these areas, he was enormously successful.

Ambassador Ray and his embassy effectively publicized the importance of the Indian market to American business. It was during Ambassador Ray's tenure that the United States Secretary of Commerce led a high level business delegation to India.

Ambassador Ray was equally effective in helping to curtail the South Asian arms race by effectively arguing against the administration's plan to transfer advanced fighter aircraft to Pakistan.

Siddhartha and his delightful wife Maya were an extraordinary team in Washington. They came to this post after distinguished careers in law and government. Siddhartha came to understand the workings of the U.S. Congress as only a former Member of Parliament could.

I join my colleagues in wishing Siddhartha and Maya Ray the very best of luck in their future endeavors, and we hope to see them back in Washington often.

## TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH REILLY

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 1996*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to pay tribute to the young woman who is nearing the end of her tenure

as Miss Rhode Island. Elizabeth Reilly not only displays the poise, grace, and character that are often associated with participants in the Miss America contest, she has also made a significant contribution to the welfare of Rhode Island's children.

Elizabeth is a second grade teacher at West Broadway School in Providence. Her father is a teacher, and Elizabeth has long known that she, too, wanted to enter this critical field, in which she could work to help our youngest citizens.

Three years ago, while teaching at Sackett Street School in Providence, Elizabeth saw that many of her students did not have adequate clothing. This serious problem distracted the children and prevented them from focusing their energy on learning.

To address this troubling situation, Elizabeth established a clothing bank that collected donations of clothing and distributed them to children in need. Elizabeth's selection as Miss Rhode Island attracted additional attention and donations for the clothing bank, helping her to expand this vital service. Although Elizabeth's tenure as Miss Rhode Island is nearing its end, the clothing bank that she has created will continue to benefit Rhode Island children for many years to come.

On this floor, we often state that our Nation's citizens must reach out to each other in order to address the problems confronting our communities. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Elizabeth Reilly, whose work exemplifies the true spirit of community. I know the future holds a great deal more for Elizabeth Reilly, and I wish her all the best.

## IN MEMORY OF LILLIAN VEGA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 25, 1996*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Lillian Vega, a remarkable woman whose lifelong commitment to her family, friends, and the Bronx contributed to the nourishment and strengthening of our community.

Today her memory will be honored by her family and friends at a meeting of Community Planning Board #9, in the Bronx.

Ms. Vega was born in Ponce, PR. When she was 15 years old, Ms. Vega and her family moved to New York. After completing high school, she married Cesar Rivera and had five children.

Ms. Vega started working as a secretary at the Hunts Point Community Corporation. Fifteen years of experience, dedication, and hard work led to her promotion to deputy director of the agency.

Ms. Vega's political career began at the Hubert H. Humphrey Democratic Club in the 1970's. She was the first Puerto Rican woman to become district leader and held this office for almost 20 years. Her co leaders included Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, State Senator Efrain Gonzalez, and Councilman Rafael Castaneira Colon.

Ms. Vega also worked as a community liaison for Assemblyman Hector Diaz and, most recently, as Community Associate at Community Planning board #6.

Her active work in the community and her accomplishments led to numerous awards.