

Erma Bombeck's career as a columnist spanned an era when women began leaving the kitchen for the board room and experiencing corporate heartburn rather than labor pains. The message that we should "have it all" was everywhere. A heretofore-unknown body of womanhood was developing a thousand new and different dialects with no translator. There were new battlefields of full-time motherhood versus full-time personhood.

A grudging understanding and bridging of these gaps among women came about, partly through the written work of this clever lady and her sharp pen.

She spoke the language of women everywhere, a language of the heart. Every story she told seemed to reach a part of our sense and sensibility no matter what the topics. People saved the stories, underlined them, sent them to relatives, read them to friends over the phone.

And what made it all so effective was that this woman was a part of all of our families. She knew your mom, your Aunt Rose, your husband, your child.

Her stories were her own, but to me, as to other readers, it almost seemed as if the text were taken from a hidden camera set up in my own house—with words used verbatim.

In February, my daughter sent me a Bombeck column as a valentine. The topic? "Having It All."

The content could have been taken directly from the life my two children and I experienced as I tried to be a 48-hour-a-day mom to them while still cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, car-pooling, shopping, pretending to be an intelligent life form, healing the sick, raising the dead—woman will understand. The last few lines of the column gave hope that someday the child will realize the mother-to-slave ratio and actually express gratitude, even if it is 20 years later.

And that's what my daughter did. She wrote at the bottom of the column, "Thanks, Mom. I love you," Hallmark never said it better.

Coming as my twenty-something children are on their way to productive lives and I confront the "what now?" crisis, this column felt like a testimonial.

Erma, friend, I will miss you.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I voted in favor of the Small Business Job Protection Act yesterday because it provides several advantageous new tax benefits for small businesses and their employees. By creating simplified retirement plans, extending the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance and encouraging employers to hire workers from economically and otherwise disadvantaged groups through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, this legislation can contribute to the vitality of small businesses.

Despite the positive attributes of this bill, two provisions trouble me. First, by repealing section 956A of the Tax Code, Congress is reinstating an incentive for U.S. companies to move operations and jobs to foreign tax havens, accumulate unlimited passive assets, and avoid paying U.S. income taxes.

Congress put section 956A in the Code in 1993 to curb the ability of controlled foreign

corporations to accumulate excess passive assets and shelter them from U.S. taxation. By repealing this provision, we are giving yet another tax break to multinational corporate giants and a paid-for-ticket to run to tax havens. And oddly enough, we're doing it in a "small business" bill.

Secondly, I do not favor the wholesale repeal of the Section 936 tax credit which encourages economic investments in Puerto Rico. This action would have a detrimental impact on American citizens in Puerto Rico. I do endorse reform of the credit, focused on establishing effective mechanisms to foster and improve job creation, and using the projected revenue savings for social and employment and training needs in Puerto Rico.

I urge House conferees to carefully reassess these provisions and seek alternative revenue sources to pay for the valuable small business tax reforms in this legislation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of raising the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is a critical earnings floor for the working men and women of our Nation. I have supported the necessary periodic increase in the minimum wage since I was first elected to Congress, introducing my own bill for this purpose in 1986. In 1989, I voted in favor of adjusting the minimum wage to its current level of \$4.25.

It is abundantly clear that \$4.25 is no longer an adequate minimum wage. Since 1991, the wage has lost \$0.50 in value. An individual working full time at this rate makes less than \$9,000 per year—not nearly enough to support a family.

Even the proposed increase of \$0.90 over 2 years will only compensate for half the value lost in inflation during the 1980's. However, it is a critical step.

Nearly 12 million workers across our Nation are working for minimum wage. Of these, close to 75 percent are over 20 years of age. Fifty-eight percent of these adults are women, many of them single mothers. In Wisconsin alone, about 9 percent of our workforce—over 200,000 people—is earning less than \$5.15 per hour.

This is simply not sustainable. If we are going to reform welfare, cut the earned income tax credit, and reduce other benefits for the poor, we must guarantee them a livable wage. We cannot cut all the legs off the table and then wonder why it does not stand. The minimum wage is a crucial safety net for the working poor, ensuring that we do not return to the sweatshops of the past, where unscrupulous employers preyed upon the desperate.

I would also like to express my opposition to the Goodling amendments, which represent nothing more than a cynical attempt to scuttle the minimum wage increase. The first of these amendments would discriminate against new hires and tipped employees, two of the groups most likely to be earning the minimum wage. These provisions would allow employers to pay subminimum wage levels to these workers.

The second Goodling amendment would exempt small businesses with less than \$500,000 in gross annual sales from minimum wage laws. This would effectively excuse two-thirds of all American businesses, employing over 10 million workers, from providing a modest wage floor. This is outrageous. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will recognize these provisions for the cynical ploy they are and reject them outright.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the strongest possible terms to vote in favor of increasing the minimum wage.

NEW BEDFORD STANDARD TIMES SUPPORTS SUPREME COURT'S COLORADO DECISION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to read in the New Bedford Standard Times, on Thursday, May 23, an excellent editorial in support of the recent Supreme Court ruling striking down the anti-gay and lesbian law in Colorado. As the editorial cogently points out, what the Supreme Court said is "that this is still the United States of America, people are still entitled to equal protection under the law. All people. Even ones we may misunderstand or, as in the case of Colorado voters, despise. The Supreme Court understands that, even if many other people do not." I am very grateful to the editorial board of the New Bedford Standard Times for coming to the Supreme Court's defense on this important occasion when they have reaffirmed basic American constitutional principles. And I ask that this excellent, temperate, well reasoned editorial be printed here.

COURT'S RULING ON GAYS WAS STRICT READING OF CONSTITUTION

The U.S. Supreme Court made a profoundly conservative decision this week when it voted 6-3 to strike down a Colorado measure that sought to deny homosexuals any "special treatment" under the law.

That's always the charge when gays in the United States make any attempts to appeal to the government to stop people from discriminating against them. They're looking for "special treatment" that no one else gets.

But the Colorado constitutional amendment turned that logic on its head, giving homosexuals "special treatment" no American would want, and in the process ran afoul of the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

The six justices who made that conclusion haven't lost their minds. They haven't subscribed to some subversive liberal agenda. They merely read the words of the amendment in question and took them literally. And what they meant, literally, that one group of people was to be singled out for a single trait and systematically denied any specific civil rights protection in the State of Colorado.

"It is not within our constitutional traditions to enact laws of this sort" was the tart understatement of Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who wrote the majority decision. To better understand what he meant, try substituting the words "black" or "elderly" or "handicapped" for the word "homosexual" and try talking about denying those groups protection under the law when they have

been discriminated against. To put it simply, in those cases where communities have instituted laws protecting gays from discrimination in housing, banking, employment or whatever, it is because of the fact that without such protections it remains legal to discriminate against them in many instances. The discrimination does happen. As we see in Colorado, that's the way a lot of people would like it.

But thanks to the fact that this is still the United States of America, people are still entitled to equal protection under the law. All people. Even ones we may misunderstand or, as in the case of Colorado voters, despise. The Supreme Court understands that, even if many other people do not. We've got a long way to go in this country, don't we?

SEYMOUR H. KNOX III

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a man who was a friend of mine, a friend of his community, and a friend of our Nation. Seymour H. Knox III, who passed away this week, was a leader in Western New York whose contributions were known to all.

Mr. Knox was best known as the co-owner, with his brother, of the Buffalo Sabres hockey team. But he was more—much more—than a sportsman, important as that role was in our community. He followed his father's footsteps as a patron of the arts. He was a successful businessman. And the list of his other civic endeavors is too long to list.

Seymour Knox's last contribution to our region may be the longest-lasting. It was his drive and dedication, perhaps more than anything else, that ensured the development of his beloved hockey team's new home, Marine Midland Arena. And that new facility will help spur the continued redevelopment of downtown Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, Buffalo and the entire Western New York area will miss Seymour Knox, and I know that all of his neighbors and mine join in paying tribute to one of our finest.

At this point, I ask unanimous consent to introduce a Buffalo News' editorial about Mr. Knox into the RECORD:

[From the Buffalo News, May 23, 1996]

SEYMOUR KNOX III LEAVES LEGACY TO THE
COMMUNITY HE CARED FOR

Seymour H. Knox III was born to wealth, and he put it to good use for his community. Like his father before him, Knox left Buffalo an institution that will forever bear his mark. In his father's case, it was a nationally known art gallery. In his case, it is a nationally famous sports team. Buffalo is richer for both of them.

To say it simply, Buffalo needs more people like Seymour H. Knox III. His death Wednesday, from cancer, came a few days after the public got its first look at the Marine Midland Arena, which Knox worked ardently to bring into being. It will be the new home of the Buffalo Sabres major league hockey team, his hard-won creation and his enduring contribution to his home town.

More than one friend and more than one fan will express regrets that Knox did not live to see the day when his team would skate onto the ice of the new arena. But at least he knew it would happen.

Though the efforts of Knox and his brother, Northrup, the Buffalo franchise in the Na-

tional Hockey League was secured in 1969. From the beginning to his death, Seymour Knox III was chairman of the partnership that owned the team. Most of the time he was also president of the team.

Titles aside, the hockey-loving public knew Knox simply as the one who got the team for Buffalo and served as its head man through the years. He was the guy in the gold seats a few rows above the Sabres' bench.

Knox also kept the team here. In an age when professional owners change cities at an alarming rate, Knox was loyal to Buffalo even though its comparatively small market might have made other pastures seem greener. The point of the new arena is to make the team financially strong, securing it for Buffalo for the foreseeable future. Knox's vision made the Marine Midland Arena possible. His legacy will be the exciting hockey games of the future—games that will help make Buffalo a better place to spend the winter.

Knox was also important to Buffalo for numerous other civic endeavors. Those included the chairmanship of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, governing body of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, which, to a great degree, was his father's gift to Buffalo. The gallery's most distinguishing feature is its modern art collection put together with care by the late Seymour H. Knox Jr.

His son's contribution is less genteel, but a community needs many aspects to its life. It is richer for both of these gifts.

From the start, the hockey team has played at Memorial Auditorium, Buffalo's aged indoor sports place, now slipping into retirement.

At the last Sabres game in the Aud a bit more than a month ago, Knox was given a prolonged ovation by a capacity crowd. Fans know why the Sabres exist. They let it show. Knox give a short speech, closing with the words: "Farewell, old friend."

Buffalo people can repeat those words today.

HONORING MARVIN GRAVES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the achievements of a very talented and gifted athlete who is also a Washingtonian. Marvin Graves is a 6'1", 195-pound athlete who is an exceptional football player and a responsible citizen who has dedicated himself to community service and lived up to the respect and admiration he has won from fans.

Marvin Graves was born in Washington, DC on February 7, 1971, to Melvin and Katrina Graves. He attended Archbishop Carroll High School in the District where he lettered in football, basketball and baseball. Upon graduation from high school Marvin Graves entered Syracuse University on a four-year football scholarship and majored in child and family studies.

During the course of his spectacular collegiate career, he was a four-year starter and holds 16 of the 31 passing records at Syracuse, including 6 of the 11 total offense records. His records also include: a four-time bowl MVP, AP second team All-American, Eastern College Athletic Conference [ECAC] Player of the Year, second team All-Big East, and a finalist for the Daley O'Brien National Quarterback Award.

In 1994 Marvin Graves graduated from Syracuse University. He is now the star quarterback for the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. After an incredible comeback performance on Sunday, October 2, 1994, Marvin Graves' coach Bob O'Billovich had this to say about his star player: "You saw one of the greatest quarterback performances in a fourth quarter that you'll ever see in your life * * * Nobody in this league has played a quarter like that."

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure and honor to recognize the great achievements of my constituent, Marvin Graves. I salute his remarkable career as an athlete and commend his presence and activities in the community. He has spoken at high schools, hospitals, and group homes eager to stress the importance of education, and urging our young people to never engage in drug activity. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding young man.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will help this Nation struggle more effectively with the scourge of illicit drugs, and those who engage in this deadly trade.

It has recently come to my attention that many illegal criminal aliens in our State and local prisons for drug related offenses had often previously been transported—after they had served their prison time—by air by our fine local National Guard units to Federal deportation centers for eventual processing out of our Nation.

There were many important benefits to these controlled National Guard military flights, including security, because many of these criminal aliens involved with drugs and facing deportation often had histories of violent behavior and conduct.

In addition, the cost of transporting these aliens individually along with Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS] officers accompanying them on commercial carriers is expensive. It also exposed these criminal aliens to an unsuspecting public in our civilian airports and on commercial flights.

Current limits on the number and the already broad and difficult responsibilities of our dedicated and hardworking INS personnel, and the costs of commercial travel for and with these criminal aliens facing deportation, often makes it impossible to ensure that these individuals when their time served in jail was completed will ever be taken to or show up at deportation centers. Ultimately these limitations bear heavily on whether in fact these criminal aliens are ever eventually removed from the United States.

In some cases, absent INS ability to effectively transport and move these aliens facing deportation, we may be letting these criminal aliens—pending eventual deportation—merely back into our local communities to engage in more drug related crime and violence.

In the past State and local authorities often had consolidated a number of these individual aliens for a group flight under INS and National Guard control at the same time to these