

broad benefits for countless other species that share its habitat. The Asian elephant is not only ecologically significant as a keystone species in Asia's tropical forests, it is truly a flagship for conservation of the region's tremendous biological diversity.

As the world's largest wildlife conservation organization, WWF is committed to helping save the Asian elephant through projects in Thailand, Vietnam, China, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bhutan, Nepal, and Malaysia. We look forward to working with Congress and the U.S. government to further these conservation activities. Passage of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act is one important and practical step toward securing the future of this magnificent species for generations to come.

Sincerely,

GINETTE HEMLEY,
DIRECTOR,
International Wildlife Policy.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTS THE ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997

The worldwide population of Asian elephants is down to around 50,000 animals, isolated in small pockets in India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The Chinese population is dying out. Up to one-third of remaining elephants live in captivity.

The endangered status of Asian elephants is poignant, because for thousands of years, they have lived in close association with humans, as an integral part of religions and cultures. In the United States, working and zoo Asian elephants have inspired awe, respect, and affection for generations.

WPTI, in cooperation with the India-based Asian Elephant Conservation Centre and the Asian Elephant Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union, has adopted a program to ensure the survival of this species. We have begun surveys in habitat nations, preparations of national plans for elephant conservation in each country, work towards resolution of human-elephant conflicts in agricultural areas, and management strategies for the captive population of elephants for the species' conservation. We are training veterinarians, elephant care givers, and wildlife officials in wild elephant health care.

We have the professionals in place and ready to work, but financial resources to accomplish the important task of rescuing elephants are stretched very thin. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has sponsored surveys, and the Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation has underwritten the costs of finding some solutions to elephant-human conflicts over agricultural lands. Our many members from all over the United States have pitched in with their contributions. But the small amount from private sources cannot address the overwhelming and urgent need. The Asian Elephant Conservation Act will provide the additional assistance that those of us working to save the elephant need to ensure their survival.—Mary C. Pearl, Ph.D., Executive Director, May 1997.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH CENTER,
Front Royal, VA, May 9, 1997.

Hon. JIM SAXTON,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SAXTON: We understand that you are preparing legislation designed to ensure the conservation of the Asian Elephant.

Beginning in the late 1960's the National Zoo undertook several field studies in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) which resulted in the first ecological information of its kind. Since the early 1980s, the National Zoo's Conservation & Research Center has pursued several collaborative Initiatives on Asian Elephants with the assistance of the USAID's Program in Science and Technology Cooperation. Some of these projects have aimed at getting a better understanding of the man-domestic elephant relationship, while others attempt to find solutions to the human-elephant conflict. We have trained local wildlife officers how to survey elephant populations, and have examined the population genetics throughout the geographic range. We are currently using satellite telemetry to evaluate the success of translocating crop-raiding elephants to protected areas in Malaysia. In India's southern state of Kerala, we just initiated a study to examine the economics of rural elephants. We have also been seeking funds to complete a study of stress levels in work elephants. In all of these projects we have worked closely with government agencies and non-governmental organizations in different elephant range countries.

No matter where one travels in wild Asia, the tenuous situation of wild elephants is apparent to the critical observer. Relentless human population growth and timber exploitation have fragmented and degraded most forested areas. Ironically, the loss of these vast green spaces will ultimately have dire consequences for people too. The immediate result is competition with people for the same forest and agricultural resources. The reverence with which rural people held elephants in the past to suffice to overcome these conflicts. Human life and livelihood are in danger, and elephant populations are in retreat. Many populations are simply doomed, but large areas can be conserved for the benefit of elephants, wildlife, and people who rely upon ecosystem services such as watersheds, and forest products, etc.

The legislation you are sponsoring is likely to generate public awareness and much needed funds which could be used to solve the recurrent management problems in the conflict areas. Great strides could be made towards the conservation of this magnificent animal on the Asian continent.

We very much hope you are successful in pursuing this legislation and encourage you in your efforts. Please feel free to contact us at any time for any information you may need in putting the bill together.

Respectfully,

CHRIS WEMMER, Ph.D.,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR
CONSERVATION.

HANOI, VIETNAM,
May 3, 1997.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Resources Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to you in my capacity as a member of the Steering Committee of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC). The SSC is one of six volunteer Commissions with IUCN—The World Conservation Union. The SSC's mission is "to conserve biological diversity by developing and executing programs to study, save, restore and manage wisely species and their habitats". The SSC is made up of over 100 Specialist Groups comprising more than 7,000 scientists, field researchers, natural resources managers, government officials and conservation leaders from almost every country in the world. This global network represents the single greatest source of scientific knowledge about species conservation

in existence. At a regional and national level, the SSC provides advice to governments and NGOs about species conservation needs and helps in identifying priorities.

My own area of specialisation, deep concern and commitment is the conservation of the Asian elephant and its habitat. Over the last 10 years my work in south and south-east Asia has led me to see first hand the enormous problems being faced by this magnificent animal. The species is on the brink of extinction in a vast proportion of its range. This is primarily due to the increasing loss of tropical forests and competition for the remaining resources between growing human populations and elephants. This competition invariably leads to destruction of crops, homes and human lives by elephants wandering out of their limited forest homes, and enraged people retaliating by killing elephants.

We have heard and seen the dramatic decline in numbers of the African elephant in recent years. It is now on the road to recovery due to the tremendous international support given to its plight and the numerous conservation initiatives. The US Government through an Act of Congress has been very much a part of this support mechanism, which is highly commendable. I would urge that a similar initiative on behalf of the Asian elephant be considered by yourself and your eminent colleagues at the Resources Committee. The challenges ahead for us in the field are overwhelming. In spite of the almost intractable problems, many national and international agencies have taken up the challenge and developed strategies to protect this mighty species and its habitat. The support and commitment of your committee to these and other initiatives would be invaluable to the conservation of the Asian elephant.

Yours faithfully,

SHANTHINI DAWSON,
Wildlife Ecologist.

COMMENDING READER'S DIGEST FOR HELPING PARENTS

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend Reader's Digest for the April 1997 article "How to Raise Drug-Free Kids." Authors Per Ola and Emily D'Aulaire focus on the vital role that parents play in preventing teenage drug use. I am encouraged by Reader's Digest's positive piece to help parents and encourage others in the media to follow suit.

The authors of the article point out that the love and guidance that parents show toward their children have a profound impact on their children's development and potential drug use. As children go through the normal stages of growth from infancy to adolescence, they develop relationships with their peers that are based on the early bonds that they have formed with their parents. To help prevent drug use, parents need to take an active role in their children's lives and establish strong bonds of love, dedication, and honesty.

Again, I commend Reader's Digest and authors Per Ola and Emily D'Aulaire and encourage others in the media to follow their example. I believe we should encourage parents toward positive solutions to help our kids.

A GOOD BEGINNING

(By Per Ola and Emily D'Aulaire)

When Lauri and Ted Allenbach of Redding, Conn., were married in 1975, they talked about how their kids should be raised. Ted, then 33, had grown up before the drug culture of the '60s. But Lauri, 25, had seen drugs all around her in high school. One girl, high on marijuana, was involved in a near-fatal auto accident. Another got pregnant while stoned on pot. A single evening of "experimentation" would alter her life forever. Together, Ted and Lauri made a commitment to do whatever it took to raise their children to be drug-free.

Early Steps. A parent's actions even before a child's birth are critical to helping that child stay off drugs in later years. Drugs, including nicotine and alcohol, can cross the placental barrier and damage a fetus as early as three weeks after conception. And some research suggests that babies born to addicted mothers may be at higher risk of addiction later in their lives.

In addition, experts agree that loving attention is important in developing lifelong self-worth—and that lack of self-worth is a major reason for drug use. Long before your children are ready for school, establish family guidelines for behavior: honesty, fairness, respect for others and for the law.

First Lessons. As soon as they're old enough to understand, teach your children that some products found around the house, including household cleaners, aerosols and medicines, can be poisonous.

As an adult, Ted Allenbach learned he had diabetes. As part of his treatment, he took prescription medication. He explained to his children—Danna, born in 1978, and Mark, born in 1981—that though the pills were good for him, they could be bad—for them. Drill it into your child: "Don't ever swallow anything new without talking to me first."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Children five to nine years old still learn mainly by experience. They can slide from fact to fantasy and back again without even realizing it. What they see, however, is very real to them.

Though teachers often achieve herolike status, it's what children encounter at home that counts the most.

"With young children, what's important is not what parents say but what they do," says Ruth-Ann Flynn, a grade-school teacher from Ridgefield, Conn. "If children see their parents drinking and smoking, they're more likely to follow that example."

Most experts agree that it is okay if your kids see you having an occasional drink. But if they see you using alcohol as a regular coping mechanism, it is not. Moreover, don't let your children be involved in your drinking by having them make you a cocktail or bring you a beer.

Good Choices. Now is when to begin teaching your children to make decisions on their own, and to impart "don't be a follower" lessons.

Says Flynn, "I try to make children understand that just because someone tells them to do something, that doesn't mean it's the right thing to do. If they're in doubt, they should ask someone they trust."

By the late elementary-school years many children know of classmates who have begun to smoke, drink or use drugs.

Sniffing Danger. Now is also when kids begin to encounter inhalants: pressurized aerosol products such as paints and cooking sprays or model glue. Kids inhale these volatile substances in order to experience a high. The fact that the momentary "buzz" can cause permanent brain damage, even death, doesn't occur to these youngsters.

One of the most important lessons parents can teach their children at this age is how to

say no. Lauri Allenbach advised her kids to give reasons, such as: "I signed an agreement with my coach that I won't smoke or drink." If all else fails, she told Danna and Mark to make her the villain: "No way. My mom would kill me."

Escape Routes. Help kids stay away from places where they may be pressured to use illegal drugs. If there's a party, they should ask, "Who else is coming?" and "Will your parents be home?" As a last resort, tell your kids if they sense trouble brewing, just get out. Says Viola Nears, a mother of a youngster at an inner-city school, "I tell him if he smells pot in the bathroom at school, leave. Go to another bathroom fast."

Teach your children to be aware of how drugs and alcohol are promoted. Kids nearing their teens are increasingly tuned in to TV, movies and music that bombard them with images of drug and alcohol use. Donna Bell, a Wichita, Kan., coordinator of community participation for the Koch Crime Commission and mother of two drug-free children, kept tabs on what they were watching and listening to. "Just telling me they were going to the movies wasn't enough. My husband and I would ask what movie and check it out. It's work, but you've got to do it."

She also took advantage of "teaching moments." As she says, "If we were watching Saturday TV together and saw an anti-drug commercial, I'd use that as a jumping-off point. You can't start talking to your kids too soon—and as long as you're not badgering or threatening them, and you keep your message brief and upreaching, you can't do it too often."

How do you talk to your kids about drugs? Start anywhere, advises the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, a national coalition. Don't worry about how you kick off the discussion, and don't get discouraged if it seems your kids aren't listening. Make one thing crystal clear: you feel strongly that drugs are dangerous, and you do not want your child to use them.

MIDDLE-SCHOOL MANIA

This is probably the most vulnerable period in a child's life, a time when peer pressure hits with a vengeance. Their hair gets longer or maybe disappears. Their clothes are bizarre, their music funky. Hormones bubbling, kids this age are curious about everything—and willing to try just about anything that makes them look cool.

"This is a vital time for parents to keep all lines of communication open," stresses Caitlin Sims, science teacher and head of the after-school drug program at Usher Middle School in Atlanta. "Too often parents relax their guard, thinking the kids are on their own now. But rushing them into freedom is a recipe for disaster."

Sims advises parents to think of the first year of middle school as a new kindergarten. "There're starting over, suddenly thrown in with older, more sophisticated students," she explains. "Check their book bags. Ask to see their homework. Let them earn their new middle-school responsibility."

Facts, Not Fear. Sims and other educators believe that if kids this age are going to resist the peer pressure and temptations around them, they need to be armed with information—not scare tactics.

"Many messages kids hear are designed to frighten them," notes Lauri Allenbach. "If you drink, you'll become an alcoholic; anyone who does drugs is bad." Then, guess what? They see a friend smoking a little pot at parties, and she's still getting A's. They see a basketball player take a drink, and he's still playing well. The contradiction makes them question the whole message."

One teen reported coming home after having smoked some pot at a party. "My par-

ents were like, 'You're going to be a drug addict and die.' They didn't have a clue about drugs." Without intending to do so, his parents had closed the door to further discussion.

"Most kids today know more about drugs than their parents," says Alan Leshner, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). "That's why parents need to do their own research and speak accurately about what drugs do."

Keep advice in the here and now. At middle-school age, talking about long-term health threats doesn't have much effect. Kids are concerned with looking good to their peers. Point out that cigarette smoking causes bad breath and could give them yellow fingers, or that if they drink, they might become ill and throw up in front of their friends.

Setting Limits. Many young people use drugs simply because their friends do. To reinforce a child's ability to resist, get to know your child's friends and their parents, and monitor your child's whereabouts.

Steering children toward the right crowd is not always easy. Declaring a friend "off limits" may only make that person more appealing. Says Wichita's Donna Bell: "I advised my girls to choose their friends wisely. 'You lie down with the dogs,' I'd say, 'you're going to get up with fleas.' They'd laugh—but they knew exactly what I meant."

Keeping Busy. Research has shown that when teens are unsupervised and have little to do, they are more likely to experiment with drinking and drugs. Keep children involved and busy.

When Atlanta's Caitlin Sims first began teaching, her principal gave a friendly warning: "If you don't give them something to do, they'll give you something to do."

As Sims recalls, "It was good advice for me, but in truth it's good advice for the parents of any middle-school child." Extracurricular activities and chores at home keep kids busy and add to their sense of responsibility.

Staying Involved. "Twenty years of scientific research have shown that direct parental involvement in the life of the child is the most protective factor in increasing the odds that a kid will remain drug-free," says NIDA's Alan Leshner.

Lithangia Murray, an Atlanta mother of two, puts involvement at the top of her list of ways to raise a drug-free child. "Parents aren't a key—they're the key," she says. "You have to be a part of your children's lives and be aware of any changes in their behavior."

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley urges parents to visit their child's school and talk to teachers and administrators. Find out what you can do to improve drug-prevention programs.

HIGH-SCHOOL TESTS

Peer pressure still holds sway. Being accepted as one of the gang is a top priority. And though susceptibility to influence may be less than it was during the middle-school years, exposure to drugs and alcohol is even greater—especially once a teen gets a driver's license.

Kids this age need to be reminded that as bad as drugs and alcohol are for their bodies, what those substances can make them do can be equally dangerous. Joseph A. Califano, Jr., former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare and now president of The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University in New York City, notes that getting involved in an automobile accident when high can result in being killed or maimed, or killing or maiming someone else. "Smoking marijuana," he warns, "is like playing Russian roulette."

Some kids are going to get hit with the bullet in the chamber and have their lives permanently affected."

A hot question among baby-boomer parents today is: "What can I say to my kids if I smoked pot when I was younger?" If confronted by your children, be open and honest. Author Peggy Noonan, who experimented with pot in college, offers this advice to other parents: "You did it, and it was wrong—be an adult and say so. It's one thing to be ambivalent about your own choices. It's another to be ambivalent about your child's."

To every parent the U.S. Department of Education offers these words of advice: "Setting rules for a child is only half the job. Parents must be prepared to enforce the penalties when the rules are broken." Experts recommend:

Be specific. Make sure your child knows what the rules are, the reasons for them and what the consequences will be if they're broken. When Mark and Danna Allenbach neared driving age, their father told them, "If either of you ever drink and drive, you can say goodbye to anything to do with our cars. There will be no second chances. Once, and it's over. You're too important to lose."

Be consistent. "Just saying no" can be as hard for parents as it is for a kid. Sometimes caving in to a persistent request is the path of least resistance. But if the answer to a request should be no, stick to it.

Be reasonable. Don't add new consequences after a rule is broken, and make sure the punishment is appropriate. "Consequences are most effective when they fit the infraction," says Olive O'Donnell, education director of the National Family Partnership, a substance-abuse prevention group in St. Louis. "Grounding may be appropriate for a broken curfew, but it's meaningless when applied to something such as not making the bed."

Keep Listening. According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, it's important that parents "don't do all the talking." If you listen carefully to your children and read between the lines, you can learn a lot about what they think about drugs—and help them avoid the pitfalls.

To keep children away from drugs, one thing is clear: schools, community, religious institutions, the police—all of them can help. But no one can replace the family.

Lauri and Ted Allenbach invested a lot of time fulfilling their commitment to raise their children to be drug-free. It has paid off—neither child has been involved with alcohol or drugs. "You have to have control over your life," says Danna, now a freshman at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Mark, a high-school sophomore, has no interest in drugs. "I'm pretty confident," he says. "I don't think I'm going to fold."

The work that parents do is critical. Experts agree it is highly likely that youngsters who don't do drugs as teens will not do drugs as adults.

Talk to your children. Listen to them. Set standards of right and wrong. Keep in mind that they learn by example. Love, support and praise them so they will have a sense of self-worth. Keep them busy. Be involved with—and on top of—their lives. Educate yourself about drugs.

Remember, don't let your silence be acceptance.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD A. CARTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Edward A. Carter, a man who believes in working within his community as though it is his home, and with his neighbors as though they are his family. Mr. Edward A. Carter was born in Richmond, VA. At the age of 2 he moved to the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn where he attended public school and graduated with honors.

Mr. Carter enlisted in the military services in 1950 and served in the 715th AA Battalion. After receiving his B.S. degree at LaSalle University, Mr. Carter enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served overseas. Edward Carter received several commendations of merit and four honorable discharges, one from the U.S. Army, and three from the U.S. Air Force.

After retiring from the Armed Forces, he moved to the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn where he has participated in many social, civic, and fraternal organizations. As the executive director and founder of the Fort Greene Youth Patrol Inc., Mr. Carter serves the needs of hundreds of inner city youth, young adults, and senior citizens. As a founding board member of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, he served as chairman of the Parks and Public Safety Committee for 20 years. Mr. Carter is also the co-founder and vice chairman of the Fort Greene Senior Citizens Council which serves 900 or more senior citizens, Greene Community Corp.

Mr. Carter is extremely active in veterans affairs and simultaneously works with Cumberland Neighborhood Family Clinic and the Veteran Association. Mr. Carter is a 20-year board member for the Selective Services No. 145 in Brooklyn, and a member of the American Legion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting Mr. Edward A. Carter for his outstanding contribution to the Armed Forces and to the people of the Fort Greene community in Brooklyn.

TRIBUTE TO REV. JAMES L. GLEESE

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to remember and pay tribute to the late Reverend James L. Gleese. Reverend Gleese's recent passing will result in a tremendous void in our community. He was a selfless and giving man, seeking to serve rather than be served, to praise rather than be praised, and to glorify rather than be glorified.

After entering the ministry in 1945, Reverend Gleese acted in the benevolent service of his fellow man. In 1954, he founded and operated the Beale Street Mission, which housed homeless men, giving them counseling, employment assistance, and spiritual guidance. He devoted his evenings to the Youth For Christ Ministry, an outreach to young people in the Beale Street area of Memphis. Reverend Gleese led the A.M.E.

Church as presiding elder of the North Memphis district. Through his vision, hard work, and determination, he founded Pearl Street A.M.E. Church and West Point A.M.E. Church. He also fulfilled his service to the greater community by involving himself extensively in civic affairs.

Reverend Gleese will be remembered as a noble spirit and fearless warrior, one who stood tall among his peers and who stood firm in his beliefs. His work in the church and the community and his devotion to his family and friends will be his enduring legacy. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in honoring and remembering this paragon of inspiration and decorated soldier of the cloth, the late Reverend James L. Gleese.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO RAISE THE INDIVIDUAL LIFETIME CAP ON HEALTH INSURANCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 1997

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to introduce legislation to raise the individual cap on lifetime health insurance payments to \$10 million for group insurance coverage.

The current standard lifetime cap is like a dinosaur from Jurassic Park—a relic from another age that can still be hazardous to those who get in its way. A million dollar cap was fine when it was established in the early 1970's. But inflation has sent medical costs skyrocketing and forced thousands of Americans to bump up against that payment ceiling. As a result, some patients who desperately require medical attention are plowing through their savings and ending up on public assistance just to pay their doctor bills. Since anyone can be hit at any time with a disabling disease or traumatic injury—resulting from everything from AIDS to car accidents—this initiative will benefit a wide range of people.

The legislation would amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to raise the lifetime cap from the typical existing limit of \$1 million to \$5 million in 1998 and \$10 million in 2002. It would exclude employers with fewer than 20 workers. Over 150 national health-related non-partisan groups have endorsed the measure.

At present, approximately one quarter of employer-sponsored health plans have no lifetime limit. Unfortunately, many people don't realize that their health insurance policies have a lifetime cap that could be easily exceeded if a catastrophic illness or injury occurred. If the industry standard of a \$1 million cap were indexed for medical inflation since 1970, it would be worth between \$10 million and \$15 million today. The American Academy of Actuaries found that raising the lifetime cap on large employers would likely require a premium increase of only \$7 per year per adult to cover between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

According to the accounting firm of Price Waterhouse, 1,500 people exhaust their lifetime payments under their private health insurance each year and have no choice but to impoverish themselves and their families to qualify for Medicaid. The firm estimates that an additional 10,000 people will reach their lifetime