

maintain the herd at about 100 horses. Bolstering this are Dr. Dan Rubenstein of Princeton University and Dr. Gus Cothran of the University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science, who believe the horse population should stay at about 100 horses.

Congressman Jones introduced legislation, H.R. 875, specifying that the herd be maintained at not less than 100 horses, prohibits removal of any horses unless their numbers exceed 110 and allows citizen input in the management of the horses through the non-profit Foundation for Shackleford Horses Inc.

Maureen Finnerty, NPS associate director for Park Operations and Education, told the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands April 10 that the NPS intends "to maintain a representative herd of free-roaming horses on Shackleford Banks," but if Congressman Jones' legislation passes Congress, NPS will recommend that the president veto the bill.

The NPS management plan turns out to be a sleight of hand trick in that it does not define a "representative herd." NPS could claim to be meeting the management plan by allowing 20 or even fewer horses to remain on the banks.

It does indeed appear that the NPS is more concerned with managing the vegetation on the island than the horses.

This is high-handed arrogance. By law, the NPS owns the horses, but again by law, the NPS is mandated to manage the resources, which includes the island, its vegetation and the horses, all for the public good, not for the good of NPS.

Consider that—

Visitors to Carteret County spend an estimated \$150 per day generating over \$200 million annually in the county's economy.

Fifteen county businesses make an annual living taking visitors and residents to Shackleford to view the horses.

Both Gov. Jim Hunt and Betty McCain, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, feel it is incumbent to maintain "this cultural resource" for the future. They each support Rep. Jones' legislation.

The underhanded recalcitrance on the part of the NPS has caused us to rethink our initial belief that the NPS was acting in good faith.

It now appears that the initial protesters were correct and that the real NPS goal is to remove the mustangs from Shackleford Banks. What other conclusion can be drawn from the NPS' bull-headedness on this issue?

Congressman Jones will present his bill to the House Committee on Resources Wednesday. In an effort to prevent any citizen input in its management of the horses, the NPS is pulling out all the stops.

For a while, it seemed the NPS favored this management plan as well. But suddenly, the NPS objected to Congressman Jones' legislation. Calling Congressman Jones' legislation a "disturbing precedent that will lead to legislation being proposed each time a management decision is questioned."

If the NPS prevails, it will be a slap in the face to the caring citizens of Carteret County, and possibly a looming death warrant for the wild mustangs who have thrilled generations of countians and tourists who trek to the island to watch these splendid animals in their natural environment.

We strongly urge the NPS to back off and show good faith in this matter. To do less would invite unpleasantness, given the strong community feeling for these animals and their importance to the vanishing heritage of down east Carteret County.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, NATCA, on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. NATCA represents approximately 14,000 air traffic controllers nationwide, including 893 in Florida. NATCA protects air traffic controllers' rights, benefits, and working conditions in nearly 400 facilities in the United States and its territories through strong contract negotiations, labor relations, and litigation.

Since its existence, NATCA has aggressively championed aviation safety with Members of the United States Congress, the White House, the Federal Aviation Administration, the media, and the flying public. I am especially proud to recognize the outstanding performance of the 893 air traffic controllers that work in 25 air traffic facilities throughout Florida.

Aviation safety is paramount for the flying public and this Congress. Air traffic controllers play a critical role in ensuring the safety of all who fly. Therefore, it is my pleasure to honor all of our dedicated air traffic controllers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEATH OF TWO ORCA WHALES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the capture of orca whales off the coast of Taiji, Japan. I brought this matter to the attention of the House in February, when five orca whales were netted and separated from their whale family, called a pod. Since that date, two of these orca whales have died, both within the past week.

As Members know, the orca whales are small whales, 20, 25 feet long, and we have them around the Puget Sound area and of course in the north Pacific.

The capture of these orcas was allowed under a permit to gather them for research purposes. However, the

whales turned up at a marine amusement park. Clearly, the use of whales for business and entertainment purposes blatantly violates the condition of the permit.

The village near where these whales were captured has a history of annually slaughtering whales. Since the February capture, there have been no sightings of orca whales off the coast of Taiji. It is my understanding that orca pods appear very infrequently in Japanese waters. Therefore, almost nothing is known about those orca populations living off Japan.

I strongly condemn the permanent removal of a family group from an already uncertain ecosystem, where they are definitely not in good supply.

On June 14, the youngest of the captured orcas died, with a female to follow on the morning of June 17. She was pregnant at the time of her capture, and reportedly had a miscarriage in April. She refused to eat during the entire 4 months in captivity, and had become so weak that she could no longer float by herself. At the time of her death, she was held up by a canvas sling in order to breathe.

The Japanese consulate in Seattle yesterday confirmed the death of both orcas. However, the amusement park has neither confirmed nor denied their deaths, nor has the park reported on the three whales still alive. Japanese conservation groups are calling on international animal protection groups to pressure the Japanese Government to return the three remaining Taiji orcas to the wild before they, too, die.

The International Whaling Commission is a world body which governs the harvest of whales worldwide, and has continually asked Japan to end the hunting of whales in the southern Antarctic Whale Sanctuary and other Pacific locations.

While the Japanese whale merchants claim they are conducting research, most of the whales end up on a menu or as an entertainment item. I think this practice is unacceptable. I think that the commercial whaling in the world, we are not ready to go back to real commercial whaling. I think we should do everything we can to urge the Government of Japan to release those whales as soon as possible before they, too, die.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Washington [Mr. DICKS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFETIME LEARNING AFFORDABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ROTHMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is the day that we from Bergen and Hudson Counties in New Jersey are putting forth a plan to solve the education crisis we face as a Nation.

Yesterday's headlines could not have been more timely nor more accurate in describing the hardship our families are experiencing in affording their children's college education and the importance of a college education itself. The New York Times put it best: "Rising college costs imperil the Nation."

A report commissioned by a private company said that at the current rate, tuition will double by the year 2015, effectively shutting off higher education to half of those who are qualified and wish to pursue one.

This report only echoes what I have been hearing around my district for the last 6 months from parents, students, teachers, and college administrators in Hudson and Bergen Counties, New Jersey.

Lisa Kelly, an employment counselor at Hackensack High School, came to a college finance workshop I hosted because she has a young boy 3 years old, and she is scared, scared about how she is going to afford college for him, and scared about the next 15 years and about her ability to save money for his education. But her son is fortunate because Mrs. Kelly is starting to save for college right now.

I met with students in Wallington, New Jersey, like Conrad Sopeelnikov, who finished number one in his class in high school, is a star football player, and has already spoken with Yale's football coach about that school. But that conversation will be in vain if Conrad is not given scholarships and financial aid.

I met with students in North Bergen, New Jersey, like Dana Maurici, who had dreamed of going to Seton Hall University, close to home, but she did not even apply because her family could not afford 4 years of tuition. As she told me in her own words, she said it would be like, here is a bite of candy, but you cannot finish it.

Then there was Judy Hyde, the PTA President of Hudson County, New Jersey, who understands that an education is not just for young people. She organized a parents summit for me in Kearny, New Jersey, where parents told me that in addition to saving for their children's college education, they, the parents, also need help to save for their own retraining and for advanced degrees.

Mr. Speaker, these parents and students understand, as do I, that everyone in America deserves an equal opportunity for a higher education. They know that we rise or sink as a nation together, and that if anyone is left behind, if any child is denied an equal opportunity to learn, then we have failed. We have failed them, we have failed their parents, and we have failed our country. We have failed the ideal of America to provide every American with the equal opportunity to achieve and earn the American dream.

That is why I have produced the Lifetime Learning Affordability Act. This bill would allow working and middle-class parents the ability to set up IRA-like savings accounts for each of their children. They, their parents, their grandparents, their aunts and uncles, could set up tax-deductible accounts up to \$4,000 per year until the account has achieved \$100,000 in it. That money could then be only withdrawn to pay for tuition and specific education-related expenses.

Here is the unique aspect of my Lifetime Learning Affordability Act. After the student reaches the age of 22 and is earning a living, he or she can then put additional monies into that account, up to \$2,000 a year, so if he or she is ever laid off of their job, wants to learn new skills or just wants to go back to school later in life, there will be a nest egg for that person, that older student, to go back to school and to use for that purpose.

To make sure these accounts are not abused as tax shelters for the very rich, there will be a significant penalty for the early withdrawal of those monies, or if the money is spent on something other than education.

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Yet even with this tax deductible IRA account of mine, we know that not every family can afford to save for college and not every family can take advantage of a tax deduction. That is why the bill also calls for increasing the Pell grants, not only in the number of Pell grants we issue but in the amount we give to each student. A modest increase such as the one we propose in our bill will help 75,000 low income students in New Jersey alone get a head start on life. The bill also restores the much-needed tax deduction for interest on student loans.

We, as a nation, Mr. Speaker, must understand that investing in education is the best investment we can make as a country and the best investment we can make as individual families.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Lifetime Learning Affordability Act so that we can unlock the doors of opportunity for every American, the lifetime of opportunities that a college education provides. I urge my colleagues to support me in this adventure.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing a fair bit about taxes. I think that is going to be the subject of debate over this next week and the week after.

When we talk about taxes, I think we are talking about something much more important than taxes alone. What we are really talking about is the

American dream. It strikes me that there are two ways to get at the American dream. One is to let somebody keep more of what they are earning. The other way is to let somebody earn more on what they are earning.

What do I mean by that? What I mean is, I heard a story here just last week about a woman by the name of Osceola McCarthy. My colleagues may have already heard this story, but Osceola McCarthy was a washerwoman down in the southern part of Mississippi. And she was in her late 70's. She goes to the nearby school. She had spent her life as a washerwoman, her entire lifetime washing people's clothes, never earned much money over the course of her lifetime.

She goes to this nearby university and she said, I would like to help out. And they figure, well, she is going to give us a cloth doily or something. But instead of a cloth doily, she hands them \$150,000. Everybody at the university cannot believe it. How in the world did this washerwoman come up with \$150,000 for the university?

What she said is, I just put a little bit away over a long period of time. In fact Einstein was once asked, what is the most powerful force in the universe. His reply was, compound interest. It is amazing what you can end up with at the end of a working lifetime if you simply put a little bit away over a long enough period of time and let it grow and compound.

And that simple idea is a very powerful idea that gets at the second part of the American dream, again one part of the American dream being we can get there by letting people keep more of what they are earning, which is what tax cuts are about. But the second part is letting people earn more on what they are earning, because what the Social Security trustees have said is that Social Security today, while it has done a fabulous job for my mother and my grandmother, what they have said is that it will not do such a great job for my three young boys. Marshall is 4; Landon is 3; Bolton is 1.

And what they have said is that for a worker today, the average rate of return is 1.9 percent. And what they have said for my three little boys is that the rate of return is negative. And the fundamentals behind what is driving that are not going to change.

One is that we are living longer as a country. Each of us, average life expectancy when Social Security was created was 62 years of age. Today it is 76. Every year that I grow older, I hope that the medical folks keep making advances so that life expectancy continues to move out. That is a phenomenon we are not going to change. The other phenomenon we are not going to change in terms of Social Security is that people are having fewer kids. We have gone from having big families on the farm to having relatively small families today.

We have got three boys. The idea of mentioning to my wife, Jenny, why do