

Internet pioneers such as Jerry Yang prepare our economy for the twenty-first century, while Dr. David Ho leads the crusade against one of the new millennium's most alarming dangers: AIDS. Congressman BOB MATSUI and Congresswoman PATSY MINK stand at the forefront of our government's fight for civil rights and social justice, and respected ABC news correspondent Connie Chung keeps America informed about these challenges and others with her insightful investigative report. This nation's cultural heritage has been enriched by the musical brilliance of Seiji Ozawa and Yo-Yo Ma, the creative genius of author Deepak Chopra and fashion designer Vera Wang, and the athletic skills of golfing superstar Tiger Woods and Olympic figure skating legends Kristi Yamaguchi and Michelle Kwan.

Mr. Speaker, these exceptional contributions are all the more evident when one considers the formidable obstacles which Asian and Pacific Americans had to overcome to achieve them. Their long history has featured pervasive discrimination in the form of restrictive quotas, unfounded stereotypes, and, all too often, violent hate crimes. The most infamous example of this bigotry involved the forced detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II, when innocent men, women, and children were expelled from their homes and banished to camps in remote parts of the country. This outrage remains a permanent stain on the history of the American people, sullyng an otherwise proud record of support for human rights and individual dignity.

While the American government officially questioned the patriotism of Japanese-Americans on our West Coast, other Japanese-Americans serving in our nation's armed forces in remote corners of the globe were demonstrating the fallacy of such unjust accusations. During the Second World War, the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat units earned more than 18,000 medals for bravery and valor in battle—52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, and 9,480 Purple Hearts. The 442nd remains to this day the most decorated combat team of its size in the history of the United States Army. Yet, while the brave soldiers of these units were risking their lives to preserve freedom, the government for which they so courageously fought was evicting their family members from their homes and communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is only one of a multitude of examples of Asian and Pacific Americans surmounting the hurdles of prejudice and discrimination to make a difference in every sector of society. It is these innumerable stories of perseverance and success that we celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the legacy of all Americans of Asian and Pacific descent.

ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is Asthma Awareness Month. I rise to commend my colleagues, the gentlelady from California, Congresswoman JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDON-

ALD, and the gentlelady from Maryland, Congresswoman CONSTANCE A. MORELLA, for introducing the Asthma Awareness, Education And Treatment Act, and for their leadership in protesting America's children, minorities, women and the poor from the devastating effects of asthma.

Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease characterized by inflammation of the airways, and increased responsiveness to various stimuli commonly called asthma triggers. Asthma episodes involve progressively worsening shortness of breath, cough, wheezing, or chest tightness, or some combination of these systems. The severity of asthma may range from mild to life-threatening.

An estimated 14.6 million persons in the United States have asthma. The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention reported a 61 percent increase in the asthma rate between 1982 and 1994. According to The American Lung Association, more than 5,600 people die of asthma in the United States annually. This represents a 45.3 percent increase in mortality between 1985 and 1995.

The death rate from asthma for African Americans is almost three times that of whites. Among chronic illnesses in children, asthma is the most common. Approximately 33 percent of asthma patients are under the age of 18.

In the United States, asthma is the number one cause of school absences attributed to chronic conditions, leading to an average 7.3 school days missed annually. One study estimated that in 1994, school days lost to asthma amounted to \$673.2 million in caretaker's time lost from work, including outside employment and housekeeping.

Low income families are struck the hardest by asthma. Seventy nine of every 1,000 people under 45 years old earning less than \$10,000 per year have asthma. Fifty three of every 1,000 people earning less than \$35,000 per year have asthma.

The American Lung Association has been fighting lung disease for more than 90 years. With the generous support of the public and the help of volunteers, they have seen many advances against lung disease. However, the fight against asthma is far from won and government must do more if we are to conquer this dread disease.

We must work with community-based organizations to educate one another on this serious illness and how it can be managed through medication, clean environments, and regular physical activity. We must provide screening for asthma in non-traditional medical settings; we must establish a nationwide media campaign to educate the public about the symptoms of, and the treatment for asthma.

Most importantly, we must create clean environments. To do so, we must take appropriate measures to eliminate dustmites, animal dander, cockroaches, and mold and poor ventilation in schools, day care centers and homes. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Asthma Awareness, Education And Treatment Act.

As we look forward to the millennium, working together with the American Lung Association and other community-based organizations all over America, we can ease the burdens of asthma and make breathing easier for everyone.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL FOSTER PARENT AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 11th observance of the National Foster Parent Awareness Month. Originally conceived at the 1987 National Foster Parent Training Conference, National Foster Parent Awareness Month is the impetus for communities around the nation to host activities and events to honor foster parents for making a difference in the lives of children in foster care.

In my home state of Indiana, nearly 15,000 children are in the foster care system. Nationwide, the number is an alarming one half million children. These children often have special needs. They are victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect. They may suffer emotional, behavioral or developmental problems that range from moderate to severe. Most children reside only temporarily with foster parents, until it is considered safe for them to return home. A child's stay with foster parents can be as short as one night or as long as several years or more.

This month we honor the individuals and families who open their hearts and homes to the children in need of a safe and nurturing living environment—Foster Parents. Foster parents can be single, married or divorced. They own homes or live in apartments. Some are as young as 21 years old while others are retired. What they have in common is that they have demonstrated attentiveness, tenacity, patience and empathy along with a willingness to grow and learn from the experience of fostering and an equal capacity to love and let go. Foster parents provide a vital service to our nation's displaced children. They are a valuable resource for families and children. Their work is extremely difficult, knowing that they are working to help reunite a child with a biological parent, or care for a child until that child is adopted.

Mr. Speaker, while I rise today to praise and applaud foster parents for the very important work they do, I want to acknowledge an amazing organization and an outstanding individual, from my District, supporting the foster care system. Because foster parents take on the awesome responsibility of providing both emotional and financial support for the neediest children at a great personal expense, it is very important that we encourage our communities to support foster parents as they support foster kids.

It is with great pride that I commend FosterCare Luggage, an Indianapolis based non-profit organization, for its invaluable contribution to the well-being of foster kids. When Marc Brown, founder of FosterCare Luggage, considered taking in a foster child in 1995, he learned that foster children often had to move from family to family with their belongings stuffed into black plastic trash bags. Brown decided to make it his personal mission to get proper luggage for foster children. FosterCare Luggage works collaboratively with other agencies and organizations in Indiana to assure that all children in out-of-home care receive luggage according to their age-appropriate need and seeks funding to provide other

items, such as clothing and hygiene products. With help from private donors and volunteers, FosterCare Luggage has provided suitcases to thousands of children.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize a young lady who has demonstrated that one person can make a significant difference. Nicole Slibeck, a Senior at Zionsville High School in Indianapolis, collected 90 pieces of luggage for FosterCare Luggage's program. With so much attention recently devoted to what is going wrong with teenagers across the country, I am pleased to put forth Nicole's achievement as an example of what teenagers around the country are doing in support of our communities.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOMOSEXUALS, DISABLED, ELDERLY ADDED TO HATE CRIMES LAW

(By Dennis Patterson)

RALEIGH.—People who hate homosexuals, the disabled or the elderly and target them for crimes could face increased sentences under a bill approved by a House committee.

The measure, which now goes to the full House, expands North Carolina's hate crimes law to include sexual orientation, disabilities, gender and age. Crimes that are proven to be motivated by hate would be increased to at least a felony.

The hate crimes law now applies to race, religion and national origin.

"This bill doesn't protect anybody," Rep. Martin Nesbitt, D-Buncombe, said Tuesday as the House Judiciary I Committee debated the bill. "It punishes people for perpetrating a crime because they hate a class of people."

The bill "centers on the question of whether we will be civil in North Carolina," said Rep. Paul Luebke, D-Durham, one of the bill's two primary sponsors. "It is, to put it in a phrase, a statement that we will not hate."

The bill is named after Matthew Shepard, a homosexual with North Carolina connections who was beaten to death in Wyoming.

John Rustin of the North Carolina Family Policy Council called Shepard's death a "brutal and inexcusable crime." But the homosexual acts that would be covered by the hate crimes law are illegal in North Carolina, he said.

"This is not about crime. It is not about hate," he said. "It is about legitimizing the homosexual lifestyle."

Johnny Henderson of the Christian Action League said individual homosexuals are guaranteed the equal protections of all citizens and do not need the status of a protected group.

But Janet Joyner, a retired professor at the North Carolina School of the Arts who works with a support group for homosexual and bisexual children, said the law would help relieve a hostile environment.

"I must tell you that name-calling and intimidation already occur in elementary school," Joyner said.

"It's a bigger issue than just sexual orientation," M.K. Cullen of Equality North

Carolina, a homosexual group, said after the committee approved the bill. "It's going to be an uphill struggle to educate all the members of the House about this bill before it comes to a vote."

STUDENT PAPER APOLOGIZES FOR ALLEGED RACIST CARTOON

SYRACUSE, N.Y.—Syracuse University's student newspaper apologized in print Tuesday for running an editorial cartoon that sparked a student protest and accusations that the paper was racially insensitive.

Protesters said a depiction of Student Government Association President Michael Julius Idani in Friday's Daily Orange looked strikingly like the fictitious Little Black Sambo, a century-old storybook character embodying offensive African-American stereotypes.

About 200 students protested Monday. After an hour meeting with protesters, the newspaper agreed that Tuesday's top story would be the protest with a quoted apology from editor Ron DePasquale.

The paper also agree to have staff participate in a diversity sensitivity workshop and to appoint a student adviser for race issues.

"I think that while we never want to go through and experience like this, it's something that in the end can benefit everybody," DePasquale said.

Cartoonist Dan Dippel said he never intended race to be an issue in the cartoon.

The cartoon showed what is supposed to be a tongue-wagging Idani skipping down the road with money flying everywhere. I was paired with an editorial criticizing the SGA leader for promising a student group he would help fund a Hip-Hop Showcase without going through the proper channels.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN, HISTORIAN AND EDUCATOR, GETS TRUMAN HONOR

INDEPENDENCE, Mo.—Historian, educator and author John Hope Franklin will receive the 1999 Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award.

The honors were announced Tuesday by the Truman Foundation, formed in 1973 to honor each year a person or people in public life who have improved the community and the country through citizenship, patriotism self-reliance and service.

Past recipients include Gerald Ford, former Chief Justice Earl Warren, Nelson Rockefeller and Dr. Jonas Salk.

Franklin is chairman of President Clinton's racial advisory board, "One America in the 21st Century. Forging a New Future." The board was established to inform and counsel the president on ways to improve race relations.

The seven-member board was criticized in September after releasing the results of its \$4.8 million, yearlong examination of racial attitudes and conditions. It endorsed several policies that Clinton had already undertaken, and voiced support for his "mend it, don't end it" position or affirmative action.

The board also offered two suggestions that Clinton make his racial dialogue permanent through a presidential council, and that he conduct a multimedia campaign to teach Americans how this country developed its beliefs about race and institutionalized them through the notion of "white privilege."

Critics said the report was short on substance and wasted taxpayer money.

"We make no apology for what we have not done," Franklin said after the report. "There are limits to what one can do."

A native Oklahoman, Franklin graduated from Fisk University and has taught at several institutions since receiving his doctorate degree in history from Harvard. He holds honorary doctorates from more than 100 colleges and universities.

Franklin will receive the Truman honor May 7 in Kansas City.

MARINE COMMAND ORDERS PUNISHMENT AFTER RACIAL INCIDENT

JACKSONVILLE, N.C.—Three Marines now deployed in the Mediterranean Sea will be punished for their involvement in writing racial epithets on the face and arm of a black Marine.

Lance Cpl. Todd C. Patrick of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit based at Camp Lejeune called Jacksonville police April 11 and reported he woke up in a motel room with the words "KKK" and "nigger" on his forehead and "Go back to Africa" on his left arm. He told police three white Marines in his unit wrote the words on him.

Patrick decided not to press charges and instead asked the Onslow County magistrate to contact his battalion commander.

Lance Cpls. David P.H. Brown and Jeremy J. Goggin were found guilty of using provoking words during summary courts martial onboard the USS Kearsarge, Camp Lejeune officials said Tuesday. They were reduced to private first class and will be confined to the ship's brig for 24 days.

A third Marine, Bobby Ray Gurley, identified through police records, was found guilty after an Article 15 hearing for the same charge. The Marine was ordered to three days confinement in the ship's brig with bread and water, forfeiture of one-half of one month's pay and reduction to private first class.

An investigation ordered by the battalion commander found racial overtones but no malicious intent in the part of the three Marines. All of the marines have reconciled on a personal level, base officials said.

All four Marines are aboard the same ship which deployed to the Mediterranean on April 15.

[From the New York Times, April 21, 1999]

CONGRESS SUPPORTS AWARD FOR PARKS

WASHINGTON.—Rosa Parks is getting the gold.

Congress voted Tuesday to give the 86-year-old Parks a Congressional Gold Medal, its highest civilian award, for an act of defiance more than 40 years ago.

Often hailed as the "first lady" or "mother" of the civil rights movement, Parks was tired after a day's work as a seamstress in Montgomery, Ala., on a December day in 1955 and refused to give up her seat to a white man on a segregated city bus.

Her arrest set off a lengthy bus boycott by blacks that lasted until the Supreme Court declared Montgomery's bus segregation law unconstitutional and it was changed. The boycott was led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., a local minister at the time.

"One brave act of a humble seamstress triggered an avalanche of change which helped our country fulfill its commitment to equal rights for all Americans," said House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo. "For her leadership and her example, Rosa Parks deserves to be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal."

The House voted 424-1 in favor of the measure, one day after the Senate passed it without dissent. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, was the only lawmaker to vote against the bill, which President Clinton is expected to sign.

"This courageous act changed her life and our nation forever," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla. "Passage of this bill will be our contribution to her legacy today."

Parks, an Alabama native, watched the debate on television from Los Angeles.

"Mrs. Parks is very excited to have this honor," said Anita Peek, executive director