

Southwestern completed an inspirational season thanks, in no small part, to a compelling figure who never played a single inning—Jennifer Hurley's younger brother Drew. For the 14 years of his life, Drew has battled a condition similar to cerebral palsy. He is unable to speak, can hear in only one ear, and his limbs move in sudden jerks. Despite this constant struggle, Drew is at every game. The Cougars drew inspiration from Drew. After every victory, Drew would put on a batting helmet, and Jennifer would push him around the base paths in his wheelchair until he crossed home plate. It became a team ritual that brought the Cougars together and inspired them to victory. I read Drew's story in the Greensboro News & Record, and that prompted my attendance at one of the early Cougars' playoff games.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Steve Taylor along with his assistants Lee McCaskill and Harry Daniel. Supporting the team efforts were Managers Stacey McCaskill, C.J. Taylor, Heather Taylor, and Kurtis Taylor along with Statistician Luanne Deaton.

Members of the championship team included Megan Moody, Natalie King, Abby Auman, Kari McLeod, Crystal McPherson, Jennifer Hurley, Krystal Parker, Ashely Vereyken, Wendy Heath, Jodi Johnson, Beth Auman, Emily Ivey, Lesley Greene, Wendy Seawell, Lee Ann Chandler, Erica Tackett, Cristina Tedder, Mary Beth Sillmon, Crystal Hudson, and Lee Harris.

Everyone at Southwestern Randolph High School can be proud of the Cougars. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate Athletic Director Trent Taylor, Principal Dr. W. Thrift and everyone at Southwestern Randolph for winning the state 2-A softball championship.

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CARIBOU UPROAR

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends a May 25, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World Herald, regarding the firing of the U.S. Geological Survey contract cartographer who posted an Alaskan caribou map on the Internet, causing an uproar in the environmental community. There was more to this story than originally reported. The information in the map was outdated and inaccurate, and the cartographer had no expertise or responsibility for caribou studies. The cartographer since has become a martyr for environmentalists opposed to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), albeit under false pretenses.

THE PURGE THAT WASN'T

[From the Omaha World-Herald, May 25, 2001]

Members of Congress have railed about it. More than 80 environmental and other groups sent Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton an angry letter in response to it. Foreign newspapers featured breathless coverage of it. An article in a British newspaper concluded that, because of it, the Bush administration "actually appears to be bear a grudge against the natural world."

The hubbub is over Ian Thomas, a cartographer for the U.S. Geological Survey who was fired in March after he posted a map of caribou migrations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a portion of which the Bush administration has proposed for oil drilling. The geological survey also had the map removed from the Web.

In their letter to Norton, the 88 environmental and other groups claimed that the firing of Thomas indicated a disturbing politicizing of government research and sent "a chilling message to all government scientists."

The day after he was fired, Thomas accepted a job with the World Wildlife Fund and is now hailed as a martyr to the environmental cause.

It seems a straightforward story, a tale of nefarious Republican misdeeds and shameless toadying to oil interests. Certainly that was the impression one got from following Garry Trudeau's version of it in "Doonesbury." But, as a Washington Post article explained this week, that now-familiar version of events "isn't the whole story."

Examine all the facts, and a host of surprising details pop up. Details, that is, that undercut many of the main accusations against the administration.

Thomas, for example, was a contract worker, not a full-time civil servant. The caribou map, which Thomas created in 15 minutes, was far removed from the scope of his contract and was based on obsolete data.

Thomas had no expertise in Alaska wildlife matters and had been reprimanded earlier for posting sensitive Pentagon data on the geological survey's Web site.

As described by The Washington Post, "the decision to cancel his contract was made not by Norton or any other bush appointee, but by the top biologist at his research center, a self-described liberal Democrat who opposes drilling in the Arctic refuge. Another career bureaucrat—the chief USGS biologist, also a Democrat and a conservationist—made the call to pull the caribou map off the Web." No evidence has surfaced, the article said, "that Norton or her aides played any role in his termination."

The geological survey's main experts on Alaskan wildlife are its Alaska-based biologists. When they saw Thomas' map, they expressed consternation that a Maryland-based contract worker, with no expertise in caribou studies, was posting inaccurate, albeit official-looking, material on that topic.

A geological-survey caribou biologist inquired about the map and subsequently sent Thomas a pointed e-mail message: "The material you posted is terribly out of date. It is inconceivable that you have posted this outdated material in view of the recent and intense interest in" the refuge.

Not that such details appear to matter as far as the episode's actual political fallout. As the Post observed, regardless of the facts, "the notion that the Bush administration ousted Thomas for political reasons has taken root around the world, thanks to the power of the Internet and the tenacity of environmentalists."

This episode, now help up by Bush critics as a cause celebre, illustrates the ability of politics to trample the truth. It is regrettable, but revealing, that so many have rushed to warp the facts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE DAN DALLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise at this time to recognize the life of a distinguished public servant, Daniel C. Dalley. Dan spent his life protecting the citizens of Fruita, Colorado. This man was known for his honor and kindness, and is worthy of the recognition of Congress.

Born and raised in Fruita, Colorado Dan was an asset to the community even at a young age. During high school Dan worked hard in and out of school, holding a job at Youngs Ranch while attending Fruita Monument High School. After high school Dan went on to college at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he received an associates degree in Criminal Justice. Continuing with his passion for the law, Dan graduated from the Police Academy at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely, Colorado.

After graduation Dan joined the Fruita Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 1992. Dan also served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, Sergeant and Detective Sergeant and was then promoted to Acting Chief. The nine years Dan spent on the force were filled with awards and recognition for a job well done. In 1996 Dan received Employee of the year from the Fruita Police Department, and then for two consecutive years, 1997 and 1998, the Mesa County Optimist Club honored Dan with the title of Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

In addition to Dan's commitment to upholding the law, Dan also was very involved in his community. Dan added to his community duties by serving eight years as a volunteer EMT for the Loma Volunteer Fire Department. Being active in his church was also important to Dan, and the Grace Community Church was lucky to count Dan among its members. His commitment to God and Country are admired by all. He will be greatly missed.

As his family and friends grieve the loss of Dan Dalley, Mr. Speaker I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize his life. His wife, Cybill, and sons, Alan, Tyler, Dalton and Luke should take pride in the fact that Dan made so many contributions to the State of Colorado. Everyone that knew Dan was in awe of his kindness and service. That, Mr. Speaker, is why Dan is worthy of the praise and thanks of the United States Congress.

HIV/AIDS COMMEMORATION

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a disease which is devastating both in scope and severity.

The past decade has seen approximately 40,000 new cases of HIV/AIDS each year. In the U.S., the disease continues to ravage countless communities, and the worldwide statistics are staggering, as well. One out of

every 100 people on the planet is afflicted with AIDS, about 53 million people are living with HIV, and 17 million have died.

It must be noted that a great deal of progress has been made in the past twenty years. In the 80's, individual activists and groups such as the then-Human Rights Campaign Fund, tirelessly attempted to educate the public about HIV/AIDS. This was a task made all the more daunting by the incredible stigma attached to the disease. Misconceptions about how the disease was transmitted, backlash from religious conservatives, and a general fear fueled discrimination and hostility toward people with HIV and AIDS. However, the efforts of activist groups gradually began to pay off.

The Ryan White Care Act, which eventually became law, was the first major government investment in treating people with HIV/AIDS. Barred from school because of his HIV infection, the public battle of White helped turn the national spotlight on the disease. Needle-exchange programs were launched in cities throughout the United States. And now, research funding has shed hope in the new vaccine trails.

Despite these glimmers of hope, we have far from exhausted all of our efforts. With AIDS ranking as the top cause of death for people between the ages of 25 and 44, and the recent explosion among African-American communities, it is clear that more needs to be done to expand our AIDS education. Indeed, it has been shown that despite increases in knowledge about AIDS, Americans still exhibit many dangerous information gaps.

Internationally, the situation is equally dire. In some nations, an astounding quarter of the entire population is infected with HIV. African countries face a particularly steep uphill battle, and the precipitous prices of antiretroviral drugs are only aggravating the global plight. These drugs, which currently represent the only hope for people living with HIV/AIDS, cost more than the per-capita income of many developing countries.

Our Nation must continue to make funding for the treatment, research, and prevention of HIV/AIDS a top priority. A comprehensive approach is needed in order to render the HIV/AIDS crisis a thing of the past.

I request that the attached summary of the AIDS/HIV facts and figures compiled by my staff be included at this point of the RECORD.

AIDS/HIV FACTS AND FIGURES

Casualty Rates: 17 million Africans have lost their lives to AIDS out of the 22 million worldwide; mortality rate rising: 2.2 million Africans died of AIDS in 1999, 2.4 million in 2000; and more than 5 million affected with HIV in the year 2000, 4 million from Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa makes up 10% of the world's population but makes up more than 70% of the worldwide total of infected people. 1.1% overall infection rate worldwide with 8.8% in Sub-Saharan Africa.

19% of Deaths in Africa caused by HIV/AIDS in 1998 (next highest was malaria at 10%)

Adults HIV Infection rates (%): Botswana, 35.80%; Zimbabwe, 25.06%; South Africa, 19.94%; and Senegal, 1.77% (active AIDS policy).

UNAIDS projects that half or more of all 15 year-olds will die of AIDS in some of the worst-affected countries.

Only region where women are infected with HIV at a higher rate than men: 53% Women infected in Sub-Saharan Africa; 37% Caribbean; and 20% North America.

An estimated 600,000 African infants become infected with HIV each year through mother to child transmission.

12.1 million African children have lost either mother or father or both to AIDS.

Uganda—succeeded in lowering infection rates from 14% in 1989 to 8% by 1997, mostly by employing a public awareness campaign

Fiscal Amounts to combat HIV/AIDS: FY 2001: \$300 Million apportioned; and FY 2002: \$396 Million (President's Request).

Hyde Bill: FY 2002: \$469 Million plus \$50 Million for pilot treatment program for a total of \$519 Million. FY 2003: \$469 Million plus \$50 Million for pilot treatment program for a total of \$519 Million.

Information supplied by Congressional Research Service.

HONORING THE 125 YEAR HISTORY OF LA VETA, COLORADO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay special tribute to La Veta, Colorado on its 125th Birthday. For over a century, the people of La Veta have contributed a rich heritage and cultural diversity to the state of Colorado. I would like Congress to wish the citizens of La Veta a very happy 125th birthday.

In 1862, Col. John M. Francisco, a former settler with the US Army at Fort Garland, and Judge Henry Daigle built Fort Francisco on land purchased from the Vigil-St. Vrain Land Grant, significantly south west of most of the San Luis Valley bound traffic. When Col. John Francisco looked down on the future site of La Veta in the mid 1850's he said, "This is paradise enough for me." The town of La Veta was incorporated on October 9, 1876.

As more settlers moved into this beautiful and fertile valley, the Fort increased in importance as shelter from Indians and as the commercial center for the area. The first Post Office, named Spanish Peaks, opened in the Plaza in 1871. By 1875 the Indian threat was almost completely gone. In 1876 the narrow gauge railroad came through La Veta several blocks north of the Fort on its way westward through the newly surveyed La Veta Pass. In 1877 the permanent rail depot was built beside the rails and the business community slowly moved north toward it. For many years, this stretch of the line between La Veta and Wagon Creek was the highest in the world. The old depot building at the summit is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mountains of the Sangre de Cristo Range were long known by the Indians of the Southwest. Relics of the Basket Weaver Culture have also been found within the county. The Spanish Peaks are a historic landmark to travelers—from the early Indians to the vacationer. Besides being the railhead, La Veta has also been the center of local agriculture and coal mining.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Colorado are proud of La Veta's 125-year heritage. It is an area rich in culture, history and heritage. For that Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish La Veta happy birthday and wish its citizens good luck and prosperity for the next 125 years.

ENERGY PRICE CAPS NOT THE ANSWER

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the June 6, 2001, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial emphasizes that there is a role for the Federal Government in addressing concerns, but it highlights the problems which could result from improper government involvement.

PRICE CAPS MAKE IT WORSE

With the Democrats back in administrative control of the U.S. Senate, a move is in the works to push for federal price caps on admittedly burdensome electricity costs in California and some other Western states. If that happens, it will be a quick and nifty short-term solution. It will also, we're convinced, be a calamity in the long run. It shouldn't be done.

When President Bush met with California Gov. Gray Davis last week, he made it plain that he wasn't going to mandate any such solution through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which has such authority under some circumstances. Now, Davis' state is crafting a lawsuit to compel such caps—if Congress doesn't get to it first and legislatively require the FERC to impose controls. (Of course, such efforts might die in the GOP-controlled House.)

Nobody wants to make light of the agony of California or some of its neighbors, where electricity prices in some locales are 10 times what they were a year and a half ago. But California, which made its own mess by shunning in-state electrical generation and neglecting its power grid, is finding its way out of the difficulties with due speed.

Four new plants are being built now and four more are scheduled to come on line next year. The state has enacted an \$800 million conservation program and within a couple more years hopes to have 15 new power plants in place. President Bush has pledged \$150 million in emergency aid to help low-income consumers in California keep the lights on.

And both Congress and the FERC still have perfectly legitimate and possibly useful roles to play in this energy drama. There are questions about how well the agency has exercised its existing authority. That's because while private power companies may under some circumstances charge market-based wholesale rates for electricity (far higher than cost-based rates), they're required to apply to the FERC for authority to do so. But the agency is supposed to deny reauthorization if it determines that companies have raised prices above competitive levels for a significant period of time. The commission may well have been asleep, figuratively and almost literally, at the switch. Congress would do well to inquire into this.

In addition, Congress may have some sharp questions to ask about whether Texas natural gas sellers have manipulated the market in California. Davis said Bush agreed with him that it seems suspicious for Texas-originated gas to cost nearly three times in California what it does in New York. Both states are about the same distance from Texas. There may be some difference in transmission costs—but triple? A FERC administrative law judge is already at work on the question, but a Senate inquiry in addition would do no harm.

Such efforts are within the normal workings of the regulatory matrix. Price caps are