

baseball, the new baseball field at Yellowstone Park; and, of course, our Little League's Mr. Dwight Raiford, who is in our town. Congratulations to Mr. Drayton McLane and the Houston Astros for hosting the All-Star Game.

#### AMISH SHOW SHOULD BE SCRAPPED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, UPN is making a new reality TV show about the Amish. The very act of making this show violates a fundamental Amish religious tenet, and paying a few Amish teams to participate requires them to break it.

See, the Amish believe that television or photographs themselves violate the Ten Commandments' ban on graven images. If one is selling a show based on its participants' religious identity, should they not at least respect the religious tenets of those participants and their families?

One affiliate in Pennsylvania, UPNTV15 in Harrisburg, has decided not to air the program until it previews its content. UPN15 has taken a principled and courageous stand. Its request to prescreen the show will help them ensure that the show's content does not offend its viewers. Other affiliates should follow suit, and advertisers should think twice before attaching their names to a show that potentially degrades a minority religious community.

This series would be offensive, exploitative, and inaccurately portray a minority group. It should be cancelled.

#### WE ARE NOT SAFER BECAUSE OF WAR WITH IRAQ

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the world and Iraq are better off without that murderous despot Saddam Hussein in power. But the unanimous report of the Republican-led Senate Intelligence Committee refutes the Bush administration's principal premise of the war that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. They concluded he did not, that he presented a danger. They said the sanctions were working and his military was degraded and rapidly disintegrating. No links to 9/11; yet the President said seven times in 32 minutes the American people were safer because of the war in Iraq.

He can say it, but it does not make it so. Osama bin Laden is still out there plotting and planning. We are on heightened alert. They say he is going to attack anytime soon, but he has given a bye for the last 2 years by the Bush administration because of their obsession with Iraq instead of those who attacked us on 9/11.

We are not safer because of the war in Iraq. We are in fact more at risk be-

cause Saddam Hussein was not the real threat. It was Osama bin Laden, who has had the chance to regroup, strengthen his forces, and plan new attacks because the Bush administration has not been adequately pursuing it.

#### MEDIA BIAS, PUTIN'S COMMON SENSE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, leave it to the former head of the KGB to inject a little common sense into the American political race, and leave it to the partisan American media to ignore it.

During the recent G-8 Summit in Georgia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said to a gathering news media: "I am deeply convinced that President Bush's political adversaries have no moral right to attack him over Iraq." I did not find this quote in the New York Times or The Washington Post because they refused to report it. I did not find it broadcast on CBS, NBC, or ABC News either. I found this quote in China Daily, straight from Beijing.

We could have found the same quote in some Russian publications as well, including Pravda and the British-based Reuters News Service. But we could not find that quote in the American media except for one outlet, CBN.

It is a sorry day for American journalism when they find themselves outbalanced by their counterparts in Communist China and Russia. It is a new low for partisan media bias.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### NEGATIVE ADS

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, to quote Ronald Reagan, "There they go again." Republicans have hit a new low point. The Bush campaign has run over 49,000 negative ads nationwide, and it is understandable. With the largest budget deficit in our history, a growing tax burden on our middle class, gas prices at a 23-year high, and no positive vision for our country, the GOP have no choice but to attack. They cannot talk about the economy because we have lost 1.8 million private-sector jobs under this administration. They cannot talk about health care because insurance costs are spiraling out of control and nearly 4 million more Americans have become uninsured since 2000.

So now what do they do? They blame President Clinton for the creation of 21 million private-sector jobs during his administration. They blame JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS for wanting to fight for a stronger and more positive America. But never will they ac-

cept the responsibility for egregious policies that they have passed. They are doing everything possible to create a diversion and shift attention somewhere else.

Democrats are fighting for the middle-class values of fairness and responsibility. Republicans are still pushing the same old negative attack ads.

#### WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN IRAQ

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for months now, critics of the war in Iraq have asked the question: Where are the weapons of mass destruction? Recently former Vice President Al Gore said that none have been found in Iraq. Just as he was wrong when he said he was the inventor of the Internet, he is wrong on this point as well.

Recently, Charles Duelfer, the head of the Iraq Survey Group, reported the finding of 12 mustard and sarin gas shells in various locations in Iraq. Intelligence sources say that these are still extremely dangerous shells.

Mr. Duelfer also reported that terrorists in Iraq are trying to tap into the Iraqi WMD intellectual capital. They are keenly interested in developing chemical weapons in there and also in Afghanistan.

So where are the weapons of mass destruction? Where they have always been, in the Iraqi area, within the reach of terrorists, a threat to U.S. troops, the region, and the world community as well.

#### SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the last speaker the weapons of mass destruction are in the minds of the administration.

If anyone needs a reason to send this administration packing, here it is: the President has announced the biggest land grab in U.S. history. The beneficiaries are the big timber companies. The victims are our national forests and the American people.

The President has proposed new rules that would declare open season for big timber companies to log 58 million acres of our most precious wilderness areas and our most precious national forests. Roads to nowhere will scar the land forever. It will turn old growth into board feet, two by fours.

Unless we act, this administration will repeal the last protection of our wilderness areas.

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Our only hope is for a new administration that can prevent this environmental disaster from happening.

We have 112 days before we get rid of the biggest national disaster we have ever had, the President and his environmental policies.

#### PRESERVING MARRIAGE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate is dealing with a very important issue, one that goes to the heart of our families and society. I am speaking of marriage.

In my home State of South Carolina, we are one of 42 States that have laws on the books defining marriage as the union between a man and a woman. These laws were passed by State legislatures, those elected to represent the views of their constituents.

My constituents contact me on a daily basis about this one issue more than any other issue we deal with. They ask me to do everything I can to ensure marriage between a man and a woman is preserved. Yet some in this country, elected by no one, believe they have the right to supersede the wishes of my constituents and the constituents of other Members here today.

I respectfully disagree. I truly believe the only way to ensure court action does not override State law is for the House and Senate to take action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to follow the Senate's lead on this issue and bring up this issue for a vote so we can have an open debate in the People's House.

#### HOUSE REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO PLAY BY THE RULES

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, nothing is more important in a democracy than free and fair elections. Unfortunately, even in this, the People's House, there have been a series of abuses of the voting process by the Republican majority. How can we effectively champion democracy around the world if even here the Republican majority will not allow it to be practiced on the House floor?

Just last week, because the Republican majority did not like the outcome of our usual 15-minute vote, they held the vote open for 30 minutes. Why? In order to change the outcome. We went from a fair and square 219 vote victory to a 210-210 tie due to Republican arm-twisting, while the whole world was watching on CSPAN.

If this were the only instance of Republican tyranny in this House, perhaps it could be excused. But just last year we sadly witnessed the longest vote in American history, just so they could change the outcome.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans need to play by the rules.

#### RELEASE KERRY-EDWARDS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN VIDEO

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am a conservative and I support the Federal marriage amendment. I understand that JOHN KERRY will make a cameo appearance this week in Washington to vote against it.

With that said, I rise to call attention and request a videotape release of the Democratic Presidential fundraiser that was held last Friday night, which quickly descended into a celebrity Bush-bashing event of low blows.

On Friday night, JOHN KERRY touted his Presidential campaign's positive tone, telling a crowd at another fundraiser that JOHN and he did not run one negative ad against each other and any of their opponents all through their primaries, and they have not done a single negative ad against the president, because "we think Americans want real solutions to real problems."

This is more proof that JOHN KERRY and his campaign have developed campaign amnesia. Just a few hours prior to those comments, his campaign fundraiser attendees listened to hours of celebrities use vulgar and tasteless attacks against our President, which KERRY endorsed, characterizing it as the heart and soul of America.

His campaign endorsed the hate-filled celebrity event, so he should share those comments with voters. I ask that they release the video today. There is no reason why they should not do it, and America deserves to see the real JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS.

#### LETTING AVERAGE AMERICANS PREVAIL

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, time after time in this body, the interests of the middle-class have come in second to the interests of the special interests. One example is the issue of drug reimportation.

Medications in other countries cost 40 percent less than they do here. Even Secretary Tommy Thompson recently acknowledged what Americans know all too well, reimporting prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized countries is one of the fastest ways Americans can get lower cost drugs. Experts at Boston University estimate Americans would save \$60 billion by paying Canadian prices for brand-name drugs. What are we waiting for?

Republicans in Congress continue to stall, promoting the false promise of the new prescription drug discount

cards as a substitute for reimportation. When the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) offered an amendment in the agricultural appropriation bill in committee that allowed for the safe reimportation of prescription drugs, Republicans tried to block it and failed. Today, that bill is on the floor. It would allow Americans to purchase these prescription drugs from other countries and lower drug costs in a straightforward way.

We should pass that amendment. I dare the Republicans to block it, as I know they will, because they are the servants of the pharmaceutical companies, and they are even trying to put that into the treaty with Australia.

#### AN ADMISSION FROM WITHIN

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some of us have been saying it for years, there is a liberal bias in the media. Last weekend, we witnessed a brief moment of candor. Evan Thomas, the assistant managing editor of Newsweek Magazine, admitted on a radio station that, "The media, I think, wants KERRY to win. And I think they are going to portray KERRY and EDWARDS, I am talking about the establishment media, not Fox, but there is going to be this glow about this that is going to be worth maybe 15 points."

Let me repeat the words of this top Newsweek editor. "The media, I think, wants KERRY to win, and they are going to portray KERRY and EDWARDS in a certain way to help elect them." He says, "The media bias is worth 15 points in the polls." In other words, without media bias, President Bush would be cruising to a landslide election.

Mr. Speaker, the biased media is getting dangerously close to becoming a real threat to our democracy.

#### A "STRONG" ECONOMY?

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in some puzzlement. The President came to my part of our State last week and announced, "The economy is strong here in North Carolina." As the Raleigh News & Observer observed, "Is the President an optimist, or does he need an optometrist?"

Perhaps our economy seems strong to Mr. Bush. After all, he raked in over \$2 million at his afternoon fundraiser. But he did not seem to notice that we have record numbers of laid-off workers who have exhausted their unemployment benefits, 68,000 at last count. Our unemployment rate in the Raleigh-Durham area is creeping up again. The rolls grew by almost 2,000 last month.