

about meth? The most important thing you can do is become a foster parent, because we're just seeing so many kids being taken from these homes."

Officials also say methamphetamine has made it harder to reunite families once the child is taken; 59 percent of those surveyed in the national counties study agreed.

The federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, enacted as babies born to crack users were crowding foster care, requires states to begin terminating parental rights if a child has spent 15 out of 22 months in foster care. It was intended to keep children from languishing in foster homes. But rehabilitation for methamphetamine often takes longer than other drugs, and parents fall behind the clock.

"Termination of parental rights almost becomes the regular piece," said Jerry Foxhoven, the administrator of the Child Advocacy Board in Iowa. "We know pretty early that these families are not going to get back together."

The drug—smoked, ingested or injected—is synthetic, cheap and easy to make in home labs using pseudoephedrine, the ingredient in many cold medicines, and common fertilizers, solvents or battery acid. The materials are dangerous, and highly explosive.

"Meth adds this element of parents who think they are rocket scientists and want to cook these chemicals in the kitchen," said Yvonne Glick, a lawyer at the Department of Human Services in Oklahoma who works with the state's alliance for drug endangered children. "They're on the couch watching their stuff cook, and the kids are on the floor watching them."

The drug also produces a tremendous and long-lasting rush, with intense sexual desire. As a result of the sexual binges, some child welfare officials say, methamphetamine users are having more children. More young children are entering the foster system, often as newborns suffering from the effects of their mother's use of the drug.

Oklahoma was recently chosen to participate in a federally financed study of the effects of methamphetamine on babies born to addicted mothers. Doctors who work with them have already found that the babies are born with trouble suckling or bonding with their parents, who often abuse the children out of frustration.

But the biggest problem, doctors who work with children say, is not with those born under the effects of the drug but with the children who grow up surrounded by methamphetamine and its attendant problems. Because users are so highly sexualized, the children are often exposed to pornography or sexual abuse, or watch their mothers prostitute themselves, the welfare workers say.

The drug binges tend to last for days or weeks, and the crash is tremendous, leaving children unwashed and unfed for days as parents fall into a deep sleep.

"The oldest kid becomes the parent, and the oldest kid may be 4 or 5 years old," said Dr. Mike Stratton, a pediatrician in Muskogee, Okla., who is involved with a state program for children exposed to drugs that is run in conjunction with the Justice Department. "The parents are basically worthless, when they're not stoned they're sleeping it off, when they're not sleeping they don't eat, and it's not in their regimen to feed the kids."

Ms. Glick recalls a group of siblings found eating plaster at a home filled with methamphetamine. The oldest, age 6, was given a hamburger when they arrived at the Laura Dester Shelter; he broke it apart and handed out bits to his siblings before taking a bite himself.

Jay Wurscher, director of alcohol and drug services for the children and families divi-

sion of the Oregon Department of Human Services, said, "In every way, shape and form, this is the worst drug ever for child welfare."

Child welfare workers say they used to remove children as a last resort, first trying to help with services in the home.

But everywhere there are reminders of the dangers of leaving children in homes with methamphetamine. In one recent case here, an 18-month-old child fell onto a heating unit on the floor and died while the parents slept; a 3-year-old sibling had tried to rouse them.

The police who raid methamphetamine labs say they try to leave the children with relatives, particularly in rural areas, where there are few other options.

But it has become increasingly clear, they say, that often the relatives, too, are cooking or using methamphetamine. And because the problem has hit areas where there are so few shelters, children are often placed far from their parents. Caseworkers have to drive children long distances to where parents are living or imprisoned for visits; Leslie Beyer, a caseworker at Laura Dester, logged 3,600 miles on her car one month.

The drain of the cases is forcing foster families to leave the system, or caseworkers to quit. In some counties in Oklahoma, Ms. Rider-Salem said, half the caseworkers now leave within two years.

After the ban on over-the-counter pseudoephedrine was enacted—a law other states are trying to emulate—the number of children taken out of methamphetamine labs and into the foster care system in Oklahoma declined by about 15 percent, Ms. Glick said. But she said the number of children found not in the labs but with parents who were using the drug had more than compensated for any decline.

The state's only other children's shelter, in Oklahoma City, was so crowded recently that the fire marshal threatened to shut it down, forcing the state to send children to foster families in far-flung counties.

At Laura Dester, three new children arrived on one recent morning, the 3-year-old being treated for lice and two siblings, found playing in an abandoned house while their mother was passed out at home. The girl now wanders with a plastic bag over her hair to keep the lice salve from leaking. She hugs her little brother, then grabs a plastic toy phone out of his hand, leaving him wailing.

"Who's on the phone?" asks Kay Saunders, the assistant director at the shelter, gently trying to intervene. "My mom," the girl says, then turns to her little brother. "It's ringing!"

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ERIC P. WOODS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to salute an extraordinary native Iowan who has fallen in service to his country in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. PFC Eric P. Woods, of the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, died on the 9th day of July, 2005, in Tal Afar, Iraq, due to injuries sustained when an explosive device detonated under his vehicle. Woods, a combat medic was killed en route to aid an injured soldier. My prayers go out to his wife Jamie, his 3-year-old son Eric Scott, his parents Charles and Janis Woods, and his many other friends and family.

Eric Woods grew up in Urbandale, IA, and was an active member in the youth

group at Westchester Evangelical Free Church. At Urbandale High School he wrestled and played football and baseball before graduating in 1997. While attending Iowa State University, he became manager of Krause Gentle Company. After a move to Omaha, Eric became a medic in the U.S. Army.

Private First Class Woods was a truly thoughtful soldier, requesting packages from home containing soccer balls, candy, and toys to give out to the children of Iraq. He will be remembered not only for his sacrifice for freedom but also the way in which he served, giving his life on the way to help an injured fellow soldier. Recently, his pastor said of Eric: "His motto was to charge, not retreat. He squeezed the most out of life." Again my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. I ask my colleagues in the Senate and all Americans to remember with gratitude and admiration this courageous Iowan, PFC Eric P. Woods.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF SANITATION AGENCIES

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the achievements of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, and to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary.

CASA has provided the State of California with clean, safe, and reliable drinking water since its founding in 1955. Not only has CASA worked hard to ensure the well-being of Californians, but it has also championed a multitude of environmental issues related to clean water and water infrastructure that have been vital to California's long-term economic and social stability.

I want to recognize CASA's proactive leadership in promoting partnerships with a variety of organizations to create a sound public health and environmental agenda. For the past 50 years CASA has been the voice of the public wastewater agencies and served to assist and monitor a variety of water quality, and related policy issues.

CASA has fought hard on behalf of California's sanitation agencies and played an active role in numerous legislative struggles. Among CASA's legislative achievements include sponsoring legislation that gives publicly owned treatment works the authority to levy civil and administrative penalties against industrial dischargers for violations of local wastewater ordinances. Additionally, CASA has worked in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop and implement effective water rules for air toxics, sewer overflows, and biosolids management.

CASA has acted as a valuable resource by helping its member agencies understand and comply with varying

Federal and State water quality standards. CASA also has provided the legal, legislative, and administrative support for the publicly owned treatment work community and helped set the precedent for ensuring clean and safe water for all Californians. Over the years, I have come to value CASA's insight and suggestions for improving our Nation's water quality.

Today I celebrate 50 years of CASA's devoted service and contributions to our Nation, and call upon CASA to continue to lead the way in its innovative and cooperative stewardship of our Nation's complex and growing waterways. Water quality is imperative to the development and welfare of my State and the Nation, and I thank CASA for its continued effort and contributions to the cause.●

HONORING CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Centennial High School in Howard County, MD, for its fine performance on this year's "It's Academic" quiz show. After many hours of practice and four rounds of competition, Centennial has emerged as the 2004-2005 Baltimore-area "It's Academic" champion.

The team of Jeff Amoros, Michael Fasulo, Marin Lolic, and Seth Manoff, with the assistance of their coach John Cheek, took first place out of 81 teams that competed from both public and private schools across the State of Maryland. In its final match, Centennial defeated two formidable foes in Calvert Hall College High School and Oakland Mills High School.

"It's Academic", which is telecast every Saturday morning during the school year on WJZ-TV, channel 13, has been quizzing Maryland students since 1961. In fact, according to the "2005 Guinness Book of World Records", it is the world's longest running quiz show. For Maryland students, "It's Academic" provides an opportunity to challenge not only their own knowledge of math, science, literature, government and history, but also how their knowledge stacks up against students around the State. This year, Centennial's team demonstrated enormous skill and erudition. Congratulations to Jeff, Michael, Marin, Seth and Coach Cheek on a wonderful accomplishment.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations

which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 19, 2005, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3332. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century.

Under the authority of the order of July 19, 2005, the enrolled bill was signed on July 19, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Majority Leader (Mr. FRIST).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 175. Concurrent resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5(a)(2) of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission: Mr. CASTLE of Delaware.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 175. Concurrent resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3090. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to provisions of Sections 563 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005, as they relate to restrictions on assistance to the central government of Serbia; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3091. A communication from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, the report of a proposed amendment to the Iran Non-proliferation Act of 2000, received on July 18, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3092. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to authorizing the drawdown of up to \$6.0 million of Department of Defense commodities and services, including the airlift of troops and equipment, as part of the mission to support the deployment of AU forces to Darfur, Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3093. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment in the amount of \$40,000,000 to Australia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3094. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under contract in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more to Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3095. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report involving exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3096. A communication from the Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that funding for the State of Rhode Island as a result of the record snow on January 22-23, 2005, has exceeded \$5,000,000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3097. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Form S-8, Form 8-K, and Form 20-F by Shell Companies" (33-8587) received on July 18, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3098. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Market Regulation, Securities and Exchange Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal from Listing and Registration of Securities Pursuant to Section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" received on July 18, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3099. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period from October 1, 2004