

The Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana is the combined effort of four separate Circles of Serbian Sisters organizations, each of which contains about 200 members. The presidents of the Circles of Serbian Sisters are: Ms. Helen Tezich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago; Ms. Natalie Tieca, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville; Ms. Ann Rudman, from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville; and Ms. Milica Bodrozic, from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville.

Four years ago, these organizations unified to assemble this humanitarian fundraiser in order to provide aid to orphaned and refugee children in the former Yugoslavia. Last year alone, the Circles of Serbian Sisters sent over 7,000 packages and vaccines to these displaced children, who are forced to live in refugee camps and shelters. These individually wrapped packages consisted of underwear, sweat suits, and candy. Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana works with the International Orthodox Christian Charities and the Serbian Orthodox Church in the former Yugoslavia.

Four priests, who have supported this effort from the very beginning are: Father Steve Kovacevich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago; the Very Reverend Father Milan Savich, from St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville; the Arch Priest John Todorovich, from St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church; and Father Lazar Kostur, from St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Church.

The following distinguished clergymen from the Serbian Orthodox Church have sent their blessings for the event Metro Bishop Irney—Kovacevich—Serbian Orthodox Hierarchy of the New Granica Metropolitanate, seated in Third Lake, IL; His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher—Kovacevich—Serbian Orthodox Hierarchy for Midwestern America, seated in Libertyville, IL; and His Grace Bishop Sava—Jurich—Serbian Orthodox Bishop of Australia and New Zealand, Surrogate Bishop to His Holiness Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle, administrator of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of USA and Canada.

During this year's banquet, which is held at a different church each year, two sisters, Ms. Milica Bodrozic and Mara Dobrijevic, who have been involved in this movement from the very beginning, will describe what they experienced as they traveled to the former Yugoslavia to deliver the aid packages. Thank you notes from the orphaned children will also be read during this benefit.

Mr. Speaker, during this sad time in the former Yugoslavia, the mission of the Circles of Serbian Sisters offers renewed hope in the humanity of all people. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Circles of Serbian Sisters and wishing them well on their fourth annual banquet, as well as the continued success of their humanitarian efforts.

#### THE SOUTH DADE/HOMESTEAD MOTORSPORTS EXHIBITION CENTER

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Economic Development Administration [EDA]

funding of an economic development grant is being sought for the South Dade/Homestead Motorsports Exhibition Center.

Mr. Speaker, the Homestead/South Dade community is still recovering from the brunt of hurricane Andrew in 1992. We continue to seek economic revitalization assistance from the Federal Government, the State of Florida and from the private sector to bring this community back to prosperity.

The South Dade/Homestead Motorsports Speedway Complex has already attracted millions of tourists to the area and has generated jobs at all levels in the community. The city of Homestead and a nonprofit partnership involving private businesses, have proposed a motorsports exhibition center which will build on the success of this complex.

The south Florida community is hopeful that the Subcommittee on Commerce, State and Justice and the EDA will support this project in fiscal year 1997.

#### HONORING GATEWAY DAY HABILITATION PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today begins a new program to help the developmentally disabled come into the mainstream of life. The Gateway Day Habilitation Center, a not-for-profit organization, will work to help their consumers achieve further independence and integration into the community at large. In describing the philosophy of Gateway, Sylvia Lask, the director of community relations, says Gateway has as its goal a high quality of life to be achieved, in part, by gainful employment.

Gateway will also help society embrace the developmentally disabled to foster the development of a variety of meaningful relationships. It will provide such day-to-day skills as cooking, money handling, domestic skills, reading, mathematics, writing, basic safety, travel training, therapeutic exercises, and many others. Gateway deserves the praise and cooperation of all of us for the goals it has adopted in helping our fellow citizens.

#### SUPPORT FOR AUNG SAN SUU KYI

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the Burmese regime is once again cracking down on Aung San Suu Kyi and her democratic movement. The large scale repression and violence by Burma's tyrants we have witnessed over the past week justifies a tougher approach toward the Rangoon regime.

I introduced legislation this year to impose economic sanctions on Burma. Although that legislation did not become law, the American people are becoming more familiar with the tragic situation in Burma. I intend to reintroduce similar legislation concerning Burma in the 105th Congress if I am reelected.

Last month, the Burmese regime held a long press conference during which various of-

ficials criticized Aung San Suu Kyi and the United States. Specifically, the Burmese criticized the International Republican Institute, and its program officer, Mr. Michael Mitchell, for working with the democratic forces inside Burma. That kind of criticism is a badge of honor.

Although the international spotlight rarely shines on Burma, I am watching closely what is happening in that tortured land. The escalating reign of terror against democracy activists and hilltribe people belies Rangoon callous disregard for the infinite value of human life.

Mr. Speaker, the American people stand behind Aung San Suu Kyi and I am proud the International Republican Institute is doing what it can to support democracy in Burma.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in light of the \$3.5 billion increase just given to education in the omnibus spending bill, I rise today to underscore yet again the crucial role that our Federal education programs play. This apparent sudden concern on the part of my Republican colleagues for protecting education is gladly received, because millions of young Americans will benefit from these resources.

During the 104th Congress, the Democratic members of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, however, were distressed by the repeated attempts by the majority to slash funds for education. In fact, earlier this year, we held a hearing to demonstrate the impact that Federal education programs have on preparing America's children for a bright future. At this hearing, we heard many witnesses testify in trenchant detail about the pain that defenseless children, students, and families were suffering from the cuts Congress had imposed on Federal education programs. The higher education student community was represented at this hearing by two outstanding students, Rob Sewell and Willie Brown, then the president and vice-president, respectively, of the American Student Association of Community Colleges. I would like to insert their testimony into the RECORD at this time, because it perfectly illustrates from a student's point of view why Democrats will always fight for education. After all, education is the true path to opportunity, and our role as legislators should be to increase access to lifelong learning for all Americans. This is the only way that our country will become stronger and more productive into the 21st century.

TESTIMONY BY MR. ROB SEWELL, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND MR. WILLIE BROWN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

We appreciate this opportunity to speak to our elected Representatives about federal programs that promote college access and lifelong learning.

My name is Rob Sewell, a student at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, and President of the American Student Association of Community colleges. I am accompanied by Willie Brown,