

Oklahoma, a student who stabbed a principal with a nail was suspended for three days. In North Carolina, a student who broke her teacher's arm was suspended for only two days.

In too many cases, adults are in authority, but they are not in control.

To their credit, many schools are trying to reassert that control—only to find themselves in court. Generations of movies from *The Blackboard Jungle* to *Stand and Deliver* cast as their hero the teacher who dares to bring discipline to the classroom. But a modern version of this drama would have to include a new figure in the story—the lawyer.

Thirty-one percent of all high schools have faced lawsuits or out-of-court settlements in the past 2 years. This is seriously deterring discipline, and demands a serious response.

In school districts receiving federal school safety funds, we will expect a policy of zero-tolerance for persistently disruptive behavior. This means simply that teachers will have the authority to remove from their classroom any student who persists in being violent or unruly. Only with the teacher's consent will these students be allowed to return. The days of timid pleading and bargaining and legal haggling with disruptive students must be over. Learning must no longer be held hostage to the brazen behavior of a few.

Along with this measure, I will propose a Teacher Protection Act to free teachers, principals and school board members from meritless federal lawsuits when they enforce reasonable rules. School officials, acting in their official duties, must be shielded from liability. A lifetime dedicated to teaching must not be disrupted by a junk lawsuit. We do not need tort lawyers scouring the halls of our schools—turning every classroom dispute into a treasure hunt for damage awards.

Safety and discipline are essential. But when we dream for our children, we dream with higher goals. We want them to love learning. And we want them to be rich in character and blessed in ideals.

So our third goal is to encourage clear instruction in right and wrong. We want our schools to care about the character of our children.

I am not talking about schools promoting a particular set of religious beliefs. Strong values are shared by good people of different faiths, of varied backgrounds.

I am talking about communicating the values we share, in all our diversity. Respect. Responsibility. Self-restraint. Family commitment. Civic duty. Fairness. Compassion. The moral landmarks that guide a successful life.

There are a number of good programs around the country that show how values can be taught in a diverse nation. At St. Leonard's Elementary School in Maryland, children take a pledge each morning to be "respectful, responsible and ready to learn." Character education is a theme throughout the curriculum—in writing, social studies and reading. And discipline referrals were down by 70 percent in one year. At Marion Intermediate school in South Carolina, virtues are taught by studying great historical figures and characters in literature.

Consideration is encouraged, good manners are expected. And discipline referrals are down by half in one year.

The federal government now spends \$8 million on promoting character education efforts. My administration will triple that funding—money for states to train teachers and incorporate character lessons into daily coursework.

We will require federal youth and juvenile justice programs to incorporate an element of character building.

Our government must get its priorities straight when it comes to the character of

our children. Right now, the Department of Health and Human Services spends far more on teen contraception than it does on teen abstinence. It takes the jaded view that children are nothing more than the sum of their drives, with no higher goal than hanging out and hooking up. We owe them better than this—and they are better than this. They ask for bread, and we give them a stone.

Abstinence programs show real promise—exactly because more and more teenagers understand that true love waits. My administration will elevate abstinence education from an afterthought to an urgent goal. We should spend at least as much each year on promoting the conscience of our children as we do on providing them with contraception.

As well, we will encourage and expand the role of charities in after-school programs. Everyone agrees there is a problem in these empty, unsupervised hours after school. But those hours should not only be filled with sports and play, they should include lessons in responsibility and character. The federal government already funds afterschool programs. But charities and faith-based organizations are prevented from participating. In my administration they will be invited to participate. Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the YMCA and local churches and synagogues and mosques should be a central part of voluntary, after-school programs.

Schools must never impose religion—but they must not oppose religion either. And the federal government should not be an enemy of voluntary expressions of faith by students.

Religious groups have a right to meet before and after school. Students have a right to say grace before meals, read their Bibles, wear Stars of David and crosses, and discuss religion with other willing students. Students have a right to express religious ideas in art and homework.

Public schools that forbid these forms of religious expression are confused. But more than that, they are rejecting some of the best and finest influences on young lives. It is noble when a young mind finds meaning and wisdom in the Talmud or Koran. It is good and hopeful when young men and women ask themselves what would Jesus do.

The measure of our nation's greatness has never been affluence or influence—rising stocks or advancing armies. It has always been found in citizens of character and compassion. And so many of our problems as a nation—from drugs, to deadly diseases, to crime—are not the result of chance, but of choice. They will only be solved by a transformation of the heart and will. This is why a hopeful and decent future is found in hopeful and decent children.

That hope, of course, is not created by an Executive Order or an Act of Congress. I strongly believe our schools should reinforce good character. I know that our laws will always reflect a moral vision. But there are limits to law, set at the boundaries of the heart. It has been said: "Men can make good laws, but laws can not make men good."

Yet a president has a broader influence and a deeper legacy than the programs he proposes. He is more than a bookkeeper or an engineer of policy. A president is the most visible symbol of a political system that Lincoln called "the last best hope of earth." The presidency, said Franklin Roosevelt, is "pre-eminently a place of moral leadership."

That is an awesome charge. It is the most sobering part of a decision to run for president. And it is a charge I plan to keep.

After power vanishes and pride passes, this is what remains: The promises we kept. The oath we fulfilled. The example we set. The honor we earned.

This is true of a president or a parent. Of a governor or a teacher. We are united in a

common task: to give our children a spirit of moral courage. This is not a search for scapegoats—it is a call to conscience. It is not a hopeless task—it is the power and privilege of every generation. Every individual can change a corner of our culture. And every child is a new beginning.

In all the confusion and controversy of our time, there is still one answer for our children. An answer as current as the headlines. An answer as old as the scriptures. "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things."

If we love our children, this is the path of duty—and the way of hope. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month—This month we recognize the 4 million Americans victimized by this devastating disease and the family members who are most often their primary caregivers.

Alzheimer's Disease is debilitating, indiscriminate and cruel—it creeps into the brain, captures the mind and renders its victims with impaired judgment, personality change and loss of language and communication skills.

Today, Alzheimer's is on track to wreak havoc as the epidemic of the next century burdening our nation's health care system and leaving millions of American families in emotional and financial ruin. It is predicted that by 2050, 14 million Americans will be afflicted. We need a strategy today.

As part of this strategy, we must recognize that there are thousands of spouses and other family members struggling to provide care for their loved ones in their homes each year. Seven in ten people with Alzheimer's disease live at home. Almost 75% of home care is provided by family and friends placing a tremendous emotional burden on these caregivers and a financial burden averaging \$12,500 per at home patient.

Each year, Alzheimer's costs our nation at least \$100 billion and American business \$33 billion, most of that in the lost work of employees who are caregivers.

It is imperative that we increase the federal commitment to this disease. We must create new programs to relieve caregivers and we must continue our work toward treatment and a cure. Last year the federal government dedicated \$400 million to Alzheimer's research, but that's still not enough—the federal commitment to heart, cancer and AIDS research—diseases of comparable cost to our country—is 3 to 5 times higher. Next fiscal year we must increase research dollars for Alzheimer's by \$100 million.

Last June—in an effort to encourage legislative solutions to deal with Alzheimer's—I along with my colleague from across the aisle CHRIS SMITH—kicked off the first bipartisan Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. To date we have 82 members with a goal of reaching 100 by 2000.

The time has come to wage a serious war against Alzheimer's disease. The time has

come to fight for solutions to improve the lives of those affected today and to fight for a cure to save the lives of those who will be affected tomorrow.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY HACKED TO DEATH—RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION CONTINUES IN INDIA—AMERICA MUST SUPPORT FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Indian Express reported on November 12, 1999 that a Christian family was hacked to death in Jamshedpur. The attackers stormed the house of 35 year-old Santan Kerai, dragging Mr. Kerai, his wife, their two year-old child, and a relative out of the house to murder them. Finally, the mutilated bodies of the Kerai family "were found on a football field about 100 yards from their house," according to the article. The newspaper does not identify the assailants, but the attack is part of the ongoing pattern of repression of Christians in India today.

I have been deeply concerned about recent reports of Hindu activists raping and terrorizing nuns. A nun named Sister Ruby was abducted by Hindu fundamentalists, who stripped her naked and forced her to drink their bodily fluids. They threatened to rape her if she refused.

Earlier this year, Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned alive by members of the Bajrang Dal, which is the youth arm of the openly Fascist organization called Rashteria Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The ruling BJP, which leads India's 24-party governing coalition, is the political arm of the RSS.

Since Christmas Day of 1998, Hindu fundamentalists have burned down Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools. Four priests have been murdered, some of them beheaded.

Christians have not been the only target of persecution in India. Sikhs and Muslims are routinely beaten, tortured, and murdered by these radical groups or even Indian security forces.

Mr. Speaker, India is neither secular, nor is it democratic. It is clear that there is no place for religious, linguistic, or ethnic minorities in India. So, it is no wonder that there are seven-teen freedom movements in India.

I call on the President to press the Government of India on the issues of human rights and self-determination when he visits the sub-continent next year. If the United States will not speak out for freedom in the world, who will? If we don't press these issues today, when will we? We must do whatever we can to bring freedom to all the people of India.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Indian Express article into the RECORD

[From the Indian Express, Nov. 12, 1999]

CHRISTIAN FAMILY HACKED TO DEATH

JAMSHEDPUR—Four members of a tribal Christian family have been hacked to death by some unidentified people at Peteripa village of west Singhbhum district.

Police said some people had stormed the house of one Santan Kerai (35) at midnight on Wednesday.

The assailant pulled him, his wife and their two-year old child besides one female relative out of the house and killed them with sharp weapons.

The mutilated bodies of Santan, his wife and the child were found on a football ground, about 100 meter away from their house. PTI report.

NONDISCRIMINATORY RETRANSMISSION CONSENT IN H.R. 1554

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, as a conferee appointed to H.R. 1554, and as a proponent of competition, I deliberated long and hard to promote increased consumer choice in the video marketplace by strengthening the competitive position of satellite carriers as they go head to head with incumbent cable operators; however, they are not the only competitors in the evolving video marketplace.

Since enactment of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, cable over-builders have acquired franchises all across the country and have begun to operate traditional wireline systems. In addition to these familiar distribution systems, several new digital wireless cable systems, which use microwave frequencies to transmit programming, also offer consumers a competitive alternative.

Although incumbent cable systems still dominate the video distribution market, satellite carriers continue to gain market share and, with the advent of local into local, will see even greater consumer interest in their product.

Unfortunately, the newer entrants—the over builders and the digital wireless providers—still face some pretty stiff obstacles in their efforts to penetrate this market. The single most significant hurdle they face is access to popular programming at fair prices. This issue has long-term significance for video competition and my subcommittee will continue to study this important problem. However, in the short-term, these new competitors are running into serious retransmission consent problems that prevent them from expanding as fast as they would like and that unnecessarily deprive consumers of an alternative choice.

When attempting to renegotiate retransmission consent contracts, these new competitors are told they must take other programming services they do not want. Too frequently, they are told they must purchase a "bundle" of programming that includes the broadcast signal they want, but also includes programming in which the broadcaster or his affiliated network has a financial interest. As you might expect, "bundles" of programming cost a lot more than a single broadcast signal, and they take up valuable channel space that the new entrants would prefer to use for other programming—programming they choose to carry, not programming they are forced to carry.

The bottom line is that these "tying" arrangements are not optional, they are forced on these new entrants as the quid pro quo for obtaining retransmission consent; impose higher programming costs on new entrants that put them at a competitive disadvantage vis a vis established players in the market;

and take up valuable channel space which, in the case of wireless operators, is limited to the spectrum space available.

If our efforts to increase consumer choice are to succeed, we must go beyond what we have been able to accomplish in H.R. 1554.

I ask my colleagues to join me in a pledge to reopen the debate about nondiscriminatory retransmission consent and agree to study this matter further to see what additional steps we can take to strengthen the competitive position of all new entrants into the video marketplace. If we succeed, consumers will enjoy lower prices, better service quality and more choice.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR-ELECT
JENNIE STULTZ

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Mayor-elect Jennie Stultz as she prepares to become the first female mayor of Gastonia, North Carolina, in its 122-year history. Her candidacy galvanized middle-aged women and young moms who, local studies indicated, felt disenfranchised in the last municipal elections.

Her campaign to improve the image of the city, which once was chosen as an All American City, resounded with her fellow citizens. I applaud her efforts to promote the City of Gastonia as the friendly, progressive and All American City that she and I know it to be.

Jennie Stultz has dedicated 20 years of her life as a community activist and volunteer. She served as Administrator of Gastonia Clean City, then as Community Relations Director from 1982 to 1997.

She gave of her time and services on numerous civic boards, including the House of Mercy, which assists those with terminal illnesses; the Governor's Council for Children and Youth; and has just completed a term as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Gaston Literacy Council, Inc.

Her father, Elmore Thomas, who was stationed overseas during World War II, wrote in a letter dated July 23, 1944: "When I get back, I might run for mayor of Gastonia. At least, all the boys in the unit say I should."

I commend Jennie Stultz for carrying on that tradition of service to community and nation for which her father fought and for realizing a long, unfulfilled family dream.

My fellow colleagues, I ask that you join me in saluting a woman who exemplifies the spirit of optimism for the future and the pride of community that prevails in this land. May her tenure bring continued prosperity and pride to the people of Gastonia, North Carolina.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN
H. HARLAND COMPANY DALLAS-
AREA FACILITY

HON. RICHARD K. ARMEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the John H. Harland Company's Dallas-area Facility on its 25th Anniversary.