

the melting pot of America destroying the values and resources which made us strong? Is this unchecked invasion crippling our ability to tell the difference between right and wrong, leading us to choose the politically correct solution rather than the right answer?

"I ask your support of immigration reform in the strongest terms. Too many citizens and illegals alike choose which laws are to be obeyed while seeking protection from the law through protests and civil disobedience."

That's just the way it is.

REPUBLICAN FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY, HOUSE REPUBLICANS REFUSE TO CHANGE COURSE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, the other side will once again try to spin their 2007 budget as fiscally responsible. The American people know better. For 5 years now, Republicans have controlled both the Congress and the White House, and for 5 years our budget deficit has been spiraling out of control. Two years ago, former House majority leader Dick Armey told the Wall Street Journal, and I am quoting, "I am sitting here and I am upset about the deficit and I am upset about spending. There is no way I can pin that on the Democrats. Republicans own the town."

That is a former Republican leader talking about their fiscal irresponsibilities.

For 5 years now those who own the town created the fourth largest budget deficit in American history. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the 2000 budget those who own the town plan to bring to the floor this week is the fourth most fiscally irresponsible budget in history, creating an additional \$348 billion debt, and yet those who own the town try to claim their fiscal responsibility.

Members of their own party don't even believe that anymore.

HONORING GORDON PARKS

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, my constituent Gordon Parks.

Mr. Parks was born in Fort Scott, Kansas, the youngest of 15 children. Mr. Parks' accomplishments from this simple beginning are far too many to name in the limited time allotted to me, but allow me to list some of his more significant contributions.

Mr. Parks was the first African American to write, produce and direct a motion picture. He was an award-winning photographer for Life magazine and helped found Essence, the first magazine targeted to African American women.

Mr. Parks won an Emmy in 1968 for the documentary, *Diary of a Harlem Family*. He received the National Medal of Arts from President Reagan in 1988, and was inducted into the International Photography Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, Gordon Parks passed away on March 6, 2006, leaving behind an expansive legacy. I come to the floor today to honor his life and to thank him for significant breakthroughs that occurred because of his life.

DEMOCRATIC BUDGET IS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND PROTECTS WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak out against the House Republicans' plan for an irresponsible budget that they are going to be presenting.

While the House Republican budget never reaches balance, the Democrats' alternative is balanced by 2012. We simply must restore fiscal sanity here in Washington and the fact is the Republican budget doesn't even get there.

The House Democratic alternative will not only provide a blueprint to get us back to balanced budgets, but it will restore critical domestic funding for programs that are so important for working class families.

The Democratic budget provides the needs for working families who have been hit hard by Washington Republicans over the last 5 years. As they continue to face increasing gasoline prices, home heating bills, an increase in health care costs, and high tuition bills, we can't even send our children to college. Our budget provides critical funding for homeland security, education, health, veterans' benefits, and environmental programs that are all left out of the Republican budget.

It is time that this House start working on behalf of the working families in our country.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD MARKETING GIMMICKS

(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, I read recently that Planned Parenthood in San Francisco has launched a fresh marketing gimmick to drum up new business for its clinics.

Under its "Tell A Friend" campaign, girls can earn free movie tickets for referring a friend to Planned Parenthood clinics. These same area clinics are offering the chance to win a free iPod for scheduling an appointment by April 30.

While the idea of luring young girls into abortion clinics with gimmicks like free iPods and movie tickets may be outrageous, I guess it shouldn't be surprising. After all, Planned Parent-

hood may be feeling the financial squeeze these days.

Statistics show U.S. teenagers are having fewer abortions than any time since *Roe v. Wade*, and polling indicates that today's teenagers are more pro-life than previous generations.

Mr. Speaker, the pro-choice side likes to say that their goal is to see that abortion in America is safe, legal and rare; but those who truly seek to reduce abortion rates in America aren't baiting girls into abortion clinics with offers of free movie tickets and iPods.

HONORING PORTLAND PILOTS WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome this morning the University of Portland Women's Soccer Team to our Capitol and congratulate them for their undefeated season, winning the 2005 NCAA Champion Division I Title, their second championship in 4 years. Even the team's dedicated fans have set a new NCAA attendance record for any soccer season, men or women.

I want to congratulate University President, Father Bill Beauchamp, Head Coach Garrett Smith, and the entire university community as the Pilots carried on the legacy of the late legendary coach Clive Charles.

Most of all, I congratulate these women whose combination of athletic and academic excellence is an inspiration for young people everywhere, especially today's young women.

There is much to celebrate "Up on the Bluff." The women's soccer team is a great example of excellence at the University of Portland. I welcome them to the Capitol and their White House ceremony later today.

RESPONSIBLE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a strong supporter of effective immigration reform and with a sense of urgency that Congress must act decisively to secure our borders and control illegal immigration.

Every day we put off sending the President border security legislation simply allows more opportunity for illegal immigrants to break our laws and cross our borders.

America must not continue to be a foster home for those who deliberately break the law. Rather, we must be a Nation that respects law and encourages safe and legal immigration.

The burden of illegal immigration is increasing daily for American citizens as hospitals and schools are filled with illegal immigrants who cannot pay for

their education or their medical expenses. Indeed, illegal immigration is not a victimless crime, and as long as our Nation continues to turn a blind eye, illegal immigrants have all the incentives in the world to risk their lives crossing our border.

As the Senate deliberates their approach to reform, I believe we in the House need to continue to emphasize border security first and foremost, our opposition to amnesty, and support for a national guest worker program that treats those seeking jobs here as exactly that, guests not citizens.

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NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind my colleagues that this week, April 3-9 is National Public Health Week.

I want to thank the efforts of the American Public Health Association and its 200-plus partners who have organized events around the Nation that serve to raise everyone's awareness of the need to improve public health.

This year, the theme of National Public Health Week is, "Designing Healthy Communities, Raising Healthy Kids."

Mr. Speaker, less than 10 percent of our Nation's children walk or ride their bicycles to school, and too many schools continue to invite fast-food vendors into their cafeterias.

In America today, the percentage of children and adolescents who are defined as overweight is more than double what it was in the early 1970s.

My experience as a school nurse taught me that we need to make a concerted effort, all of us, to increase physical fitness activity among our children and to encourage all Americans to adopt a healthier diet that includes fruits and vegetables, but there is more.

If we are going to be successful in designing healthy communities and raising healthy kids, we must make sure this message is heard the entire year and not just for 1 week.

I urge my colleagues to support this and other efforts to promote children's health.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, illegal immigration, the process of choosing to enter this country illegally, of violating our laws, is clearly a priority of concern with the American people, and I don't think the American people are asking too much when they call our offices and tell us to secure the

border and bring a halt to the massive problem of illegal entry into this country.

Some in this debate are trying to characterize those of us who want to get serious about illegal entry as mean-spirited and anti-immigrant. It is ridiculous.

In a column a while back, Peggy Noonan asked the question, What does it mean when the first thing a person does when coming into the country is break our laws? Mr. Speaker, that is a good question.

We absolutely cannot condone or incorporate into our society large numbers of people whose first act upon entering this country is to break a law.

We need to overhaul our border security. We need to overhaul the process by which people are legally admitted to this Nation.

VOTER CONFIDENCE AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, a government such as ours, by the people, works only if the citizens believe it does. Yet, voting irregularities in polling places around the Nation have played an important role in eroding the trust of many Americans in Americans' ability to govern ourselves.

Most or even all of the problems can be addressed, and we should do that. Today, hundreds of citizens are coming to Washington from around the country to urge that we enact H.R. 550, to give every voter a system of voting that allows voter-verified paper audit trails.

Everything of value should be auditable, no less so votes, and every voter should be confident that his or her vote is recorded and counted as intended.

Passage of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act will be a big step toward restoring confidence in our government.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this week the Senate is continuing to debate immigration reform which, of course, is badly needed.

I would urge the Senate to look to the legislation that was passed by this House in December when crafting their legislation. America needs the House immigration and border security bill to protect our borders.

The legislation that we passed ends the catch-and-release program, it gets tough on repeat offenders, promotes cooperation amongst local law enforcement as well, and it installs requirements to ensure that those who are

here illegally in our country do not take jobs from American citizens.

Some say that these illegals just take the jobs that Americans won't do, but I received a letter just the other day from one of my constituents who urged me to push for tougher immigration laws because he can't find work as a drywaller because of illegal foreign workers.

This is considered a very good job from where I come from, the type of job that has built our middle class.

Now we hear the Senate has cut a deal on providing amnesty for some illegal aliens, and I would have a message for the distinguished Senators on the other side of this building: amnesty has no chance of passage in this House. Look to the House bill if you want to see real immigration reform.

REPUBLICANS CREATE A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET FOR AMERICA

(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, Congress is currently evaluating America's needs and trying to decide upon a budget that will responsibly provide for our Nation in 2007.

We should approach this process with the same wisdom and self-restraint used by American families when they decide upon their budget. While we must provide for our needs, we must eliminate unnecessary government programs and prepare for emergencies.

House Republicans are focused on strengthening our Nation's most critical programs, reforming the government, and spending taxpayers' dollars wisely. The Lexington County Chronicle is correct, that the money belongs to the people, not to the government.

I am particularly proud of Chairman JIM NUSSLE's efforts to save \$6.8 billion in spending and reduce the deficit by implementing commonsense reforms. Most importantly, we are taking immediate steps to ensure that the American economy continues to create jobs for American workers.

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

REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. If we adopt the Republican budget late tonight or tomorrow, the Republicans will set a new record: 5 consecutive years of the largest deficits in our Nation's history.

Two weeks ago, the Republicans in the Senate voted to raise the debt limit in the United States of America to \$9 trillion. That is the fourth debt increase in 5 years. This majority and this President Bush have added 65 percent to the debt of the United States in 5 short years.