

Anthony High School in Jersey City. As he told Neil MacFarquhar of *The Times*: "I had no hope of going to college because my family was so poor. I thought I would end up in Jersey City working at Kmart in a minimum-wage job."

Instead, with prodding from teachers and counselors, Mr. McCall graduated from St. Anthony this week, receiving an award for outstanding educational improvement and earning a full \$20,000 scholarship to Monmouth University in New Jersey.

He is one of 47 St. Anthony seniors who have been admitted to 138 different colleges and universities, accumulating \$1 million in financial aid. It is the third year in a row that St. Anthony, whose enrollment of 300 is drawn from impoverished neighborhoods, has had every graduating senior accepted in college.

But now the aspirations of future classes of such students are in jeopardy. The Congressional assault on student aid programs in general and minority scholarship programs in particular will put college out of reach for many minority and low-income youths.

Congress threatens to freeze the \$6 billion appropriation for Pell grants, which are targeted to low-income students, for the next seven years. The current maximum award, \$2,300, has already been reduced to about \$1,500 as appropriations have failed to keep pace with increasing numbers of needy students or rising college costs. The freeze is likely to cut grants to poor students while proposed tax breaks for middle- and upper-income families would make it easier for them to pay tuition costs.

Mr. McCall and his fellow St. Anthony seniors, many of whom are first-generation college students from inner-city minority, ethnic blue-collar and immigrant families, still have hope. But without targeted scholarships and grants, the hopes of many who come after them will be dashed.

COMMENDING HOLLIS/BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President. I would like to commend the students from Hollis/Brookline High School in Hollis, NH, who competed in the national finals of the "We the People" . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program from April 29 to May 1, 1995, in Washington, DC. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals. They triumphed in local competitions in the Granite State, and were among more than 1,200 students from 49 States and the District of Columbia to participate in the program.

The distinguished members of the team representing New Hampshire are: Sarah Birch, Alisa Bowen, Brian Clardy, Ashley Dennis, Cerissa Desrosiers, Alicia DiGrezio, Katie Enright, Joe Gauthier, Lisl Hacker, Meredith Ham, Jessica Hannon, Alyssa Hemmerich, Andrea Higgins, Christine Hsu, Arwyn Jackson, Eric Jones, Zak Klimas, Rachel Lee, Cathy O'Sullivan, Reina Parker, Joshua Rattin, Mary Beth Rosamond, Justin Rydstrom, David Sawyer, Emilie Sommer, Rachel Spaulding, Stacey Stabile, Alan Stenzel, Heather Towne, Jessica Wild, and Holly Williams.

I would also like to recognize their outstanding teachers, Deb Christenson

and Joel Mitchell, who both deserve a great deal of credit for the success of the team. The district coordinator, Raymond Kneeland, and the State coordinator, Patricia Barss, also contributed a significant amount of time and effort to help the team reach the national finals.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People" . . . program, now in its eighth academic year, is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The 3 day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students' oral presentations are judged on the basis of their knowledge of constitutional principles and their ability to apply them to historical and contemporary issues.

The We the People . . . program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective about the history and principles of our Nation's constitutional government. I wish these young constitutional experts from Hollis and Brookline the best of luck and look forward to their future participation in politics and government.●

THE 25TH ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

• Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, our country is a remarkable mosaic—a mixture of races, languages, ethnicities, and religions—that grows increasingly diverse with each passing year. Nowhere is this incredible diversity more evident than in the State of New Jersey. In New Jersey, schoolchildren come from families that speak 120 different languages at home. These different languages are used in over 1.4 million homes in my State. I have always believed that one of the United States greatest strengths is the diversity of the people that make up its citizenry and I am proud to call the attention of my colleagues to an event in New Jersey that celebrates the importance of the diversity that is a part of America's collective heritage.

On June 4, 1995 the Garden State Arts Center in Holmdel, NJ began its 1995 Spring Heritage Festival Series. This Heritage Festival program salutes many of the different ethnic communities that contribute so greatly to New Jersey's diverse makeup. Highlighting old country customs and culture, the festival programs are an opportunity to express pride in the ethnic backgrounds that are a part of our collective heritage. Additionally, the Spring Heritage Festivals will contribute proceeds from their programs to the Garden State Arts Center's Cultural Center Fund which presents theater productions free-of-charge to New Jersey's school children, seniors, and other deserving residents. The Heritage Festival thus not only pays tribute to the cultural influences from our past, it also makes a significant contribu-

tion to our present day cultural activities.

On Saturday, June 10, 1995, the Heritage Festival Series will celebrate the 25th Annual Festa Italiana. Chaired by Eileen DiNizo, this year's event promise to be a grand celebration alive with colorful costumes, traditional foods, ethnic arts and crafts, and talented entertainers of Italian descent. The celebration will consist of both a day-long open air mall event, featuring piazza entertainment, food, crafts and a mass and an evening stage show highlighting renowned Italian entertainers. The Mall activities will kick-off with a traditional sing-a-long, dancing and comedy acts and will feature traditional food and crafts which will be available throughout the cultural exhibit area. Additionally, a liturgy will be concelebrated by the most Rev. Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop of Newark and clergy from throughout New Jersey. Immediately following the liturgy will be an evening stage show featuring many Italian artists including, comedian Freddie Travena, singer Moreno Fruzzetti, and Anthony Rolando, two-time U.S. Accordion champion.

On behalf of all New Jerseyans of Italian descent, which at 1.1 million people is the largest ethnic group in my State, I offer my congratulations on the occasion of the 25th Annual Festa Italiana.●

"WHY ADOPTIVE PARENTS FIGHT FOR KIDS"

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, there are few things that have moved me as much in recent years as the tragic case of "Baby Richard," who was taken by the Illinois Supreme Court from his adoptive parents at the age of four and given to his natural parents who had abandoned him upon birth. As an adoptive parent myself, I cannot believe the pain with which this family has been afflicted and the emotional harm and scars that will be part of the life of Richard, unfortunately.

The other day, I happened to see in the New York Daily News an article by Michael Quinn, on the staff of Time magazine, who is also an adoptive parent.

His article is titled, "Why adoptive parents fight for kids."

It tells the story very simply but meaningfully.

I ask that his story be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Daily News, June 6, 1995]

WHY ADOPTIVE PARENTS FIGHT FOR KIDS
(By Michael Quinn)

Already it ranks as one of the most shameful images of our time: Chicago's 4-year-old "Baby Richard" being slowly pried from the arms of the family with whom he shared every memory of his tiny universe and whisked off by strangers with whom he shared nothing but DNA.

You didn't need much to join in a nation's sense of heartache—just two eyes and a soul.