

pioneering work to advance Geography Awareness Week, the Geography Bee, and state geography alliances, has dramatized the need for quality geography education in America's classrooms.

I want to commend Mr. Grosvenor for his lifetime commitment to the advancement and dissemination of geographic knowledge and understanding. Under the leadership of Gil Grosvenor, National Geographic has done more to make geography alive and interesting than any other organization. We all owe Mr. Grosvenor and the National Geographic Society a huge debt of gratitude for their tremendous contributions over the years.

Mr. President, hundreds of geographers from across the country will converge on the Southwest Texas campus today to inaugurate the new Center. Lady Bird Johnson is also an expected guest, along with elected officials and many alumni from the Department of Geography and Planning. In the evening, Mr. Grosvenor will serve as a special guest at a dinner in the ballroom of the LBJ Student Center. On Friday, Mr. Grosvenor will have the honor and distinction of delivering the 1st Annual Grosvenor Lecture at the Alkek Library Teaching Theater on campus. Mr. Grosvenor is expected to focus his address on the critical importance of providing quality geography education in America's schools.

It is with great pleasure that I join in the celebration of the dedication of Southwest Texas's new Grosvenor Center. I congratulate all those involved in making this effort a reality and ensuring that geography education plays an important and integral role in the classrooms of today, as well as tomorrow.●

L.F. "TOW" DIEHM

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to the family and loved ones of one of New Mexico's most outstanding citizens, L.F. "Tow" Diehm, who died last week. Mr. Diehm leaves a proud and indelible legacy for his family, profession, and community. He spent his professional life dedicated to athletics in New Mexico, and while he will be missed, his reputation will live on.

Tow came to the University of New Mexico in 1957 and held the job of athletic trainer for 31 years. As friends and family will attest, Tow was a man who never forgot that the young student athletes in his charge were people. Throughout his 31 years, not a day went by when Tow did not touch the lives of the people around him. As a gesture to Tow of respect and affection, the University of New Mexico named its new athletic complex after him when it was completed in 1997. Indeed, the honors that were bestowed on Tow throughout his life were numerous: he is a member of the University of New Mexico Athletic Hall of Honor, the

Helms Trainers Hall of fame, and in 1980, he became the first person, who was not an athlete or a coach, ever inducted into the Albuquerque Hall of Fame.

Whether generating funding for the athletic department or acting as a confidante to the many student athletes he helped every day, Mr. Diehm did everything in his life, personal and professional, with honor and integrity. His influence on athletes, his colleagues and friends, to say nothing of his family, is immeasurable. The standard of excellence that he embodied will live on in each life that he touched.●

DISABLED HIKERS FROM IDAHO ATTEMPT MT. EVEREST CLIMB

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to share a story about an extraordinary group of Idahoans.

As I drove into work this morning, my thoughts were with this group of my constituents in Nepal, very far away from home and even farther away from Washington, D.C. These Idahoans are attempting to climb Mt. Everest. Only a handful of people have climbed the mountain over the years and succeeded. Others have failed in their attempt, but very few people have ever tried to climb the mountain at all. It is a challenge that could mean death at every turn. For this group of Idahoans, however, the climb means life around every corner.

The climbers are all physically disabled. These disabled trekkers are affiliated with the Cooperative Wilderness Handicapped Outdoor Group at Idaho State University, affectionately known as HOGs. This group's philosophy is, "Hey, just because you're disabled, it doesn't mean that your life is over." And they are proving exactly that. The group's journey is being documented on the internet, so that updates on their progress can be found frequently. On their website they write, "Disabled people are ignored, not really discriminated against, but ignored. I've seen families where a relative is newly disabled and they didn't let him do anything. This at first is a well-meaning attitude, but later it effectively takes a disabled person's power away to make choices. We're making a choice with this Everest Trek. It's going to be really hard, but we are going to give it our best."

Disability comes in different forms for the participants. Kyle Packer, an Idaho State University student of the year, has Cerebral Palsy. Isaac Gayfield set many Idaho State University track records. He now has Degenerative Bone Disease. Tom McCurdy is an Idaho State University student who happens to be a paraplegic. Steve DeRoche is a weight lifting coach and a double amputee. Sheila Brashears lost a leg to cancer. Carla Yustak, who has Cerebral Palsy, is an Olympic trainee for cycling when she isn't climbing mountains.

And then there is Tom Whittaker. The founder of the CW-HOG organization, Tom lost his foot in an automobile accident in 1979, shortly after finishing his Masters degree at Idaho State University. An avid outdoor adventurer, Tom felt as if his life had come to an end—but he overcame his disability, and then some. Now a professor of adventure education at Prescott College in Arizona, Tom is poised to become the first amputee to stand on the summit of Everest. While the rest of the team plans to end its journey upon reaching the base camp of the summit, Tom will travel the final stage to the peak as the sole disabled participant.

I want to personally congratulate this group for their efforts so far. They are expected to reach the base camp today and Tom is set to reach the summit later this month. It is indeed a defining moment for disabled people in America and around the world.

Mr. President, let me share what was written about Tom Whittaker in his online profile: " * * * [he] reminds us, when setbacks occur in our personal and professional lives, it is not the falling down, but the getting back up that matters. The essence, in the heart of the American Dream, is not money, status or power, but the freedom to dream and the courage to embrace those dreams—for all people. As a people, we love to compete and we love to win. But more than anything, Americans applaud the grit and spirit it takes to get back up and finish the race."

In closing, I want to recognize their spirit today. It is my hope that everyone who hears their message might be inspired to face and conquer their own challenges, and by so doing, become not only better persons but better Americans.●

NATO ENLARGEMENT

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate engaged in a particularly important debate about the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I particularly want to commend the leadership and dedication of my colleague from Oregon, Senator GORDON SMITH. Senator SMITH managed this important legislation on the floor with great competence, and the people of Oregon should be proud of how he handled this difficult assignment. Despite my colleague's persuasive efforts, however, I have decided to oppose this treaty.

Mr. President, a new era in world affairs demands new forms of international cooperation. There is indeed a clear and immediate imperative to bring the new democracies of Eastern Europe into the family of freedom-loving nations.

What is less clear is that the best way to do this is through the new military alliance proposed by this treaty. My reservations about this treaty are