

Senate calendar. Mr. Straub is a partner in the law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

Judge Sotomayor, Judge Pooler, Robert Sack and Chester Straub can and should all be confirmed to the Second Circuit before the Senate adjourns for its Memorial Day recess.

In his most recent Report on the Judiciary the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court warned that persisting vacancies would harm the administration of justice. The Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court pointedly declared: "Vacancies cannot remain at such high levels indefinitely without eroding the quality of justice that traditionally has been associated with the federal judiciary."

The people and businesses in the Second Circuit need additional federal judges confirmed by the Senate. Indeed, the Judicial Conference of the United States recommends that in addition to the 5 vacancies, the Second Circuit be allocated an additional 2 judgeships to handle its workload. The Second Circuit is suffering harm from Senate inaction. That is why the Chief Judge of the Second Circuit had to declare the Circuit in a state of emergency.

Must we wait for the administration of justice to disintegrate further before the Senate will take this crisis seriously and act on the nominees pending before it? I pray not.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO EAST HIGH SCHOOL, FINALIST IN THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the students from East High School in Denver, CO who participated in the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" finals held here in our Nation's Capital, May 2-4, 1998. East High School competed against 49 other classes from across the Nation. Their hard work was rewarded with an Honorable mention as one of the top ten finalists in the competition.

I am always pleased when I have the opportunity to come to the Senate floor to praise students that have taken an interest in their government and their Constitution. By taking part in this competition, the students of East High School have served to strengthen the foundation of our democracy.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the participants, Daniel Berson, Lisa Bianco, Rosemary Blosser, Tristan Bridges, John Patrick Crum, Jessica Dismang, Belle Duggan, Sterling Ekwo, Heidi Gehret, Sarah Givens, Jamaal Harmon, Courtney Hopley, Scott Kronewitter, Melanie McRae, Jennifer Newman, Gavin Rember, Jennifer Roche, Sarah Showalter, Jessica Slenger, Lauren Strickland, Matthew Vellone, Feliz Ventura, Michaela Welch, and their teacher Ms. Deanna Morrison for doing

such a fine job of representing Colorado.

I cannot overstate the achievements of these young people, they are some of the best and brightest that America has to offer. I am proud to say that I, along with all Coloradans, congratulate East High School on a job well done.●

#### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MEN'S ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the University of Michigan hockey team on their 1998 NCAA Championship—The Wolverines' second hockey title in three years.

On Saturday, April 4th, the Michigan hockey team defeated Boston College (3-2) in overtime for the championship. This is a remarkable achievement for a team which lost nine senior players from last year's team, including the Hobey Baker trophy winner and 5 players who each scored 20 or more goals in the season. The 1997-98 Michigan team featured 10 freshmen, one of whom scored two goals in the final game, and another who scored the winning goal in overtime in the championship game.

When the 1997-98 season started, it was expected to be a rebuilding year for the Wolverines. The young team faced a difficult season against some of the toughest teams in the nation. Instead, the Michigan team earned a 34-11-1 record, seizing every chance to display their athleticism, sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance.

The University of Michigan ice hockey players have always been among the "leaders and best." As the Wolverines celebrate this year's victory, they also commemorate the anniversary of their first NCAA title fifty years ago, when the tournament began. In the last 50 years, the Wolverines have brought nine championship titles back to Ann Arbor, making them the winningest team in NCAA men's ice hockey history.

The "Victors" are indebted to the strong leadership they have from Head Coach Red Berenson and players, Captain Matt Herr and Assistant Captains Bill Muckalt and Marty Turco. These three seniors, along with Chris Fox and Gregg Malicke, advanced to the Final Four four seasons in a row. In addition, senior Bill Muckalt was named a Hobey Baker award candidate and All-American player, and senior goaltender Marty Turco finished his college career with one of the most impressive records in college hockey. The goalie's four years at Michigan gave him a record of 127 career victories and nine victories in NCAA elimination games, making him the winningest goaltender in NCAA tournament history. Turco was also selected most valuable player in the Final Four after stopping 28 shots in the championship game.

I extend my best wishes to the University of Michigan Men's Ice Hockey Team on a tremendous season and the 1998 NCAA Championship—Go Blue!●

#### LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

● Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of a charitable contribution worthy of note. Lymphatic filariasis is a terrible disease that our citizens are not likely to see here in the United States, but it is one of the World's most disabling and disfiguring diseases. It affects people in 73 countries, mainly in tropical and subtropical areas of India, Africa, Asia and South America.

The disease is caused by a parasite, carried by mosquitoes. Efforts to eliminate mosquitoes have not been successful in these regions, and the result is an endless cycle of infection for human hosts.

The World Health Organization has embarked on a campaign to stop this dread disease. Lymphatic filariasis infects 76 million people world wide. The parasitic worms, often only the size of a thread, live in humans by lodging in the lymphatic system. They live for up to six years, producing millions of microscopic larvae that circulate in the blood. When symptoms appear, they can be devastating. Kidney damage and painful swelling of the extremities are typical examples of the suffering endured by these victims.

The best previous defense against this disease was the administration of a single dose of two drugs, diethylcarbamazine of DEC and ivermectin. But when these drugs are administered at the same time with another drug, albendazole, the treatment is much more effective. Albendazole additionally kills hookworm, a very severe problem, especially in Africa.

Earlier this year, the World Health Organization's Division of Tropical Diseases announced a program to eliminate lymphatic filariasis. The cornerstone of this eradication program rests on the most generous charitable contribution in history. SmithKline Beecham, one of the world's leading healthcare companies, announced that they will provide their drug albendazole free of charge for the WHO effort. In addition to the drug donation, they are providing significant financial support to WHO to help implement the eradication program.

Yesterday, SmithKline Beecham testified before the House Committee on International Relations during a hearing on the Eradication and Elimination of Six Infectious Diseases. Dr. David Heymann, WHO's Director of Emerging and Communicable Diseases was also testifying. Dr. Heymann has been a great resource and help to me as I've learned about the growing problem of global viral and bacterial epidemics.

The hearing was worth noting, because it featured the contributions of many in the private sector to eradicate disease. Rotary International has made great progress in their effort to eliminate polio around the world. Merck & Co. has very generously, provided their drug Mectizan for the control of River Blindness, another filarial parasitic disease.