

Southwestern completed an inspirational season thanks, in no small part, to a compelling figure who never played a single inning—Jennifer Hurley's younger brother Drew. For the 14 years of his life, Drew has battled a condition similar to cerebral palsy. He is unable to speak, can hear in only one ear, and his limbs move in sudden jerks. Despite this constant struggle, Drew is at every game. The Cougars drew inspiration from Drew. After every victory, Drew would put on a batting helmet, and Jennifer would push him around the base paths in his wheelchair until he crossed home plate. It became a team ritual that brought the Cougars together and inspired them to victory. I read Drew's story in the Greensboro News & Record, and that prompted my attendance at one of the early Cougars' playoff games.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Steve Taylor along with his assistants Lee McCaskill and Harry Daniel. Supporting the team efforts were Managers Stacey McCaskill, C.J. Taylor, Heather Taylor, and Kurtis Taylor along with Statistician Luanne Deaton.

Members of the championship team included Megan Moody, Natalie King, Abby Auman, Kari McLeod, Crystal McPherson, Jennifer Hurley, Krystal Parker, Ashely Vereyken, Wendy Heath, Jodi Johnson, Beth Auman, Emily Ivey, Lesley Greene, Wendy Seawell, Lee Ann Chandler, Erica Tackett, Cristina Tedder, Mary Beth Sillmon, Crystal Hudson, and Lee Harris.

Everyone at Southwestern Randolph High School can be proud of the Cougars. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate Athletic Director Trent Taylor, Principal Dr. W. Thrift and everyone at Southwestern Randolph for winning the state 2-A softball championship.

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CARIBOU UPROAR

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends a May 25, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World Herald, regarding the firing of the U.S. Geological Survey contract cartographer who posted an Alaskan caribou map on the Internet, causing an uproar in the environmental community. There was more to this story than originally reported. The information in the map was outdated and inaccurate, and the cartographer had no expertise or responsibility for caribou studies. The cartographer since has become a martyr for environmentalists opposed to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), albeit under false pretenses.

THE PURGE THAT WASN'T

[From the Omaha World-Herald, May 25, 2001]

Members of Congress have railed about it. More than 80 environmental and other groups sent Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton an angry letter in response to it. Foreign newspapers featured breathless coverage of it. An article in a British newspaper concluded that, because of it, the Bush administration "actually appears to be bear a grudge against the natural world."

The hubbub is over Ian Thomas, a cartographer for the U.S. Geological Survey who was fired in March after he posted a map of caribou migrations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a portion of which the Bush administration has proposed for oil drilling. The geological survey also had the map removed from the Web.

In their letter to Norton, the 88 environmental and other groups claimed that the firing of Thomas indicated a disturbing politicizing of government research and sent "a chilling message to all government scientists."

The day after he was fired, Thomas accepted a job with the World Wildlife Fund and is now hailed as a martyr to the environmental cause.

It seems a straightforward story, a tale of nefarious Republican misdeeds and shameless toadying to oil interests. Certainly that was the impression one got from following Garry Trudeau's version of it in "Doonesbury." But, as a Washington Post article explained this week, that now-familiar version of events "isn't the whole story."

Examine all the facts, and a host of surprising details pop up. Details, that is, that undercut many of the main accusations against the administration.

Thomas, for example, was a contract worker, not a full-time civil servant. The caribou map, which Thomas created in 15 minutes, was far removed from the scope of his contract and was based on obsolete data.

Thomas had no expertise in Alaska wildlife matters and had been reprimanded earlier for posting sensitive Pentagon data on the geological survey's Web site.

As described by The Washington Post, "the decision to cancel his contract was made not by Norton or any other bush appointee, but by the top biologist at his research center, a self-described liberal Democrat who opposes drilling in the Arctic refuge. Another career bureaucrat—the chief USGS biologist, also a Democrat and a conservationist—made the call to pull the caribou map off the Web." No evidence has surfaced, the article said, "that Norton or her aides played any role in his termination."

The geological survey's main experts on Alaskan wildlife are its Alaska-based biologists. When they saw Thomas' map, they expressed consternation that a Maryland-based contract worker, with no expertise in caribou studies, was posting inaccurate, albeit official-looking, material on that topic.

A geological-survey caribou biologist inquired about the map and subsequently sent Thomas a pointed e-mail message: "The material you posted is terribly out of date. It is inconceivable that you have posted this outdated material in view of the recent and intense interest in" the refuge.

Not that such details appear to matter as far as the episode's actual political fallout. As the Post observed, regardless of the facts, "the notion that the Bush administration ousted Thomas for political reasons has taken root around the world, thanks to the power of the Internet and the tenacity of environmentalists."

This episode, now help up by Bush critics as a cause celebre, illustrates the ability of politics to trample the truth. It is regrettable, but revealing, that so many have rushed to warp the facts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE DAN DALLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise at this time to recognize the life of a distinguished public servant, Daniel C. Dalley. Dan spent his life protecting the citizens of Fruita, Colorado. This man was known for his honor and kindness, and is worthy of the recognition of Congress.

Born and raised in Fruita, Colorado Dan was an asset to the community even at a young age. During high school Dan worked hard in and out of school, holding a job at Youngs Ranch while attending Fruita Monument High School. After high school Dan went on to college at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he received an associates degree in Criminal Justice. Continuing with his passion for the law, Dan graduated from the Police Academy at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Rangely, Colorado.

After graduation Dan joined the Fruita Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 1992. Dan also served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert, Sergeant and Detective Sergeant and was then promoted to Acting Chief. The nine years Dan spent on the force were filled with awards and recognition for a job well done. In 1996 Dan received Employee of the year from the Fruita Police Department, and then for two consecutive years, 1997 and 1998, the Mesa County Optimist Club honored Dan with the title of Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

In addition to Dan's commitment to upholding the law, Dan also was very involved in his community. Dan added to his community duties by serving eight years as a volunteer EMT for the Loma Volunteer Fire Department. Being active in his church was also important to Dan, and the Grace Community Church was lucky to count Dan among its members. His commitment to God and Country are admired by all. He will be greatly missed.

As his family and friends grieve the loss of Dan Dalley, Mr. Speaker I wanted to take the opportunity to recognize his life. His wife, Cybill, and sons, Alan, Tyler, Dalton and Luke should take pride in the fact that Dan made so many contributions to the State of Colorado. Everyone that knew Dan was in awe of his kindness and service. That, Mr. Speaker, is why Dan is worthy of the praise and thanks of the United States Congress.

HIV/AIDS COMMEMORATION

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, a disease which is devastating both in scope and severity.

The past decade has seen approximately 40,000 new cases of HIV/AIDS each year. In the U.S., the disease continues to ravage countless communities, and the worldwide statistics are staggering, as well. One out of