

probation and/or community service. Most juvenile delinquents do not get punished at all for the misdemeanor crimes, so some start committing felonies. We think, because they were not punished for the misdemeanor crimes, they feel they will not be punished for the felonies.

Melissa Jarvis: People are afraid to punish juveniles because they want to give them a second chance. Increasingly, this second chance is used to commit another crime. We think it is about time that the adults in charge look at the juvenile crime situation without colored glasses. This isn't the '50s. Children are killing and getting killed. Those killed do not get a second chance.

We think the fear of harsher punishments would serve as a deterrent for those juveniles who would be successful in programs such as diversion, and curtail the activities of habitual criminals. This will at least protect the general population from them.

David Gilbert: We are afraid lawmakers are scrambling around to pass new laws. The killers in Littleton broke 18 gun laws and more. There are plenty of laws. What we need to do is enforce, prosecute, and punish those who break them.

LOWERING THE DRINKING AGE TO 18

(On behalf of Nicholas Dandrow, Eric Williams, Beth Nadeau, Becca Bergeron and Michael French)

Becca Bergeron: I will be speaking on behalf of the group.

We feel that the drinking age should be lowered from 21 years of age to 18. The reasons for our proposal are:

1. If you are 18, you are considered an adult, just the same as if you were 21.

2. If, at the age of 18, you are allowed to join or be drafted into the army to fight for your country, why can't you buy a six-pack of beer?

3. Most European countries have either no drinking age or it is 18 years old.

4. Giving 18-year-olds this privilege will help them feel like an adult, rather than just an 18-year-old.

5. The drinking age was 18 at one point in this country. It was during the '70s. We know the outcome was not the greatest, but you have to understand that that was the '70s, there was Vietnam, lots of drug use, many rebellious people and organizations.

6. Once a rule is made, the number one response is to test it. That is why many people under the age of 21 consume alcohol, just because they aren't supposed to.

7. Most of this group here is 18, and once we are 18, are seniors in high school. That means next year some of us will be attending college. The college scene is very much more older and diverse. The ages range from 18 and up. So, if you are all in the same boat, what makes the 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds different? They can vote, drive automobiles, serve the country, get into clubs, buy tobacco products, lottery tickets, give blood, purchase a firearm. The one thing they cannot do is purchase or consume alcohol products. What difference does three years make?

If the age were lowered, it is understood that some problems may occur, such as more high school students would start drinking, causing more drinking and driving. But we believe awareness to be very effective. Also, stricter laws to minors under the age of 18, and stricter penalties to the persons supplying minors.

As our representative, Congressman Bernie Sanders, we urge you to voice our opinion to lower the drinking age to 18.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 15 there were several rollcall votes on amendments to the FY2000 Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill, H.R. 2490. Had I been there I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 301; "aye" on rollcall No. 302; "no" on rollcall No. 303; "aye" on rollcall No. 304. On final passage of H.R. 2490, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 305.

On July 16, the House considered the African Growth and Opportunity Act, H.R. 434. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 306 and 307.

On July 19 and 20, the House considered several bills under suspension of the rules. Had I been there I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 308, 309, 310, and 311.

On July 20, the House considered several amendments to the American Embassy Security Act, H.R. 2415. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 312; "aye" on rollcall No. 313; and "aye" on rollcall No. 314.

On July 20, the House also took up the rule on the Teacher Empowerment Act. Had I been there I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 315.

On these dates, I was participating in the Fourth Annual International Symposium on Reduction of Patent Costs at the Hague, Netherlands, where I was the keynote speaker. This event was sponsored by the International Federation of Industrial Property Attorneys (FICPI) and the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). I had committed to participating in this event prior to the scheduling of votes.

AMERICA SHOULD SUPPORT KASHMIRI, SIKH, NAGA FREEDOM STRUGGLES

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, the world watches carefully the situation in Kashmir, where the Indian military attacked the Kashmiri freedom fighters to shut down the seventeen freedom movements within its borders. The effort did not go well for India, despite its claims of victory. An Indian military spokesman admitted that Indian troops were "dying like dogs."

The Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan have been very concerned that this war will spread to their homeland, where they are also seeking self-determination. One of India's strategies for keeping the freedom movements from succeeding is to set the minority nations against each other. In pursuit of this divide-and-rule strategy, they have sent Sikh soldiers to fight the Kashmiris, as they have done in Nagaland. The Christians in Nagaland have been fighting for their freedom for the last 52 years.

The Council of Khalistan wrote an open letter to the Sikh soldiers and officers. They called on the soldiers and officers to stop "dying like dogs" for the Indian government. The letter asked Sikh soldiers if they would rather die as Sikh martyrs or mercenaries for Indian oppression. It urged them to stop shooting at their fellow freedom fighters in Kashmir and join the movement to free Khalistan.

The reasons why Khalistan and the other nations of South Asia should enjoy their freedom have been outlined by many of us in the past, and they have not changed. Amnesty International reports that thousands of political prisoners are being held without charge or trial. Some of them have been in illegal custody for 15 years.

If India is democratic and if there is no support for the freedom movements, as India claims, then why not let the peoples of the subcontinent vote on their political status? America should support self-determination for all the nations and peoples. We should declare our support for the freedom movements and the right of self-determination and stop aid to the repressive Indian regime.

CELEBRATING THE ARTISTRY OF WILLIAM KRAWCZEWICZ

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding artist, William Krawczewicz, whose design was recently selected to appear on the back of the Maryland quarter, to be issued in March of 2000.

The U.S. Mint will issue fifty different designs of the official quarter for the fifty different states, each quarter depicting features of its state. Mr. Krawczewicz's winning design features the state Capitol building in Annapolis, Maryland, the only statehouse that also once served as the Nation's Capitol. The design was chosen from among the approximately 280 designs depicting different aspects of Maryland.

This is not the first time Mr. Krawczewicz's artwork has been recognized. Over the years, he has won a number of awards and one of his designs was selected for a 1994 Olympic coin commemorative set. When he is not producing coin designs, Mr. Krawczewicz works as a graphic designer for the White House.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Krawczewicz for his artistry and for his contribution to the commemoration of the state of Maryland.

MARION COWELL, JR.

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate Marion Cowell, Jr. on his retirement from First Union.