was the only thing I had to enjoy. So I got into (heavy metal rock band) Kiss, Black Sabbath and things like that.

While Marilyn Manson alone is not the problem, his brand of music promotes violence more aggressively than ever. Indeed, Manson’s own response to the Littleton massacre raises the issue to be addressed here. Television or even religion may cause youth violence, he says, but music plays no role whatsoever. In fact, he claims that he is actually a victim when he asserts that the media “has unfairly scapegoated the music industry... and has speculated—with what artists like myself are in some way [sic] to blame.”

Unfortunately, it appears that the music industry’s only response to this cultural crisis is simply to deny that its products have any effect on anyone. One the June 29, 1999, edition on CNN’s Showbiz Today program, for example, musician Billy Joel dismissed as “absurd” the idea that music influences violent behavior. Elton John put it more bluntly: “It has nothing to do with the musical content or the lyrics whatsoever. [The idea is] absolute rubbish.”

No one, of course, argues that popular music is the sole cause of youth violence. Something as complex as human behavior does not have a sole cause. The question is not whether popular music exerts any influence on youth (something no one seriously argues), but whether there is any “basis in truth” for the proposition that some popular music makes a real contribution to youth (something only the music industry denies).

The affirmative answer to this question rests on three pillars. First, media such as television and music are very powerful influences on attitudes and behavior. Second, popular music in an even more powerful influence on young people. Third, some of the most popular music today promotes destructive behavior such as violence and drug use.

Effective prescriptions require accurate diagnoses. Whether the solution involves parental involvement, public policy, pressure on record companies or retailers to change their practices, or all of these and more, the effort must be informed by a comprehensive understanding of the problem.

TONI PARKS, GUEST LECTURER FOR THE RC HICKMAN YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS WORKSHOP

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. Speaker, I rise to join the constituents of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, the residents of Dallas and my colleagues in the House of Representatives in taking great pleasure to proclaim July 31st, 1999 as “Toni Parks Day.”

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Toni Parks is an internationally acclaimed photographer whose works have appeared in prominent magazines and newspapers throughout the U.S. and Europe. Her pictures have appeared in Stagebill, American Vision, USIA, Life and Arts, to name a few. Toni Parks has been featured in numerous publications, including the Lotton Gal- lery, Tony Green Gallery in England, Columbia University, and the Martin Luther King Gallery. Her photos consist of fashion and beauty as only Toni Parks can vision. In her years as a photographer, she has received critical acclaim for her works of art. Toni Parks will be her podium to share her experiences with the students and enthusiast of the RC Hickman Young Photographers Workshop at the South Dallas Cultural Center, located on the corner of Robert B. Cullum and Fitzhugh. The program is presented this year by the Artist and Elaine Thornton Foundation For the Arts Inc., a non-profit organization established to educate, promote and embrace the arts of all disciplines including drama, dance, visual, and music. Its mission is to bring about positive social awareness to the inner city community, using art as a tool for positive social change.

We salute you Toni Parks.

Therefore, I ask that all citizens of Dallas join in celebrating July 31st, 1999 as “Toni Parks Day.”

RECOGNIZING JACQUE CORTEZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacque Cortez upon her selection by Visalia-area schools as a “Good Kid.” Jacque was chosen based on her academic achievements, classroom leadership, and efforts in literature and music.

The “Good Kid” program was formed in an effort to provide students with positive reinforcement. The program allows Visalia teachers to nominate students, who have excelled in academics and demonstrated a good work ethic, for recognition in the Visalia Times Delta newspaper. Those individuals selected are mentioned in a piece featured daily in the Times Delta.

Jacque Cortez, who was nominated by her fifth grade teacher, currently attends sixth grade at Willow Glen Elementary in Visalia, California. Throughout Jacque’s years at Willow Glen, faculty and classmates alike have considered her someone who is eager to learn and always willing to assist others.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Jacque Cortez for being selected as a “Good Kid.” I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Jacque continued success in her academic and extracurricular pursuits.

INSIGHTS ON THE PEACE PROCESS

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to enter into the record an opinion piece from the May 30th Washington Times by former Illi- nois Senator Chuck Percy. In this article, Sen- ator Percy concisely points out the present status of the peace process and those steps that must occur next for progress to continue. This is a timely and insightful piece that I commend to the attention of all members.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

July 30, 1999


EMBRACING PEACE AND PROGRESS

The statement of Ehud Barak, newly elect- ed Israeli prime minister, that he is deter- mined to revive the Middle East peace pro- cess, to withdraw Israeli troops from Lebanon to negotiate with Syria and the Pal- estinians is good news.

Mr. Barak’s words are encouraging to Israelis who seek the security only peace can bring, to Palestinians who hope for a place of their own can only be satisfied with the acquiescence of Israel, and to the United States, which has worked for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute for so many years.

Also encouraging is Syria’s quick and af- firming response expressing a willingness to resume negotiations with Israel and asking that Lebanon be included.

Apparently, Mr. Barak—one he has put to the test to confirm his resolve to prepare to take bold initiatives to break the impasse in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

As an example, he might implement the Wye Agreement that requires withdrawal of Israel from 13 percent of the West Bank. This wouldn’t require further negotiations be- cause it already was agreed upon and should have been done long ago. But the Likud government had not reneged on the deal.

It would be appropriate and wise for Pale- stinian leader Yasser Arafat to acknowledge openly Israel’s need for security by announc- ing and taking strong, credible new measures to suppress terrorist acts against Israel. Mr. Arafat has to do more than he has done pre- viously.

Such moves by Mr. Barak and Mr. Arafat would begin to clear the smothering fog or acrimony and distrust left behind by Ben- jamin Netanyahu and would engender an atmos- phere more conducive to serious negotia- tions.

Considering the checkered nature of the peace process up to this time, it is hard to have confidence a fresh start will succeed. But Mr. Barak comes to office with a clear mandate from his people, and the Palestin- ians must recognize that they now have an- other chance to complete the process develop- ed in Oslo.

Mr. Barak and Mr. Arafat surely must re- alize the future of the region lies in peace— not stalemate, and not war. To deter- mine to choose a future in which their human and financial resources can be con- centrated on peacetime tasks, their region can be more secure for all, and there will be an opportunity—with help from the inter- national community—to build their econo- mies and establish trade links between them- selves and the entire world. It is still true that political relationships tend to follow the trade lanes.

In 1994, when I served as a Senate rep- resentative on the U.S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, I was in the hall when Mr. Arafat made his first speech there. At that time, I thought it might be possible to find the path to peace, if the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians had the courage to meet, to discuss the di- mensions and details of their mutual di- lemma, and to decide what risks they could afford, what concessions they could make.

Since then, much progress has been made in communications between Israelis and Palestinians. From Camp David to Madrid to Oslo, the peace process became viable and promising. But always there were interrup- tions in the dialogue due to fears aroused on one side or the other, often by terrorist acts or unwise unilateral moves by leaders.