

ASTEROID RESEARCH

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to commend a group of New Mexicans who are achieving some phenomenal results. In fact, they're currently batting .500 and more. If they were baseball players they would be acclaimed on every sports page.

But instead of baseball, this group has discovered half of the comets that are currently visible through telescopes. One of their latest comet discoveries may be bright enough to see with binoculars next year. And it's probably safe to guess that the brightest of comets attracts an audience well in excess of those watching major league baseball.

Instead of baseball bats, they are using a telescope at the north end of White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This Lincoln Near-Earth Asteroid Research project is run by Lincoln Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of technology. A second telescope at the site started operations in the last week—that may boost their discoveries still further.

The project grew out of an Air Force study involving space surveillance. Now space surveillance isn't a new subject, but in this project they're using a new automated system with a highly sensitive electronic camera. It's a great tool for discovering objects that move in the heavens, like comets and asteroids. The performance of their system exceeds any competitor by at least ten times. Today, both the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and NASA provide the funding for this project.

Their asteroid batting average even exceeds their comet batting average. Since the first telescope started operation in March 1998, the project has accounted for about 70 percent of all the near-Earth asteroids that have ever been located. That's especially impressive since astronomers have been searching for such objects for over 60 years.

As they find these asteroids, they also project their future path through the heavens and explore any possibility for an impact with the Earth. In the course of their work, they've found four asteroids that might possibly approach Earth—but so far, careful evaluations of their probable future trajectories have shown that each of these objects should miss us. So, while the dinosaurs may have become extinct after an asteroid impact, so far our coast looks clear.

The project team is headed by Dr. Grant Stokes, a 1977 graduate of Los Alamos High School and a New Mexico native. Dr. Eric Pearce directs the team at White Sands. This team has truly revolutionized the art of finding comets and asteroids. I want to commend Dr. Stokes and Dr. Pearce along with their supporters at the Air Force and NASA. This large group of New

Mexicans deserves the title of the world's best comet and asteroid hunting team. •

THE CITY OF BOSTON'S CRUSADE AGAINST CANCER

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend the city of Boston's Crusade Against Cancer and I commend our outstanding Mayor, Thomas M. Menino, for his leadership on this excellent program. Donald Gudaitis, the chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society's New England Division, has called the Crusade Against Cancer, "the most visionary public health initiative ever undertaken in any city around the prevention and early detection of cancer."

Through innovative measures such as giving city employees time off for cancer screenings, Boston's Crusade Against Cancer uses a small public investment to create a large public health payoff. It may well serve as a model for communities throughout the nation.

Boston's program provides essential preventive care to the city's low income and minority communities, who are hit disproportionately hard by the ravages of cancer. Many members of these communities are neglected by HMOs and private insurers and might otherwise never receive a cancer screening.

Nearly a quarter of the women using the program's mobile mammography van were receiving a mammogram for the very first time. Since early detection is a critical factor in the successful treatment of cancer, these preventive screenings are literally a lifesaver for many Bostonians. Boston's program has gained nationwide attention and was described in a recent article in the New York Times. I believe the article will be of great interest to all of us in Congress and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, Nov. 2, 1999]

BOSTON BATTLES CANCER WITH A CITYWIDE MAILING

(By Carey Goldberg)

BOSTON, Nov. 2—Cities often undertake campaigns to fight crime or litter.

This city is fighting what health officials call its No. 1 killer: cancer.

Over the last few days, every household in Boston, in theory, has been mailed a brochure describing how to prevent cancer and to detect it early if it develops.

The quarter-million English-and-Spanish brochures, Boston's largest public health mailing ever, are the flashiest element of the city's "crusade against cancer," but they are only one of many.

Boston's municipal employees are allowed to take four hours off each year for cancer screening—a rule that city officials say was the only one of its kind until Springfield, Mass., adopted a similar rule last week.

Over the last several months, about 1,600 chemotherapy patients have been given free rides to and from their sessions, thanks to

hospitals and taxis participating in the city's crusade.

Other cities and states run anti-cancer programs as does the federal government. But overall, said Donald J. Gudaitis, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society's New England division. "This is the most visionary public health initiative ever undertaken in any city around prevention and early detection of cancer."

Such a campaign may seem logical at a time when the death rate from heart disease has been dropping and cancer, the nation's No. 2 cause of death, kills more than half a million Americans every year.

But Mr. Gudaitis attributed the anticancer campaign in Boston to a particular asset: a personally interested mayor.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino's father died of prostate cancer, and the mayor, who does not normally play up his personal life, said in a telephone interview that he saw his father "go from a big brawny guy to 70 pounds."

"And you ask yourself, why?" Mayor Menino added. "I want to try to help other people out."

In particular, it seems, he wants to help the poor. Boston, like many other cities, has found that cancer death rates are especially high in poor and minority neighborhoods. Patchy health care makes poor people less likely to have checkups for cancer and thus more likely to die from it.

More than a year ago, Mayor Menino convened a panel of medical experts and cancer survivors to help decide what to do. The process, which led to the crusade against cancer, is continuing, said John Rich, medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission. But the panel established three initial goals: that all Boston households, receive information on cancer prevention, that all Bostonians receive appropriate screenings and that all cancer patients have transportation to and from treatment sessions.

Transportation may seem minor compared with the first two goals but not to chemotherapy patients, said Maureen Sullivan, vice president of the Massachusetts Bay region of the American Cancer Society who is a cancer survivor. It might not be bad getting to chemotherapy sessions, but, Ms. Sullivan added, "Let me tell you, coming home can be really awful, and not only for you but for everyone else on that bus with you."

Boston has introduced other help on wheels, a mobile mammography van that has been booked solid since it began six months ago. Officials say the city is fighting cancer in small ways as well—supplying sunscreen to its outdoor workers, for example—and in bigger ones: Mayor Menino supported a ban on smoking in Boston restaurants, despite heavy opposition from restaurateurs. The program includes television advertising and a new city agency, the Office of Cancer Prevention.

The campaign costs little, Mr. Menino said, perhaps, \$100,000 for the mammography van, about \$250,000 for the brochures and nothing for the transportation and time off.

Asked why Boston is undertaking an anticancer campaign now, when the disease has killed millions for decades, those involved cited two factors: the accumulation of research finding on cancer prevention and widespread disillusionment with the prevention promise offered by health maintenance organizations.

"If we look at the actual synthesis and explosion, if you will, of information on the relationship between life-style factors and cancer in the last 20 years, it really has moved

beyond just smoking as a major cause," said Dr. Graham Colditz, director of education at the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention, which is participating in the campaign.

Dr. Colditz said the center had determined that at least 50 percent of cancer cases could be prevented through behavioral changes alone. The screenings could also prevent deaths among those whose cancer would be detected early, he said.

The brochure advises people to eat a healthy diet, to get at least 30 minutes of physical activity every day, to keep their weight down, to drink less alcohol, to avoid smoking, to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and to protect themselves from the sun.

None of that was news to Mary Caulfield, a 58-year-old retired resident of the Dorchester section of Boston. But, Ms. Caulfield said, "I think a lot of newcomers, foreigners, probably don't understand even things like immunizations."

The Boston anticancer program is impressive, Sandra Mullin, spokeswoman for the New York City Department of Health, said upon hearing it described. New York does not give municipal employees time off for screenings. Ms. Mullin said, though it periodically includes reminders of the need for screenings in employees' paychecks, and it has a program to encourage exercise at lunch.

While New York has done no blanket mailing and is not as involved in cancer screening, it does provide cancer information through mobile health vans, Ms. Mullin said. The city focuses some of its other anticancer efforts on antismoking programs and on making sure that managed care plans screen Medicaid patients for cancer.

What the Boston campaign will try next remains under discussion. Among some ideas mentioned: persuading private employers to give employees four hours off for cancer screening, making it easier for Bostonians to bicycle or job to work and making programs that help smokers quit available to anyone who wants them.

As for immediate results, Mayor Menino said that the four hours off for screening had already led to the early detection of some cancer and that nearly 5 percent of the women who used the mammography van had found suspicious lumps. Nearly one-fourth of those who used the van said the mammogram was their first, the mayor added.

For the most part, the campaign is expected to yield only gradual results. Certainly, the immediate effect of the brochure mailing seemed a bit underwhelming: Of more than a dozen people interviewed on the streets of Dorchester, most said they had paid little if any attention to the brochure, although some said they had set it aside to read later.

"Sometimes I'm just too tired to read," said Esther Ellis, 72, who nonetheless was having her annual mammogram at a local health center. "I just leave it to God. God respects my body."

Jose Navarro, a flea market vendor, said he did not recall getting the brochure. But when he read it in Spanish on the spot, he expressed surprise at what he learned.

"Drinking?" he exclaimed. "I know it's bad for you, I know it's bad for your liver, but I didn't know it causes cancer."

David Sheets, a 45-year-old friend of Mr. Navarro, said that he had saved the brochure at his South End home to read later but that the idea of cancer "doesn't bother me yet."

"My mother died of it, my father died of it," Mr. Sheets said. "It doesn't faze me."

He smokes and refuses to quit, he said. Then, referring to cancer, he added, "I just think that it won't happen to me."•

RECOGNIZING THE MT. BAKER PTA

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to applaud the members and volunteers of the Mt. Baker Parent-Teacher Association that have successfully raised over \$100,000 for its schools. Mt. Baker is a small, rural community just south of the Canadian border that lacks a sufficient tax-base to cover the costs of buying new technology for its schools.

In an effort to raise funds to purchase up-to-date resources for their students, volunteers from the PTA opened a small restaurant with their own time and resources. To date, this venture has provided over \$100,000 to improve education in Mt. Baker. For that reason, I am pleased to present one of my Innovation in Education Awards to the Mt. Baker PTA.

In January of 1989, 20 parents took out a loan and purchased a run-down restaurant booth at the Northwest Washington Fair Grounds. Parents and volunteers spent countless hours cleaning and preparing the restaurant for its opening in March of 1989. For the past 10 years, volunteers and parents have worked at hundreds of community events to feed the fairground visitors, raising money that funded new research and learning equipment for math and science students, field trips across western Washington, and countless other tools for learning that have enhanced the education at all Mt. Baker schools.

The volunteers at the Mt. Baker PTA demonstrate that local educators and parents know what their students need to succeed and deserve the freedom and flexibility in the Federal education funds to better educate their children.

The innovative thinking and hard work of the Mt. Baker community teaches its students of the importance of a good education and how a community can work together to achieve a common goal. The Mt. Baker PTA is an example for all of us to follow. I hope that my colleagues will join me in commending the people of this community for their hard work to improve the education for their children.●

IN RECOGNITION OF LUIS ALBERTO ROBLES PADILLA, JR.

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, on September 9, 1999, I had the pleasure to be one of the keynote speakers at the Sixth Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet sponsored by the Hispanic College Fund, Inc. The Hispanic College Fund selects a student among the group of scholarship recipients to convey remarks on their behalf at the Annual Awards Banquet. Mr. Luis Robles, who attends Stanford University, where I

attended Law School, spoke to the crowd of over one hundred people which included Members of Congress, Hispanic Business Leaders, friends of the Hispanic College Fund and family members of the award recipients.

Even though Luis is not from my home state of New Mexico, I feel that it is important to recognize the dedication, hard work, and commitment that this young man has undertaken in his academics and in his life despite great adversity. The remarks that Luis made to those in attendance that night left the room in utter silence. His remarks, and those of the teacher who nominated him for the scholarship, show that nothing in life is unattainable. This young man serves as an example that if you believe in yourself, believe in hard work, and believe you can achieve your goals, you can do anything and be anyone you want to be.

Mr. President, I respectfully ask that the attached statement which Mr. Robles made to the Sixth Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner and that of his teacher, Mr. David Layton, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The statement follows:

REMARKS BY LUIS ALBERTO ROBLES

I remember the day well . . . a few weeks after weeks after Thanksgiving in 1986. The gray Seattle morning smelled like drizzle as my father, Luis, and my mother, Maria, escorted me along evergreen-lined 8th street, to the school bus stop for the very first time. The other children laughed and frolicked. But without knowing English, without knowing what they said, my parents and I only stared in wonder.

Next thing I know the enormous school bus is pulling away, with me on board: frightened and alone. Hot tears streamed down my cheeks. The window was cold against my nose. My parents smiled worriedly, waved, and off I went . . . to Cherry Crest Elementary.

I had no idea what the future held. I had no idea what graduation was, let alone college.

I had no idea that some day in the distant future I would standing here before you tonight.

Good evening.
Buenas Tardes.

My name is Luis Alberto Robles Padilla, Jr. I am a sophomore majoring in Industrial engineering at Stanford University. I feel very privileged to join you tonight, and am honored to be speaking on behalf on this year's scholarship recipients.

On their and my behalf, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to the Hispanic College Fund, the corporate sponsors, the Board of Trustees, and American Airlines.

I would also like to thank the Lockheed Martin Corporation, in particular, for my scholarship. The scholarship is a tremendous help to my family, and I am truly thankful.

I would also like to share a part of my story: personal experiences that