

a part of pediatric care, by having pediatricians in the out-patient setting encouraging parents to read aloud to their children, and by giving their patients (between the ages of 6 months and 5 years) books to take home with them.

Pediatricians are trained to counsel parents about the importance of reading with young children, offering age-appropriate tips and encouragement. Volunteer readers are in the clinic to read aloud to children as they wait for their appointments, thereby encouraging to learn to love books!

Through Reach Out and Read, every child starts school with a home library of at least 10 beautiful children's books, and parents are helped to understand that reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to help their children learn to love books.

Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York has been working to begin its Reach Out and Read program for the past 15 months. On Monday, April 12, 1999, Interfaith officially opened its program in the Pediatrics clinic at their St. John's site. Presently, over 7,000 books have been obtained through grants and donation. Interfaith is prepared to keep this program going for many years * * * in addition to working toward expanding it into all of their community clinics. Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Interfaith Medical Center for its unwavering commitment to preparing our children for a bright future.

AMERICA'S WILDERNESS ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced "America's Wilderness Protection Act." As many know, I have been an advocate of wilderness for many years. For example, I have introduced legislation to designate wilderness in the beautiful red rock areas of Southern Utah in each of the last several Congresses. I was also instrumental in the passage of the Utah Forest Service Wilderness Act of 1984 a bill that designated almost a million acres of Wilderness in the State of Utah.

As a wilderness advocate I have become increasingly concerned about a particular issue that makes wilderness legislation extremely difficult to pass. The issue I refer to is wilderness studies.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 created something called a "Wilderness Study Area." Lands that became Wilderness Study Areas pursuant to FLPMA were studied by the Interior Department to determine whether they qualified for Wilderness designation.

Unfortunately, FLPMA failed to provide for the release of Wilderness Study Areas. Thus Wilderness Study Areas, absent Congressional action, would be studied in perpetuity—even after the actual study, done by the Interior Department, was finished.

The perpetual study of an area for wilderness suitability is clearly not in the public interest:

The biggest problem is that it hinders the designation of wilderness. Because Wilder-

ness Study Areas are managed almost as if they were already wilderness, there is no incentive to make the sometimes politically difficult decisions to actually make them wilderness. Also, because the Interior Department's wilderness studies invariably decide that certain parts of Wilderness Study Areas do not qualify for wilderness, fringe environmental groups often oppose any resolution to the issue, preferring perpetual Wilderness Study Area status over actual wilderness designation.

We need to reach a conclusion on this issue. Areas that qualify as wilderness should be designated as wilderness, and areas that don't should be released.

This bill would protect millions of acres of Wilderness throughout the country by directing that wilderness studies be completed within ten years. It would force Congress to decide the issue and finally designate wilderness.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and support "America's Wilderness Protection Act" and protect America's wilderness.

UNITED BAY CITY CREDIT UNION: SUNSHINE FOR A RAINY DAY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our nation's history is filled with examples of neighbors, friends, and coworkers coming together to help one another weather the bad times that life has in store for each of us. The members of the United Bay City Credit Union are an outstanding illustration of how bad times can be used to create good times. It was now fifty years ago that the employees of Bay City Chevrolet were ending a 110-day strike. They decided to each pool together a \$5 contribution to help provide a resource for their coworkers who needed help to recover from a tough time, help that may be there in future years for those taking the wise step to invest in their own future by supporting the future of others.

On April 20, 1949, the Chevrolet Employees Federal Credit Union was chartered. The subscribers to the organization certificate were Perely W. Bennett, Harry Vink, Richard E. Jane, Robert W. Kennedy, Chester S. Sosnowski, Harold McDougald, and Joseph M. Douponce. They took the first steps that resulted in George Reif as the first treasurer, and a portfolio that included 88 loans, 209 members, and bank balance of \$410.89 in 1950. That small effort has resulted in a financial institution that today boasts more than 20,000 members, assets in millions of dollars, and more than 100 companies that serve as partners with the Credit Union.

The history of this facility is enlightening. In 1954 an office was set up with a worker who was paid \$31.25 per week to run the office. In 1955, the name was changed to United Bay City Federal Credit Union. In 1959, members with four years of seniority could borrow up to a maximum of \$500. Branch officers were added over the years. Automated teller machines were added until now there are five. A

phone access line was installed to make financial transactions even easier. And the same Credit Union that once limited loans to \$500 today offers a Master Money/Check Card. To those who took the risk in 1949, today's services would probably have been considered too phenomenal to have even been thought of as dreams.

But even with these changes brought on by advances in technology, by competition, and by consumer demand, United Bay City Credit Union remains true to its original purpose: to provide a safe haven for hard-earned dollars, to offer responsible credit to make life's needs more manageable and life's opportunities more obtainable, to combine limited resources in a fashion that offer limitless options.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all your colleagues to join me in wishing Charlie Booth, Linda Meyer, the excellent staff and all of the members of United Bay City Credit Union a most joyous 50th anniversary, with many more successful ones to come.

HONORING LOU MATARAZZO AND RON DEVITO

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lou Matarazzo, president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, and Ron Devito, 2nd vice-president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. They are being honored on April 15, 1999, at the Terrace in the Park in Flushing Meadows, NY, on the occasion of their retirement. Their leadership in the New York City Policy Department and as officers of the PBA is truly inspirational to all New Yorkers.

Well known for his devotion to his fellow officers and for being ready, willing and able to help a colleague in need, under any circumstances. Matarazzo has combined a hands-on approach with a thorough knowledge of police and human affairs. He began his career in law enforcement as a rookie patrolman in 1964. In 1969, he was elected a PBA delegate from the 108 Precinct and held that position for 9 years, serving on both the Negotiating and the "Cop of the Month" Committees. In 1977, he was elected the PBA Queens Trustee and soon began serving as chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of the Law Committee. In February 1991, he became the PBA Recording Secretary and in June 1991, he was elected treasurer. He has held his current position as PBA president since 1995.

Matarazzo served as a member of the Police Pension Board, and is an expert in the field of disabilities. He is also a member of many civic and police groups, including the Columbia Association, of which he was a recent "Man of the Year." He has been cited for excellence by the Police Honor Legion, the New York Shields, the Nassau County Shields and the Holy Name Society. Currently, he serves as Chairman of the Public Employees Conference in New York States, which has over one million members.

A resident of Nassau County, Matarazzo has been married to his wife, Fran, for 36 years. Together they have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.

A 42-years veteran police officer, Ron Devito has been a PBA delegate since 1972. He joined the force in 1957 and was assigned to the 103rd precinct where he worked in uniform for 20 years, before being elected to the Executive Board of the Policeman's Benevolent Association.

In 1977, he was elected as the Financial Secretary for Queens County, Treasurer, and then 2nd Vice President of the PBA. During his time with the PBA, Devito has served on the Pension Board, the Tellers Committee; was an original member of the Committee on Political Action; was director of the "Cop of the Month" Committee and served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors Executive Board.

Devito has been awarded one exceptional Merit Citation, two Meritorious Police Citations, four excellent Police Citations and the Nassau Shields "Cop of the Month" Award.

A former sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps, Devito is married to the former Patricia Guinan. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring these two outstanding men.

ARGENTINA'S DEMOCRACY FACES STRUGGLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you my concern towards the struggles that a young democracy in Latin America is facing. I am referring to Argentina and its questioned judicial system, still so tainted by the memories of past dictatorships. I would like to talk to you about a small Buenos Aires based non-governmental organization that has to bear the harassment and persecution of a corrupt judiciary. I hope that after I share with you my concerns you will then be in a better position to discharge our responsibility of expressing some words of caution to our citizens and U.S. based corporations that are considering whether to make investments in Argentina.

On February 1st, President Clinton responded to a missive in a salvo of bipartisan letters from colleagues legislators concerning the Buenos Aires Yoga School case. Clinton began his response by observing: "I share your commitment to the protection and enforcement of human rights in Argentina and around the world." Our U.S. president then went on to note that: "Our embassy in Buenos Aires has been closely monitoring this matter [the BAYS case] for the past several years, and has raised it on several occasions with appropriate officials in the Argentine Ministry of Justice. Like other cases in the Argentine judicial system, this case has taken too long to resolve. While I agree that we cannot intervene in the Argentine judicial process, we will

continue to follow the case and urge the Argentine government to resolve it as expeditiously as possible."

The BAYS case has been high on my agenda and that of many of our colleagues for much of the past year where we have expressed our unease over the treatment of this Argentine group. Many of our colleagues, in order to seek justice for BAYS, have sent letters to President Menem calling for his intervention—never receiving an answer, the case has achieved significant leverage among us, U.S. policy makers, as an important component in the hemispheric policy formulations.

Clinton's letter about BAYS's plight pointedly referred to this highly controversial case. One which was initiated over six years before when faculty and students of the Yoga school became a chosen target for Argentina's notoriously flawed judiciary vindictiveness of several relatives from BAYS members. The philosophical and culturally-centered educational institution was accused of "sexual corruption of adults" and has attracted unprecedented prosecutorial and judicial misconduct from Argentine authorities since then. Almost all outside observers who have examined the case considered it unfathomable why so much negative energy has been dissipated against such a small group which, in fact, has won considerable renown abroad for its artistic accomplishments and social programs. One compelling explanation is that the case has triggered a bundle of latent and overt ultramontaine, neo-Nazi and deep-seated anti-Semitic strains lying just below the surface of Argentina's historic memory, which may be fundamental to why this largely Jewish organization of 300 members has been subjected to its extraordinarily protracted ordeal. In the playing out of the case, it was also shown that the indignation of the Argentine media—to much of which venality is no stranger—is highly selective and that the press, in this case, has been revealed as a lapdog of the political establishment. It has not shown itself as a forensic lion when it came to confronting the slavishly purchased performance of the country's court system in general, and its outrageous behavior regarding the BAYS saga, where under-the-table subventions must have become the rule in forcing the prolongation of this case.

Over much of the past six years, members of BAYS have been experiencing unrelenting harassment at the hands of Argentine judicial authorities, including totally unjustified and violent illegal searches of their homes and offices, imprisonment of innocent members, the hectoring of their children, and the seizure of their personal property which to this day has not been returned. All this has transpired even though no compelling incriminating evidence has been presented by the prosecution against the Yoga School, the statute of limitations has since expired, and the Argentine Supreme Court has nullified the original charges. Some of the prosecutors and judges engaged in hounding the BAYS systematically have engaged in unprofessional behavior, which at times has included resorting to the use of scurrilous anti-Semitic remarks made in public settings—enough to result in the first judge being impeached by the national legislature. In this case, reputedly, justice has been for sale.

The BAYS affair provides a telling example of the corrosive role that corruption may have

played in the form of payoffs to court personnel overseeing such cases as the one involving BAYS, from several wealthy and alienated relatives of BAYS members. Even one of the more controversial judges involved in the case is ready to acknowledge that the alienated relatives have a psychological, if not neurotic need to establish that it was the organization rather than themselves who had generated their family's personal travails. In fact, a close examination of each of these plaintiffs conduct reveals that in a number of these cases, much of the social anomie brought on by intrafamily strife existed even before the founding of the organization. The harassment of the BAYS also provides an insight into the role played by an extremist ideology in Argentina's tainted judicial system, and how little has changed since the era of military rule beginning in the 1970's, when government authorities murdered, with impunity, upwards of 20,000 innocent civilians in the country. Many of the judges now on the bench were appointed to their relatively lucrative positions at that time, with their modus operandi still reflecting the low standing that people of their political persuasion traditionally have accorded to democratic practices, judicial guarantees and the notion of civil rectitude in public office.

My concern continues to grow as each week brings even more disturbing developments in the case. We are disappointed that Justice Minister Dr. Raul Granillo Ocampo's assurances, made while he was ambassador to the United States, have not been followed up on. Despite the July 1997 rulings of the Court of Cassation confirming the earlier decision of the Supreme Court condemning the actions of the judicial authorities, the lower courts have refused to cease their continuous penal persecution.

The three documents from the Court of Appeals, Chamber VI on March 2, 1999, revoked the dismissals ordered by the lower court and ignored the decision by the Court of Cassation. The Appellate written by Carlos Alberto Elbert, Luis Ameghino Escobar and Carlos Alberto Gonzalez ordered the continuation of an investigation which has long exceeded its statute of limitations. If we add to this the lack of legal controls and malevolent obsession to persecute by the State Attorney's office the opening of a new case with the identical charges which originated the BAYS case in 1993 the denial of the right to a fair trial for the defendants, and the continuance of the processes already declared null, the picture becomes very alarming.

We have shown our concern and wish to help strengthen Argentina's democracy, but we seem to be ignored by the country's authorities. For me this is yet another opportunity to depict a number of disturbing instances where injustice has been done; where the courts have served as a persecutor of the human spirit, rather than its defendant. Let our citizens be aware of this situation, let us take care of our interests—both in the economic and the humanitarian field—and let's hope that this can break the silence that rests over this serious matter of a group of philosophers that have the admirable strength to keep on wishing to live in a democracy, like we do.