

Community Development Foundation, Mississippi Economic Council, Petroleum Marketers Association, Business Industry Political Education Committee.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Jane, and their entire family. Mississippi has lost one of our finest leaders in Jake Mills. He set an example for all of us to follow and our country is a better place because of his life.

WHY AM I A REPUBLICAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit Mr. Steve Remington's answer to a question I recently posed to him, "Why are you a Republican?" Today, I would like to share with you his answer.

This morning, at the republican breakfast, you asked me a question; "Why am I a Republican?" At the time, I did not realize that you were indeed looking for me to speak on the subject. I truly appreciate your sense of humor, and I apologize for not realizing that you were serious. However, since you asked me a direct question, I owe you a direct answer. I am a Republican for three reasons; my values, my beliefs in fiscal responsibility, and my beliefs in the role of government.

I know that I will not have access to all of the information that an informed legislator and their staff will have. While the political banter happens during the election, I realize that there is always more to the story than the press will reveal. Therefore, I pick candidates with integrity and values similar to mine. My belief is that these candidates will vote, when all of the facts are available, for the best possible decision. My father, my son, and I have all received the Eagle Scout award. For three generations, we have believed in honesty, truth, reverence, and dedicating one's self to making the world a better place to live. I find that the Republican candidates tend to line up with these values more often than not.

Secondly, I believe that we can continue to do better as a society. We can do more for the environment. We can make education stronger. We can continue to promote positive business growth. Social Security can be solid, and we can lead the world to peace. Yet, I believe that it is possible to accomplish all of this and maintain fiscal responsibility. We do not have to mortgage our children's future to satisfy a short-term greed. I find that these tend to be the values of the Republican Party.

Finally, people do not exist to serve the will of the government. The government exists to serve the will of the people. We should not have government for government's sake. There should never be any more government than is necessary to meet the needs of our society. In order to survive in a competitive world, the private sector is always looking for ways to be more efficient. So it should be with government. These beliefs find a home in the Republican Party.

Again I apologize for not realizing that you were asking me a question in earnest. I trust you will accept my response to your inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a friend of Steve Remington.

A THIRTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO THE NEW JERSEY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Professional Association (NJEOFPA) in honoring the 30th anniversary of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. This special anniversary is being highlighted during the NJEOFPA Student Leadership Conference and Awards Luncheon in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In July of 1968, the New Jersey State Legislature signed the EOF program into law. The legislation, sponsored by the then-freshman Assemblyman Thomas H. Kean, was aimed at opening the doors of higher education to economically and educationally disadvantaged students. During the fall of 1968, thirty-four colleges took initial steps to instituting the program and 1,500 students enrolled.

Through the years, the EOF has provided valuable financial resources, counseling, basic skills and academic enrichment to many young men and women. Today, there are fifty-six EOF programs in New Jersey' diverse educational institutions. Over 30,000 students have received post-secondary degrees through EOF programs, including our current Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and former East Orange, New Jersey Mayor Cardell Cooper. The Educational Opportunity Fund sponsors more than one-third of the African-American and Latino students at New Jersey's state and independent institutions for higher learning. Furthermore, approximately 11% of the first-time, full-time freshman entering New Jersey's colleges and universities are enrolled through EOF.

Mr. Speaker, for thirty years the Educational Opportunity Fund has helped disadvantaged students access higher education. I am proud to join members of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Professional Association in paying tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the program.

THE GOTHIC WILDERNESS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent editorial questioning some of the values reflected by parts of the entertainment industry which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald, on April 23, 1999.

THE GOTHIC WILDERNESS

One of the television networks, at some point during the seemingly endless picking over of the tragedy in Littleton, Colo., brought to the screen a young woman who had some connection or other with the gothic subculture.

She was asked about the awful events at Columbine High School. Was it not possible that the killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, were acting out the themes of popular lyrics or video games?

The goth girl, as might be expected, came off as disbelieving, almost contemptuous of the idea that anyone would be so stupid as to kill because of a song. Her comments echoed the responses of others, including people in the entertainment industry, who scoffed at the idea that there could be any connection between their art and the orgy of violence that Harris and Klebold unleashed at the Denver-area high school. People, like, have a right to their music. Artists, like, have a right to be controversial.

Certainly it would be difficult to prove that any particular set of lyrics or any particular video game was directly responsible. Harris and Klebold are dead. Even a society that has convinced itself that a goofy cartoon camel creates an irresistible desire in teen-agers to smoke cigarettes doesn't have the ability to read the mind of a killer beyond the grave.

Nonetheless, isn't it about time that someone had the courage to speak up, like the lad who saw the emperor's nakedness for what it was, and say that the saturation of young minds with symbols of violence, Santanism and death is manifestly unhealthy? Won't someone, anyone, give parents permission to pull the plug on video games that involve slaughtering hordes of electronic adversaries like mowing down so many high school students in the cafeteria?

A newspaper columnist found these lyrics in the work of a group admired by Harris and Klebold: "Kill everything, kill everything—bomb the living bejeepers out of those forces—kill everything, kill everything—bomb the living bejeepers out of those forces."

Maybe such ravings—and some are much worse—don't cause anyone to become a mass murderer. But can it possibly be healthy to entertain oneself by fantasizing about slaughter as a remedy for the petty annoyances of life?

And what of the people who profit from such art, defend it and produce it? Words have meaning. Even if it can't be proved that Harris and Klebold weren't motivated by the bloody images that seemed to so entice them, can the producers and disseminators of those images be admired as just more artists pushing the edge?

The industry claims to occupy the moral high ground, wearing the mantle of artistic freedom, failing to distinguish political satire and social alienation from pathological homicide.

Its spokespeople, like the goth girl on the television screen, demand to be tolerated, or at least left alone. But surely there is at least some moral culpability when the entertainment industry saturates the culture with images of mass murder and some misguided slobs in Colorado try to act them out.

HONORING OUTSTANDING STUDENT GABRIELLA CONTRERAS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Gabriella Contreras, a pupil at Roskrige Middle School in Tucson, Arizona, who has