

week had significantly higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

Not all the studies are so dismaying. In fact, there is a growing consensus that a modest amount of paid work—10 to 12 hours a week during the school year—has a positive impact on young people. Adolescents who work these kind of hours actually have higher grades than those who don't work at all. They learn to organize their time more effectively. The positive effects are strongest among lower-income students, whose long-term earning performance has been shown to be improved by work experience in their youth.

After all, even though we commonly think the chief job of teenagers is to go to high school, it really is to figure out how to become successful adults. A highly intensive work experience in a field closely related to their interests and abilities might help many young people reach that goal more effectively than finishing high school. But, for the moment, at least, dropping out carries a heavy economic penalty and social stigma, and most young people don't dare consider it.

Some companies that employ large numbers of young people thus argue that the low wages they pay are in the public interest because they're not high enough to tempt teens to drop out. But higher wages, if they were accompanied by a common expectation that young people would save a good part of those wages for further education and training, might serve society even better.

Ironically, there have been earnest murmurings of public concern about the most fortunate of young workers, those earning large salaries doing computer technical support or designing Web pages. I've heard commentators wonder whether these e-employees are in danger of losing their youth, whether they are growing up too fast. The vast low-wage majority seems, by contrast, to be hidden in plain sight, facing just as many adult-like anxieties and conflicts without the money or glamour. And they cope with them by using solutions they see grown-ups using, such as drinking alcohol and buying things they don't need. These are the youngsters we should worry about.

Young people working is not, in itself, a problem. Rather, problems occur when adults do not take the teenagers' work seriously. Too often we do not recognize its extent in their lives or its economic importance in ours. We do not recognize the difficulties and conflicts it raises for young people. We place few limits on their work; nor do we demand that they use their earnings responsibly. We don't raise enough questions about the cycle of consumption and self-indulgence that makes teenagers both a desirable market and an exploited labor force. And we don't help young people integrate work into their lives and maximize its potential as a tool to help them grow up.

So, when you're stressed out during this shopping season, don't take out your anger on the overworked young people who serve you in the stores. They have troubles of their own.

IN HONOR OF LARS-ERIK NELSON,  
WASHINGTON COLUMNIST FOR  
THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, ON  
HIS PASSING

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I pay special tribute to Lars-Erik Nelson, Washington columnist for The New York Daily News, who passed away on November 20, 2000. Mr. Nelson, an enormously talented journalist, was revered by both his colleagues in the news media and by many members of this body.

Mr. Nelson served as the Washington columnist for the Daily News for nearly two decades. He was an imaginative, generous, and perceptive writer. His work has been especially noted for its nonpartisan, honest, and straightforward style. His column served as an ideal conduit through which his readers in New York City's five boroughs could gain accurate and concise insight into the political events and personalities inside the Beltway.

Many of Mr. Nelson's outside-Washington readers brushed up on their political awareness by reading his columns while riding New York City subways. His identification with New Yorkers was most evident in his clear yet flowing prose and served as his most noted trademark. Michael Oreskes, the Washington bureau chief of The New York Times said Nelson was "a journalist's journalist. Honest, forthright, wise and clearheaded. He was cerebral without being stuffy." Columnist Jimmy Breslin described Mr. Nelson, fluent in Russian and an accomplished watercolor painter, as "one of the few intellectuals left in the newsroom."

Lars-Erik Nelson, a native New Yorker who graduated from Columbia College, began his journalism career writing for several newspapers in the greater New York area. He then became a diplomatic correspondent for Reuters, where he specialized in Soviet and Eastern European affairs. While reporting in Europe and Russia, Mr. Nelson covered the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. After briefly working as the Moscow Bureau Chief of Newsweek, Mr. Nelson joined the Daily News in 1979, where he worked as Washington Bureau Chief from 1981 until 1993, when he became a Washington columnist for Newsday. He returned to the Daily News as a columnist in 1995. For the past two years, he has also been a regular contributor to The New York Review of Books.

Mr. Speaker, the journalistic communities of both Washington, D.C. and New York City have suffered the loss of a great writer and advocate for objective and sound journalism. Mr. Nelson, a veteran journalist who never missed an opportunity to share his advice with a rookie reporter, was a man who personified the ideal journalist. His remarkably astute columns should be looked upon as examples of superior journalism by younger journalists of today.

I express my most sincere condolences to both his family and coworkers. Lars-Erik Nelson will be sorely missed.

COLONEL THOMAS R. FRIERS TO  
RETIRE FROM THE UNITED  
STATES AIR FORCE ON 31 DE-  
CEMBER 2000

### HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Friers' 28 years of service to our Nation culminate with his present assignment as Commander of the Department of Defense Manned Space Flight Support Office. Prior to entering the service, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical Engineering from Clarkson University, New York. He later received a Master of Science degree in Management from Central Missouri State University.

During the course of his Air Force career, Colonel Friers rose to the level of command pilot accumulating more than 4,000 hours of flying time in five fixed and rotary-winged aircraft. Colonel Friers served in a multitude of locations around the world from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf. He served at many levels: DOD Staff, Air Force Headquarters, and Major Command. Colonel Friers was awarded command a remarkable five times. He commanded a detachment, a squadron, a group, a DOD staff agency, and the Air Force's elite Combat Rescue School. He also served as flight examiner, aide to commander, director of command protocol, and chief of rescue division at the major command level.

The decorations from his 28 years of service include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, the Aerial Achievement Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Colonel Friers commanded troops during our Nation's triumph in the Persian Gulf. He also commanded during the Khobar Tower bombing, when his 1st Rescue Group lost 5 brave airmen.

During good times and bad, Colonel Friers has led with courage and distinction. Like our great national symbol, the eagles of a colonel are well suited to represent the character of this great leader.

HONORING HAROLD H. SEYFERTH

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to speak with great pride in paying tribute to an outstanding native Californian, Mr. Harold H. Seyferth. I had the privilege to speak at Mr. Seyferth's retirement party a year ago, and again am honored with the opportunity to speak about such an inspiring and motivating person. I am privileged to have worked with Mr. Seyferth in the community for he has shown tremendous leadership in California.

Mr. Harold Seyferth was born in Stockton, California, on the 22nd of January in 1922.