

Those who constantly invoke the sentiment of "Who are we to judge?" should consider the anarchy that would ensue if we adhered to this sentiment in, say, our courtrooms. What would happen if those sitting on a jury decided to be "nonjudgmental" about rapists and sexual harassers, embezzlers and tax cheats? Justice would be lost. Without being "judgmental," Americans would never have put an end to slavery, outlawed child labor, emancipated women or ushered in the civil-rights movement. Nor would we have mobilized against Nazism and communism.

Mr. Clinton himself put it well, in a judgment-laden 1996 proclamation he signed during National Character Week, which said that "individual character involves honoring and embracing certain core ethical values: honesty, respect, responsibility. . . . Parents must teach their children from the earliest age the difference between right and wrong. But we must all do our part."

A president's private behavior doesn't matter. In a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, 57% said that private character doesn't matter at all or matters only if it interferes with his ability to do the job. Of course, if Mr. Clinton did have sexual encounters with Ms. Lewinsky, it involves at least adultery and lying to the public—and probably lying under oath as well. In any event, the attempt to rigidly compartmentalize life in this way is divorced from the real world. A mother would not accept from her son the explanation that his drug habit doesn't matter because he did well on the Scholastic Assessment Test; a police commissioner should not dismiss the raw bigotry of a detective because he has a good arrest record.

Yet in the name of "compartmentalization," many now seem willing to accept raunchier behavior from our president than we would from any CEO, college professor or Army drill sergeant. Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo put it this way: "Let's remember what's important here. The lives of the American people are more important than the personal life of the president." But Mr. Clinton is a laboratory test case of why private character is relevant. Prevarications typify his private and public life. A seamless web of deceit runs through the man and through his administration.

John Adams held a far different view than Mr. Cuomo does. Adams wrote that the people "have a right, an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge; I mean, of the characters and conduct of their rulers. Rulers are no more than attorneys, agents, and trustees, for the people; and if the cause, the interest and trust, is insidiously betrayed, or wantonly trifled away, the people have a right to revoke the authority than they themselves have deputed."

To better understand the limits of the "private-public" argument, imagine the storm that would engulf a president who privately supported a whites-only membership policy in a country club. Most voters would rightly deem this private sentiment to be of intense public interest. Why, then, are we supposed to accept a man in the Oval Office whom many parents would not trust alone with their daughters?

The only thing that matters is the economy. "What we should be talking about is that we are going to have the first balanced budget in more than three decades," says one citizen, who voted against Mr. Clinton in 1996. "That's going to impact our children, not this sleaze that is masquerading as news." This sentiment reveals an arid and incomplete understanding of the presidency. More than any other person, the president

symbolizes America. He stands for us in the eyes of the world and of our children, who inevitably learn from his example. Whether or not Bill Clinton escapes impeachment, his legacy will be one of pervasive deceit, squandered trust, a reckless disregard for the truth, heightened cynicism and a nastier political culture.

#### A ROGUE IN OUR MIDST

This corruption matters a great deal. Even if the Dow Jones breaks 10000. Even if Americans get more day care. Even if the budget is balanced. It matters because lessons in corruption, particularly when they emanate from the highest office in the land, undermine our civic life. Children are watching, and if we expect them to take morality seriously, they must see adults take it seriously. As C.S. Lewis wrote: "We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst."

Today we find not a traitor but a rogue in our midst. Of course, rogues have been with us forever, and the corruption of people in power is at least as old as the Scriptures. But in America today, more and more citizens seem to be complicit in that corruption. One worry of the Founders was that luxury and affluence might dull our moral sensibilities. The next few months will go a long way toward determining how strongly we believe in something we once revered as "our sacred honor."

#### HONORING JOYCE ARBERMAN

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Joyce Arberman. Her contributions to our community are incomparable.

Ms. Arberman's service to the community spans almost two decades. She works closely with the Ladies of the Adult Retardate Center (LARC), a program which is nearest to her heart. Currently, she works to organize the Center's annual major fund raiser. Over the years, Ms. Arberman's efforts has lead to the raising of almost over a million dollars for LARC.

Currently, Ms. Arberman serves as State Committeewoman of the 39th Assembly District, a post she was elected to in 1984. She, along with Assemblyman Anthony Genovesi, are the leaders of the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club in Brooklyn. Clearly, our district has only benefitted from her tireless efforts.

Ms. Arberman's family remains a source of strength for her. She has a son, Jeff, a daughter, Jamee, and is also the grandmother of two wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Joyce Arberman for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and for showing young women everywhere that they can do and accomplish anything.

#### WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

#### HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to commend the Women's Business Development Center, which is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the economic empowerment of women. The Center provides services and programs that support and accelerate women's business ownership and strengthen the impact of women on the economy. The Center enables women to launch new businesses and helps those currently in business to remain successful.

The WBDC was formed in July, 1995 with the assistance of a three-year matching fund grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Women's Business Ownership. By offering a full range of services and utilizing the expertise of successful women business owners to deliver its programs, the Women's Business Development Center is the Greater Philadelphia Region's focal point for women's economic empowerment opportunities.

To date, the Women's Business Development Center has provided information, business assessment, training and counseling services to over 4,500 potential and existing women business owners. The metropolitan Philadelphia area has 127,100 women-owned business enterprises that employ 448,500 people and generate over \$56 billion in sales. Women-owned business are a viable economic force and WBDC is vital to their continued growth and success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Geri Swift, President of the WBDC. Working with the community, business organizations, and all levels of government and the corporate sector, Geri has played an essential role in supporting the growth and development of entrepreneurial business ventures. In addition to being the current President of WBDC, Ms. Swift serves as the national vice president of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and as a director of the National Foundation of Women Business Owners. Geri Swift was also the founding president of the NAWBO, Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

#### HMO QUALITY DATA: LET THE PATIENT BEWARE

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as the nation moves increasingly toward managed care, a high priority must be to give the patient/consumer reliable, accurate information on the quality provided by HMOs.

On February 26 the chief medical officer of the Medicare agency testified that the popular HEDIS data used to measure how well HMOs

are doing in a variety of areas is, in some cases, very inaccurate and misleading. I've asked the Health Care Financing Administration to give us more information on this problem and the extent of the errors.

There are private groups which accredit HMOs and use HEDIS data to help measure those plans. The leader in these private groups is the National Commission on Quality Assurance. But it is all very confusing to the consumer. The following shows why.

How NCQA Accreditation Compares to U.S. News and World Report Rankings of HMO's

U.S. News ranking	Full Acc.	1-Yr. Acc.	Prov. Acc. <sup>1</sup>	Denied	Review <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>4</sup>	P/S/E <sup>3</sup>	Totals
****	41	15	0	2	0	6	0	64
***	46	30	7	1	1	5	6	96
**	47	30	0	1	1	16	8	103
*	13	7	1	0	1	5	10	37
Not ranked	14	0	0	0	1	7	5	27
Totals	161	82	8	4	4	39	29	327

<sup>1</sup> Provisional accreditation: plan meets some standards; can move up if review after one year shows improvement.

<sup>2</sup> Initial status determined but under review.

<sup>3</sup> Initial status Pending/review Scheduled/rating Expired.

<sup>4</sup> Accreditation information not available.

Source: U.S. News and World Report, October 13, 1997.

One of the most important things would be to ensure that these private accrediting and rating groups, which are paid for their services by those they rate, are true to the public interest. I have proposed legislation, H.R. 800, which would require that the boards of accrediting organizations like NCQA and JCAHO include public interest representatives and public meetings.

So much money is at stake in the quality ratings of managed care plans, that I do not believe the ratings should be directed in private and by boards of directors who include representatives of the interest being evaluated.

#### HONORING JACKIE SMITH

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the skill and achievements of Jackie Smith. Her contribution to women's sports is incomparable.

Jackie began playing organized basketball at the age of 11. The effort that she put into the game since then has made her a competitive player of international renown. She attended Forest Hills High School and, as a premier player, received All-City honors and the 1st Regusus award given by New York City. Upon graduation, she received a full athletic scholarship to St. John's University where she led the team to two Big East championships, four NCAA appearances, and has received numerous individual awards.

In 1986, after receiving her Bachelors degree, she played professionally with the Racing Club de France in Paris, France. In 1988, she returned to New York City to play an instrumental role with the Brooklyn Sports Foundation as its Community Relations Director. While in this position, she worked closely with the Foundation's Chairman, Board of Directors, and community leaders to plan and develop the first and only sports complex for amateur sports in Brooklyn.

In keeping with her love of sports, this year she became the Head Women's Basketball Coach at York College and is committed to building a successful program.

The October 13, 1997 issue of US News and World Report rated 223 HMOs using data largely from the National Commission on Quality Assurance's HEDIS system. The rating also showed whether NCQA had given full or partial accreditation to those HMOs.

Using the HEDIS data on things that people care about, like immunization rates, mammography rates, etc., US News ranked plans as Above Average or Below Average—but the NCQA accreditations had relatively little to do

with how plans did on the US News ratings. For example, NCQA denied accreditation to 2 plans that US News found among the best, but denied none among the plans that US News found the worst. Following is a table my staff did showing the results.

What can be done to make this babble of ratings more useful to the public?

Mr. Speaker, join me in congratulating Ms. Jackie Smith for all of her achievements, for being a woman who dares to be different, and showing young women everywhere that they can do, and accomplish, anything.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAWSON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

#### HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the tremendous bravery shown by Dawson High School students earlier this year. These students, whose high school is in my district, have displayed an incredible example of courage in the face of danger and given all of us a fascinating story of courage and bravery.

Mr. Speaker, on January 6th of this year, students from Dawson High School arose and planned their day as usual. As they waited in their neighborhoods for the school bus, they had no way of knowing about the dangers that awaited them. Because there has been heavy rains in Dawson the previous week, many of the roads were flooded. The school bus that the Dawson students were on, got caught in one of those flooded roads and was swept off into a ditch towards the flooded creek.

Mr. Speaker, this would have been a tragic situation, if it had not been for the quick thinking of the older students on the bus. They took the initiative to check for anyone who was hurt, and then they moved all 40 students to the right side of the bus in order to keep it from flipping over.

The students who put their fear aside and acted so bravely were: Shelley Wheat, Jessica Hall, Misty Rounsavall, Jeremy Rounsavall, Jasm McCury, Keith Becker, James Stults, Sarah Urrutia, Kevin Ivie, Dorinda Golden, April Dooley, Jennifer Wren, Mandy Houk, Niki Dooley, Krysty Copeland and Sharlaine Hooley.

Mr. Speaker, it's hard to overestimate the fear I think anyone would feel faced with a situation such as this. I know I join the people of Dawson in thanking these young heroes and heroines for their courage and their inspiration.

#### THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF SENATE APPROVAL OF THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO IN 1848

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 10, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today—March 10th—marks one of the great historic occasions in the history of the United States, and it is a particularly significant anniversary for the people of the great State of California. Today is the 150th anniversary of the vote in the United States Senate in which that body approved the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by a vote of 38 to 14. That historic document marked the conclusion of the two-year war with Mexico.

The treaty is also a tribute to American diplomacy and the creativity of Nicholas P. Trist, the chief clerk of the Department of State who was sent to Mexico by President James K. Polk at the end of 1847 with instructions "to take advantage of circumstances as they might arise to negotiate a peace." After a lengthy delay, Trist was about to begin negotiations with Mexican representatives when the President sent instructions for Trist to return to Washington. Trist—convinced that he was on the verge of achieving all of the objectives that he was sent to achieve—ignored his instructions to return, continued his negotiations with Mexican officials, and concluded the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, named after the place where it was completed.

When Trist returned to Washington with the treaty, President Polk could find no fault with the document and, despite "the exceptional conduct of Mr. Trist," submitted the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to the Senate for its advice and consent. It was this document which was approved by the Senate on March 10, 1848, which I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating today, Mr. Speaker.

The anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mr. Speaker, is an occasion for both celebration and for thoughtful reflection about the nature of our great nation.

First, Mr. Speaker, it is an occasion for celebration because the treaty led to major changes that helped to define the United