

Bella S. Abzug, one of the most admired women of America, honors the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Spirit of Houston and the National Women's Conference by her presence and her acceptance of the role of Honorary Chair.

Information on the 20th Anniversary Celebration, including Conference and hotel registration forms, can be obtained at the NWC Web site.

CONTRACT WITH WOMEN OF THE USA

(By Bella Abzug)

The downsizing of women off the national political agenda is being challenged in a new and exciting campaign. The "Contract with Women of the USA" is gathering momentum across the country.

Even though we are a majority of the U.S. population, women are being attacked, trivialized and ignored in much of the current political debates. Modest gains that we have won in years of struggle are in jeopardy. The time has come to put women's needs and concerns up front, in actions as well as words.

Initiated by the Women's Environment and Development Organization, of which I am a co-founder, and the Center for Women Policy Studies, the Contract campaign is endorsed by growing numbers of women's organizations, women members of Congress, state legislators and others. Our target is a thousand endorsements by this fall. Even more important, the Contract provides a flexible organizing and advocacy vehicle for addressing state and local issues of importance to women.

Women state legislators are taking the lead in supporting the Contract and working with women and other public sector groups to develop their own state contracts. Kicking off the campaign on International Women's Day on March 7th were women legislators in Arizona, California, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota and New York.

Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America" has run into stalemate and massive rejection by the American people. Our "Contract with Women of the USA" reflects the realities of American women's lives in all our family, economic, political, social, racial, age, religious and educational diversity. It offers an alternative and unifying vision in which women and men work together on an equal basis for our mutual benefit.

The 12 principles and action commitments in our Contract are based on the Platform for Action, approved by consensus last September at the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women by the United States and 188 other governments, as well as by 30,000 nongovernmental women, including 7,000 from our country.

The dozen commitments outlined in the "Contract with Women of the USA" call for economic, social and political equality for women; access to affordable health care and reproductive rights; an end to discrimination and violence against women; continuation of social safety nets for poor women and children; inclusion of women in peace-making; educational opportunities for women; and mechanisms to monitor and further women's gains.

Women legislators in the six kickoff states have signed on to the Contract. Similar actions are being planned in other states. We welcome the support of women legislators and activists throughout the country and urge them to join us in this important effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NO-FEE POST OFFICE BOXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, after nearly 20 years of effort, I have a victory to announce: Since I came to the Congress in 1979, my constituents in small Nebraska communities and Americans like them throughout our Nation have sought relief from the injustice of having to pay Post Office box rental fees because the U.S. Postal Service did not provide delivery to their homes. They came to the post office to pick up their mail because they had no home delivery, and they paid box rent for the privilege of doing so.

Incredibly and unfairly, they paid box rent while saving the U.S. Postal Service the cost of providing home delivery, which is provided free to urban residents and those living in the countryside. Can you believe it?

Well, finally, Mr. Speaker, that has changed. This afternoon I was notified by the U.S. Postal Service that effective April 5, 1998, throughout the United States, eligibility for no-fee post office boxes finally will be extended to those citizens living in small towns without home delivery whose residences or businesses are within the immediate vicinity of the post office and who, therefore, are ineligible for delivery service.

□ 2230

See the Federal Register, March 27, 1998, page 14820, for the details.

In the parlance I have learned as a lonely Member fighting this inequity over the years for small town America, effective April 5, there is no more quarter mile rule. Those Americans will now have free box rent for a normal-sized box. The costs are gone at last.

I congratulate the U.S. Postal Service for making the right decision.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOEKSTRA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY OF RON BROWN, AND IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. This evening, Mr. Speaker, I will not take

all of my time, but I wanted to pay tribute to the Ron Brown family, Alma, Tracey, and Michael. This evening Tracey Brown, the daughter of our former Secretary of Commerce, Ron Brown, had the book signing for her personal tribute to her father. I believe that there is no greater tribute than that a child can give to a parent.

Certainly as we reflect on what this government means and the idea of public service, we certainly recognize that former Secretary Ron Brown was that kind of public servant: a giant, gentle, strong, persevering.

As I looked around the room where the book signing occurred, I saw so many diverse faces, people from all walks of life; people who had no personal stake in their presence this evening, other than to pay particular tribute to a man who was unselfish in his giving, in his love of his country.

It was interesting to see my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), who indicated that he had attended college with Ron Brown and is noted in the book.

It is not often we have time to thank family members and to again say how sorry we are that we lost such a patriot, such a contributor to the process of government. But to Tracey Brown and her family, I would like to thank them so very much for persevering, staying steady, and continuing to love our country.

We are very privileged to have Mrs. Brown, who continues to stand as an example of a family that has given so much.

To Tracey, my hat is off to her for the singular purpose of this last year of writing about her father.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, if I might, I will add my recognition and special feeling about the 30th anniversary or commemoration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. It is important in this time, when we spend so much time using and reusing the words and the beliefs of Dr. King.

Sometimes they are used in ways that I think are not befitting both his image, his message, and his leadership, for too often on the floor of this House I have heard so many cite Dr. King's message about a color-blind society, or being judged by your character, not the color of your skin, to raise legislation to eliminate opportunity for minorities and women.

Often when we are debating the question of totally eliminating affirmative action for women and minorities in this country, after acknowledging just recently that discrimination is still a very harsh part of American society, I will hear those rising to the floor, commentators and others, citing the words of Dr. Martin Luther King.

I would like to think of Dr. King as a gentle spirit, one who knew the importance of nonviolence as opposed to violence, but he was a serious, straightforward gentleman. He always spoke his mind. You never had to think about what he was saying.

I think in all instances he asked us as Americans to be truthful, to accept the truth, to acknowledge the truth, and not to run away from the truth. Racism does exist in this Nation, and it is for us, as Americans, to work together to live in harmony. I think Dr. King would want us to do that.

So the anniversary of his assassination is not a time of sadness, but commemoration and commitment to the fact that each of us will try to overcome the devastation of racism and the fact that we isolate ourselves from other groups. President Clinton's recent visit to Africa, now almost finished, should signal the importance of Americans reaching out to all diverse groups.

Dr. King would be smiling, and he would hope that as we debate issues of national prominence, as we speak around this country, Dr. King would want us to use his words in truth and to recognize that what he wants for this Nation is equal opportunity for all. Until that date comes, I can imagine Dr. King somewhere continuing his fight, his oration, his speech, his non-violent way, but never giving up until there is racial harmony in this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. NADLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOODLATTE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING DR. AND MRS. SHELTON H. SHORT, III, FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to commend Dr. and Mrs. Shelton H. Short, III, of Clarksville, Virginia, for establishing a \$100,000 permanent scholarship fund at Randolph-Macon College in honor of Dr. Short's late father. The scholarship fund is designed to assist students from Boydton, Virginia, the first site of Randolph-Macon College, as well as students from surrounding communities.

Dr. Short and his wife Jean are distinguished citizens and active participants in their community in Mecklenburg, Virginia. Their families contributed in significant ways to that community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation over the course of at least 2 centuries.

Indeed, Dr. Short is a descendent of the late Congressman William O. Goode, who served in the body from 1841 to 1843 and from 1853 to 1859. Although I am not privileged to be a relative of the former congressman, he was a prominent Virginian who served as Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and wrote the original charter of Randolph-Macon College.

Shelton and Jean Short are to be applauded for their generosity and their commitment to the education of young men and women at Randolph-Macon college, an institution of higher learning on which their family has had such a significant and tremendous impact.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article from the May 21 issue of the Mecklenburg Sun.

The article referred to follows:

SCHOLARSHIP EMPHASIZES R-MC TIES TO BOYDTON

BOYDTON.—A Clarksville couple has honored the memory of the late Shelton Hardaway Short, Jr. by establishing a \$100,000 permanent scholarship fund to Randolph-Macon College in his honor.

As benefactors of the scholarship, Shelton H. Short, III and his Jean were center stage at a ceremony Wednesday night in Boydton announcing the fund. They were joined by Dr. Ladell Payne, president of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, local elected officials and about 100 onlookers at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.

The scholarship is designed to reward deserving college students from Boydton who will serve as ambassadors of the college's roots in Boydton. If no eligible students apply from the town, the scholarship will go to students in Mecklenburg, Brunswick and other surrounding counties. The gift is meant to underscore the historic ties between Randolph-Macon, which was founded in Boydton, and Southside Virginia.

In remarks to the audience, Short noted that his father "would be pleased that the scholarship given in his name would bring closer the links between Randolph-Macon as it was in its founding home of Boydton in 1930, with Randolph-Macon of today and tomorrow in Hanover County, Virginia." Short also said his father would wish "that the recipient of the Boydton scholarship consider himself or herself as a goodwill ambassador representing Boydton, Southside Virginia" and surrounding areas.

According to Short, the criteria for winning the scholarship will go beyond academic and extracurricular achievements and address the character of potential applicants. The newly-endowed award is need based and will go to academically promising students in Boydton and surrounding areas.

Applicants "should consider making straight A's in good manners, a neat appearance and helpfulness to others as well as classwork," said Short. "To me straight A's in Greek or geometry are meaningless without good manners and a sincere desire to help others."

"We would ask the town fathers and town mothers of our area, and especially Boydton, to impress upon the winner the necessity of being a goodwill ambassador for Boydton,

Randolph-Macon College's place of birth. What the student does will reflect back upon Boydton—good or otherwise."

Short said Boydton students would be the first choice for the scholarship, followed by students in the rest of Mecklenburg County and Brunswick County. Other areas included in the scholarship's territory are Granville, Halifax, Vance and Warren Counties in North Carolina, and Charlotte, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg and Nottoway Counties in Virginia. Students from the North Carolina counties of Mecklenburg and Brunswick will also be eligible, Short said.

Short described his father, Shelton Hardaway Short, III as a "modest gentleman" who loved Randolph-Macon College. "He loved the original town of Randolph-Macon's birthplace—Boydton—as well as Randolph-Macon's present and future locality, Ashland. Shelton H. Short, Jr. dedicated, designed and donated the official flag for Randolph-Macon in 1968 and used as a centerpiece for the College's ensign a photo of the central structure of Randolph-Macon as it stood in Boydton in the 1930s."

At age 16, Shelton H. Short, Jr. left home in Brunswick County, Va. to enroll at Randolph-Macon in Ashland. His education there was interrupted by World War I, and he volunteered for the U.S. Army infantry as a teenager. After being assigned to training school at Virginia Military Institute, Short went to Plattsburg, N.Y. and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. When the war ended, he returned to R-MC and graduated as a member of the Class of 1919 with a bachelor's of art degree.

After volunteering for the Army in World War I, Short returned to the military at the age of 43 to serve his country during World War II. He became a major in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the reserves after the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945.

At Randolph-Macon, his volunteer spirit and energy were readily apparent—he was President of the Cotillion Club, an officer in Kappa Alpha, and centerfielder for the Yellow Jackets baseball team, even playing the day Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox played the Yellow Jackets in an exhibition game. After completing his degree, he turned his attention to the local business community, serving as president of Jeffreys Motor Company in Chase City and chairman of the Board of Trustees of Jeffreys-Spaulding Manufacturing Company and of Jeffreys-McElrath Manufacturing.

He also owned and operated several farms and was a prominent tobacco and tree farmer. He was director of Jeffreys Lumber, Inc., Home Telegraph and Telephone and Virginia Forestry, among other companies. In addition, he served for 4 years as a director of Peoples Bank and Trust Co. and its successor, Fidelity American Bank and Central Fidelity, all in Chase City.

Short also worked to better the community by serving on the Mecklenburg School Board and the Town Council of Chase City. He served in the Virginia House of Delegates from Mecklenburg County and served on the Virginia Economic Development Commission under three governors. A life-long member of the Methodist Church, he served on the Chase City Centenary United Methodist Church Board of Stewards for much of his adult life. He was also a Trustee of the former Blackstone College for Women.

The first winner of the Honorable Shelton H. Short, Jr. Scholarship will be announced in the fall, said Dr. Payne, R-MC President. The scholarship will reinvigorate the ties between Boydton and the college, he noted.