

one teacher, and the choice came down to Taxman or Williams, whose qualifications amounted to a flat-footed tie.

What to do? By the board's own rules and past practice, ties were to be broken by a coin flip. But the board wanted to preserve racial diversity, and Williams was the department's first and only black teacher. So Taxman got the pink slip. And she sued.

Her case was seen as so important by the U.S. Justice Department that it jumped in to help, suing the school board for violating the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibits racial and other discrimination.

The courts agreed. But last year the Clinton Justice Department did something extraordinary. It switched sides, defending the school board's choice of Williams as a legitimate affirmative action.

As the controversy over affirmative action has grown, the administration has scrambled to downplay its role, fearing reprisal at the polls. And well it should.

Far from helping affirmative action, approaches like Piscataway's put sensible affirmative action at risk.

Unlike affirmative action complaints about hiring and promotion—inevitably complex and arbitrary decisions—this one has a clear, identifiable victim.

Furthermore, all sides agree the school board was under no pressure to remedy any previous discrimination or to correct any imbalance in minority employment—the starting point for affirmative action. In fact, the school exceeded state goals for minority representation on its teaching staff.

Most importantly, the board could have achieved its goal without violating anyone's rights. It could have come up with a more creative redeployment of teachers to achieve the same results. Or it simply could have offered a financial inducement to Taxman. That's a common practice, and she was willing to accept.

Instead, as its first resort, it chose to lay Taxman off solely because of her race. And that is wrong, no matter what race it is.

Polls show almost no public support for such action. And the courts have upheld the rights of employers to make choices based on race alone only to remedy previous inequities.

Taxman, who spurns interviews, never intended to become a landmark test of firing as an affirmative action tool. She just wanted to teach. When Piscataway offered to reinstate her in the business education department in 1993, she gladly returned.

But the ruckus didn't need to happen. The school board's well-intentioned ends didn't justify its means.

For too many years, millions of women and minorities were denied equal opportunity and pay because of discrimination in education and in the workplace. Affirmative action has done much to remedy that.

Firing Sharon Taxman righted no wrong. It created one. That is not justice by any reasonable definition.

AN INSPIRING STORY: A GLORIOUS FAILURE

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, we often celebrate success on the floor of the Senate: the passage of a particularly difficult bill, the ratification of a difficult international agreement, or even the retirement of a public figure who has built a record of achievements.

This time, however, I would like to share with my colleagues the inspiring story of a glorious failure. It truly is an inspiring story for several reasons: the age of the individual involved, the

wisdom of his perspective, and the strength of his spirit.

I do not know Mark Pfetzer but, as a Rhode Islander, I have been following the news accounts of this 15-year-old high school freshman's attempt to become the youngest person to climb Mount Everest.

Mark has climbed at least 26,000 feet up the 29,028-foot Himalayan mountain, perhaps even higher, when he reportedly was forced to turn back because of rib injuries.

According to his mother, he was injured during a coughing fit brought on by the extremely dry and thin air near the summit. Those injuries reportedly led a doctor to rule Mark out of the final ascent to the summit.

I found one quote from Mark's mother, Christine Pfetzer, to be particularly telling. She said that during his preparations for the expedition he was fond of a quote by the Roman general Cassius: "In great attempts it is glorious to fail."

Mr. President, I congratulate Mark on his effort, his wisdom, and his spirit. I am confident that his glorious failure will lead him to a life of continued success.

I trust that, with his attitude, he eventually will climb the highest mountain—all the way to the top. I am sure he will go on to new conquests, if he remains willing to take the chance of failure.

We wish him well and, when he returns to Rhode Island in June, I hope his homecoming is only the beginning of a life with great promise.

I ask unanimous consent that a May 18 wire story by the Associated Press, titled "15-Year-Old Fails in Everest Summit Attempt," be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered by be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. (AP).—A 15-year-old high school freshman's attempt to become the youngest person to climb Mount Everest has been halted by rib injuries.

Mark Pfetzer spoke to his mother, Christine Pfetzer, by phone this morning from an Everest base camp. She said Mark was forced to give up a summit attempt because of bruised and sprained rib muscles and at least one cracked rib.

Mark was injured during a coughing fit brought on by the extremely dry air on the 29,028-foot Himalayan mountain, she said, adding that the doctor who examined her son had seen at least five similar injuries on Everest this year.

Christine Pfetzer said she did not know how high her son climbed before he turned back. He had reached 26,000 feet earlier in the expedition.

Pfetzer said recent severe weather on the mountain has cleared and at least two other climbers from Mark's expedition will attempt the summit climb. Her son, however, will not be among them.

"With the ribs, the doctor said no," Christine Pfetzer said.

"(Mark) did work really hard," she said. "I think he should have all the commendations he can get for what he accomplished at his age."

Pfetzer added that during her son's preparations for his Everest expedition he was

particularly fond of a quote by the Roman general Cassius: "In great attempts it is glorious to fail."

She said her son's rib injuries would take about a month to heal, but that he already is looking ahead.

He said, "There's next time," she said.

Since taking up climbing three years ago at a summer camp, Pfetzer has climbed once in the Himalayas, scaled Argentina's 22,834-foot Mount Aconcagua, 19,347-foot Mount Cotopaxi in Ecuador and two Peruvian peaks, 18,870-foot Mount Pisco and 22,200-foot Mount Huascaran.

Only about 400 people have reached Everest's peak since Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norkey of Nepal first scaled it in 1953. Another 109 have died in the attempt.

A 17-year-old French boy was the youngest person ever to climb Everest, reaching the summit in 1990.

Christine Pfetzer said she expects Mark back in Rhode Island in the first week of June.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, more than 3 years ago I began making daily reports to the Senate making a matter of record the exact Federal debt as of close of business the previous day.

As of the close of business Friday, May 19, the exact Federal debt stood at \$4,883,151,973,639.38, meaning that on a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$18,536.53 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

It is important to note, Mr. President, that the Senate had an opportunity to implement a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The Senate lost its first opportunity to control this debt by one vote. There will be another opportunity in the months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO COACH HAYDEN RILEY

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, many in the athletic circles of Alabama were saddened last month by the death of Hayden Riley, former University of Alabama basketball and baseball coach. In 1964, 1965, and 1967, his basketball teams achieved upset victories over the University of Kentucky, truly remarkable feats. From 1971 to 1979, he served as the school's head baseball coach, winning two SEC championships.

Originally from Guin, AL, Hayden Riley attended Marion County High School, playing four sports while a student there. In 1942, he was called to active duty in the Navy. While stationed at Pensacola Naval Air Station, he played football, basketball, and baseball.

After being discharged, he attended the University of Alabama, where he lettered in basketball and baseball from 1947 to 1949. In 1948, he graduated with a degree in physical education and went on to receive his masters in 1953 in physical education and school administration.

In 1951, Hayden joined the University of Alabama staff as assistant basketball coach. He became head coach in 1961, staying for 9 years. Legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant made him assistant athletic director in 1968, and he worked as one of Bear's top football recruiters until he became head baseball coach in 1971.

Hayden Riley made many outstanding contributions to the University of Alabama as both a player and a coach. I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends, and ask unanimous consent that a news column on his career be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(By John Cameron, Assistant Managing Editor/Sports)

BEAR SAID, JUST COACH, AND HE DID

Hayden Riley and Paul "Bear" Bryant came to Alabama to coach just about the same time.

Riley left Coffee High School in Florence and joined Dr. Eugene Lambert's basketball staff as an assistant coach in 1957. Bear came home in 1958 to take over as football coach and athletic director.

Today's generations know about the legend of the Bear. Very few of the younger Alabama supporters know about coach Hayden Riley. Some have never heard of him.

Yet, Riley, who died Monday following a lengthy illness, was one of the most loyal and dedicated people to ever coach in the Crimson Tide athletic program.

In a sense, he "was Alabama." He lettered in basketball and baseball as a post-World War II student and, as a coach, he contributed greatly to Bama's rich sports history.

Somehow, Coach Riley has been overlooked. His contributions are seldom recognized and he is not the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. However, he is not without fame. Many former Alabama athletes and coaches have fond memories of the Bama mentor. They know what he did for them.

Coach Riley became Alabama's basketball coach in 1961, the same year that Bryant won his first national championship.

In those days, coaching basketball was a struggle. It was still all-white and all the headlines, money and fans went to football. Only a few leftovers went to basketball.

These were the days when Tide basketball was played in cramped Foster Auditorium and games provided students with something to do after football season. Still, he was happy just to have the chance to do the job.

He wound up with a losing record in basketball by only two games (102-104) but he had some big years. Most of his losses came in his early years.

In the SEC during the 1960s, you measured success by the number of times you defeated powerhouse Kentucky. Riley upset the Wildcats in 1964, 1965 and 1967. His 1967 team went 17-9.

In 1968, Bear made him assistant athletic director and put him on the road recruiting. He became one of Bama's top recruiters during the early 1970s, a period that produced some of the Tide's greatest teams. He spent quite a bit of time in Mobile and southwest Alabama.

Bear then asked him to coach the baseball team. From 1971-79, he compiled a 224-163-1 mark and won two Western Division titles. Diabetes forced him to retire from coaching in the spring of 1979, although he remained with the university in an administrative capacity until 1982.

No, history does not record Riley as a great coach in basketball or baseball at Alabama. However, it does reflect his strength as a loyal member of the staff and a man willing to give his time to help young people. He seemed comfortable remaining somewhat in the background.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF MOTOR-VOTER

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, last month, one of my State papers, the Lexington Herald-Leader, ran a story about why people don't vote. One of the top reasons people cited for not voting, was because they always forget to register.

Thirty-one-year-old Tracey Adkins told the paper that "My husband's a preacher, and we move a lot from town to town. It's hard when you move a lot. It's inconvenient." She couldn't remember the last time she was registered, but said she would "definitely register the next time she renewed her driver's license through the motor-voter law."

Tomorrow marks the second anniversary of the President signing this bill into law, and the culmination of years of work. But more importantly, it's another milestone in this country's long history of working to assure all American citizens have the ability to exercise their right to vote.

From women's suffrage in 1920 to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to extending the right to vote to 18 year-olds in 1971 to removing physical barriers for the elderly and disabled in 1984, Congress recognized that the right to vote is perhaps the clearest expression of democracy at work.

When Tracey Adkins goes to renew her driver's license she'll join tens of thousands of other Kentuckians who took advantage of the new system—tens of thousands of other Kentuckians who now have no obstacles between their opinion and their Government.

In Kentucky, voter registration has skyrocketed to record levels, gaining 76,550 new voters since January 1. And it's estimated that motor-voter is responsible for two-thirds of those new potential voters. In the first quarter of this year, over 2 million Americans nationwide registered to vote under the new law. At this rate 20 million will be registered by the next Presidential election.

Not only are we experiencing the largest voter registration increase in our country's history, but as Becky Cain, president of the League of Women Voters said, "The 1996 electorate will be larger, more diverse and more reflective of the American people."

And, nearly 10 years of opposition to this legislation has proven to be completely unfounded, from arguments about the high cost of implementation to the fear that somehow Democrats would benefit more than Republicans. Statistics show that new registrations in Kentucky are almost evenly divided

between Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

Barbara Jordan once said that the "stakes are too high for Government to be a spectator sport." As more and more Americans found themselves in the bleachers simply watching the political game, they were encountering a Government that knew little about their problems, and even less about the way the average citizen might want to see those problems solved.

But motor-voter sent a clear message to these disenfranchised Americans that Government belongs to them, its future guided by their individual vote. Because, it is only through their participation that the democratic process can work effectively, efficiently, and equitably.

So, as we celebrate this second anniversary, we do so knowing that with each new registered voter, this Nation becomes a little stronger, our course a little steadier, our future a little brighter.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution; in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-926. A communication from the Chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-927. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide for the termination of the status of the College Construction Loan Insurance Association ("the Corporation") as a Government Sponsored Enterprise, to require the Secretary of Education to divest himself of the Corporation's stock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-928. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation to provide assistance to States and local communities to improve adult education and family literacy, to help