

CHRISTIAN NETWORKS "MUTATE"

Last year, the Bush administration sponsored a resolution for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights that condemned Beijing's human rights record. Amnesty International reported in 2001 that China's use of torture was widespread and systematic.

China analysts such as Hamrin say that the Chinese government, wishing to improve its image internationally, probably will respond favorably to pressure to improve human rights.

"China has really developed and they have tasted too much freedom to go back," says Eric Burklin of China Partner. "There would be major bloodshed if they tried to go back to Maoist times."

But Li's archive shows that China's emerging strategy for dealing with the house-church movement is comprehensive and difficult for outsiders to counter. Officials gain access through informants, harass leaders, block communication, and strip churches of financial assets, including church buildings and homes.

The government notes in the documents that house-church Christians already have a means to resist these new efforts at repression. House-church leaders reportedly are creating networks that constantly mutate. Leaders communicate with wireless phones and hard-to-trace Web sites. In response, the government has begun building a national computer network known as the "Golden Shield" in order to conduct Internet surveillance and information-gathering.

Meanwhile, the impact of Li's archives promises to be seismic. "It's a bombshell," Shea says.

 TRIBUTE TO ABELARDO "ARBIE"
VILLARREAL

 HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the memory of a man who was very special to me and to the entire Inland Empire community, Abelardo "Arbie" Villarreal, a longtime professor at San Bernardino Valley College.

Like a ray of sunshine, Arbie came to San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC) in 1971 to teach English, mainly to foreign students. A tall, thin, meticulously groomed man with sharp, angular features and a ready smile, Arbie was easily recognized on campus. He was the first ESL teacher at SBVC, and he was able to reach out to the community by establishing ties between the college and the area's rapidly growing Spanish-speaking population.

Arbie was a great asset to Valley College and was recognized as "Outstanding Professor." He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship/Fellowship to teach abroad, which allowed him to live and teach in Switzerland for two years. His knowledge of foreign languages easily opened doors for him in Europe. He spoke Spanish and Italian fluently and managed in French and Portuguese.

Last summer, Arbie was awarded a faculty fellowship to spend six marvelous weeks in Washington, D.C. working at the US Department of Agriculture. He was surprised to reunite with several friends now settled in Washington who he met almost 40 years ago during a training program to join the new and exciting

Peace Corps. Arbie spent two unforgettable years in Columbia with the Peace Corps.

Arbie was born in Texas but raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His mother, Amelia, and his older brother, Gilbert, still live in New Mexico. Arbie's twin, Hilly, also moved to California like his brother to teach at Cal State Los Angeles. Arbie's youngest brother, Albert, followed his beautiful Texan bride back to Texas.

Arbie was exuberant, well-prepared, good-looking, fun to be with, and curious about the world. He was so curious, in fact, that in order to learn more about Italy, he married his Italian student Maria, his wife of 28 years. Together they enjoyed their friends, travels, romantic candlelight dinners in their patio, the theater, music, Victorian dances, and books that they read to each other.

Arbie was loved, admired and respected by his adoring students, the faculty and staff of Valley College, and by his countless friends spread across two continents. Arbie's illness and death hit the San Bernardino Valley College campus very hard. During his hospitalization in September 2001, students organized a blood drive in his honor. More than 50 people donated blood while some people had to be turned away because turnout was so high.

Arbie's widow, Maria said that her husband loved life and battled his disease courageously. While he was in Washington over the summer, he developed pain in his lower back. Initially, this was the only symptom, and as he was a healthy man, he thought it was just a strained muscle until he was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

Arbie passed away on Wednesday, February 27, 2001 surrounded by his loving family. The Villarreal family set up the Abelardo "Arbie" Villarreal Memorial Scholarship Fund for students at San Bernardino Valley College. Friday, March 8, 2001, the college will hold a memorial service in his honor.

And so Mr. Speaker, I submit this loving memorial to be included in the archives of the history our country. It is men like Arbie who make this nation great. Arbie leaves a legacy of lives filled with education and enrichment of knowledge for those whose lives he touched.

 TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO
CHERRY CREEK DIVERSITY CON-
FERENCE

 HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to congratulate the Colorado Cherry Creek Diversity Conference Executive Council. On February 2, 2002 students from 79 schools attended the conference that was held at Cherry Creek High School in Englewood, Colorado.

The Cherry Creek Diversity Conference was created as an opportunity for Colorado high school students to come together and discuss issues of diversity in their schools. Since the first year, when 18 schools participated, the conference has grown to include over 850 student representatives from 79 high schools and 150 adult volunteers. The conference gives an annual Human Rights Award to a Colorado organization that promotes diversity, as well as a scholarship to one attendee who has worked

in his or her school to foster a more harmonious school environment.

The event was almost entirely planned and coordinated by the executive council, which was co-chaired by Nicholas Ferguson of Elizabeth, Colorado, and Challona Coleman of Aurora, Colorado. To put together this year's conference, students from 22 schools met once a week to plan the one-day event that included motivational speaker Michael Simmons, small-group discussions and more than sixty workshops. Janet Sammons, a teacher at Cherry Creek High School helped guide the students into making this year's conference an overwhelming success.

I applaud the efforts of Colorado high school students to improve relations between all people no matter their race, religion, or creed. As stated in the Pledge of Allegiance, we are "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

I ask the House to join me in thanking high school students from across Colorado who participated in the Colorado Cherry Creek Diversity Conference, and also the executive committee for their hard work and success.

 PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDRA
WILKINS

 HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sandra Wilkins and thank her for her extraordinary contributions in the Chaffee County Treasurer's Office. Her life-long dedication to both her job and the people of Chaffee County is matched only by the level of integrity and honesty with which she has conducted herself each and every day while at her post. She will always be remembered as an employee with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in her community. As she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that I, along with each and every person with whom she has worked and the people of Chaffee County, are eternally grateful for all that she has accomplished in her more than 30 years of public service.

Sandra went to work in the Chaffee County Treasurer's Office in 1971, working for John Hughes. After Mr. Hughes retired in 1986, Sandra ran successfully for the post of county treasurer, and was subsequently re-elected three times. For over 30 years, Sandra has selflessly given her time, energy and unrelenting commitment to the people of Chaffee County, and although Chaffee County is no doubt sad to lose her services, everyone is happy that she will now have more time to travel, relax, and enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Sandra Wilkins is a woman of unparalleled dedication and commitment to both her professional endeavors and the people of her community. It is her unrelenting passion for each and every thing she does, as well as her spirit of honesty and integrity with which she has always conducted herself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. She is a remarkable woman, who has achieved extraordinary things in her career and for her community. It is my privilege