

FROM READERS

Immigrant taxes could pay for English lessons

RE: "First principles and immigration reform," editorial, April 17
 I have no problem with making the illegal immigrants in this country citizens, provided they obtain Social Security numbers, file tax returns and pay state and federal taxes. And they shouldn't have any criminal records, either.
 With this extra tax money, the United States could give them free — but mandatory — English lessons.

W. Kevin Bender
 WASHINGTON

Fans appreciate Peter Angelos' softer side

RE: "Angelos on the record," April 17
 I am a lifelong Baltimore Orioles fan, and I can honestly say that I seldom agree with anything Peter Angelos says. However, after reading *The Examiner's* story on him, I find myself thinking that at least he has feelings for the team and the City of Baltimore.

Jim Williams deserves the Pulitzer Prize for showing O's fans the other side of Angelos. Not that I will agree with him more, but at least I can respect him in the future.

Thanks for showing us that Angelos has a soul and does care.

Jeff Mack
 Towson

Fight for rights in your native countries

RE: "Build the wall now" editorial, April 18

Yes, securing our borders should be the federal government's first priority. The reason we are faced with this illegal immigrant crisis now is because the present laws are not being enforced.

We need enforcement — even if a wall is the answer.

These illegal immigrants should be in their home countries fighting for the human and economic rights they seek in the United States. It is a shame that they turn their backs on their homelands and sneak into another country to demand their rights.

Robert Riley
 ALEXANDRIA

Foreign countries should bear deportation costs

RE: "No amnesty, no guest workers" editorial, April 19

Illegal immigrants should be returned to their native countries, but at the expense of their own governments. They should pay a fine and then be forced to go through the legal immigration process if they truly want to come back here.

Any immigrant who enters the country illegally after that should be jailed, again at the expense of their native country.

I realize this may be an unpopular position, but I write this as a man who is married to an immigrant and who has foreign-born sisters-in-law and many friends whose wives are foreign-born. All of them came to the U.S. le-

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gally.
 It is not fair to the millions of foreigners who want to legally enter the U.S. but must wait, in some cases many years, to do so. In many cases, many of those waiting legally have the educational background to be useful and productive citizens, not a burden to our government.

Not one of my foreign-born family members or friends' wives ever demanded that we speak or write in their native language. They all learned English.

Don Meckley
 MANASSAS

System can't even handle legal immigrants

Some Americans feel illegal immigrants should return to their home countries so that they can be processed and re-enter legally. This is a legitimate concern and the fundamental reason the U.S. has attracted over 11 million illegal immigrants. The current immigration system is flooded with an overwhelming backlog of 3 million applicants, and waiting in line takes a lifetime.

I agree with CNN's Lou Dobbs that America does not have the necessary resources for a successful work visa program. Similarly, U.S. immigration officials do not have the personnel to process millions of immigrants who either stay here or go back to their own countries.

More attention on the rollout of the work visa program encourages participation within the U.S. legal system.

A failure to document 11 million immigrants who continually live in the shadows of success will create an uproar like France has experienced from its rejection of African immigrants in its socialist system.

Luckily, we live in a market economy where embracing freedom provides us enough liberty and justice for all to pursue their individual dreams.

Kurt Grell
 WASHINGTON

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EDITORIAL

No place for 'Reconquista'

This is the fourth in a five-part series.

It received little coverage in the mainstream news dailies, but many bloggers highlighted the significant influence of "Reconquista" advocates and concepts in the recent pro-immigration marches across the country. Reconquista aims must be honestly confronted by all sides if the immigration debate is to be honestly conducted and credibly resolved.

The first thing to understand about Reconquista is that while it is perhaps not the official policy of Mexico, it might as well be. Current and former top Mexican government officials and advisers, for example, along with leaders of U.S. groups like the National Council of La Raza, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, routinely co-host seminars of the Foundation for Solidarity of Mexico and America, according to Hector Carreon of the Aztlan Communications Network. The basic aim of FSMA, which is a key convergence point of open-borders advocacy in both countries, is uninterrupted immigration from Mexico to the U.S.

"Aztlan" is the ancient Aztec word for the lands of California, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, which more radical Hispanic activists have long claimed were stolen by "gringos" from Europe and that are now to be retaken via massive immigra-

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tion that eventually produces Hispanic majorities at all levels of governance. But whether expressed more moderately by groups such as FSMA or more radically by explicitly separatist voices like MEChA, Aztlan is the animating spirit of the

immense costs shifted from Mexico to our education, health care and law enforcement systems that must serve the needs of the waves of immigrants, legal and illegal. Those of us living north of the border are thus subsidizing corruption south of the border that enables Mexican politicians and their wealthy friends and family members to live the good life without being held accountable for the millions of Mexicans who suffer grinding poverty and hopelessness.

AGREE? DISAGREE?

Should the "Reconquista" movement be confronted in the immigration debate? Send your comments to threads@dcexaminer.com.

President Bush should call upon President Vicente Fox and other Mexican political leaders to disavow the Reconquista movement explicitly and to adopt much-needed reforms to expand economic opportunity and spread the wealth more widely in their nation. And Congress should reiterate in law and regulation that, while we will always welcome the world's huddled masses, those who immigrate to America are expected to become Americans.

Reconquista movement. That spirit is reflected in remarks like this by a former California state secretary of health, education and welfare: "California is going to be a Hispanic state. Anyone who doesn't like it should leave."

Behind such calls looms the dismal Mexican economy, which, as author and historian Victor Davis Hanson notes in the latest Claremont Review of Books, desperately needs the flow of workers to the U.S. because they send an estimated \$10 billion to \$15 billion back home annually. Plus, there are the

To do otherwise is to risk growing in the U.S. precisely the same sort of fevered separatism that now racks France and Germany.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By John Darkow/Columbia Daily Tribune, Missouri

