

Another perspective to Hansen's 'Another View'

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Wednesday's "Another View" column by Richard Hansen built to a conclusion unsupported even by his own cherry-picked collection of anecdotes. While certainly heinous and tragic, the crimes Hansen referenced do not demonstrate that undocumented immigrants are any more a threat to American women than are U.S. citizens. The column only demonstrates Hansen's faulty logic.

By using cherry-picked anecdotes, one could argue for inherent evil of any group at all. Perhaps the alleged felony burglary reported on the page before Hansen's column should be taken as evidence that all white, male, Faribault residents are low-life criminals, waiting to steal our hard-earned property. Perhaps we ought to interpret the alleged possession of methamphetamine by two different Faribault women as evidence that all women are drug-addicted criminals that deserve little more than a dank prison cell.

This logic is obviously faulty. It is also the essence of Mr. Hansen's argument which boils down to this: "Juan Lopez and Sergio Martinez are horrible criminals. They are both undocumented immigrants. Therefore, all undocumented immigrants are horrible criminals." This makes no more sense than saying Jeffrey Dahmer's crimes prove that all Milwaukee residents are evil. Mr. Hansen has allowed his fear of horrible but rare crimes to overshadow the reality that undocumented immigrants are actually less violent and commit fewer crimes than U.S. citizens. Even the libertarian Cato Institute concludes as much (cato.org/blog/immigration-crime-what-research-says).

The final example, however, is the nail-in-the-coffin of Hansen's argument. The actions of the Minneapolis police officer that killed Justine Damond in July are horrible. They also utterly fail to demonstrate the alleged ills of the sanctuary city movement because that officer is a legal immigrant, just like the millions of Europeans immigrants who are our ancestors.

If Mr. Hansen thinks the U.S. immigration system should be reformed, he should defend that belief based on facts and not with faulty logic and isolated incidents. The biggest problem, however, isn't that his logic is faulty. It's that his writing is actually dangerous. By printing Mr. Hansen's columns, the Daily News helps to legitimize baseless anti-immigrant sentiments. That anti-immigrant sentiment leads to the very kind of violence Mr. Hansen decries: violence against ordinary people living ordinary lives. It is the same sentiment that led to the violence we saw in Charlottesville this weekend.

Please stop printing Richard Hansen's broken logic and anti-immigrant writing.