



## **LETTER: Letter blurred lines between fact, fiction**

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To the editor:

In his letter to the editor, “Democrats stymie efforts to protect Americans,” published by The Daily News on Feb. 27, the author, Don Ewing, cites facts about undocumented immigrants in the United States which blurs the lines between fact and fiction. In doing so, Mr. Ewing perpetuates false narratives about the undocumented immigrant community.

First of all, Mr. Ewing cites crime statistics pertaining to the undocumented population that simply don’t exist. He begins by citing how many crimes are perpetrated by undocumented immigrants on a nationwide basis. No agency, governmental or other, keeps track of this information.

In fact, according to the Cato Institute, Texas is the only state that tracks crimes committed by undocumented immigrants. The reality is in fact much different than the one Mr. Ewing describes. According to the Cato Institute report, undocumented immigrants were far less likely to be arrested than native-born Americans.

Furthermore, Mr. Ewing says that “sanctuary cities” release illegal alien criminals, allowing them to victimize others. That is an extreme mischaracterization of what a sanctuary city is. In fact, sanctuary cities simply refuse to turn over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement undocumented immigrants who have committed minor crimes.

Finally, Mr. Ewing also claims that illegal drugs flow through our open border with Mexico. However, experts, almost unanimously, agree that the majority of illegal drugs go through border checkpoints.

The Mr. Ewings of the world are going to espouse their factually biased, not so thinly veiled racist point of view. Trying to stop them would be an exercise in futility. However, a newspaper has a responsibility to fact-check its articles, even the letters, and The Daily News acted irresponsibly here. It’s obvious not an iota of fact-checking was done here. Shame on The Daily News for not fact-checking and for running Mr. Ewing’s op-ed.

The printing of Mr. Ewing’s article is, in a large sense, emblematic of a significant problem that faces this country; that people with differences of opinion are unable and unwilling to agree even on basic facts. Without an agreement of basic facts, there can be no basis in fact to have a reasonable discussion and to have meaningful dialogue.

If a newspaper, whose sole responsibility is to provide readers with truth, falls so far short of its responsibility, how are we supposed to reach a consensus as a nation on how to handle issues for which this country must grapple?