

# NORTHWEST HERALD

## Letters to the Editor for August 11

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To the Editor:

A recent correspondent to this column reports that, as of last summer, 40% of those in immigration detention have a criminal record.

The huge percentage quoted by the author should arouse the curiosity of any normal person and lead to some questions.

What exactly is immigration detention?

Is there more than one kind of immigration detention? (There are two: immigration detention for migration-related reasons and criminal detention for criminal charges or convictions.)

How many illegal immigrants are in the U.S.?

What percentage of them are in immigration detention?

How many of the former have criminal convictions?

The actual fact is that (using figures reported by The Cato Institute, a conservative think tank and no friend of liberal causes) all immigrants have a lower criminal incarceration rate and are half as likely to commit crimes as native-born Americans.

As to how many are in immigration detention, the Cato Institute estimates that of the estimated 11,000,000 immigrants living illegally in the U.S., only an estimated 32,000 are in immigration detention. That means that only two-tenths of 1% of illegal residents of the U.S. are in immigration detention (and less than half of those are in criminal detention). The writer has confused immigration detention with criminal detention and would have us believe that the sky is falling!

A recent news article reported that the assistant chief of the Union Fire Protection District said on social media about four congresswomen of color: "No, they are way too lazy and stupid to be slaves. Please don't put slaves down like that."

Both the assistant chief and the chief have not commented, and the post has been deleted.

This raises an interesting question: Suppose I'm a person of color involved in a flaming auto crash in Union. If the expressed opinion truly represents the sentiments of the assistant chief, the chief and others under their command, would any of them risk life and limb to rescue me?

Would they risk life and limb to rescue a white person?