

Illegal workers hurt, don't help, the community

Posted by [mkitch](#) August 24, 2009 20:00PM

Letters published Aug. 25, 2009

Your Aug. 24 editorial about 8.3 million illegal workers ("Turning the consensus on immigration upside-down") ignores a few things I learned between 1974 and 1998, when I worked for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Los Angeles and Denver districts:

1. In the 1970s, when the newest "amnesty" law was in effect, an INS colleague said that 70 percent of the applications were fraudulent. Would The Oregonian's editorial board like to indicate just how much fraud, including stolen IDs, we could expect with a "liberalization" policy?
2. Who are these undocumented workers? Are they literate? Are they driving without licenses and insurance? Do they resemble the typical legal immigrants?
3. Your editorial mentions prosperity; would you please spell out the "modest savings in public expenditures" that would affect our school districts, emergency rooms and the fabric of our neighborhoods?

BOB GEARY
Southwest Portland

In The Oregonian's Aug. 24 editorial on illegal immigration, you cite a study done by the Cato Institute that states that legalizing millions of illegal aliens would be a huge benefit economically.

One only has to look to our neighbor to the south, California, to be disabused of that notion. California, home to many of the undocumented workers in America, is bankrupt and billions of dollars in debt.

The fact is, the overwhelming majority of the illegal population contributes little or nothing in taxes but receives billions of dollars in state and federal largess. Amnesty would not change that.

As the 1986 amnesty proved, legalizing illegal aliens would only encourage more illegal immigration. That, in turn, would lead to more overcrowded schools and debased educational standards, rampant crime, the need to build more expensive prisons and a more overwhelmed healthcare system.

JIM LUDWICK
McMinnville

What a laugh to see The Oregonian holding up the Cato Institute as a font of wisdom. The Cato Institute represents the views of business interests that concern themselves with profit only, nothing else.

How about some diversity of viewpoint? How about spending an equal amount of ink on studies by the Center for Immigration Studies or the Federation for American Immigration Reform? Talk about managed news and slanted writing, this editorial is a textbook example of propaganda.

ELIZABETH VAN STAAVEREN
McMinnville

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Comments

filoviridae says...

lmfao. anybody remember rome? that's right, it collapsed under "barbarian" invasion after practicing the same asinine policies we are. let's invite a few of 'em, let 'em stay, make 'em citizens. next thing you know, they all want in and we can't keep 'em out.... our politicians lack the balls to have invaders shot. "they are people too!" they shout. "we need to reason with them!" they clamor. finally, "let's make them citizens because it's good for business". these are the same idiots that are paid by corporations to tell you that exporting jobs to china is good for the US economy. go back to sleep america, go back to sleep.

Posted on 08/24/09 at 10:15PM

shays says...

I would remind the Oregonian (and some letter writers, too) that we do not really have an immigration problem ... we have an employer problem. If employers did not hire workers who are here illegally, there would be no one here to take the non-existent jobs. It's that simple. Take away the jobs, and very few cross the borders (unless they are going home).

Posted on 08/25/09 at 6:49AM

sadoggie says...

To solve the illegal immigration problem along with legal immigrations taking money from employers and sending it back home I suggest a 25% surcharge on any cash being mailed, wired or transferred out of the US to any other country in the world. Revenue might be worth it and maybe illegal aliens would have the incentive to play by the rules or go home.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 7:16AM

dlwthit says...

Lest ye forget that these people come here to do the jobs that Americans won't do; rape teenage girls, grow fields pot on public lands, form street gangs, etc. See, they too contribute to American society in many ways. Now try to sneak across the southern border into Mexico and see what happens, aint no public assistance or push "2" for English waiting for you there.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 8:34AM

22holliwood says...

dlwthit,

Your right they do contribute by doing the same dirt as white males. Just less of it.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 8:57AM

Psage says...

I think street gangs were here long before the Latino community showed, up, they aren't growing pot to sell to other Latinos.

Maybe our bad habits, are fueling the issues that we blame on the illegals.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 9:30AM

Bilious says...

La Raza, MUCa and Latino Kings are not good for our Constitution, nor our borders, language and culture. They really want US out and their way in.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 9:55AM

Championlode says...

As citizens it is our right and responsibility to protect our country. The use of paid bounties on the heads of illegals is certainly worth considering.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 10:35AM

chargersfann says...

sorry shays yes we do have an immigration problem the laws are not strictly enforced like they need to be. the illegals need to be treated the same way our illegals are treated down in mexico long jail sentences. shays there are millions of americans including high school kids who will gladly pick crops and do these non existent jobs you claim americans wont do. at least with legal americans the money will stay at home and benefit our economy instead of being shipped off to mexico which dont help our economy at all. i agree with you sadoggie we need to severely restrict the level of money allowed to be shipped off to foreign countries including mexico. that will stop the using america to benefit their own

Posted on 08/25/09 at 10:59AM

bartlebee says...

22holliwood said:

"dlwthit,

Your right they do contribute by doing the same dirt as white males. Just less of it."

First, it's "you're", not "your". Second, you made the best possible argument AGAINST illegal immigration. We already have enough home grown criminals. We don't need to be importing criminals from other countries. The reason foreign criminals are committing fewer crimes overall here is because there are fewer foreign criminals here than there are American criminals.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 11:27AM

bartlebee says...

Psage said:

"Maybe our bad habits, are fueling the issues that we blame on the illegals."

Some of the bad habits that illegal aliens have that can't be blamed on Americans are entering our country illegally, stealing the ID's of Americans, document fraud, Social Security fraud, employment "I-9 Form" fraud, income tax evasion, and conspiracy to violate immigration laws.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 11:32AM

BellaBelotti says...

Please, do a field trip.

Take 99E south through Canby. Take a small detour when you get to Woodburn and drive through Old Town Woodburn. Continue on from there (Front St.?) and drive through Hubbard and Gervais and continue on into Salem. End your field trip with a stop at Salem's Lancaster Mall.

Draw your own conclusions.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 3:19PM

badankle says...

I am sick and tired of seeing pregnant mexicans with bunches of kids. Illegals are sucking our state/country dry. It's absolutely ridiculous that we have to even listen to "press 1 for english" or have to listen to messages in spanish before we can even go forward with our phone calls. The story that illegals help our economy and pay taxes is ridiculous. How can they be paying taxes when they are illegal and get paid under the table? They use our emergency rooms, have extra special help with their children and everything else and they don't speak english! I hate that.

Posted on 08/25/09 at 4:45PM

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