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June 23, 2006
Vallejo, CA

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Thursday, June 22

By Times-Herald readers

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The immigration debate

Both the self-righteous vitriol and the sentimental rationale pouring forth from the two sides of the immigration debate fail to address the real root of the problem.

The American people consistently refuse to accept the consequences of their rapacious consumerism. Until they do, there is no hope for a solution. We can imprison ourselves in a walled fortress, dig moats a mile wide and man the ramparts; it will all be to no avail.

The U. S. government and corporate powers have long ignored the sovereignty of nations and the well-being of their peoples in their ruthless manipulation of their governments and the arrogant appropriation of their natural resources in a massive effort to "bring home the bacon."

The contracts made with criminal autocrats for our benefit have condemned their citizens to poverty, ignorance and desperation.

The people who find their way to our country in an attempt to break that hopeless cycle are but a tiny symptom of the escalating injustice developed countries are perpetrating on the world as demand explodes and natural resources dwindle.

Had the United States been more concerned with benefit than profit, we would have long ago realized that in a world where all people are considered, illegal migration would never have been a problem.

Being the greedy bully on the playing field may feed our pride and our need to shop, but it has its repercussions. If we can't live with those repercussions we had better find a way to alter our priorities.

Don Thomann, Vallejo

The ambivalence among our elected officials on the case of illegal immigrants is exacting an additional toll to our taxpayers and our mounting national debt - now estimated to be \$8 trillion.

I share the opinions of those who are against the granting of amnesty as a quick fix to suppress the process of legal immigration.

The consequential benefits they contribute to upgrade our economy are nothing compared to the disastrous amount of money needed - estimated at \$78 billion by the Center for Immigration Studies - by our government for medicating, educating, feeding, incarcerating and providing services to this group.

The amnesty given to 2.8 million illegal immigrants in 1986 was a great incentive for would-be illegal aliens to come to the United States. The granting of amnesty eviscerates the process - rejecting laws built on the protection of the American people and of legal immigrants themselves.

Being a Christian nation founded on the bedrock foundation of love, mercy and compassion, to deport or incarcerate these illegal immigrants is of course inhumane.

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This is supported by the words of President Roosevelt when he said, and I quote, "We should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin."

But we are a government of laws that could not to be circumvented just to accommodate illegal immigrants. Our government should give an iron hand to our border control and relax the process of legal immigrants, tens of thousands of them whose visa applications have been put on hold by our immigration authorities.

In the United States Embassy alone, in Manila, thousands of them are enduring the harsh process of waiting. If the government could stretch to its limit the process of leniency to these people, I believe that they will not become public charge because the problem of educating them would not be a worry to the government. In fact they are all professionals - many of them are doctors and nurses who could fill up our hospitals, which are short of personnel.

It dazzles my imagination why illegal immigrants of lighter complexion than the brown Filipinos are given preferential privilege to use illegal means to immigrate to the United States and be given an instant citizenship.

Filipinos, a lighter version of the black race, have to wait 15 years or so to have their petition be approved and be given a visa to the United States, and another five years before they can qualify to apply for U.S. citizenship. To discriminate people by the color of their skin is repugnant to the principles of justice and righteousness upon which our government was established.

Being a veteran myself, my heart aches with sympathy to the Filipinos who were mercilessly deported. What kind of justice is it to discriminate these people in favor of those people of lighter complexion who came here deliberately against our immigration laws?

They are descendants of the most loyal friends of the United States in times of adversity who were willing to shed their blood and die for the cause of freedom under the American flag in World War II. For the U.S. government to disregard the valuable contribution in terms of blood and lives of the Filipino veterans (who up to this time are waiting for their promised benefits), constitutes a serious disgrace to the integrity of President Roosevelt, President Truman and the late General Douglas MacArthur, who promised them equal benefits.

Advertisement



The image shows a screenshot of the HomeSite Bay Area real estate search interface. At the top, there's a logo for 'HomeSite BAY'. Below the logo, there are three tabs: 'New Homes', 'Homes for Sale', and 'Rentals'. The 'Homes for Sale' tab is selected. The search form includes a 'Select a County' dropdown menu with 'SOLANO' selected, a 'Bedrooms' dropdown menu with 'Three' selected, and a 'Price' range from '250,000' to '550,000'. There is a 'Search' button and a link to 'Advanced Search'. Below the search form, there are three links: 'Search Real Estate Classifieds', 'New Homes Map Guide', and 'Open Home Directory'. At the bottom of the ad, there's a section titled 'REAL ESTATE STORIES' with two sub-headlines: 'Apartment rents staying the same' and 'Season is still hot for housing'.

REAL ESTATE STORIES

Apartment rents staying the same

Renting an apartment remained a relative bargain in the Bay Area and most Western markets during 2004 as weak tenant demand continued to handcuff landlords, according to a survey released Thursday.

Season is still hot for housing

The Bay Area's median home price stayed at a record level in December, as the colder weather could not chill the effect of low interest rates, low inventory and strong demand.

Marne Yasay, Vallejo

We've had enough

The defeat of Measure H should send a message to those in charge that enough is enough. The taxpayers have been abused so badly in the past by these type of measures passing, only to see the money earmarked for specific projects funneled elsewhere.

The public should not and will not stand for this any longer. Money has been available for the projects mentioned in Measure H at one time or another, and because of waste and mismanagement, they have never moved ahead. Now instead of getting their house in order, the politicians and labor unions teamed up to fleece us out of more money.

The public has had enough. We pass these measures and pay gasoline taxes through the nose and we have little or nothing to show for it. We see

these crooks dipping into transportation money for everything from paying bogus overtime, to replenishing a general fund that was depleted in the first place by the fiscal mismanagement and pork barrel projects.

The truth is, our freeways and potholes are not being fixed because our money is going out for pay raises and ludicrous contracts that are awarded to California's biggest drain: organized labor.

You know, those same people who are responsible for influencing elections by purchasing millions of dollars or airtime every election to run ads that are false and or intended to confuse the voters.

Thank God people saw through it this time. The voters have sent a message. Get your act together, fix our roads and use your resources more efficiently to get it done. The strategy of lying about public safety to get more money won't work anymore.

Voters understand that the people pushing these taxes always play the public safety card in an attempt to fool the public, and take the focus off the bad job they are doing and money that's already been wasted.

Bruce Castillo, Vallejo

'Critical issue' response

Leslie McGuire ("A critical issue," June 9) makes teenage suicide sound like a problem of magnitude by naming some numbers and omitting other numbers. A very, very small percentage of teens take their lives. The third leading cause is so small as to be insignificant as a number. The event is a tragedy and for the most part it can be avoided.

The fact is the majority of teenagers who do take their lives are on psychotropic drugs. The FDA has warned us of these consequences. Additionally, McGuire fails to mention that TeenScreen was developed by a psychiatrist who was paid by pharmaceutical companies. Do you think the pharmaceutical companies are out to prevent suicide? The only recommendation for teens that get screened is to see someone who can prescribe the very pharmaceuticals that cause depression and suicidal behavior.

If these people really wanted to help prevent teenagers from getting killed, why don't they pony up to the No. 1 and No. 2 killers of teens and save more lives?

The answer: There's no money in it.

Garrison Clarke, Altadena, Calif.

* * * *

Suicide is something everyone would like a solution for. However, it is not an epidemic. In fact, it is very rare. Of all the many other solutions that may be out there, mental health screening is the worst. It usually leads to more people being put on dangerous mind-altering psychiatric drugs. Money should be raised for other more important issues, like illiteracy.

Mental health screening is totally bogus; we will never get anywhere with it. Just research the facts about psychiatric drugs and their relation to mental health screening. And then take a look at their results. No workability. In fact, the usual "solution," psychiatric drugs, have been known to cause suicide in young adults, which was why the FDA issued the black box warning label.

With mental health screening being "the" solution, I'm afraid we would just be digging ourselves deeper into the hole.

Elizabeth Hallquist, Weston, Conn.

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