

Immigration

By Andrew Smith

Our country is extremely generous and possesses some of the greatest opportunities in the world. For these reasons people from all over the globe have come here in order to better themselves through the freedoms that only America provides. To insure that our generosity and opportunities aren't wasted by those that seek refuge inside our borders, certain laws must be enforced. These laws are there to protect and benefit the citizens of our country.

In order for a person to become a citizen they have to comply with a few very reasonable requirements. The first and most obvious is that you have to be able to speak, write, and understand simple English. Second, you cannot have any felony convictions. You must also show that you are not an immoral person. For example, a gambler by profession or a prostitute. You must pass a test on American history and culture, and you must be patriotic. These are the main requirements that someone would have to go through to become a citizen, according to the INS website.



There should be no tolerance for anyone to be an illegal immigrant. If you can't comply with our requirements then stay out of our country. I don't care if you're living in a country where oppression is everywhere or if you're starving or whatever the excuse. All these people have to do is just register as a refugee and then study so that they can be able to meet all of our requirements. It's not as if we're asking them to be indentured servants to earn citizenship. We aren't even asking these people to pay for their naturalization into our Country. It's simple. Follow the rules and your in. That is all America is asking from those that want to live here.

Apparently the requirements that our government decided on are too difficult for some to follow. I'll even bet that if I took a stroll through the Canal district in San Rafael that I would find a lot of people that would answer a question of mine with "que?", meaning that they don't speak English and don't know what the heck I'm talking about. Seems to me that the only reason why they can't speak English is because they are illegal. I mean it's no

earned it. The Irish and Asian people built the railroads and lived lives of poverty and oppression. Africans were stripped from their homeland and forced to work as slaves. Their fathers survived to spawn their children into freedom through all sorts of discrimination. The first settlers of this country risked their lives and sacrificed everything for freedom. I'll bet they would be angry to learn that illegal immigrants get in so easily because they don't want to put the work in to pass a test. I am sick of these people insulting us and our ancestors by just waltzing in and abusing our country. There should be no reason for this and America shouldn't be taking this while bending over.

wonder why 40% of all immigrants in America live in California. They live here because Mexico is right across the border, comprende? That's about 2.5 million people that aren't legally allowed to even work here. So, if they can't legally work, they have to make money illegal way. This might include drug dealing, robbery, or even welfare. Others prefer to work with manual labor while being paid under the table tax free.

I don't know why the INS doesn't do a thing about this. It would be so easy for them to bust these illegals. All they would have to do is just illegally hire them and if they can't provide the green card then it's bye bye for them. It would be just like a drug bust where the drug dealer is a cop. Bust them as they buy it. They should treat these people the way the cops would treat a suspected criminal. It can't be hard to find and detain the people that can't speak English. If a person looks suspicious then just stop them and ask a few questions, and if they answer "que?", detain them and see if they are legal. It seems so easy. People like this make our ancestors look like fools. They became American and

When I spoke to others about this, most said that they only ask for the immigrants to be able to speak our language. Others seem to think that there should be a huge wall along the Mexican/U.S. border. While these ideas are understandable, the problem doesn't end with Mexico. There are many types of illegal immigrants from many countries. Criminals usually flee here in order to escape their punishment. Our country has also been the home to a number of terrorists. For these reasons I feel like there has to be some major reforms in immigration policy. I just hope that it happens before our country rots from within.

Viewpoint

Reverse Racism

By ANDREW SMITH

It was 3 in the morning and I was tired from a day's work. I was having a hard time sleeping, and when I heard the voices of people outside my house, it only made it worse. I couldn't stand the noise, so I got dressed and went outside to shut it up. When I went out there, I saw around 20 people that were a minority and had been drinking. I was then called a "faggot" by one of them, and when I went to confront him, I was hit in the face by someone to my right. I didn't even see it, but the pain of my nose breaking and the warmth of my blood pulsing was enough to confirm what had happened. This was the start of a fight in which I almost lost my left ear when I was hit in the head by a nice-sized log that might have killed me. As I was on my way to the hospital, I was glad to know that the police had already had a number of them detained. As time passed, I found out that the people who did this weren't even punished. The only thing that happened was that the person who hit me was given a citation. When I heard the news I was outraged. I then thought about what would have happened if the roles were reversed. Think of it, a group of 20 drunken white males beating up one black kid. I would bet my life that the police or even the media would have handled it differently.

The O.J. Simpson trial is an obvious example. If O.J. were white, then he wouldn't have had a chance in proving reasonable doubt. The only defense he had was to convince the jury that the police officers were racist and conspired to frame him by planting false evidence. Tell me who the racist is there? Especially since there was no evidence confirming the accusations. I even wonder what the reaction would have been if Rodney King had been white. There was a total lack of coverage of the incident and if there wasn't a possible racist issue then the beating would most likely have been small news. The main story



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that we were told was how this innocent black man was beaten by a mob of white cops. The truth reveals something entirely different. There is a clear case of reverse discrimination here. Besides, have you ever heard the defense, "It's because I'm white, isn't it?" I think not.

Why is it that minorities get these special privileges? How is that fair? Is the white race eternally to blame for the mistreatment of minorities? I know that history gave a lot of minorities reason to hate white for the actions that were done to them, but it is all in the past. Take slavery, the internment camps of World War II or when the Mexicans were driven out of California. I understand there might be resentment, but our generation had nothing to do with it. Discrimination will never end as long as there is a grudge against white people. There is a lot of talk about how white people are racist, but in my opinion, it's the opposite. Minorities are so quick to judge people as being racist. I would know because it happened to me when I wrote my last article. Several Latinos had accused me of being racist when all I talked about in my article was *illegal* immigrants. Then I got into a fight with a Mexican I had never even met. Talk about discrimination. Well, I guess I don't count because I'm white, but reverse the roles and you have a "hate crime."

I bet minorities must love confusing the hell out of us white people by giving themselves politically correct names. I can't comfortably say "black person" without the possibility of offending someone. I have to say "African American." What is that about? If you're black, then everyone knows that you're African and since you're American I guess it's cool to put the two together. But you know black is black and if that is what you are then don't take offense at the truth. You can call me white all you want. I'm not going to think you're a racist if you don't say Irish, English and Polish American. I am just white and I am just an American. Get over it.

Then you have Latinos taking offense if you call them Mexican if they are Puerto Rican or something. Or the Asians getting pissed if you say Chinese when they are Korean. How are we supposed to know? If we get it wrong, give us

a break. It doesn't mean we're racist.

The most obvious case of reverse discrimination in my opinion would have to be affirmative action. Here, people are hired according to race, rather than qualification. For example, in 1995, Julia McLaughlin was denied admission to Boston Latin High School because of her race. She was white and lost her place at the school, even though her test scores were better than 100 other minority students who were accepted solely on their races. Just think, what did this 13-year-old girl do to deserve that? In short, she was rejected because she was white. So, all affirmative action is is reverse discrimination. Take the case of Sharon Taxman, a white New Jersey school teacher who was fired solely because the school had too many white teachers. When Sharon sued, the NAACP offered her \$300,000 to drop the case just so that this unconstitutional policy is kept in fact.

The times of wide-spread racism are over, but I think the resentment lives on for some. Quite a few Latinos commented on how they do all the hard work, and that white people don't work nearly as hard. I guess these people were trying to get me to appreciate Latinos more, but it only revealed a truth about how they felt about white people. Besides, it's not like anyone is forced to work a crappy job. Go to school and excel so that doesn't happen. Affirmative action is not the answer.

The past 40 years have brought about huge changes in white people's opinions of minorities. I think the next step doesn't lie with the white population. In order for there to be less tension among the races, forgiveness has to be given. We must remove our prejudices. You can't change the past, you can only start over. Instead of blaming an entire race, just blame the individuals who perform the wrong doings. History has dealt certain races a crummy hand, but it doesn't help when people try to fix discrimination with reverse discrimination. Just remember, hate everyone equally and don't discriminate.

Andrew Smith, 18, is a senior at Novato High School and writes for the school newspaper, *The Buzz*. This opinion piece was removed from *The Buzz*.