



## Immigration bill does little to prevent illegal immigration

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The borders between the U.S. and Mexico have always been a topic of serious debate. The security of the borders is not as safe as the American government thinks it should be and many illegal immigrants and drug imports have entered because of the lack of security. Recently, the U.S. Senate considered passing a law that would protect the American border from illegal immigrants and drugs. This law proposes, among other things, to put up a wall on the border, but this is not enough. While the law does add more protection, the Senate needs to find more efficient ways to improve the security on the border.

"It is estimated that there are about 11 million illegal aliens in the country. Some people feel that illegal aliens should be sent out of the country because they did not enter the country legally. Others feel that they do the jobs that most American citizens do not take and, therefore, help the economy," said Social Science Department Chair Paul Kolimas. There is a reason for the American government to take action for protection along the border, but they need to do it right.

The new law, introduced by Arizona Senator Jon Kyl (R), would double the size of the border patrol and add 200 miles of vehicle barriers. Also, the judiciary committee members approved an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act that would replace old fencing in Arizona. The government is right in believing that there is an immigration and drug problem, but to add to what is already there is unnecessary.

The law-makers are going to attempt to enforce the border by using more man power and wall protection. To few this may work, but the active citizens who are involved in the battle of illegal immigrants know this will not. Director of the Border- Action-Network, a Tucson- based social- justice group that advocates for civil rights and human dignity, Jennifer Allen, said the latest measure comes from the same out of touch mind set as previous proposals, in an *Arizona Daily Star* article. Also, Johnny Bernal, a spokesman for the Tucson Sector, believes that the new law needs more. He said that what they are proposing is not enough; the Senators have the right idea, but need to do more. These claims may seem far-fetched, but these people are living by the border and experience illegal immigrants and drug transporting everyday.

By using their claims as prime evidence anyone can see that the law will not work. Other actions need to be taken. Everyone

knows that illegal immigrants are a problem in America, but no one does anything. Senator Kyl may think he is improving the situation, but in reality, he is just wasting government money and time. If a wall is up, all anyone needs to do is walk around it. To really improve the situation, the government needs to have a wall that people cannot penetrate. This would mean that the wall would have to connect from California all the way down to Texas.

America has always had problems with illegal aliens. The majority of these aliens come from Mexico. This poses a problem for the U.S. government because Mexico is so close. The Pew Hispanic Trust, a center that surveys the number of Mexicans living in the U.S., estimates that there are 10 to 12 million undocumented workers in the U.S. These numbers are far too high, so the government is trying to implement stricter regulations on immigrants. Along with overpopulating America, immigrants also take jobs away from legal American citizens. This is a major reason for the U.S. to make a law concerning the Mexican-American border, but because the law is not as detailed as it should be and illegal immigrants and drug possession will still happen. "It is very difficult to control illegal immigration because the border cannot be completely protected at every spot," said Kolimas.

The immigration law has disrupted many people's lives, even if they may not be directly affected by the law. U.S. senators need to realize that they are not only affecting the illegal immigrants but they also have family members. The 14th amendment clearly states that any child born in the U.S. is a citizen of the U.S. Even with that knowledge, the new law is frightening for some children of illegal immigrants.

On March 10, in Chicago about 300,000 immigrants marched on behalf of their rights. Some people were there for themselves, also teenage students marching. The students were there because they believed the new law would affect them, as well as their parents. Their parents would have to leave, and they would have to go with them. Even if they did not have to leave, they would still be discriminated against because of their families.

The immigration law requires more than what the American government can provide. There are ways to discourage illegal immigrants and drug trafficking, but this is not one of them. While it may seem like a lot to ask of the government, immigrants and drug trafficking are harming American citizens' everyday. If the government really wants to protect its citizens, they should find a better form of security.

## H-F students should be more tolerant of differences

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Last Wednesday, a few brave H-F students wore shirts to school that read "gay? fine by me." that were meant to promote tolerance. It seems that those students are fighting a losing battle in today's society where the majority of high school students are intolerant of homosexuality. High school students should open their minds to those who are different from them.

The Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) sponsored the sale of the "gay? fine by me." shirts. Last year, the shirts caused a large controversy within the H-F community, as local church youth groups wore shirts that read "Crimes Committed Against God" on the same day. Major news networks, such as ABC, were here to cover the event. "The idea of the shirts is to promote acceptance, not to create conflict. The Christian groups do have the right to wear their own shirts, but wearing them on the same day as the "gay? fine by me." shirts only leads to more homophobia and intolerance," said GSA co-sponsor Myras Osman.

This year is vastly different. The H-F Administration informed the GSA that they would not be allowed to sell shirts in the cafeteria. Instead, the shirts were sold out of Osman's classroom in order to avoid opposition groups. The fact that people would feel the need to mount a campaign against something meant to promote

tolerance is yet another indicator of how intolerant and close-minded many teenagers are today. "I believe the GSA should have been allowed to sell shirts in the cafeteria, because I do not see the difference between selling in the cafeteria and selling in a classroom. Either way, the shirts are being sold in school," said GSA co-sponsor Peter Gizyn.

Osman stated that he was told by the H-F Administration that local church groups were more organized this year and were planning to be even more involved in protesting the "gay? fine by me." shirts. One of the main tenets of Christianity is to be accepting and loving toward all people, so Christians who protest the shirts are violating one of the main principles of their religion. "I am appalled by the hypocrisy of so-called Christian groups that hide behind their Christianity to justify bigotry and homophobia," said Osman.

High school students will eventually enter the real world where homosexuals occupy the same jobs and lead very similar lifestyles to straight people. Intolerance does not reflect well on anyone in the workplace or in the community. Being gay does not make someone evil or impaired in any way, and sexual orientation is no reason to isolate people. To live and work in a peaceful environment, everyone must show respect for other people. High school students should come to their senses and realize that homosexuals are people too.

## Extreme Cases of High School Violence

**April, 1999 Columbine High School, Colorado:** Two students went on a shooting rampage, killing 13 people and injuring 21 others before shooting themselves.

**November, 2004 Valpraiso High School, Indiana:** A 15-year-old student stabbed five other students. No fatalities occurred.

**March 2005 Red Lake High School, Minnesota:** One student brought a gun to school and killed a total of ten people including his grandparents, a security guard, a teacher, five students, and himself.

## Protesting students deserve better security

On April 4, more than 150 high school students from Kennedy High School, a Chicago Public School (CPS), led a demonstration demanding better security for their school. This demonstration was in response to a beating that occurred the previous week when four students were charged with battery but were not convicted or expelled, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. The protesting students say that they no longer feel safe at school, and encouraged the administration to provide more security for the school, even if it means having police officers in classes, according to the *Chicago Tribune*. The demands of these students should be met because it is very disturbing that students feel so unsafe in school. School is a place where students should feel safe, and at Kennedy High School, it is evident that many do not.

According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, there has been a 56 percent rise in violent incidents this year as compared to last year. "Kennedy is a good school. The only problem is that it is on the verge of becoming a bad school. We would like to have more security guards and know that we are safe in the school," said Kennedy High School Senior Class President Ibtesam Saleh, who took part in the



by Julie Carlisle

protesting, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Saleh also reported that currently, a fight occurs at school nearly every day. Kennedy High School students should be acknowledged for standing up for their rights and protesting against the unsafe environment. The administration should take their claims seriously and act in response.

School is a place where students should always feel safe. This is obviously not always the case for every student in every school, but when many students from one school admit that they feel unsafe, there are obviously some big problems with that school. Kennedy High School currently has 18 security guards and two police officers to ensure the protection of its 1,700 students, but more security is necessary due to the rise in violence at the school. H-F, on the other hand, provides its students with sufficient security. "H-F has about ten security guards on duty at all times. At H-F, we are lucky because physical violence does not occur very frequently, but when it does we are prepared," said H-F Security Guard T.J. Volden.

Students should not be worried about their personal safety when they are at school. H-F students are lucky to have sufficient security with less violence than other schools. The Kennedy High School students that participated in the protest April 4 should be acknowledged for their attempts to defend their rights, and their demands should be met by the school administration immediately.