

## LETTERS:

### In My Opinion:

#### Is Arkansas part of America?

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### **Body**

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The Editors: Three decades ago, my family immigrated to the United States from Arkansas. There was no border patrol or fence; the only barrier was of the mind. We just crossed the Mississippi River and we were in: Arkansas Wetbacks. We made our way north to Maryland and found good schools and jobs, but there was no welcoming committee to inform us of our rights as citizens. It was just accepted that we would make do.

There were cultural problems. When we arrived, there was talk of Vietnam, Red Guards in China and an English invasion led by the Beatles. It was 1966, I was 11, and I had not heard of any of these. I wondered which of the three represented the greatest danger. Teachers had difficulty understanding my accent. Fortunately a fellow immigrant, from Virginia, was able to interpret.

Now, I know that Arkansas is part of America. But are Arkansans part of America?

Americans are exhorted to believe that newcomers represent new blood and enthusiasm for an old dream of freedom and democracy. But the ongoing American civil war has been an unachievable equality: We have the virtually open borders advocated by the money men of Wall Street, the New Order and the One World faith. On the other hand, we have to contend with affirmative action, which draws no distinction between a disadvantaged citizen and one who is merely not of North European ancestry. Without borders, do we have a country? Without fair representation, do we have a government?

Someday, other American kids will want to immigrate to America. Will it be there for them?

Bruce Wilhite is a Merchant Marine engineering officer. His four children keep him busy, but he finds time to garden and play guitar. He has lived in Marietta for 10 years.

To have your opinion considered for this special feature, please include a photo, brief biography and a telephone number. Mail your submissions to: Journal Editorial, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, Ga. 30302.

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