

**Guest Worker Programs Do a World of Harm;**  
**Native-Born Displaced**

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## **Body**

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To the Editor:

Re "Foreign **Workers**, American Dream" (Op-Ed, June 1): Julian L. Simon, in his plea for a renewed "bracero" **quest-worker program**, quotes the leading scholar in the field, George J. Borjas of the University of California at San Diego, as saying there is "no evidence" that immigration adversely affects **native-born** earnings.

But Mr. Borjas has subsequently concluded that such evidence does exist (see his "Economics of Immigration" in last December's Journal of Economic Literature). Mr. Simon should remember this, because I pointed it out to him when we debated my book "Alien Nation: Common Sense About America's Immigration Disaster" at a National Review Institute conference.

I also pointed out that in Mr. Simon's book "The Economic Consequences of Immigration," he repeatedly concedes that while immigrants may make more jobs than they take in aggregate, they do **displace** specific groups of **native-born** Americans. And there is no guarantee that the groups **displaced** get the benefits.

Nevertheless, I applaud Mr. Simon's courage in proposing a **quest-worker program** (which I endorse). For too many on both left and right, immigration policy is a sacred cow. By blindly dismissing any reform effort as "racist," these immigration enthusiasts make public explosion inevitable.

PETER BRIMELOW

New York, June 1, 1995

The writer is a senior editor at Forbes magazine.

## **Graphic**

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Drawing.

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