

UNCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT IMMIGRATION

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Body

I want to thank Joe Rodriguez for the June 20 commentary "Immigrant myths stoke Wilson's fire."

Many Californians have been provided with inaccurate information about the impact of immigration on our state's economy and have been led to the erroneous belief that our current fiscal problems can be traced to immigration.

What better way for Gov. Pete Wilson to explain his failed leadership than to blame a group that can't vote? Recent immigrants tend to be too afraid about their legal status to make any sort of political commotion about his wild accusations. Lawful residents who have not become U.S. citizens cannot vote him out.

As pointed out by Rodriguez, statistics and countless studies show that immigrants benefit California's economy and contributed in a myriad of ways to our economic successes of the past. Immigrants neither come to abuse welfare, nor to have children in Los Angeles public hospitals, nor to overrun California's schools; immigrants come to work.

Rather than attribute his failed governorship to immigration, Wilson and our other elected leaders should take a hard look at California's economic problems and provide a vision that will lead California into the next century. Finding a scapegoat is just too easy.

-- Jean Russell

Los Altos

* It is unfortunate that Rodriguez fails to differentiate between legal and illegal immigrants.

By definition, "illegal" means against the law, be it crossing borders, exceeding speed limits or committing burglary. I am sure the Mercury News does not support those activities and I am therefore puzzled by the doublethink relating to immigration.

Every sovereign country has defined borders and has the right to defend the integrity of those borders and to determine the conditions of admittance of legal immigrants.

-- Jan Black

Cupertino

* The way the June 20 editorial "Truth of the border" made it sound, Pete Wilson is the sole reason we have immigrant bashing.

Never once did it mention that our two U.S. senators from California, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, have made just as damning statements. Who can forget Feinstein's proposal that illegal immigrants get fined for

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attempting to cross the border? Who can forget Boxer's claim that we should place the National Guard on those same borders?

-- Michael S. Cini

San Jose

Notes

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