

Letters:

Make employers responsible for undocumented workers

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Byline: SYLVIA CORREA; Atlanta

Body

The Editors: The Immigration and Naturalization Service's raids on construction sites and businesses and its highway stops make for good newspaper copy and riveting televised news, but Operation SouthPAW is designed only to appease angry white males.

Truth is, wherever you find an undocumented worker, you will find a worker that is being exploited by his or her employer. Employers pay undocumented workers less than market rate and often even less than minimum wages. Undocumented workers have no right of recourse against the illegal acts of their employers.

If INS is really serious about stopping employment of undocumented workers, it would levy serious fines and seek criminal charges against employers. It would make follow-up visits to the work sites and businesses to ensure continuing compliance.

The INS should not accept the ridiculous excuse (offered at the Olympic Village and Federal Center construction projects) that undocumented workers seized were employees of subcontractors. Builders must be held accountable for the subcontractors they select and the contracting entity must, in turn, be held accountable for the builders to whom they award contracts.

Correa is president of the Georgia Hispanic Alliance Inc.

Name the name

JACK KARPUS, Marietta

The Editors: I am concerned about the article on illegal immigrant workers. Brick subcontractors like myself are placed in a false light when the company name of the subcontractor hiring illegal workers is not provided.

By not naming the bricklaying subcontractor, the article makes all bricklaying subcontractors in Atlanta guilty by association.

I am a Russian bricklaying subcontractor, and after reading this article, I believe that my hard-earned reputation has been tarnished. The brick subcontractor community is small, and an article such as this has the potential to destroy a company's reputation within the industry.

As one of the companies involved in the construction of the Olympic Village at Georgia Tech, my company gained high exposure in the industry. The article, unfortunately, can destroy that in one fell swoop.

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Karpus owns J & J Masonry.

A complete lie

DEBORAH WILLIAMS, Lilburn

The Editors: I'm appalled at the opinion of George Annas, director of the law, medicine and ethics program at Boston University, on organ transplants: "Virtually everybody who has had an organ give out on them before the reasonable time for them to die has done something - smoking, drinking, some lifestyle thing."

Virtually everybody who has had an organ give out on them is not responsible for their illness due to "some lifestyle thing"! I'm glad to see some coverage on liver disease as I have hepatitis C, but the statement Annas made is a complete lie.

More accidents

DAVID P. MILLARD, Marietta

The Editors: Thursday was not a good day for the evening commute from Atlanta to Cobb County. A car towing a trailer flipped over, blocking two lanes of I-75 and I-285 and causing a two-hour nightmare. Ironically, during my ride up I-75, the bright and very funny ad for the reconfiguration of I-75 inside the I-285 loop was aired several times.

The state Department of Transportation has decided that the commute is not pleasant enough for Cobb residents, what we really need is to have the lanes narrowed by a foot, the shoulders and emergency lane removed and a high occupancy vehicle lane added.

When the reconfiguration is finished, the highway will have one more lane but will be far less safe, and accidents like the one Thursday will be more common.

It's inherent

D.S. WILSON, Acworth

The Editors: I read with amusement Colin Campbell's complaints about the inefficiency of local government. He has not received his auto registration and his check has not cleared. Government is inherently inefficient. This is what you get with an institutionalized rule of one party.

Miller is covered

LLOYD GAYTON, Concord

The Editors: Your editorial titled "Time is ripe for Georgia to clear decks, economize" made some interesting points. However, the comment that Gov. Zell Miller has no political reason to get the Statehouse in order doesn't give him any credit for his political savvy and declares that politically, Miller is history.

Despite saying he wants to leave things rosy for the next governor, you don't credit him for realizing that what he'll really leave is a state deeply in debt and facing some lean times after his building programs run out. How can you ignore Miller's ability to position himself so that he's covered no matter what?

I think he might like the sound of "Sen. Miller" or "Congressman Miller."

More control

CONRAD FREEMAN, Atlanta

The Editors: What did Sen. Dole really say? He said the record and movie industries should be more responsible. We restrict alcohol and tobacco. Well, let's limit movies and records.

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Let's put the records in the adult section and let parents or guardians purchase them. That way, the industry has exercised more control and parents and guardians have taken responsibility.

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