

## **No Headline In Original**

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**Section:** Commentary; State and Regional

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### **Body**

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A sampling of **editorials** from around Colorado

Eds: SUBS first graf to CORRECT typo in 'reform'

By The Associated Press

The Denver Post, Jan. 5, 2006, on **immigration** reform:

**Lawmakers** are **proposing** a **flurry** of **bills** to **address** the **impact** of **illegal immigration**. It is a **sensitive issue** that **will require** a **bipartisan approach**.

**Illegal immigration** is a political and economic headache that is sure to get an exhaustive hearing this year in Washington and Colorado. With an estimated 200,000 undocumented people in our state, the rhetoric won't be for the faint of heart.

**Lawmakers** from both parties are **proposing** a **flurry** of reform **bills**, while former Gov. Richard Lamm is organizing a citizen initiative for November that would strip non-essential state services from illegals.

"This is a referendum on whether or not (**illegal immigration**) is acceptable to Coloradans," Lamm said. "We are trying to say, 'Look, folks, this hurts the average Coloradan and this is a drain on your taxpayer dollars.' "

Nationally, President Bush is pushing his guest-worker program while a contingent of House Republicans, led by Colorado's Tom Tancredo, are putting up roadblocks, intent on building a wall along our southern border while quashing any amnesty plan. The House last month pushed through a **bill** to tighten border security and **require** employers to check the status of workers, but it failed to **address** the guest-worker **issue**.

Amnesty matters because some 10 million to 12 million illegals already are in this country. Some estimates suggest it costs U.S. taxpayers \$10 billion a year to provide medical and income assistance and education.

It's a **sensitive** subject that needs to be dealt with in a reasoned manner. Unfortunately, **immigration** discussions, whether in the halls of Congress or over a kitchen table in Park Hill, too often end up laced with ugly racial overtones.

As legislation progresses through the statehouse and Congress, we hope a political filtering process **will** choke off the extreme measures, tamping down some of the fears of xenophobia or racism.

With a majority of Americans supporting some type of reform, whether it's stemming the tide of illegals streaming across the border or creating a guest-worker program, there's room for **bipartisan** compromise. The McCain-Kennedy **bill** is a good example - it came about after much wrangling between the **lawmakers** and various

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constituencies. It would beef up border security and technology while allowing U.S. companies to hire foreigners under temporary visas if they can prove they were unable to hire American workers.

Statehouse Democrats are considering several ideas, from requiring all high school seniors to speak English to passing a resolution that urges Congress to take up significant immigration reform. Republicans want to tighten law enforcement and punish companies that hire undocumented workers.

No one seems keen to meet voters this fall and say they haven't done anything on immigration. A bipartisan effort, both in Congress and Colorado, is the best shot for creating sensible reform.

**Editorial:** <http://www.denverpost.com/editorials/ci-3372057>

The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colo., Jan. 6, 2006, on national forest access:

National forest lands have been managed for "multiple uses" since the system's creation a century ago, based on the premise that public lands belong to all the people and should be managed for both aesthetic and economic benefits. But that time-proven policy is in danger of being overturned on half the national forest land in Colorado if special interests pushing for the codification of Clinton administration "roadless areas" get their way. ...

The focus on roads is an unfortunate detour, because what this is really about is who will have access to our national forests. Will we retain the traditional multiple use mandate, or close off a vast swath of these lands to most people and most uses? "Land of many uses" has long been the slogan affixed to Forest Service signs. Roadless advocates would like to change those to "No Trespassing" signs.

There are 14.5 million acres of national forest in the state. Roughly 3.3 million of those acres already are designated as wilderness, severely restricting access and industry. Add to that 4.4 million acres of "roadless areas" proposed by the Clinton administration and you cut by half the lands that still would be managed for multiple uses, since roads are critical to most of those uses.

But that's exactly what the special interests backing roadless areas want. Environmentalists want to oust ranchers, miners, loggers, energy companies and certain kinds of recreationists from the national forests. Hunting and angling groups want to have these playgrounds to themselves. And recreational snobs, who look down their noses at anyone not able or inclined to rough it in the backcountry, also are behind the exclusionist trend.

These groups were upset when Clinton's slippery attempt to overturn the multiple-use mandate on 60 million acres of national forest was thrown out by a federal judge, who called it an illegal scheme to create wilderness areas without consulting Congress. Now that the Bush administration has bucked the decision to states, these groups are mobilizing to salvage Clinton's land grab. And unless average Americans speak up, the exclusionists will succeed.

Clinton's roadless plan wasn't just dishonest, it was foolhardy, coming at a time when more, not less, access to fire- and disease-prone national forests is needed. These forests are desperately in need of hands-on management, in response to the wildfire threat and insect infestations. But this becomes much harder without the access that roads provide.

Continued access to national forests for miners, energy companies and timber cutters also remains a national priority, unless we are prepared to go without these economically and strategically important commodities. Without roads, these and other economically beneficial activities will be impossible. And the notion that more roads will lead to the rape of these lands is ridiculous: Plenty of safeguards exist to ensure these activities are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

Many recreationists also will find access to the national forests curtailed if the roadless concept is embraced. Not every American has the strength, know-how or inclination to do the wilderness experience. And creating de-facto wilderness areas in half Colorado's forests would be a blow to those who enjoy the outdoors in less rugged ways. The aversion to forest roads by hunters and anglers is odd, even hypocritical, unless these groups expect us to believe they don't already make good use of such roads when doing their thing.

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The multiple-use mandate, though imperfect, has served the nation well for a century. Clinton was wrong to try and rescind it through executive action, by conducting an end-run around Congress. Had he shown more sense, we might have been spared years of controversy and court battles.

To work, multiple use requires that various "stakeholder groups" recognize the need to share, rather than dominate, these lands. But special interests, by definition, pursue narrow and self-serving goals. So unless average Americans speak up, and insist on retaining the multiple uses of their public lands, the exclusionist element will carry the day.

Paper: <http://www.gazette.com>

Daily Times-Call, Longmont, Colo., Jan. 3, 2006, on DNA and justice:

Since President Bush announced a national push to advance justice through DNA testing in 2003 - backing it with the promise of \$1 billion over five years - Colorado investigators have identified 100 genetic profiles of crime suspects.

Not all of those have been tied to names - some have - but those findings are being compared to the national database of DNA profiles in an effort to solve homicides and rape cases long unsolved. Without money from the president's DNA initiative, state and local investigators would not have been able to identify specific suspects, pull homicide and rape cases out of the cold case drawer and work on arresting the culprits.

With federal money intended to improve DNA crime labs and \$2.4 million from the state for a laboratory robotics system, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation has reduced the backlog of casework, as well. CBI can now turn around information on a DNA sample in 120 or fewer days.

But perhaps the most important thing that the president's initiative to improve DNA crime labs and as a result solve thousands of cold cases nationwide has done is to revive interest in "unsolvable" cases.

It has encouraged police agencies to evaluate cold homicides and sexual assaults, according to CBI agent-in-charge Ronald Arndt.

Kudos to investigation teams taking on the work to provide an answer for Colorado women and families who gave up hope of convictions ages ago and to agents working on identifying genetic profiles to make convictions possible.

Editorials: <http://www.longmontfyi.com/opinion.asp>

Pueblo Chieftain, Pueblo, Colo., Jan. 3, 2006, on Army spending:

The U.S. Army can't account for \$68 million in parts and tools shipped to contractors for repairs in 2004 because it doesn't demand receipts. That was the recent finding of congressional auditors.

Although the Defense Department policy requires the military services to confirm receipt of all assets shipped to contractors, the Army is not consistently recording shipment receipts in its inventory management systems, the Government Accountability Office said. In earlier audits, the GAO found a similar lack of basic accounting oversight with Navy and Air Force parts and tool shipments.

Each year, the Army ships thousands of items - ranging from small tools to turbine engines - to private contractors for repair, alterations or modifications. Looking at data from two inventory control points, the GAO investigators said 15 percent - or \$68 million - of the unclassified shipments they analyzed "could not be confirmed as being received."

The GAO said another \$481.7 million in unclassified items shipped for repair - about 42 percent - couldn't be reconciled with shipping records. Discrepancies also were found in records for 37 percent, or about \$8.1 million shipments, of classified parts and tools.

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In other words, on the basis of records receipts maintained in its inventory management systems, the Army cannot confirm that a substantial portion of its inventory items shipped to repair contracts were in fact received.

The GAO said the head of the Army's Material Command should look at providing contractors advance notice of shipments, **require** quarterly status reports and better document contractors' receipt of shipments. We agree, and happily so did Jack Bell, the deputy under secretary of defense for logistics and materiel readiness.

The Army plans to shore up its practices. When so much materiel cannot be accounted for, there is great suspicion that some may have been pilfered.

The taxpayers deserve better.

**Editorial:** <http://www.chieftain.com/editorial/1136271600/1>

## Classification

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**Subject:** **IMMIGRATION** (94%); **ILLEGAL** IMMIGRANTS (91%); **IMMIGRATION** LAW (90%); FOREIGN LABOR (90%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (89%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (89%); BORDER CONTROL (89%); US STATE GOVERNMENT (89%); RECRUITMENT & HIRING (87%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (85%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (78%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (77%); LEGISLATION (77%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (77%); REFERENDUMS (74%); VOTERS & VOTING (73%); NATIONAL SECURITY (70%); AMNESTY (68%); RACE & ETHNICITY (66%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (63%); HIGH SCHOOLS (63%)

**Company:** DENVER, CO, USA (79%)

**Organization:** UNITED STATES (96%)

**Industry:** HIGH SCHOOLS (63%)

**Person:** THOMAS G TANCREDO (57%)

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