

# Sophomore offers opinion on immigrants

Dear Bagpiper Staff,

A rebuttal to the article "With Liberty and Justice for all"

I am writing this rebuttal, not just because I personally disagree with the position of the author, but because I feel that this article's issue goes deeper than just a disagreement on politics. This article is misleading, factually untrue, and a borderline lie. I realize that this article is an opinion in the Forum section, however, the idea that it is honest, which is important for a true argument, is a falsehood. The article begins by trying to paint the Native Americans as peaceful people that did not commit any crimes against the settlers and Europeans. War was not foreign to the Native Americans. Tribes had been warring against each other since they crossed the Bering Sea Land Bridge. When cultures clash, there are bound to be casualties. There were massacres by both sides and neither side was innocent. The wars against the natives was not just Europeans killing for sport. In fact, most natives were killed by illness (And no, there are no accounts of smallpox-infected

blankets at all. This makes no sense, as the idea of germs was not accepted.) Europeans did not kill all of the natives. In fact, they became allies in many cases, because certain tribes were tired of being brutalized by others. Yes, I realize that horrible actions were committed, but to insinuate what you did is a plain violation of the facts.

The major problem with this article is that the author blurs the line between illegal and legal immigrants. There is a major difference and this difference is what truly makes this article a piece of fiction. A legal immigrant is a person who moves to the United States through the proper channels and does exactly what they are supposed to do. The United States admits a million people a year legally, and in many cases, these people could use more vetting. An illegal immigrant is a person who circumvents the immigration system and commits a federal crime, therefore, all illegal immigrants are criminals, some more than others. The only statistic in this article is one claiming that immigrants commit less crime than their counterparts.

However, the concern is not legal immigrants, since they come to this country, for the most part, to better their lives. The concern is with illegal immigrants, who are not supposed to be here in the first place. We have to separate illegal from legal, which is what the author fails to do. As for illegal immigrant crime statistics, some can easily be found at the website for the Government Accountability Office.

These illegal immigrants are not just people fleeing terror and turmoil. Many of them are criminals. The author also says that people tend to expect illegal immigrants to come from neighboring countries. The reason for this might be because Europe, Asia and Africa are separated from us by the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. People are not swimming over here from the other side of the world. The estimate that there are 11 million illegal immigrants is very false. This number has been used for 20 years, and the idea that millions of illegal immigrants have entered the country over this 20 years without the number changing makes no sense. The

correct estimate is around 20-30 million (Yale-MIT Study, 2016). It is also mentioned that there are many illegal people from across the pond. This is true because of many people on overstayed visas. Less than half of all illegal immigrants are here on overstayed visas, meaning a large majority are from neighboring countries, and they don't make our situation better. Illegal immigrants cost the federal government 116 billion dollars annually. This is way more than the price of a wall, which is quoted, at most, to be 20 billion dollars. A wall would pay for itself surprisingly quickly. Illegal immigrants are known for stealing social security numbers from people so that they can get welfare or work, but not pay back into the system, but instead many send money back to their home countries.

Race has nothing to do with our immigration system. For starters, people from Central America are not their own race. Hispanic is not a race. It is an ethnicity. So, the idea of a wall or border security being racist is factually incorrect. Border security needed to protect the citizens of the United States from

those outside of our borders because we do not know who they are. Securing our border is not, as many of those on the left claim, "a way to make America more white." This is a falsehood. To call those who want this to stop along with incidents like the murders of Kate Steinle, or Ronil Singh racist, is insulting and morally inconsistent. These people, along with countless others, were murdered by illegal immigrants who had no business being here in the first place. Many of these illegal aliens had been deported and returned multiple times. The man who murdered Kate Steinle had been deported five times and still returned.

This rebuttal's purpose is not to fight over policy, but to inform the readers of the Floyd Central Bagpiper that this article is not to be thought of as fact. The facts can be backed up easily by research. This rebuttal is based in fact, not feelings. I hope to be able to bring another view to this newspaper, and to better inform the readers, who otherwise are restricted to one, poorly supported opinion.

Sincerely,

Liam Roggenkamp



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