

Editorial

Immigration Issues Raise Questions

The United States is a nation of citizens who come from widely disparate backgrounds and cultures. This has created a history, which cannot be ignored when dealing with immigration issues. A nation of immigrants cannot turn its back on immigrants who seek to come to our shores.

But when is it too much? At what point are we saturated?

Illegal immigration does not help. It creates a society of undocumented, illegal immigrants, who are a threat, both to our rule of law and to themselves.

We need to allow legal immigrants to come into our country by following our rules and requirements. We need secure borders.

We also need new immigrants who are willing to struggle, work hard and ascend the economic ladder to live the American dream—if not for themselves, then, like millions before them, for their children and grandchildren.

How do we balance a need for new immigrants, who will become American citizens, yet secure our borders? And what do we do with the estimated 12 million

illegal immigrants who are in this country now?

The answers are not simple, and no one seems to have a complete solution. The president and congress have some good points in their respective plans, but separately and together, these are not enough.

We cannot reward illegal entry, for this would only encourage more illegal aliens to come to our shores. Nor can we close our doors, denying any hope of entry. That, too, would only encourage desperate, surreptitious attempts to enter the United States and remain here.

The best solution we see is to make it fair to come here. We should not discriminate against any group. But we should also make sure that any prerequisites we establish are met. Health, basic knowledge, an ability to work, prospects of gainful employment are all minimum standards set by other countries in the industrialized world as requirements for entry. We would do well to follow suit. America being the land of the free, a desire for freedom and a love of democracy would not be out of place for immigrants to profess.

As for the illegals who are here now, if

we can make our borders secure and devise a plan to allow sought-for legal immigration, there could be a phasing-in of illegal immigrants. They could voluntarily seek to conform to our new standards and apply for legal entry status. If done over a period of years, this would prevent our economy and any one region of our country from going into shock over a flood of immigrants or their sudden absence from the scene, either of which scenarios would have a profound and lasting undesired impact.

We urge that this solution or one like it be adopted soon. We need a fast, fair and economically feasible solution to this issue. "Remember, remember always that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists [sic]," President Franklin D. Roosevelt told the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1938. Present-day "immigrants and revolutionists" will make America even stronger and safer than it presently is—but only if those immigrants can enter this country legally so they can profess full allegiance to the United States of America.



Letters
to the
Editor

No Generators Here

To The Editor:

Your March 29 story, "2 Condo Towers To Rise In Bd. 1" [by Richard Gentilviso; page 8] makes a reference to "the proximity of Con Ed generators" in CB 1.

Con Edison has no generators in Community Board 1, and no permanent generators in Queens.

Thanks for sharing this with your readers.

Chris Olert

Assistant Director

Media Relations

Consolidated Edison

Mind Can Heal

To The Editor:

I thought some of your readers might be interested in reading about little known or seldom discussed facts.

What do the three most famous doctors in recorded time have in common? No, it's not medicine; it is the power of the mind. If the proper medicine were available, these medical men would place as much faith in the mind as in medicine.

Hippocrates (477 B.C.) the Father of Medicine, said, "There is no greater medicine than the mind."

Sir William Osler (1849–1919), Canadian physician of modern medicine, said, "The care of tuberculosis depends more on what is in the patient's head than what he has in his chest."

Dr. Hans Selye (1904–82), pioneer in stress in the early '30s, said, "I found that a person got well not because of the treatment I gave him but because of his cheerful emotions."

And we'll end with Proverbs 17:22 which sums it up neatly: "A joyful heart is good medicine."

Sincerely,

John Favicchio

Flushing

Novel Raises Questions

To The Editor:

One of the most controversial books of our times, *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, now is coming out as a movie May 19, starring Tom Hanks. Now I've read the book and found it fascinating and thought provoking from a spiritual point of view.

It is a book that now has sold 40 million copies worldwide. Yet one has to remember it is a work of fiction. It has all the elements of a good book—it has mystery, murder, conspiracy, and betrayal, not to mention secret societies and codes.

The basic premise is that Mary

Magdalene was more than a follower of Jesus, [possibly] a lover and maybe his wife and he even fathered a child [by her].

I was reading today in *Newsday* where Rev. Debra Low-Skinner of Christ Episcopal said, "Anything that gets people talking about their faith is not a bad thing." I wholeheartedly agree. I think that more than that maybe the book and the movie might get more Christians to open their Bible and read the Gospels and as such *The Da Vinci Code* has served a greater purpose and maybe even strengthened their faith. I also think that Protestant and Catholic leaders ought to hold discussion groups about this book, for the ideas that the book suggests will not go away. These ideas I believe question a priest's celibacy and whether women ought to be ordained as priests. I believe someone once said, "A little bit of knowledge can be a dangerous thing" (sic).

And finally I think our Christian leaders ought to educate its followers in what is truth and what is fiction.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick R. Bedell Jr.

Bellerose

Don't Hold Up CFE Funds

A copy of the following letter was received by the Gazette.

Governor George E. Pataki

State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Pataki,

I hope this letter finds you well. In response to your letter of March 16th, we are appalled by your continued effort to

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