

from our viewpoint...

We need realistic immigration reform

All the talk in Washington is what to do about the "immigration problem."

And this country does have an immigration problem, brought on by our foolish, unrealistic and outmoded laws.

The fact that we have an estimated 11 to 12 million illegal aliens in the country today is testimony to that.

It also tells us that simply making it hard to come here legally won't solve the problem. As long as America is the land of opportunity, people will be desperate to get in.

And as long as people are desperate to come, they will.

We can fence the border, at a cost of billions; triple or quadruple the size of the Border Patrol; and turn the Southwest into a police state, but we won't stop the waves of immigration.

Nor should we.

Our heritage is open borders. Our history is assimilation. Any one whose last names lacks vowels or begins with "Mc" or "O" or ends in "i" — all of us really — should appreciate that.

We're all from immigrant stock. All interlopers. We all came here for the same things, the things people seek today: Economic opportunity, freedom, a new life in a New World.

Wild proposals abound: close the border, build a wall, stop anything that moves in Texas. Wild-eyed opponents claim immigrants clog the courts, the schools and the welfare rolls. There's no evidence of that.

The truth is, illegals make up about 5 percent of the labor force and this country could not prosper without their labor. Most have families, pay taxes and raise children who will be citizens.

But won't they change the makeup of America?

No more than any of the rest of us did. As a nation, we are the sum of our parts: People who came looking for a new life, people brought here in chains, people sent here as criminal, people who swam the Rio Grande.

All of them Americans.

But, yes, it is time to change our laws, though Congress seems to be having a tough time with that.

We need to monitor and control the flow, and the only way to do that is write a reasonable law that can be enforced.

We're not going to send anyone home. We're not going to deport 11 million people.

We shouldn't make employers pay the price by creating burdensome regulation over hiring. We shouldn't put that cost on our businesses.

And the political party that proposes those things might well be voted out. Republicans should not make the mistake of thinking they can ride a wave of anti-immigration feeling into the next century. The opposite may be true.

Any new law has to be something we and Mexico can live with, something that allows workers to come north and legalizes those who've lived here for years.

Above all, a new immigration law needs to be humane and reasonable if we, as a people, are going to live up to our heritage.

Love and freedom should drive our decision making, not hatred and legalism. If we can think that way, we can succeed. — Steve Haynes



Easter power

from our readers

to the editor

To the Editor:

Signs of spring have arrived, exhibiting a resurrection power. Although the warm days that sometimes accompany the fresh smell of spring clinging on the breezes have not signaled its arrival, under the bluster of snows, behind the cover of cloudy days, beneath the cool rains and warming earth, flowers have bloomed, trees have sprouted buds and lawns have greened. Nature speaks eloquently of the beginning of new life.

We can look at the renewal in nature and observe the power of God. Paul says, "Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible nature, namely, his eternal deity and power, have been clearly perceived in the things that have been made."

However, God's power has a greater witness, which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. All power humans know about, including the atom, pales beside the omnipotence that brings life out of death.

God's power is beyond and above anything



humans can envision or understand. Even the most knowledgeable and enlightened among us cannot solve the cause of life, plumb the dimensions of space or transcend time.

The force to turn death into life would have to be in control of cause, space and time. That capability is in the hands of the Creator.

We have the eyewitness report of God's might from those who were there, saw Christ alive and carried on a conversation with him after his execution on the cross. These historical witnesses are many, on different occasions, and in a variety of places.

A resurrection is a universal desire and hope, which is fulfilled by the promise of God. As Paul states, "Christ has been raised from the

dead, the first fruits of them that have fallen asleep ... but each in his own order: Christ the first fruits then at his coming, those who belong to Christ."

The power that returned Christ to life is already at work in those who have faith in Him. John, the Gospel author, writes the well-known verse 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him. ... shall have eternal life."

The word belief, in the original language, is in the present tense meaning that eternal life is in the believer through faith in Christ now and is in the process of becoming what it will fully be in the future when quickened by God.

Easter is the good news of bringing life out of death, to abolish all that is destructive and negative and to make all things new. Eye has not seen nor ear heard of the things God has in store for the believer.

Earl Martell
Goodland

Iraqi good stuff

will durst

raging moderate



On the third anniversary of his misadventure into Iraq, President George Bush strove to sell his invasion and occupation policy by announcing that getting U.S. troops out of Iraq is not his problem.

Instead, it's going to be the problem of future U.S. presidents and Iraqi governments.

In other words, there's no light at the end of this tunnel, just a secular guerilla holding a flashlight, and we're backing out as fast as our little cowboy boots can carry us. Civil war: the gift that keeps on giving.

To say he was a bit testy is like saying gravel is not as nutritious as it looks. He even snapped at Helen Thomas. For crum's sake, who snaps at Helen Thomas? It's like biting the head off a smurf.

He proceeded to duck questions asked of him and to answer unasked questions his handlers had prepared him for, and overall had the look of a guy who was trying to fake his way through not having done his homework ... for the last 13 semesters.

He did his best to reassure America that it's not as bad as it looks over there. Which is good, cuz to be honest, it looks pretty freaking bad over there.

He was adamant that progress is being made, but when asked to explain where and how, ran into a couple of minor roadblocks. Like examples of exactly where and how we're making progress. But if you believe Dubyah (which I'm not even sure Laura and the twins do anymore), except for the prison assaults and the assassinations and the suicide bombings and the boots on the ground getting buried, things are actually pretty good.

It's that darn media that's screwing everything up. By showing stuff.

Showing bad stuff. If only that rascally American press could report some of the Good Stuff coming out of the Mideast, everyone would settle down and birds would sing and gay people would drink beer and have babies and all would be right with the world.

research and collected a bunch of the good stuff coming out of Iraq in a little something I like to call ...

WILL DURST FINDS THE BRIGHT SIDE TO XENOPHOBIC GENOCIDE.

- Baghdad University fraternity expulsions way down.

- Six billion a month we won't be wasting on pork-barrel politics.

- Advances in battlefield medical procedures destined to benefit all of mankind.

- Due to their renewed dedication to killing each other, the Sunnis and Shiites seem much less interested in targeting Americans these days.

- FWF membership rolls are a bull market.

- Grisly footage of dead in Iraq diverting attention from that whole Jack Abramoff thing.

- Incredible increase in available parking in downtown Baghdad.

- Every single car-bomb explosion means another opportunity for Detroit fleet sales.

- Where tomorrow's stars of the Cadaver Dog World get first-class training today.

- Senseless secular violence has obviously intensified the hold of the truce in Northern Ireland.

- There's a Burning Man Festival every day of the week.

- When you're thinking organ donor heaven, we're talking Iraq.

- Hey, it could be worse. There could be leeches.

- And the final piece of good news coming out of Iraq ... Spring has sprung.

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KAREN THINKS SHE AND I SHOULD SEE OTHER PEOPLE



SHE THINKS IT WOULD BE HEALTHY FOR BOTH OF US



AN ODD CONVERSATION FOR A FIRST DATE...

