

EDITORIAL

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GETTING TOUGH ON TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

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Breaking the immigration impasse

Is there a possible middle ground for answering the question, "Should there be a path to citizenship for immigrants who are in this country illegally?"

By The Rev. Dr. Luciano Márquez Jr.

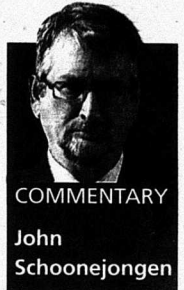
We need solutions, not punishment, for people living in this country illegally. Those in favor, as well as those against it, cannot continue postponing a solution without spoiling our country, and bring more grievances.

First, both sides of this crucial debate have authentic reasons. Both believe what they say is the best for the nation. Second, while sides are engaged in giving solutions according to their partial point of view, the real problem keeps growing and becoming more and more difficult to solve.

This country has to be smarter and start acting more wisely in a direction toward a solution. Those who are already here most

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YouTube delivers Christie candor



COMMENTARY

John Schoonejongen

On the same day that Gov. Chris Christie called a special session of the Legislature to urge lawmakers to pass an immediate tax cut, his administration also reached a cyber milestone of sorts.

The governor's YouTube channel passed 5 million page views on June 30.

As you would expect, the occasion was marked by a tweet from Christie on Thursday and a YouTube video compiling some of his greatest hits. It also should come as no surprise that those greatest hits were not wishy-washy discussions of policy.

"Are you kidding?" the governor is shown asking an audience four different times in his celebration compilation.

"What the hell!" gets five showings, and there are liberal sprinklings of other things you wouldn't want your kids to say, most of which are accompanied by chuckles from an audience that seems to appreciate Christie's candor as refreshing, even if blunt.

That appreciation explains part of the governor's YouTube success. But outrage over his comments, along with the appreciation, also has helped boost his numbers. For example, the governor's most popular video is his confrontation with Marie Corfield, a teacher who questioned Christie's efforts to reform New Jersey's education system. Anti-Christie forces have used that video as a jumping-off point for criticism of Christie, and Corfield herself launched a bid for the state Assembly based in part on her own YouTube fame.

The Christie-Corfield video, with more than 1.15 million hits, alone counts for more than 20 percent of the page views on the governor's 603 posted videos.

But Christie wasn't always a YouTube sensation. In fact, his first video is a relatively boring policy discussion in a school in Berkeley Heights. That video, shot in February 2010, has only received a little more than 7,000 page views in the 29 months it has been up.

Somewhere along the line, it became obvious to the governor's office that the best videos of Christie were the ones in which he was being combative, funny, overtly personal or confrontational. These

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The recent Supreme Court ruling on Arizona's immigration law and President Barack Obama's decision to give conditional permanent residency status to certain undocumented individuals have helped put the immigration issue back on the front burner. What can be done, if anything, to put an end to the impasse on comprehensive immigration reform? We posed that question to several community members with different vantage points:

Don't scapegoat immigrants for injustices in America

By Rosemary A. Barbera

In order to honestly address the issue of immigration in the United States today, we need to be willing to look at some historical factors that contribute to the current situation.

First, we must recognize that the issue of immigration is certainly a divisive one in the United States today. Of course, it has been divisive for centuries, since the arrival of the first immigrants — the Europeans — who basically arrived at the home of others and kicked the original inhabitants out. Unless we begin our discussion with that recognition — that very few of us are "native" to what is today the United States — we are being disingenuous at best.

At the same time, we need to recognize that the next group of people to arrive on the shores of this country came in chains and against their own will. Laws were codified that did not recognize these Africans and their descendants as full human beings. These laws permitted society to defend injustice by classifying these persons as "less than." Today we do the same every time we call someone "illegal"; we

Deport illegal immigrants who exploit benefits of U.S. society

By Agu Puri

I am sharing my viewpoint regarding the immigration laws in our country. This question comes up at every presidential election year. It becomes a big political issue, and politicians take advantage of it to get votes from advocates for illegal immigrants by offering them amnesty to stay in the United States and apply for citizenship.

It seems to me that elected officials break their own country's law for their own selfish gains. In my opinion, they should be brought to justice like any other citizen who breaks the law. Individual states appear to have no rights to ban illegal settlers to send them back without interference by the federal government.

For instance, the Supreme Court upholds key immigration law provisions in Arizona. Laws are written by men and can be revised according to the time or circumstance. In the past, the United States was bringing people from all over Europe to settle and gave them free land according to the size of their family to cultivate the land for purposes of exporting grains.

But now, the circumstances of the

Solution calls for correcting misconceptions, rigid attitudes

By Paris Lee

Is there a middle ground for addressing the problem of the millions of people who are here illegally? There certainly is, but getting there involves a delicate balancing of factors and attitudes that don't necessarily mix, especially in today's politically charged climate.

Immigration is one of the most divisive, polarizing topics out there today, as evidenced by the public reaction both ways to President Obama's executive order halting deportation efforts for young people brought here illegally as children, as well as the Supreme Court's partial dismantling of Arizona's controversial and restrictionist law.

Getting to a "middle ground" involves disabusing the public, as well as some politicians, as to what immigration reform is. Not every proposed law about immigration is an "amnesty," which, simply put, would represent the extreme end of the spectrum: basically, allowing people who have been here illegally to apply for their permanent residence, with little restriction beyond showing physical presence in the U.S. since a certain time.