

Bush pushes policy to allow immigration work permits

Those who haven't been living in a hole for the past 30 years know that illegal immigration across the Mexican border has been a problem for the United States. There are too many people crossing, not enough border patrol, and not enough people to process those trying to enter legally.

There have been many laws that have passed or have been proposed, but haven't worked in resolving the problem.

There are those, like the 30% of Americans who say that illegal immigrants hurt the country, who will argue that they should not be here at all. That simply would not work. There are too many immigrants that are working here and are a big part of our economy.

In the State of the Union Address delivered on January 21st, President Bush discussed the topic. He told the country that, "extending hope and opportunity in our country requires an immigration system worthy of America, with laws that are fair and borders that are secure. When laws and borders are routinely violated, this harms the interests of our country."

It sounds like he has finally found a solution to keep our borders safe, at least for the moment.

His ideas were to first, double the border patrol and put better funding and technology into border protection. His next step would be to "establish a legal and orderly path for

foreign workers to enter our country to work on a temporary basis." This way those who want to enter the country just to work and live may enter legally and the government will have a record of them.

Bush said that they would actually enforce the laws at worksites and make it easy for employers to register their illegal workers so the law cannot be violated. By not worrying about simple workers, the border patrol will be able to focus more on catching terrorists, smugglers and criminals.

This may not be the complete solution to the problem, but at least it is a start. If this plan actually happens than maybe the United States can start weeding out those who come here to commit crime, and give those who want to work a fair chance.

Something in the country does need to change. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are gone for many people. Immigrants attempting to come here to live have to come illegally or not at all in many cases.

Immigrants are hated by many American citizens because of their illegal status. 80% of Americans want to close down the borders and deport everyone here illegally. This is not the right solution.

It's hard to admit, but Bush may be right. A better, more fair, solution needs to be found to keep the country safe and solve the immigration problem.

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Technology magnetizes to certain departments only

Computers and technology, engineering and math, Omaha North thus prides itself. It is no secret that these programs are very strong, and quite possibly the best programs in the state. Many congratulations for a job half-done.

Engineering, journalism and music tech have the finest equipment available for their use, to "demonstrate excellence", and to win pretty trophies and certificates for display in the main hallway.

But other than the usual technology -savvy North programs, there are departments neglected and starved of technology.

Take the drama department, for example. They have to design the sets for their productions, often as complicated as any engineering project, and yet the farthest extent of technology they have available for use is a mechanical pencil.

They have no computer for sound mixing, no program for lighting design, and only recently acquired Internet access within the auditorium

walls.

Or consider the Academic Decathlon team. This group meets in an empty history classroom, without even one student computer to use for research. The students are expected to write and type numerous essays, but have no computers on which to do so.

As 8th grader, in the Open House tour of the school, the students were promised paperless classrooms for English and social studies.

To freshman students, the promise is upheld; there's no paper to be seen. To sophomores, they are offered NCOT English, but no social studies. And junior and senior year, well they share the computer center and fight for time.

There are so many departments in similar situations, flooded with pencil shavings and balled up notebook paper.

What about them? Why deny the opportunity for students to "demonstrate excellence" just because the particular department can't bring home a trophy?

Slice of Life

"Pop problems"

By Ashley Cox

Maybe if we replaced desks with beds...



and gave caffeine-deprived teachers nap time..

we wouldn't need any working pop machines.

