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True Dreamers by Yareli Martinez

Before the “American Dream” was named the “American Dream,” there was a search for a place where dreams had no boundaries. It is well known to all Americans that, “Europeans “discovered” America by accident” (Guisepi). It became a discovery that immigrants from all over the world would take pride in. Immigrants whose only attempts were to do what they could not do elsewhere. Immigrants who not only share the same title, but share the equal dream to achieve success. Even when the United States is known as a the land of opportunity and equal treatment, there are individuals who continue to create a fine print and state that those rights do not apply to immigrants because immigrants are all stereotyped as lazy, disgusting, and thieves.

An article published in the Huffington Post talks about Limbaugh, a well-known conservative commentator that sits around and complains about progress. In this certain article, Limbaugh talks specifically about Mexican immigrants that are given applause because they take on jobs that they think are hard work. It was also embarrassing to see that Limbaugh states that, “75 percent of the Hispanics believe that prosperity is the job of the government” (Planas). Hispanic immigrants, along with all immigrants, know what it takes to survive in this country and it is why they take on the jobs that they do. Immigrants do the dirty work and they are not competing with a citizen in line to clean toilets or pick fields under the blazing sun. To call them lazy and dependent is incredible. Lazy are those that are sitting down in a radio seat with air conditioning bickering about how jobs are being taken from citizens, when the jobs that are being taken are the loathed ones.

Known as the ALIPAC, the Americans for Legal Immigration PAC is a committee that advocates for continued anti-immigration laws and stronger border laws. *The Huffington Post* published an article that talks about one of their efforts to destroy any plans of amnesty with immigrants. According to the article,

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the ultra conservative members of this group decided “to send used underwear to undocumented immigrants” (Benedetti). They did this because of the request that had been made for the purchase of underwear for immigrants who ruined theirs when crossing the Rio Grande to get across the border. After this action, who are truly the disgusting ones? That committee must have forgotten that a very high percentage of Mexican immigrants are in fact the ones who wash their clothing, including their dirty underwear. Disgusting are the racist individuals that limit improvement (Benedetti).

The most outrageous controversy is that immigrants are thieves because they take away life itself from citizens. In an online rant, the author goes on to complain sarcastically about the need to stop calling immigrants by the name immigrants, and began calling them thieves. He states, “they are thieves stealing from the American people for their own personal gain” (Otto). Stealing what? The opportunity to succeed? When did ambition become a crime? Otto rants about everything that is being taken from the all mighty white citizen but does not speak up and say that his people are lacking the motivation to take any opportunity. An immigrant is not a thief for wanting better. The article contains a picture depicting stands with free things such as healthcare and education, and basically states that immigrants are coming with the knowledge that everything will be handed to them (Otto).

He could not be anymore wrong.

The decision to take the voyage of crossing the border was not handed to them. The strength to survive was not given to them. The will to search for a job in unknown territory was not given to them. Nothing in this country is given to anyone. That is what distinguishes America from the rest. This country’s history is filled with the ambition for something better. Conservatives that advocate against amnesty are going to have regrets.

I was an immigrant and so were my parents. We crossed the border when I was three years old and I wish I could remember that voyage. I wish I could remember the strength that my parents had to take care of me. I am not ashamed to admit that I remained an illegal immigrant in this country up to the age of fourteen. Thanks to God, both of my parents and I were granted permanent residency and nothing changed. Before and now, I have worked for everything I have. My parents have worked for everything they have. We did not come to this country to sit around and be served. Just like all immigrants, we came to succeed. I will proudly admit that I am on the right path toward achieving that goal.

