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*Guest Editorials*

# Dangers Of Trump Immigration Ban's Overkill

by Jack Van Ens

What reasonable person uses a shotgun to kill a housefly when a fly-swatter will do?

The harsh ban on Middle Eastern immigration is as silly as firing buckshot to kill a fly. President Trump's deliberately provocative verbal assault, if compared to an NFL defense, would be penalized for piling on. Already the U.S. exercises tough vetting procedures to bar terrorists. Contrary to logic, Trump's crackdown piles on with more costs, regulations and time delays that deny entry to Syrian Christians.

This tactic worked in his presidential run. Trump's toxic anti-immigration ban resonated with citizens fearful that foreign-born undocumented terrorists are crossing U.S. borders. Won't they steal blue-collar jobs, rob white communities of historic identity, make porous national borders, threaten national security and milk social service freebees that hike budgets?

Trump's immigration crackdown uses excessive tactics to split families and deport "...law-abiding immigrants whose only crime is using false documents to work. This policy may respond to the politics of the moment, but chasing down maids and meatpackers will not go down as America's finest hour" (*The Wall Street Journal*, "Trump's Deportation Surge," Feb. 23, 2017, p. A-16).

Such over-reach harms the U.S. in multiple ways. Deportation orders are pricey to implement. They decrease a vital workforce our nation depends on for economic advance. Trump's immigration rollback overlooks what colonial history teaches about its dangers. Moreover, such inhumane policy threatens Syrian Christian refugees who deserve U.S. protection.

Costs of hiring personnel to remove illegal immigrants are gigantic. The ICE budget would increase by \$4 billion, which doesn't include hikes for finishing the wall



Dr. Jack Van Ens

between Mexico and the U.S. that strains a national budget with bloated deficits. This fiscal overkill represents a budget nightmare. Who is silly enough to use a shotgun to kill a fly?

Baby boomers are retiring in record numbers, leaving gaps in the workforce. With an aging population, how does our nation fill needs citizens take for granted and are unwilling to pay more for?

"The New Yorker's [Trump's] plan," says *The Wall Street Journal* that pans it, "would do economic harm by slashing the workforce for construction, agriculture, restaurants, travel and other services. There aren't enough Americans to fill those jobs now, so many of these services will vanish or become more expensive. This is why Mr. Trump employs H-28 visa holders at his Mar-a-Lago resort." Who is silly enough to use a shotgun to kill a fly?

Moreover, Trump's excessive ban overlooks an embarrassing history when anti-immigration fervor ran riot. After French Revolutionists in the 1790s chopped off heads and terrorized France, U.S. politicians over-reacted. They feared French anarchists, aided by Roman Catholic Irish, might leap across the Atlantic Ocean and invade our shores.

Congressman Harrison Otis from Massachusetts sounded like Trump does today, railing how he "didn't wish to invite hordes of wild Irishmen, nor the turbulent and disorderly of all parts of the world, to come here with a view to disturb our tranquility." The Alien and Sedition laws were adopted in 1798. Previously, foreigners claimed citizenship in two years through the original Naturalization Act of 1790, but President John Adams' administration stretched the wait to 14 years. Then they slapped protesters with the Sedition Act. Anyone who griped about the rulings to

*Continued on page 29*

# ACLU Spokeswoman: Colorado Can Do Better

by Kathleen Hynes

The Colorado Child Safety Coalition's February 2017 report, *Bound and Broken: How DYC's Culture of Violence is Hurting Colorado Kids And What To Do About It* graphically describes what happens behind closed doors in Colorado's Department of Youth Correction (DYC) facilities. This thirty-three-page report, including photos, provides both primary and secondary data on the abuse happening to too many kids held in DYC.

The March 9, 2017 op-ed in *The Denver Post* highlights DYC's on-going inability to grasp what others have been saying for years — despite what DYC says about implementing "trauma-informed care" (that is care based on the realization almost every kid in custody has experienced abuse) DYC's stated policies for years encourage staff to inflict pain to "manage" kids (more on this in a bit).

With stated policies directing staff to inflict pain to manage kids already beaten down by former abuse, why is there any doubt DYC is unable to take ownership of the dangerous environment it has created for staff and kids. DYC knows its abusive methods are systemic because it reads the same national and local studies/audits available to all of us. Part of any rehab program is taking ownership of one's past mistakes, thus far, DYC appears unable to do what it expects its kids to do.

One's first reaction to this claim of child abuse within DYC is this can't possibly be true given DYC's stated policies on their website regarding youth corrections. Outrageous, unbelievable as it may sound, read *The Coalition's* report or any of the other recent news accounts of what happens to too many kids in DYC's care.

I wonder if conditions within DYC facilities have not changed over the years, even in the face of documented abuse, because



Kathleen Hynes

DYC has stereotypes about kids in their charge — most notably that locked-up kids are "bad kids" who cannot be controlled without harsh, punitive measures. Such a stereotype inspires and sustains a culture within DYC which is counterproductive, destructive, and ineffective for the kids, the staff and taxpayers.

If children are stereotyped as uncontrollable and only respond to punishment, how does that influence DYC's culture and, in turn, their "treatment" plan for these young people? What outcome can one reasonably expect, when DYC's culture sanctions, among other punishments: Facial rug burns. Knee strikes. The WRAP.

The WRAP: This punishment restricts the youth's ability to breathe, face covered, arms behind their backs and bound head to toe causing legs to go numb — "High tech, hog tie" is how law enforcement refers to it. Colorado is one of only three states using the WRAP in all of its juvenile facilities.

What makes the state-of-affairs at DYC even more egregious is DYC is aware of another model for juveniles in youth corrections. The Missouri model for youth corrections is the gold standard; it works, costs less, produces fantastic results and never, ever relies on abusive interactions with kids in their care. Missouri has used it for 30+ years.

What hinders DYC in shifting its approach so it can use the Missouri model? They visited Missouri and saw first hand how the program works and its impact on staff, youth and taxpayers. Someone needs to take a stand for our kids because no child should be in a Colorado facility which exposes them to abuse.

It has been said there must be no silent witnesses when it comes to the rights and lives of children. Now that you are aware of what is happening in DYC, learn more *Continued on page 28*

## We Get Letters...

### Book Review

Three cheers for the fearless Glen Richardson. To take on an icon like "Dr. Colorado" Tom Noel and expose to the world what he has become takes a lot of guts. I hope Glen checks under his car every morning for planted explosives. Icons and their supporters don't like to be criticized.

John Montgomery  
 Denver, CO

I was one of the suckers who bought a copy of the hapless "Colorado — A Historical Atlas." I also even bought his "Herdon Davis: Painting Colorado 1961-1962," another less than blockbuster effort. I imagine that his co-author Craig Leavitt did most of the heavy lifting with Noel adding his name to get the Western History/ Genealogy Department at the Denver Library and Diane B. Wunnike to fork over the dough that the Dr. ATM can command. Thanks for being the only honest voice in Denver today.

Joseph Williams  
 Denver, CO

How dare Glen Richardson attack Tom Noel the preeminent historian in all of Colorado, if not the entire West. Dr. Noel may not be what he once was, but even in his dotage he is ten times the writer that Mr. Richardson could ever be. He earned the sobriquet "Dr. Colorado" and a lackluster book or two does not diminish what he has accomplished. Shame on you Glen Richardson. Why don't you attack Santa Claus next? He is probably also "well past [his] prime."

Sandy McPherson  
 Denver, CO

### Denver's Neighborhoods Being Scraped Away

The City Council, Denver Mayor and City Planning Department have an overzealous propensity for density. They just won't say no to unhealthy over-development that is swallowing up every inch of our city's vacant land — all in the name of building luxury apartments and other massive structures.

Well-meaning neighborhood residents attend City Council meetings to make their voices heard, staying late into the

night only to learn that the Council had all but negotiated approval with developers prior to the vote. Residents rightly fear that their livable and desirable neighborhoods are being negatively transformed by choking traffic, lack of parking and massive stucco boxes built lot line to lot line. This infill mentality is destroying the character of our beautiful neighborhoods.

But we don't have to stand idly by and let the destructive forces of development remake our city. Let's launch a recall process to oust City Council members who refuse to listen to the residents they have been elected to represent.

Denice Reich  
 Denver, CO

### Greenlee Elementary On The Chopping Block

I was very intrigued by the article on the school closures and hope that you will be following up with more articles. This was factual and not conjecture like I see in some coverage.

Linda Chambers  
 Denver, CO

Sheldon Reynolds must stay at Greenlee! This young educator has turned the school around already and the students will continue to improve with his leadership. It takes a village and the village is behind Sheldon as read in the article. Leadership demonstrated by the Principal is the key to any successful school. Changing for changing will never work. Remember SOAR at Oakland?

I am not sure the report written from the School Works organization is totally accurate. I question everything in the report. One can never learn or evaluate a school in that short of time. The team should spend a minimum of two weeks to four weeks at the school.

Sheldon is the answer to continued improvement! Great Principals are few and far between and he is one!

Alan Woodson  
 Denver, CO

DPS has been dismantling neighborhood schools and selling them off to charters for many years now. Remember, there is no longer Montbello High School. *Continued on page 11*

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# Come One, Come All – A Rugby Story

by John Arthur

Writer for and on behalf of the City of Glendale

Every rugby game at *Infinity Park* is an event. Players and fans alike experience the electricity of pre-game nerves, anticipating the action and competition, the challenge and camaraderie. Each match is laden with the promise of exhilaration.

The competition on the last Saturday of February was no exception. A brisk but sunny afternoon, the *Glendale Raptors Elite Men* took on the *Austin Huns* in their second home game of the Spring Season, a match that was anticipated to be one of the most challenging for Glendale this year. Both teams started the game with undefeated records, but the Raptors emerged victorious with a hard-fought 41-10 win.

Part of what makes Glendale's rugby program so special (and so successful) is the presence of a passionate, involved community, one that takes pride in itself and in *Infinity Park*. In speaking with a number of game attendees, a thoughtful, diverse fan base was revealed — one that reinforces Glendale's position as the epicenter of rugby in the U.S., and of the sport's continued growth in national popularity.

Just outside the entrance to *Infinity Park* I met Mike and Dylan Anderson of Denver, who were attending the game

with friends and family. I asked Dylan, 10, what it was he liked about rugby: "Everything," he replied, lobbing a ball to himself as he answered, "It's fast and competitive." Mike, who played rugby in college, says that he has been a fan for decades, introducing Dylan and his friends a few years ago. "They've really taken to it," he says. It's clear from the boys' jerseys and game balls that Dylan and his friends have indeed embraced the sport. Asked if he'd like to play rugby, Dylan gives an emphatic nod, though Mike cautions that mom may have the final say: "She knows I used to play back in the '90s," he chuckles, "that was vintage rugby." Mike admits that the conditions he played in during college are nothing like the facilities the Raptors have at *Infinity Park*, "We love this place. It's second to none."

Anyone who has enjoyed a Raptors game at *Infinity Park* would be hard-pressed to disagree. Inside the facility every seat offers a great view of the pitch, and the excitement from fans on game day is palpable. As the Raptors match was getting underway, I spent a few minutes speaking with Denver resident Daniel and his father Gary. When I asked Daniel, who has been following the Raptors for several years, why rugby instead of soccer or American football,

he replied confidently, "It's just fun. It's fast-paced, non-stop action." While Daniel explains that he prefers 15s rugby, Gary interjects that, "Sevens is pretty cool too." Gary, who grew up in South Africa and formerly played 7s himself, notes with a smile that while rugby is growing in the U.S. the sport is still "a bit more popular" in South Africa.

After a close first half against Austin, the Raptors went on an offensive tear late in the second, piling on points to the cheers of the crowd. Amid the excitement, I met Ankita Laghari (19, of Minneapolis), who attended the game with her parents. The Lagharis are considering buying a condo near Glendale, and wanted to experience some local attractions while visiting the area. All three reported being very impressed with the *Infinity Park* complex. Ankita explained that this was her first time experiencing rugby in person, though she'd seen the sport televised during the 2016 Olympic Games. A soccer and lacrosse player in Minnesota, she quickly picked up the rules of the game. Asked what she thought of rugby, she mused, "It's much more strategic than I imagined... these guys are really fit." She went on to admit that even with the tackling and physicality of the sport, the players displayed poise and sportsmanship. After a moment's thought, she suggested that rugby was like "football with manners."

Rugby's distinction as a gentleman's game is long lived and well deserved, and is likely a contributing factor in the sport's surge in U.S. popularity in recent years. Demographics reveal that rugby's burgeoning American audience is largely an educated, modestly affluent one — and that it is steadily growing. In fact, for the past several years rugby has been the fastest-growing sport in the nation, showing particular popularity among high school and college age players and fans. Part of the attraction for young participants is likely rugby's emphasis on technique and safety, attractive qualities to a U.S. audience that has become increasingly fearful of American football's hazards. Parents appreciate rugby's non-contact youth programs for the same reasons.

USA Rugby reports over 1.1 million participants in the sport as of 2016, a number that continues to increase. The return of 7s rugby to the 2016 Olympics, as well as in-network rugby coverage from both NBC and ESPN has helped to fuel the sport's meteoric revival in the United States. With major networks and sponsors staking claims, rugby is poised to truly enter the mainstream nationally.

As rugby's popularity increases, and the national perception of the sport shifts, fan experiences at *Infinity Park* will remain steadfastly positive. The heart of rugby in the United States, Glendale's impassioned community, its state-of-the-art facilities, and its talented players and coaches will usher in a new era for the sport — one that embraces and engages all participants and fans.

## Colorado Can Do Better

Continued from page 3

and don't be silent — let your elected officials know you too want the Missouri model adopted for Colorado kids, for the staff who work at DYC and for the taxpayers. How long must kids, staff and taxpayers wait for a more thoughtful, constructive model of youth corrections to be implemented by DYC? Asking for a treatment model for our kids in DYC which forbids abuse is long overdue.

Dr. Kathleen Hynes is a speaker with the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. After receiving a PhD in Sociology from the University of Denver, Dr. Hynes held a faculty appointment at the University of Colorado School of Medicine teaching medical ethics and researching health care delivery systems. She left the University and began her own research business, which she pursued for over two decades. She works with the ACLU because she says there is no better way to ensure social justice than by working to protect, defend and extend the civil rights and civil liberties of all people.



By Seth McConnell

At 6-foot-9 Casey Rock, a Lock for the Glendale Raptors, rises above the competition at *Infinity Park* to win possession at a line out.

#RugbyRising

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## Dangers Of Trump Immigration Ban's Overkill

Continued from page 3

"make America great [and safe] again" from terror was imprisoned.

President Thomas Jefferson capitalized on this overkill. In his first State of the Union Address in 1801, he asked, "Shall oppressed humanity find no asylum on this globe?" Ashamed of anti-immigrant overreach, Jeffersonians rolled back laws barring foreigners. Who is silly enough to use a shotgun to kill a fly?

Finally, President Trump's immigration crackdown is morally repugnant and unchristian in respect to Syrian refugees who follow Jesus. Robert George, Princeton University's conservative legal scholar, indicts Trump for a crime against humanity, declaring, "We shouldn't be trying to fight terrorism by closing our doors to the victims of terrorism."

### Annual Dahlia Tuber Sale Is At Paulino Gardens April 22

The Colorado Dahlia Society's annual tuber sale is at Paulino Gardens April 22, 9 to 11:30 a.m. The amazing selection at the fundraiser is reasonably priced and sells out by noon. Information: 303-429-8062.



**Dandy Dahlias:** Colorado Dahlia Society tuber sale is at Paulino Gardens April 22. The one day only fundraiser is from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

He's joined by virtually all faculty members at Princeton Theological Seminary. These professors teach historic Christianity. They posted a protest against Trump's America First doctrine, judging it heretical. Trump spreads religious intolerance against Syrian refugees. These Christians in Syria, some who previously fled persecution in Iraq, aren't just running for safety from ISIS. Their existence is imperiled as a small but vital Christian witness in Muslim lands. Syrian Christian churches have been burned, priests tortured, homes razed, and sacred sites desecrated. An added insult on top of this misery: Trump's harsh immigration restrictions bar the door to their freedom in America.

81% of white evangelical Christians and a majority of Caucasian Roman Catholics voted for Donald Trump. By endorsing Trump's ban, they stiff Syrian refugees and then, with pious indifference, quote Jesus, "When Lord did we see thee a stranger [refugee] and welcomed thee, or naked and clothed thee?" (Matthew 25:38). Who is silly enough to use a shotgun blast to kill a fly?

Like nasty insects that defoliate dying trees, President Trump's immigration round-up bores into Syrian Christian refugees' splintered hopes, leaving them like rotting stumps.

Such a ban against Christian refugees who aren't terrorists is silly, unchristian overkill.

You may visit the Reverend Dr. Jack R. Van Ens's website at [www.thelivinghistory.com](http://www.thelivinghistory.com) or email him at [vanensfam@juno.com](mailto:vanensfam@juno.com).



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