

# KeyOpinion

## Parking Tickets and Illegal Immigration

**Richard L. Hershatter**  
Contributing Columnist

*"Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

(E. Lazarus, 1883)

Have you ever found a ticket for overtime parking on your windshield?

Have you ever knowingly let the parking meter run out, and treated the fine as a minor nuisance?

If the answer is yes, you have demonstrated disrespect for the law, and you are, technically at least, a lawbreaker.

Having established your flawed character, let's examine the question of immigration, illegal or otherwise, and why it has become a sudden problem in this, the land of the free.

All of us are either immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. Many of our forebears left their home countries fleeing from oppression. Most, however, left countries of origin because of economic depression, seeking job opportunities in the wide-open spaces of this nation.

Illegal entry was not really a problem. The country needed settlers and workers, and, as illustrated in Ms. Lazarus' famous poem engraved on a tablet at the Statue of Liberty, they were welcomed.

This is not to suggest that the "Welcome Wagon" met each wave of arrivals with baskets of flowers. Every group reaching our shores took its place at the bottom of the pecking order, as the Irish, Italians, Poles, Chinese and other ethnic groups took turns building the railroads and burgeoning economies of the country.

Inevitably, the time came when officialdom became concerned with possible over-population and proportional changes in what had begun as an essentially

Anglo-Saxon nation.

Washington established a quota system, both written and covert, limiting the numbers acceptable from any one country at any particular time. "Legal" immigration proceeded at a slower pace, but the incentive for the oppressed and the dispossessed to find their way to these shores did not diminish — quite the contrary.

Because there was work to be done, with employers standing ready to pay wages which seemed generous compared to what was available in their countries of origin, the United States was seen as a land of plenty — a place where the streets were rumored to be paved with gold.

So they have streamed through our porous borders, with and without the aid of smugglers, to the point where there are currently an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in this country.

They are found in all areas, most working at menial tasks such as hotel maids, dishwashers and gardeners. The mayor of New York has recently stated that the city would grind to a halt without the help of these aliens, most of whom are from Latin America. In Georgia, Vidalia onion farmers claim that their crops would rot without such labor.

Employers wink at their legal status, knowing that immigration laws are considered to be infractions on a par with parking tickets. Enforcement is lax and Federal investigations and raids have been cut back by 95% since 1999.

Whatever fines are levied for violation of anti-hiring laws are considered a cost of doing business, and the primary "punishment" for those illegal aliens rounded up by authorities consists of deportation back to their



home countries.

Because of heightened concern since 9/11 over terrorism, steps are being considered to solidify our porous borders, and the President has authorized the building of walls and deployment of National Guard troops to help patrol the nation's boundaries.

Ironically, the border between the United States and Canada, which is longer than that with Mexico, is considered less of a risk. Not too many Canadians seek to flee to this country — the traffic is mostly in the other direction, especially when we are engaged in military adventures overseas.

And the idea of a "Great Wall" along our southern borders conjures up visions of the late President Reagan admonishing "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

It won't work. It will only add to the tunneling talents of "masses yearning to breathe free."

*Please take back your yearning masses;  
We don't want your lower classes;  
We'll send them back across our porous borders.  
We don't mean to be unkind,  
But you very soon will find  
We have this message for your sons and daughters:*

*"Tell the leaders of your country  
You don't really want to run free,  
And you wish that they would turn another page.  
You would gladly stay at home,  
Nevermore to run and roam,  
If they would start to pay a living wage."*

(R. Hershatter, 2006)

*Richard L. Hershatter is a retired lawyer and novelist who writes a syndicated column of interest to Floridians. He can be reached at Banyan502@aol.com.*

## The Jews Did It

**Tom Burgum**  
Contributing Columnist

The debate is over: Israel is responsible for the current troubles in the Mideast, and seems to be responsible for the War of the Roses, the 100 Years' War, the 30 Years' War, the Franco-Prussian conflict, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan (both Russian and American versions), and Iraq. Shame on the Jews, they have a lot to apologize for, at least if Mel Gibson is correct.

Gibson, of course, is not correct; he is simply another really dumb anti-Semite. Gibson recently proclaimed Jews have started all the wars. He made this incredibly stupid statement while being arrested on suspicion of driving drunk. His anti-Semitic statements have started a firestorm of criticism and his career seems to be in jeopardy. In fact, he may be forced to retire and try to make a go of it on the \$300 or \$400 million he has amassed thus far.

Gibson is getting way too much attention for his faux pas for there are others who seemingly believe the same thing but are getting far too little criticism for their jaundiced views. As Charles Krauthammer wrote in The Washington Post, "To hear the world pass judgment on the Israel-Hezbollah war as it unfolds is to live in an Orwellian universe. With a few significant exceptions (the leadership of the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada and a very few others), the world — governments, the media, U.N. bureaucrats — has completely lost its moral bearings."

Krauthammer asks what other country, when attacked, is almost immediately put on a time line and told their response must be proportionate. Krauthammer is right. Israel has been subjected to over 2,000 rocket attacks since the war began, all of them aimed at civilian centers without regard to the complete absence of any military target. Hezbollah started the whole affair by attacking across the Israeli — Lebanese border, killing six soldiers and kidnapping two others. Actually, Hezbollah had been firing rockets at border Israeli villages for some time but Israel, showing far more restraint than was either

necessary or wise, chose to ignore this aggression for a time. But with the border incursion the government felt it was time to say, "Enough, already."

Despite all this, have you noticed that all the calls for restraint or a truce are addressed to Israel? This is the international version of the old response to domestic violence. When a woman appeared with a black eye, people would ask, "I wonder what she did to make her husband so mad?"

At this moment it is not clear who is winning the military war. Israel has not done as much damage as hoped, but likely has done far more than given credit for. Hezbollah is clearly winning the propaganda war, but the playing field here is not level. Hezbollah actually targets civilian areas in Israel but their leaders also understand that Lebanese civilians must die if they are to win the propaganda war. So, Hezbollah hides its rockets, its soldiers and its munitions in civilian neighborhoods, apartment buildings and public buildings. In short, they create human shields of their own people and when the inevitable happens, it is called a massacre.

### All in the Family

We were all greeted on Sunday morning with the news that Israeli munitions had killed 57 civilians, 37 of them children in the town of Qana. The victims were described as too poor to be able to heed the Israeli admonition to get out. Yet, no one asked where the men were. Maybe you noticed that the victims were mostly women and children. One has to wonder if all the men had fled, leaving their families or maybe, just maybe, many of them are members of Hezbollah — busy firing rockets at Israel.



The day was filled with interviews wherein some European or Mideast statesman or another proclaimed that Israel had violated basic international norms by killing women and children. By Sunday evening even Western news agencies began to refer to the event as a massacre. We were treated to repeated shots of the dead as Hezbollah dragged the bodies about to insure that every news agency had all the requisite shots. All this resulted in repeated calls for Israel to quit defending itself. An immediate truce was demanded over and over and over again. No terms were suggested, no call for Hezbollah to quit firing rockets at Israel, no call for Hezbollah to stop using its own women and children as human shields.

Another problem with the news that day was that the outrage over the deaths of women and children seemed reserved for the Lebanese. I don't recall this amount of outrage when some Hamas or Hezbollah martyr killed scores of young men and women by blowing up a pizza parlor in Jerusalem, or a bus in Tel Aviv. Here again the terrorists have an advantage. It is hard to find anyone in the U.S. or Israel who might believe suicide could be a dating opportunity with a large number of virgins.

The United Nations and Kofi Anan can be partially forgiven for leaning on Israel rather than Hezbollah. Anan, along with the few rational governments in the United Nations, understands, that any call for restraint on the part of Hezbollah would go unanswered. They even deny culpability for starting this whole mess. Like poor Mel Gibson, their line is, "The Jews did it." No, the truth is Hezbollah has no more intention to cease attacking Israel and actually govern a country than Yasser Arafat had of agreeing to a permanent cease-fire in Palestine in order to actually govern his country.

### Terrorism: The Killing Business

The principal business of terrorism is killing, not governing. Mark Steyn, writing in the New York Sun, has it figured out. " Hamas won a landslide in the Palestinian

Burgum, Page 9A