

Exhibit C

“Georgia shoots itself in the onion fields”

Georgia shoots itself in the onion fields

9:49 am April 20, 2011, by ctucker

WASHINGTON — There are undoubtedly lots of voters who believe the most scurrilous charges against illegal workers — they've brought a crime wave to the country; they're eroding American values; they're lazy grifters who come here to exploit the social safety net. There may even be a few politicians who believe those things.

But most elected officials know better. They know that most immigrants — including those who crossed the border illegally — shore up the economy, pay taxes and adopt American values. They know that Mexicans and Guatemalans and Bolivians take low-wage jobs in restaurants and poultry plants and onion fields that most native-born Americans won't do.

Still, those politicians often lack the courage to tell voters those truths. Instead, they pose and pander, engaging in a dangerous nativist rhetoric that thrills the crowds and fills the campaign coffers. And brings in votes.

Such was the case with Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, who ran a hard-right campaign in a crowded field for the GOP nomination last year. Now, the governor is a hostage to his rhetoric. Though immigrant advocates and business executives have begged him to veto an extreme anti-immigrant measure that passed the Georgia Legislature last week, he says he will sign the bill.

It's likely to have far-reaching, largely negative consequences for Georgia's economy, which is already struggling with an unemployment rate higher than the national average. It will hurt the state's image as an exemplar of a tolerate New South.

And it will hamper the state's \$69 billion agricultural industry, which depends on immigrant labor. That's why a group of 270 farmers and business executives sent Georgia lawmakers a letter earlier this month urging them not to pass Arizona-style legislation.

They made some logical arguments, but the letter was too little, too late. Georgia's business leaders share the blame for the ugly mood that swept the Gold Dome this year and left this malicious legislation in its wake.

Anti-illegal-immigration forces have been gaining traction in Georgia politics for several years now. The Georgia Farm Bureau and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, among other business lobbies, should have come out years ago with a major public relations campaign aimed at ameliorating those cruel and misguided forces.

Indeed, the business lobby is largely aligned with Republicans, who control state politics. The GOP walks in lockstep, usually, with business interests who want lower taxes, less regulation and various arcane perks aimed at particular business sectors. So why haven't business leaders spent the last few years trying to lower the temperature among Republican lawmakers and their constituents?

Perhaps there are many reasons, but one is certainly an unflattering truth they'd rather not discuss: Farmers and landscapers and poultry plant managers are largely dependent on *illegal* workers. There simply aren't enough legal immigrants available to do those jobs because U.S. immigration quotas don't allow very many unskilled laborers into the country.

Oh, the agricultural lobby pretends otherwise. Georgia Farm Bureau's Web site says that “. . . nothing in our policy supports illegal immigration or amnesty. Georgia Farm Bureau does not endorse illegal activity of any kind. . . . Our policy is intended to oppose laws that might discriminate against farm workers who are legally in this country.”

Well, to be blunt, that's just balderdash. In the '90s, Georgia farmers pressured their Congressional delegation to call off federal agents, who were conducting raids on illegal agricultural workers.

The “amnesty” that the Georgia Farm Bureau derides — in the form of a comprehensive bill granting illegal workers a path to citizenship — would help its members solve their labor shortage. It’s too bad the organization has been too shortsighted and cowardly to put its considerable influence behind such a measure.

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Sean

April 20th, 2011
9:59 am

Did I get the first?

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Keep Up the Good Fight!

April 20th, 2011
10:02 am

And the rants against “illegals” begin....

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Peadawg

April 20th, 2011
10:02 am

“in the form of a comprehensive bill granting illegal workers a path to citizenship” – There already is a path
Cynthia...how many times do we have to go over the same thing?

“an extreme anti-immigrant measure” – FLAT OUT LIE. I’ll let you figure out what word you’re missing in the sentence...you’re a smart girl (I think). You can do it.

Last week was a good week for you...good articles all around. I knew it wouldn’t last though...back to the loony articles it seems. I had hope for, Cynthia....o well.

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Ken Duvall

April 20th, 2011
10:05 am

What a bunch of crap. Obviously Ms Tucker is just another “hand ringer” who has accepted the slanted verbage of the left-leaning liberals whose desire is to turn America into another Third World entity. Illegals pay taxes? No way simply because they DO NOT HAVE (legal) SOCIAL SECURITY cards with which to assign their “taxes.” Additionally, if they are so valuable to the U.S. then why is the influx of American dollars (via Western Union, Etc.) Mexico’s greatest GDP? Get a grip and get your facts straight.

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Don't Tread

April 20th, 2011
10:11 am

I suppose the new standard for “tolerance” includes tolerance for illegal activity.

I suppose now we should embrace (“tolerate”) murderers, rapists, robbers, gangbangers, and child molesters for their “diverse views”.

Deal SHOULD sign that bill, because that’s one of the reasons people elected him and not Barnes. The sooner we persuade the illegals to leave, the better off we’ll be.

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kayaker 71

April 20th, 2011
10:12 am

I don't think that anyone is really against GA farmers who want to get their onions in the sack. But when they do it with illegal labor, it underscores their complicity in ignoring the law. Bozo and his gang are no help. I also don't think that ignoring the fact that they are illegals, sucking off our system of infrastructure, anchor babies, health care and food stamps adds any credibility to the problem. Admit it. Bozo and his gang of thieves need to establish a temporary worker program to allow workers to legally cross our borders during harvest time, then exit our country as soon as their work is done. But don't hold your breath. Don't blame the Republicans, CT. If Bozo had any balls, the problem would have been solved already.

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ctucker

April 20th, 2011
10:13 am

Ken@10:05, Wrong, wrong, wrong. Even with fake SS cares, the US govt **accepts their taxes**. And they never get any SS benefits.

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godless heathen

April 20th, 2011
10:14 am

10% unemployment and onions crying to be picked. What's the problem?

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casual observer

April 20th, 2011
10:15 am

Illegals are Dem vote's period. That's why Libs fight for them on every front. Also with disappearing illegals so go all the social hand-outs. This country survived without Illegal worker tax money for a couple of centuries now it's an issue? BS States are going broke under the crush of Illegal's swarming and bogging down their programs, jails and courts. But Libs like Ms. Tucker can't see past a Democrat vote or a growing dependant class in America that keeps us on the road to Socialism.

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Stonethrower

April 20th, 2011
10:15 am

So if undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes then those who hire them don't withhold money and pay under the table in order to keep more money. The consequence of this bill will be the unemployment rate for Georgia will plummet with the availability of jobs the real true bloods were too good to do in the past. Swamp land for cheap..... anyone?

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Joe The Plumber Too

April 20th, 2011
10:19 am

CT, you never cease to amaze me. Where do you get your facts: you state ILLEGAL aliens 1) shore up the economy... bull. 2) pay taxes..... paying tax on the beer and smokes they purchase with cash after the broodmare and ILLEGAL alien Juniors go through line paying for a shopping cart full of food with an EBT card is not paying taxes. 3) Adopt American values... please, that is the biggest load of garbage you have written in quite some time. 4) malicious legislation.....if you are really worried about the businesses not having enough labor at a rate they can afford, perhaps you could get behind a simple solution that could really bolster your savior oblowhard in the polls by getting a handle on unemployment. Make it a condition that you must accept work in one of these industries to continue receiving benefits until something better comes along. Perhaps that would get some of the larda\$\$'s off the couch watching ofra and judge judy. I'll bet the majority of these people would be looking for work real fast then.

As far as the ILLEGAL amongst us, another solution could be, get rid of the stupid drug laws that lock away so many of our people and use the free space to lock up the border jumpers. Win-Win for everybody.

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The Nerve

April 20th, 2011
10:19 am

“....veto an extreme anti-immigrant measure....”

Well, made it to paragraph 4 today before I had to stop reading because of a blatant, out and out lie again. Little further than usual though. Still hope to make it through one of these one day that doesn't contain blatant lies.

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Gator Joe

April 20th, 2011
10:19 am

Now that Georgia has passed it's version of the “Show Me Your Papers” Act, what's next breaking in doors, if Spanish is heard coming from a house? When Hispanics, African-Americans, and other minorities become a larger part of the US population, if not the majority, I hope their memories are short about how they have been treated by white America.

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casual observer

April 20th, 2011
10:21 am

World net Daily:

Twelve Americans are murdered every day by illegal aliens, according to statistics released by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. If those numbers are correct, it translates to 4,380 Americans murdered annually by illegal aliens. That's 21,900 since Sept. 11, 2001.

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mythbuster

April 20th, 2011
10:23 am

Illegals who are working with false Social Security cards have both federal income and FICA taxes deducted from their paycheck. Also Georgia income tax.

They then go to the gas station and pay the fuel tax. Then the grocery store and pay taxes. Then the restaurants and pay taxes. Then Walmart and pay sales tax. They rent and the owner of the house/unit they live in pays property taxes. And the employer pays all taxes on their employment.

The Social Security and Medicare taxes are not assigned to any account number. The funds sit in limbo. There have been attempts to have the funds assigned to the closest number that is legal, but Congress will not address the issue, the bills never get out of committee.

Illegals pay taxes. They convert the paychecks to cash and operate in a cash economy. What they do not get is a Social Security check or a Medicare card. Maybe down the road they will be on Medicaid.

Now if the employer is paying in cash, then all of the federal and state taxes withheld are not paid. Then only the consumption taxes are paid.

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Kamchak

April 20th, 2011
10:23 am

WHAT PART OF HIRING IAs IS *ILLEGAL* DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?

Just thought I'd get that out early.

~~~~~

Welcome back Ms. Tucker.

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Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
10:25 am

**“WHAT PART OF HIRING IAs IS *ILLEGAL* DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?”**

She's obviously pretty hard-headed and still doesn't understand. Thanks for reminding her, Kam.

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Connections

April 20th, 2011  
10:27 am

This bill is BAD, morally & financially DISASTROUS! Tucker understands, too bad the uninformed masses don't know what is about to happen. And appalling that those who "believe" & subscribe to Tanton, CCC, Heritage, FAIR, KKK and affiliated groups are able to spread so much misinformation and hate while duping Georgians and good Americans. Guess that's one way to "feel" superior.

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carlosgvv

April 20th, 2011  
10:27 am

So, if we don't let criminals "shore up the economy, pay taxes and adopt American values", we are "shortsighted and cowardly". How many other countries in the world knowingly let in millions of illegal aliens? If the answer is none, then, do they know something we don't or do we know something they don't? Which do you think is the most likely?

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Sean

April 20th, 2011  
10:28 am

Well... the tea partiers said that they want things done and no more compromises... This is just one of them.

If corporations / farmers sleep with the devil to get who they want elected.. there is no guarantee corporations / farmers will get what they want.

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SonnyFab

April 20th, 2011  
10:31 am

I have no sympathy for any onion farmer, restaurant owner, lawn care business operator, poultry producer, or home builder who has decided that the best business model to adopt is one that is in direct violation of the law. If you set up your business so that you need to use illegal labor to make a profit, you should not be in business.

CT's assertion that we need illegal laborers to take jobs that "most native-born Americans won't do" is specious. Most American won't do most jobs, but that doesn't mean that those jobs cannot be filled by people with the legal right to work in the US. The principle of the free market is that people will do any work if you pay them an amount they feel appropriately compensates them for that work. Hence, if you offer wages below what people are willing to take for the work you offer, you get no workers. This is how wages increase. The black market, which is the operating principle behind business models which require hiring illegal immigrants, dictates that workers will take less money for work because they are not able to freely compete as labor, since they do not have the right to work.



The black market allows these businesses to exploit the status of illegal immigrants and pay lower than reasonable wages to workers.

I do not understand how anyone can logically support a system which allows business owners to operate outside the law and which allows those same business owners to exploit a section of the workforce. Ending hiring of illegal immigrants by businesses will, in the short run, hurt illegal laborers who will not be able to find work, but will ultimately allow the market to set reasonable wages for all businesses, and legal laborers will fill these jobs while making reasonable wages.

I oppose the illegal oppression in terms of wages and working conditions of illegal immigrants, and I propose that the best solution to this oppression is to end the hiring of all illegal immigrants, which is what this bill seeks to do.

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Joe The Plumber Too

April 20th, 2011  
10:32 am

Hater Joe, that is a stupid post. I don't work in White America. I don't work in Black America and I don't work in Brown America. I work in America. As a mixed race man thriving in Atlanta, the most racism I encounter is from my darker skinned brothers and sisters. I am an uncle tom for not supporting oblowhard, doesn't matter my reasoning. That is STUPID, I support people who have the most in common with my belief system, and barry boy ain't it. It is time for everyone to stop thinking colors and realize that we are all Americans and the ILLEGAL aliens aren't. There is a honest path they can take to join the club, just as each and every one of our ansesters did. Jumping the fence isn't it.

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Pablo

April 20th, 2011  
10:33 am

Cynthia:

I can safely assume that you do not speak Spanish, and therefore do not get to watch Spanish-language TV or listen to Spanish language Radio. If you did, you would listen how they, on a daily basis, rant and rail against the "racist gringos" who will not let them come and go as they please and refuse to grant them citizenship just because they crossed the border. I cringe every time I see them on Univision and Telemundo demanding their "rights". Moreover, there has been a number of programs to recruit migrant farm workers, which can be adjusted to cater to the needs of the agricultural industry of this Nation.

Unfortunately, the democratic party is in bed with this violation of our national sovereignty (Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) comes to mind as the champion for the illegals) and refuses to see other viable alternatives to the influx of illegals to this country. If you reward a legal way to accomplish what is desired in terms of the workforce needed and make it difficult to come in illegally, you solve the problem without causing major disruptions.

However, why would democrats dare to anger a possibly huge voting block?

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Kainchak

April 20th, 2011  
10:37 am

*She's obviously pretty hard-headed and still doesn't understand.*

Oh I believe she understands perfectly.

As evidenced by this quote from a 2007 op-ed piece: *But Americans also want to be assured that this is the last time a broad legalization option is offered to illegal immigrants. Democrats ought to make it clear that they'll enforce the borders and crack down on employers who hire illegally, a cheaper and more effective strategy for addressing the problem than building fences. After a few CEOs have done the perp walk for illegal hiring, they'll stop offering jobs to those without proper documents. And when word gets across the border that U.S. companies have stopped hiring, those laborers will stop coming. They come for jobs, after all, not jihad.*

Of course she wrote this while you were still being house broken so it's understandable that a puppy like you missed it.

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MountainMan

April 20th, 2011  
10:38 am

Pablo, You can confirm this. but Telemundo also instructs illegals how to game the health care system by always going to the emergency room for care and take an ambulance because they will have to write it off but a taxi will demand money on the spot.

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Halftrack

April 20th, 2011  
10:41 am

CT; Illegals do not pay taxes like you and I do. They come here; get low paying jobs at the greed of the employer. They say that they have 6 dependents to avoid paying income taxes. This is allowed on their hiring forms. Employers also avoid paying other benefits, as they make rules that you have to be employed 1 year or longer to get them. Migrants are here today and gone tomorrow. Of course all of us benefit with low prices for our food. At the same time we are eroding our own culture, jobs, standard of living due to illegals and a government that abandons its duty to control the borders and enforce immigration. Our economy is collapsing today -- look around.

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Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
10:41 am

Kam,

So she said "Democrats must lead way on immigration" and that they should crack down on employers who hire illegally....so why is she against it now? Is it because Republicans are the ones cracking down? Same thing goes for Bookman...he always said that we should go after the employers. This bill does exactly that. So why the fuss?

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Pablo

April 20th, 2011  
10:44 am

MountainMan:

Not only you are correct, but it only gets worse. I used to work at a doctor's office who had a patient who worked at the time with the Mexican Consulate in Atlanta. She told me once (again, while railing against the "racist gringos") how many of her "paisanos" would run up hundreds of thousands of dollars in bills at Grady getting all sorts of medical treatment, only to disappear before being released from the hospital, leaving the hospital (and the "racist gringos") holding the bag for the cost of their care...

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Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
10:46 am

*So she said "Democrats must lead way on immigration" and that they should crack down on employers who hire illegally....so why is she against it now?*

My name is not Cynthia Tucker.

You should address that question to our hostess.

- [Link](#)
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Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
10:49 am

"My name is not Cynthia Tucker.

You should address that question to our hostess."

I would LOVE for Cynthia to answer my question(s) from 10:41...I won't hold my breath though.

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Mayree

April 20th, 2011  
10:49 am

It doesn't matter what he signs, it will be business as usual in the fields, and restaurants, and hotels, on lawns and in the construction yards. NO ONE will enforce the law. NO ONE. They may make a token raid or two, but all of the politicians will make sure that none of their buddies and big donors from agribusiness, construction or the hospitality industry suffer.

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hobby

April 20th, 2011  
10:49 am

I love Vidalia onions! But if I never get another one, that is a small price to pay to get rid of the crime spree that the other 99% of IA's bring!

This is all caused by the failure of the Federal Gov to do its job and protect our borders!

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Good Grief

April 20th, 2011  
10:52 am

Kamchak – One of the biggest issues in your quote from an earlier article is that Democrats have shown quite a bit of reluctance in enforcing the border. Unless you really believe that signs placed at the border count as enforcement.

And how can you say those that hire illegals should be prosecuted, while out of the other side of your mouth you say that certain businesses "need" illegal immigrants? These people are criminals. I don't care how much you try to say that they are living within the laws of the US, they came here illegally, and they remain here illegally. But I guess if an onion farmer needs a hand on the farm, we can make exceptions.

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DT

April 20th, 2011  
10:55 am

I just think we should just raise all food prices to about triple so that Americans can get paid \$20 per hour plus all of the benefits, watch how fast these people drive to Mexico and bring illegal aliens back into the U.S. again so the

prices can be lowered. And then when everything is fine and dandy, get rid of them again like disposable diapers. That's the fine upstanding "christian", "family-valued", "conservative" American methodology. History just repeats itself, just like the slaves bring them here to do the crap work they didn't want to do, then when they become a problem get rid of them. They did it to the Chinese, Blacks, and Latinos. I guess once this immigration debacle blows over it's probably the Asian next then its back to the blacks.

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Georgia Peach

April 20th, 2011  
10:56 am

All this anti-immigrant fervor is sending our state down the tubes. We need to face reality. We have looked the other way for years as our economy has benefited from the labor of undocumented workers. Now there are 11 million living illegally in our country, some of whom are children, most of whom have no place to go back to and who love America. We as a country cannot deport 11 million people. Our economy would suffer. Families would be destroyed. And it's inhumane. We don't have the collective stomach for mass deportations. Yet it's not OK for 11 million people to be living in the shadows. The ONLY reasonable alternative a Federal solution that would secure our borders and, at the same time, provide a reasonable path to citizenship for those who are living here and contributing to our economy. The anti-immigrant faction needs to stop this nonsense and get on board with a real solution to our broken immigration problem.

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Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
10:57 am

*...while out of the other side of your mouth you say that certain businesses "need" illegal immigrants?*

I may have been born at night, but it wasn't last night.

I will not defend a statement that I did not make.

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Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
11:00 am

"All this anti-immigrant"

I stopped reading there, Peach. I'm sure you figure out why...

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gatorman770

April 20th, 2011  
11:09 am

BS, Cindy! You like all liberal Marxist, just want their votes. There's plenty of legal immigrant labor available under legal guest worker programs.

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DT

April 20th, 2011  
11:11 am

Georgia Peach very good statement — Peadawg probably because you felt spoken too.

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MyPatooti

April 20th, 2011  
11:12 am

CT, you said "Ga farmers need illegal immigrants". Yeh, and poor people need bank robbers so that money can be spread around. Same principle. You are so far off your rocker I'm surprised the people of Atlanta don't run you out of town. By the way, Ms. T, check the arrest reports from yesterday's Moultrie Observer for the weekend. A very heavy agricultural county in South GA that at last report was about 17% Hispanic, probably at least 15% of those illegal. I saw at least 6 Hispanic names arrested for driving without a license, and one was DUI. Just wait til a legislative reps son, wife or daughter gets killed by one. The "fits gonna hit the shan"! Here's the "cake-topper"! One of those arrested on Friday was charged with no tail lights and no license, THEN SHE, YES SHE, WAS ARRESTED AGAIN ON SUNDAY FOR SPEEDING AND NO DRIVER'S LICENSE. You are hopeless, CT, and so convoluted in your thought process.

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Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
11:13 am

"Peadawg probably because you felt spoken too."

Nope, it's b/c anything that starts with "anti-immigrant" is a lie. I don't know anyone who doesn't want immigrants from other countries coming here LEGALLY/THE RIGHT WAY for a better life.

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connie

April 20th, 2011  
11:13 am

Simple solution, have the employers that hire them help them become legal. Have the farmers pay extra taxes to allow ILEGAL workers to continue working. And if they do not start the legal immigration process withint 15 days of hire deport them and fine the person who hired them.

It's not anti-immigrant. It's anti free ride making us citizans pay the price.

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[4/20 – ajc.com – Georgia shoots itself in the onion fields » Comment Page 1 | Cynthia Tucker « GIRRC – Georgia Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition](#)

April 20th, 2011  
11:16 am

[...] [Georgia shoots itself in the onion fields » Comment Page 1 | Cynthia Tucker](#). Cynthia Tucker [...]

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Old White Lady

April 20th, 2011  
11:19 am

I can't believe the headline I just read: "Georgia Farmers Need Illegal Immigrants"! What nerve you have, Miss Tucker! You have disgraced what used to be the finest newspaper in all of the South. The paper that used to "Cover Dixie Like The Dew" has unfortunately resigned itslef to printing your "doo".

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Good Grief

April 20th, 2011  
11:21 am

Kamchak – Sorry for the confusion. I meant CT stating in the past that we should prosecute businesses that hire illegals, and now she seems to say that businesses need illegals. Again, I apologize for the confusion.

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Road Scholar

April 20th, 2011  
11:21 am

What is more amazing is when the Ga Commissioner of Labor, after the new "illegal alien" bill is passed, states that he needs to check and see if there is a way of issueing work permits for "illegals" that are needed to perform needed work that no one else does. WHAT? This should have been a part of the law!!!!

Also, for those who state that illegal workers do not pay taxes, in addition to sales tax, they pay SS taxes and income taxes. The Baltimore Sun has an article concerning the MILLIONS of dollars illegals have paid to the state as income taxes.

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jtom

April 20th, 2011  
11:21 am

Just to pile on CT's hypocrisy:

She'll be the first one to write about "livable wages" and the need to raise the minimum wage, buy why doesn't farmwork attract legal workers? Because it doesn't pay enough. It doesn't pay enough because illegals will work for less. They will work for cash, cheat on taxes, and don't bother with little things like car insurance or license fees required of American workers. If they get into an accident or into trouble, they just pick up and move somewhere else, or run back home across the border. You don't know what their real names are or have a valid SS number, so you'll never find them again. Many end up taking home more than honest Americans working for more than minimum wage. Think they are licensed, bonded, insured, or pay fees like American workers?

And for those of you who insist that illegals do pay their own way with taxes: taxpayers shell out over \$100,000 per child to educate them k-12. Do illegals tend to have lots of kids? Heck yeah, but do they pay a fraction of those costs in taxes? No way. This country is broke, and in a lot of communities illegal immigrants have played a significant role in bankrupting us.

Raise the price of onions to pay enough to attract legal workers. Pay even less in taxes. Know why CTand her ilk are agaist this? Because the people she represents are the 48% who pay no taxes to begin with, and they like cheap onions. The freeloaders of this country are sticking it to the taxpayer every which way you can imagine.

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dawgnestfan

April 20th, 2011  
11:22 am

I am amazed every time the statement is made that illegal aliens are doing the jobs that Americans won't do and are helping the economy, especially given the state of our current economy. This ignorant utterance neglects the fact that many Americans cannot afford to take these jobs. The jobs illegal aliens take are often violating laws (wage and safety issues) or are not operating on the same system that our country has prospered on of supply and demand. Due to a supply of unskilled, uneducated and ilclgal aliens, they stay at the status quo. One must scratch their head and wonder why someone doesn't point out in the media that these jobs might turn into more desirable jobs if a slave class did not exist through illegal aliens to supply the work force for these employers. The argument that illegal



aliens pay taxes and abide by the law is also preposterous. Just being here is breaking the law, and no one could pay income taxes on the wages that these people are earning which usually results in adding them to the welfare rolls for the health care or their children/selves, free school lunches, and a host of other programs that are draining the government. Any money saved by services and products produced by this class of workers ends up costing the American "Income Tax" payer or results in adding to the problems our government faces today with the budget and credit rating crisis.

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Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
11:22 am

*You are so far off your rocker I'm surprised the people of Atlanta don't run you out of town.*

Ms. Tucker resides in D.C., sport.

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Tom B

April 20th, 2011  
11:24 am

CTUCKER "Even with fake SS cares, the US govt accepts their taxes."

So the government you so dearly love advocates this fraud?

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Sarah Palin

April 20th, 2011  
11:24 am

I shoot ilk from my helicopter.

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Michael

April 20th, 2011  
11:26 am

Speaking of pandering to voters, if there was no government mandated minimum wage, American workers might actually take these jobs that otherwise go to illegals working for cash under the table. Yes, the law might have some

negative effects, but it will be much more effective than a fence at preventing one problem. I wonder why CT changed her mind on cracking down on employers. I've always thought targeting demand (for illegal jobs, drugs, etc.) has always been better than targeting the supply. Maybe state laws like this will force the Feds to pass legislation for a guest worker program.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
11:26 am

“You are so far off your rocker I'm surprised the people of Atlanta don't run you out of town.”

We already ran her off to D.C. She's like those annoying little yappy terriers that bite at your ankles. She won't go away.

- [Link](#)
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Tom B

April 20th, 2011  
11:26 am

CTUCKER -"hat most native-born Americans won't do.”

Don't you mean the government that won't force those on welfare to do?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

hobby

April 20th, 2011  
11:30 am

Still, those politicians often lack the courage to tell voters those truths. Instead, they pose and pander, engaging in a dangerous nativist(SOCIALIST) rhetoric that thrills the crowds and fills the campaign coffers. And brings in votes.

wow! change one word and it becomes the Democrat game plan!

- [Link](#)
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red herring

April 20th, 2011  
11:31 am

Part of what's sending this state down the tubes is the problem of paying all the expenses of the illegals and their families. trying to make illegals "semi-legal" is not the answer except to the democratic party's desire to remain in power. the reason why so many people feel this type work is beneath them is the perpetual renewal of employment and other "free" goodies from the taxpayers to folks not wanting to work. Many people enjoy not having to work and getting paid for it plus free groceries/healthcare/etc. it's time we closed our borders except to legal traffic and legal immigration. CT is so far off base on this one it shouldn't have been published as a "paid for column". why the AJC pays for this type misinformation is beyond me.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Pablo

April 20th, 2011  
11:31 am

Georgia Peach:

The problem is not immigration, but illegal immigration. This is compounded by an immigration system that is so broken that it almost pushes people into illegal immigration. The way to address this issue is to make illegal immigration difficult, and legal immigration attainable. There is no reason why, at the time of granting citizenship, we should give preference to those who decided not to play by the rules. Preference must be given to those who have decided to follow the legal path.  
But, as long as there are enablers on both sides of the border, a real solution to this problem is a long way away.

- [Link](#)
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mike

April 20th, 2011  
11:32 am

I wonder if any of the dozen folks I just stood behind at the grocery store, who ALL paid for their "food" with a WIC card would be interested in a job? I hear there is a worker shortage in south Georgia.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Aquagirl

April 20th, 2011  
11:33 am

"Maybe state laws like this will force the Feds to pass legislation for a guest worker program."

There IS a guest worker program.

Yet another rant about ill-legals from somebody ignorant of the most basic facts. What a surprise. Next!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Tired of working to but I do.

April 20th, 2011  
11:34 am

In your article and I quote "There simply aren't enough legal immigrants available to do those jobs because U.S. immigration quotas don't allow very many unskilled laborers into the country."

Cynthia, why do the farm workers have to be immigrants. Why cant the prison system work the farms, the welfare people dont have much to do either. Let them work the farms for their regular welfare check. This country is a mess with illegal people and they cost a lot more then they bring to this country. Just take a look at California whos hospital system is gone broke or take a look at Arizona where the drug trade is more important and they are KILLING yes KILLING our american citizens. Where is your loyalty? Seems more and more you bend with anyone not a citizen.

If only 1 person is unemployed in this country they deserve the jobs first. I dont care if its a qualifying job or not. Our citizens get first choice and until the employment and economy are fixed, there is no room for illegals of any kind.

- [Link](#)
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Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
11:36 am

*trying to make illegals "semi-legal" is not the answer except to the democratic party's desire to remain in power.*

Democrats in power in the state of Georgia?

Talk about misinformation.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

JF McNamara

April 20th, 2011  
11:36 am

We all know where this is headed. They just won't enforce the law. Its a paper victory to appease hard right wingers.

- [Link](#)
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Not at the Trough

April 20th, 2011  
11:36 am

You said: shore up the economy, pay taxes and adopt American values. What a lot of bull. They take much more from the economy than they contribute. We have rampant unemployment, and people have and will work in those onion fields if the jobs are there for them. And I have yet to go into a McDonalds and hear a Mexican family speaking English. You are simply way out of touch or you are ignorant or you like to bait commonsensical people for the fun of it.

- [Link](#)
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Hootinanny Yum Yum

April 20th, 2011  
11:37 am

What? No cut and paste?

I am impressed.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Hadenough

April 20th, 2011  
11:38 am

The farmers in Georgia do not need illegal aliens to pick their crops. The farmers want them because they are real cheap labor with no benefits or workers compensation and cheaper then buying a \$100,000 mechanical picker. There are many mechanical machines to pick just about everything in the farming industry including tomatoes and I'm sure they can pick onions in south Georgia. The cost of the illegals to our Welfare, food stamps and housing assistance programs plus schools are in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year and we sure don't need anymore of that in this state!!

I thought the AJC fired you about 3 years ago?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

TBone

April 20th, 2011  
11:39 am

This is a non-issue and you ain't gonna get the Gennie back in the bottle. Back in the day peach farmers would hire young teenage kids and others to pick peaches. It was hot and humbling work but it was better than sitting around earning nothing. Now the government pays you to sit around and do nothing for weeks upon weeks. People won't mow their own lawns or spread their own pine straw or do much of anything so that niche has been filled. We have made our bed and we now get to sleep in it. Learn how to speak Spanish.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Native Atlantan

April 20th, 2011  
11:39 am

Interesting that in the news this morning there are headlines about 2 Delta employees being attacked by a gang of teens on Marta; a kidnapping in Atlantic Station; 2 people being shot leaving a mid-town Night Club; dead man found in front of the Federal building; bank robbery 2 miles from my home...on and on and on. I don't recall seeing Hispanic names or descriptions attached to any of these. See...crime is everywhere and not just where the Hispanics, generally referred to as "illegal aliens", reside.

Yes, something should be done; however, until the employers are truly accountable as well, nothing will change. And don't act like unemployed Americans will do these jobs as we've proven we will not.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Fletch

April 20th, 2011  
11:40 am

The way I see it, this is the first step in getting back to the idea of "shared" sacrifice that this country once believed in.

Mr. Corporation, I hope you enjoyed the profit margins you made while exploiting illegal labor. Sorry, the party's over. You will now be required to pay a "liveable" wage to someone who doesn't carry a rolodex filled with social security cards and I.D.s. Just consider this doing your part to keep America strong.

Mr and Mrs. Consumer, you will now need pay a "fair" price for all goods and services grown or manufactured here in the U.S. Yes, we all love low low prices, but unfortunately, those prices have lead to a huge IOU to China, and we need to get back to taking care of our citizens and our country. just consider the increase as your part in keeping America strong.

Mr. Landscaper, unfortunately it has become clear that I can mow, edge and fertilize my own grass. Perhaps you will do better catering to the folks in the upper income range. just be sure to adjust your pricing accordingly so that you can pay a "decent" wage to those workers that can pass the E-Verify. Just consider the reduction in profit as your part in keeping America strong.

I have no problem in paying higher prices if it will benefit the country overall, and help us get back to where we need to be.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Steve

April 20th, 2011  
11:45 am

Cynthia...there is no better word to describe you than....Moron.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

What a Hypocrit!

April 20th, 2011  
11:45 am

With Tucker's logic. had she been a columnist back in time, the article headline would read, "Georgia's Plantations Need Slaves"....wow

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

M

April 20th, 2011  
11:45 am

Illegal means illegal. If an American snuck into a foreign country. refused to learn the language they speak (and yes, MANY illegals make no attempt to learn English), refused to pay taxes, scoffed at their laws, exploited their government programs, and committed a disproportionate number of crimes, do you think the government of that country would feel inclined to give the American amnesty and legal immigrant status? Didn't think so.

These people are breaking the law. I don't understand why so many people are ok with that.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Dan

April 20th, 2011  
11:46 am

What came first the chicken or the egg? Are the jobs low wage jobs because Americans refused to take them or are the low wage jobs so that a restaurant owner could keep your business. How does someone that is liberal and says they support unions argue for allowing employers to exploit these workers. Is it okay to pay less than a living wage because they are Mexican? I think not! Maybe instead of just always beat up Republicans maybe you should actual read the foolish things you are saying.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

What a Hypocrit!

April 20th, 2011  
11:47 am

Steve, there are many more words to describe her....just not printable...

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

red herring

April 20th, 2011  
11:48 am

yes crime exists everywhere but by definition "illegal" means criminal. so their first and perhaps their only crime was coming into this country illegally. however it may also not be their last crime. still a crime is a crime regardless of how acorn and others try to get you to vote. If you'll enter this country illegally you will most likely be willing to vote illegally or commit other illegal acts. in no way should we only be concerned with illegal mexicans however— sooner or later with our open border policy there will be much more serious consequences involved.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Curtis Rivers

April 20th, 2011  
11:49 am

Thank you Ms. Tucker for telling the truth of this matter. My daughter is Hispanic, and will graduate from Berry College this fall. She carries her passport because Georgia is so inhospitable to immigrants, and we fear racial profiling will cause her to be arrested, although she is an American citizen. Being brown in Georgia today is no different than being a person of color during the 40's through the 60's. We need immigration reform. HB87 is an abomination written by a member of the same denomination in which I am a minister. Jesus Wept!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Smokewagon

April 20th, 2011  
11:50 am

Sarah Palin – If you're going to make stupid comments you ought to learn to at least spell and simple word like Elk! What an idiot.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

commoncents

April 20th, 2011  
11:53 am

Hmm... unemployed Americans, fields that hopefully soon will need legal workers... I see a solution!

We are already subsidizing farmers, and subsidizing the unemployed, why not get the package deal and save!!!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Gm



April 20th, 2011  
11:57 am

Whats amazing is the hypocrite rep conservatives, for years they loved the illegals, of course they were building up plants, schools, houses, working in hotels , now that economy gone bad they have no use for them, now the hypocrites rep want to hid behind the flag.  
This is so typical white conservatives Americans, they did the same things to the Indians, blacks during slavery, and they wonder why, White American males are hated around the world.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Dave

April 20th, 2011  
11:58 am

The operative word is illegal. If farmers need the laborers, the state should work out some kind of visa arrangement that allows the worker to legally enter the country during the season and keeps track of taxes and their exit after the season. How can anyone advocate any policy that starts with "illegal". Change the law.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

rwcole

April 20th, 2011  
12:00 pm

All of you with teenagers of working age, send them on down to southern GA for the summer. Lots of jobs available. Work starts at daylight. Work day ends at dark thirty. Cut, pick, and throw 20 lb melons in 100 degree heat. 7 days a week. Pays above min wage. We can even find you living accomodations in a small trailer near the melon fields. Now, how many of you want a job??

Answer -- zero

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Sarah Palin

April 20th, 2011  
12:02 pm

My dear little red Smokewagon, did you by chance miss this little comment at 11:21?  
"Know why CTand her ilk are agaist this?"

You betcha!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

NotImpressed

April 20th, 2011  
12:02 pm

This kind of crap is why I no longer consider myself a Democrat. Enabling criminal activity by ignoring it is NEVER going to solve the problem.

My partner came here LEGALLY in 1999 on a work-sponsored visa. She has jumped through every hoop imaginable in order to get her green card. She will hopefully receive it the end of this summer. She works, pays payroll taxes, consumer taxes and property taxes. If she can put forth the effort to come to this country and play by our rules then everyone else can do the same.

It really chaps my a\$\$ that many think it is perfectly OK for people to illegally cross our borders, ignore our laws, and use our social services at their whim.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

MW

April 20th, 2011  
12:05 pm

how about have the state prisoners fill in for the field/poultry workers? The farmers could pay the state for the work to help cover the cost of prisons Win/Win

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Fletch

April 20th, 2011  
12:09 pm

How about instead of referring to these jobs as the “jobs that Americans wont do”, we reclassify them as “Jobs required in order to receive UI Benefits, Food Stamps, Government Assisted Housing, etc.....

I’m just curious as to how many people would turn up their noses if the choice were either assistance based on work or \$0.00.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

0311/0317 -1811/1801

April 20th, 2011  
12:10 pm

Cynthia:

Well, I guess you got your little quip this morning from the book “The Onion Field” by Josep Wanbaugh.

The moral of that story is ..... “NEVER” give up your gun” !!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
12:12 pm

*It really chaps my a\$\$...*

There are creams and ointments for that condition.

Just sayin’.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

jconservative

April 20th, 2011  
12:12 pm

What we need is the return of Ronald reagan to resolve the “illegal” problem.

By Daniel Griswold Dan Griswold, June 24, 2004. Dan Griswold is associate director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the Cato Institute.

“But another aspect of Reagan’s record that should not be forgotten was his commitment to keeping America open to trade and immigration. ...

Reagan’s vision of an America open to commerce and peaceful, hardworking immigrants contradicts the anti-trade and anti-immigration views espoused by Lou Dobbs, Bill O’Reilly, Pat Buchanan, Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, and many others who claim to speak for the conservative causes Reagan largely defined. ...

He signed the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which included stepped up border enforcement and sanctions against employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. But that legislation also legalized 2.8 million undocumented workers. More immigrants entered the United States legally under President Reagan’s watch than under any previous U.S. president since Teddy Roosevelt.”

Good solid Republican solution to the problem.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Dr. Pangloss

April 20th, 2011  
12:12 pm

Ken Duvall  
April 20th, 2011  
10:05 am

What a bunch of crap. Obviously Ms Tucker is just another “hand ringer”

CT might be a hand-wringer, a person who squeezes her own hands, but I doubt that she is a hand-ringer, unless she has hands made of metal or glass.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

William C Smith

April 20th, 2011  
12:12 pm

Till we realize that a shortage exist of people willing to work in agriculture a problem with illegals will continue. Americans will not do this kind of work as long as the social safety net continues in its current format. Farmers can't afford to pay fifteen dollars an hour to pick tomatoes. They could but the cost of food would become prohibitive for most Americans. I hate political correctness so I believe all high school dropouts should be sent to the fields to work. One summer in the fields working would not only help with the illegal problem but also the education problem.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Tom

April 20th, 2011  
12:14 pm

Ms Tucker, I see you have started your liberal ranting once again!! ILLEGAL means ILLEGAL no matter how many ways you say it. I am not convinced that American citizens will not take these jobs if made available to them. Of course, citizens will have to be made a good days wage for a day of work! For example just a couple days ago, McDonalds is reported to have hired 50,000 people countrywide (legal citizens) after having hundreds of thousands of applications. Have a job fair at these agricultural locations and see how many legal citizens show up. My guess is every position needed would be filled by legal citizens. Stop hiring the ILLEGALS and they will voluntarily leave, enforcement by the authorities would then not be needed! Then you Ms Tucker could return to the border and see how many ILLEGALS you could help sneak across!!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Not Blind

April 20th, 2011  
12:15 pm

You minority racists that think the rising hispanic numbers will be good for other minorities are definitely living in a dream world. The hispanics don't have any sense of fairness like the American descendents of slaves have benefitted from. The other minorities are the ones most negatively affected by the explosion of the hispanic

population. Lower wages, lost job opportunities, and in the future it will be even worse. CT, irrelavancy is where your people are headed and sellouts like yourself are enabling the process.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

mother nature

April 20th, 2011  
12:20 pm

WILL SOMEONE TELL THIS AUBURN GRAD IF YOU LOVE THE ILLEGAL ALIENS PLEASE LET THEM ALL LIVE AT YOUR RESIDENCE. I THINK THAT WILL SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS WITH THE illegal aliens. GO FIGURE WHATS IN THAT BRAIN. ALSO THERE ARE A FEW OPENINGS AT THE white house. PLEASE SEND THEM THERE ALSO.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

YoDog

April 20th, 2011  
12:21 pm

C.Tucker for the most part you have been and still are a disgrace to journalism. "They know that most immigrants — including those who crossed the border illegally — shore up the economy, pay taxes and adopt American values." Really? That is just plain bat guano crazy.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

bebe

April 20th, 2011  
12:21 pm

Of course the kooks do not have an issue with anything criminal or illegal

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

williebkind

April 20th, 2011  
12:23 pm

I like picking tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, and peas. I do not like cutting okra. Of course I would have put away my dress pants and ties only to purchase boots and dungarees. I will need a braves baseball hat too! C'mon CT you can join me and we will work together discussing contemporary politics.

- [Link](#)

- [Report this comment](#)

Native Atlantan

April 20th, 2011  
12:23 pm

Agreed...illegal is the operative word here — got it, phone rings and you pick it up; illegal immigrants are illegal. My comments were directed towards the notion that crime is rampant where Hispanics reside. Seems no more so than anywhere else.

I also don't understand the comments directed towards our host. I read all the op-ed pieces daily. Kyle, Cynthia, Bob, Jay, Jim, etc.; however it never fails that personal attacks towards the host are far greater on CT blogs than anywhere else. I don't always agree with CT, but I'd rather argue the point than sit anonymously behind this screen and hurl insults.

What is wrong with you people? And, I'm more of a centrist...who pays a boatload of taxes so don't give me that progressive whining crap.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

dawgydawg47

April 20th, 2011  
12:27 pm

I live in south GA where the farmer's kids all drive \$40,000 trucks to school. They live in 2500 plus square foot houses on hundreds of acres. Oh, the poor farmers.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Gerald

April 20th, 2011  
12:28 pm

"The "amnesty" that the Georgia Farm Bureau derides — in the form of a comprehensive bill granting illegal workers a path to citizenship — would help its members solve their labor shortage."

That is a LIE and Cynthia Tucker and other advocates of illegal immigration KNOW IT. If the amnesty bill passes, then these illegal workers are granted legal status, which means that they will have to be paid minimum wage and benefit from all the other regulations and laws pertaining to legal workers (i.e. overtime, vacations – including paid leave, workplace safety, health insurance, etc.) That is why the left supports amnesty so much. Without amnesty – leaving things the way they are – then these foreign workers are "exploited" at "slave wages" and "horrible conditions" by big business. With amnesty, the illegal workers are basically no different from the legal workers – whether legal immigrant or natural born/naturalized citizens.

When amnesty passes, the same dire economic predictions that these people claim will happen if we actually start enforcing our immigration laws will happen anyway. The only difference is that millions of illegal immigrants will

gain legal status, and soon thereafter voting rights, which they will use to elect Democrats. That is all that Tucker and her allies really want: more voters for the Democratic Party.

Now I am not a partisan or ideological guy. I am just exposing Tucker's propaganda for what it is. Pass an amnesty bill, and the result will still be the folks in south Georgia not having anyone to hire to pick lettuce and tomatoes, because as those workers won't be illegal anymore, you are going to have to pay them minimum wage just like everybody else. AND you will be able to organize them into unions. Keep in mind ... Cesar Chavez, the legendary union organizer of Mexican farm workers, opposed illegal immigration precisely because it would drive down wages for LEGAL Mexican and Hispanic workers, and he considered the failure to police the border a big business conspiracy to keep Hispanic and black workers poor and powerless!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

the watch dog

April 20th, 2011  
12:29 pm

Farmers pay immigrant workers less for doing the same work as U.S citizens do. Take milking cows, in Henderson, town of in NYS a immigrant worker died. That brought the attention of Immigration officials, they swooped in and arrested the farm owner for using illegal immigrants on the farm. The media asked the immigrant workers what they thought, and they said #1 the farmer new they were undocumented and #2 they were getting paid half what the local U.S. workers were getting.

Now, I know I am getting to a point, it is why hire illegal immigrants? You can get in a lot of trouble. and besides, farmers make a whole lot of money, share it with workers that in the country legally.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

joe

April 20th, 2011  
12:29 pm

Hire unemployed Americans first...if more workers are needed, then tap into "guest worker visa's", but don't give them US citizenship. Simple as that.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Fletch

April 20th, 2011  
12:30 pm

Okay, to be fair CT is right when she says that the illegals do have taxes taken out of their checks. However, the problem that arises from that, is that the actual owners of the SS#'s that the taxes are applied against, eventually get a call from the IRS asking them why they have not declared income.

I can cite several real examples of times when I would get a call out of the blue from someone in Texas or California saying that they received notice that they had not reported income earned at the poultry plant in Georgia, and that they have never been to Georgia.

After researching the problem it always lead to the same place. Juanita Sanchez used a stolen SS # to get employed at the poultry plant, then the taxes taken out were applied to the rightful owner on file, and they end up having to convince the IRS that they have never worked in a poultry plant. Meanwhile, Juanita is no longer working at the plant and left no forwarding address. Go figure.

I'm just curious if supporters of illegal immigrant labor take into consideration the time and expense wasted in man hours trying to undue the damage that these poor, helpless, upstanding, hard working employees tend to cause?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

bebe

April 20th, 2011  
12:33 pm

You people are beyond pathetic. Most criminal Illegals are paid with cash you boobs. As well you know.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

yuzeyurbrane

April 20th, 2011  
12:33 pm

Cynthia, I almost always agree with your thoughtful columns but this time you are partially incorrect in your analysis. And I say this having had some real hands-on experience with migrant farmworkers out West. Most of the bill is, as you infer, demagogic bs designed as red meat for xenophobes. And of course agribusn. has been gutless in helping to stoke the fires of prejudice in order to gin up the Republican vote. However, there is a problem about illegals taking jobs in American agribusiness, especially when any kind of job is scarce for American citizens. You are simply factually incorrect to say that these are jobs that American citizens would not take. I heard this argument over and over when I was on the ground. American citizens will take the jobs. And many farmworkers are American citizens of Mexican descent and I hate to pop your bubble but in my experience they resented this illegal competition even more than most. American workers simply won't take these hard jobs at the subhuman wage levels and conditions that most agribusn. offers. And because labor is but a miniscule part of the final grocery store retail price, any price increase caused by it would be hardly noticed. Now, it would have a big impact on some marginal family farm producers. But let's get real. The family farm has been largely displaced by agribusn. for decades now and agribusn. could easily handle paying a fair wage to American citizens. I might add that this is the scenario that played out when Cesar Chavez unionized the grape vinyards. The truth is that most so-called family farmers in Ga. hold down a job in town and merely cling to the land for non-econ. reasons. I am not sure if Deal has a line item veto, but if he does, he should consider vetoing all parts of the bill except for E-verify which should take care of the practical problem.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Back Seater



April 20th, 2011  
12:34 pm

A little off subject but what about the President's refusal to release the documents related to Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious, in which ATF allowed American guns to be smuggled into Mexico and sold to Mexican drug cartels.

So much for transparency.....

Reminds me of Iran/Contra and Olie North, but at least there was a congressional investigation into that and all was revealed

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Peadawg

April 20th, 2011  
12:37 pm

" although she is an American citizen."

Well then, Curtis Rivers, your daughter has nothing to worry about, does she?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Tom

April 20th, 2011  
12:38 pm

williebkind: Would you do that type of work if it paid a reasonable wage, like \$10-\$15) per hour instead of \$5-6 per hour? The applications would be plentiful under that wage scale. Perhaps the farmers should cut back on their enormous profits they get by hiring ILLEGALS? I think the farmers are just being greedy!!!!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Starring Kam Fong as Chin Ho

April 20th, 2011  
12:38 pm

The US should bill Mexico for the cost of educating, employing, providing health care, and incarcerating all of their illegal immigrants. Maybe if they had to foot their own bills they would keep their side of the border secure. Folks, we can't afford them anymore. I'm for shooting them at the border. Period.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Intown

April 20th, 2011  
12:40 pm

Give 'em hell Cynthia!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

CutandPaste

April 20th, 2011  
12:42 pm

“Lower Wages” = sub-minimum wage in cash under the table...

I guess Cynthia supports slave wages – so therefore she supports having a Slave Class...

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

pot meet kettle

April 20th, 2011  
12:42 pm

CT does not mind, and in fact is supporting, assisting people who have jumped the fence to find work. I dont think anyone is harsh enough to deny that people want to work and make money. What kills me is the obvious quiet racism. According to CT, American men and women deserve to be paid “fair” wages and CT is even in favor of forcing employees to be bound to a minimum wage in some cases. EXCEPT in the case of illegal Mexican immigrants. In this case, CT totally acknowledges the need for “low cost” labor.....as long as it is not “her people” its perfectly fine. At no point has CT advocated forcing Mexican immigrants to stand in the proper line, obtain the proper documentation, and be paid a fair and legal wage next to their American counterpart. Instead, she claims, they are just doing the jobs Americans will not. WRONG. CT is just standing up for the plantation owners who cannot compete in the fair market – specifically due to CT’s democrat party and their ideas of forced fairness in the vehicle of minimum wages. Classic.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
12:43 pm

*I'm for shooting them at the border.*

Crossing the border illegally is not a capital offense.

- [Link](#)
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LydiasDad

April 20th, 2011  
12:47 pm

Moron. Ga farms don't NEED illegals. If you want to reduce their costs, and you're ok with breaking the law to do it, why not just let prisoners work for even less? Or do you want who selects the law we break?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

JRev

April 20th, 2011  
12:47 pm

My pregnant, French wife (who has a Green Card) and I were hit by, presumably, an illegal immigrant 2 weeks ago. She amazingly had NO driver's license, expired insurance, and an expired tag. They ran from the scene, but luckily we got their tag #. These people can purchase vehicles, insurance (giving a fake address) and a tag (again, using a fake address) without ever needing a driver's license. Then, they can get into accidents and run from them and the police have absolutely no recourse unless they catch them in the future violating the law. Why? Because they can give fake addresses and have no fear when they leave the scene of an accident.

I'm all for amnesty, as that is really the only solution, but they need to pay the same amount that my wife and I did...no free Green Cards. After getting into a hit and run with an illegal immigrant and finding out how they are rewarded by breaking the laws that most of us follow, I have zero sympathy left for any of them. Sure, they pay some fraction of most of the taxes that we pay, but it isn't enough. And, for God's sake, can our legislature please make it unlawful to purchase a tag and/or insurance for a car without a driver's license (with exceptions for the blind and things like that)? Unbelievable.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

LydiasDad

April 20th, 2011  
12:47 pm

Moron. Ga farms don't NEED illegals. If you want to reduce their costs, and you're ok with breaking the law to do it, why not just let prisoners work for even less? Or do you want to be the one who selects the law we break?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

commoncents

April 20th, 2011  
12:49 pm

"Crossing the border illegally is not a capital offense."

Not yet, but maybe if we're lucky.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Glass House Rocker

April 20th, 2011  
12:49 pm

What is the law regarding having false SSN's, Drivers licenses, etc.? Is it a felony or misdemeanor?  
Of course, if it is a valid SSN, it is identity theft—even if the original holder is deceased. I guess some folks consider these laws more like suggestions also.

What is the estimated illegal immigrant population in Georgia—800,000 or so? I know with the economic downturn and few jobs available over the past several years the AJC reported that population doubled.

Is this population centralized or is it spread through the state—especially in the farming area in its southern part?  
Where is the majority of this population employed—are they employed?

When the INS came down on the illegal immigrants harvesting the Vidalia onion crop years ago I believe that U.S. Senator Paul Coverdale, R-GA. interceded. As a teenager, I harvest watermelons, cantalopes and peaches—it ain't that difficult.

There once was a population in the US which "followed the harvest". Do the people harvesting the crops move on or stay? If they stay after the few weeks of the harvest, are they employed?

Another lobbying group is the Land Scaping Industry which mostly works for nicer apartment complexes, condos, office parks, etc. along with a few of our more affluent citizens. The rest of us might hire a neighborhood kid to mow the lawn and do the rest ourselves. I have had the opportunity to observe the work being done by what appeared to be a mostly Latino group. They received payment in cash.

Land Scaping is another warm weather industry. Do these employees work in the colder months?

Once I stopped in a convenience store in Morganton, Georgia and struck up a conversation with two local men—one was a contractor and the other a carpenter. They told me of a period during the boom of second homes in the area that they almost went broke. The developers had used Latino help to build the rather expensive homes instead of local builders.

Their story had a relatively happy ending because they were busier than ever. It seems that the construction was so inferior that the new owners had to have major repairs and used the local builders.  
Not all jobs taken are those Americans will not do.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

guy

April 20th, 2011  
12:49 pm

This country has too many sorry, lazy, ignorant, and good for nothing whites and blacks who won't work at all, especially manual labor. That's why we are where we are now. If we would work like we should as a nation, there

would have been no jobs for illegals to begin with.

Soon enough the illegals will join the do nothing and drain the government plan. Then we can all starve!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Buster Collins

April 20th, 2011  
12:53 pm

You don't know much about farming in this state, Ms. "Old people should die to save money and children should asked to be born" Tucker.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Joe

April 20th, 2011  
12:53 pm

Tucker I really don't know if you're just stupid or just delusional? Do you honestly think farmers want illegal's tracked by giving them a pathway to citizenship? Of course not. If this happened they would have to pay them \$8 hr. instead of \$8 a day. By the way. Why would a letter from 270 democrat farmers out of thousands in Georgia make a difference? Only on the delusional left does a small minority mean so much. Let's look at the big picture which you foaming at the mouth libs seem to forget. It costs Georgia millions if not billions a year because of illegal immigrants. The regular ordinary worker in this state suffers for this recklessness on behalf of the federal government for not doing their job. Kudos to our great leaders in our bright red state of Georgia for looking out for the tax payers...

- [Link](#)
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pot meet kettle

April 20th, 2011  
12:54 pm

commoncents, you would shoot a woman and her 2 children crossing the border? Would you shoot three men crossing the border?

What if you found that the reason they were crossing the border was purely because of the drug war the US continues to fund simply by leaving drugs illegal?

What would you do to ensure the safety of your family if you could see the green grass (alright dirt) on the other side of the river?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

cosby

April 20th, 2011  
12:56 pm

Illegal is against the law...there is a right way to live in the USA and an incorrect one..why not enforce the laws we have...tired of this whoo are the poor illeglas whiile it cost millions to the taxp[ayers]...time for the USA to grow up

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Aquagirl

April 20th, 2011  
12:56 pm

commonsense, if you dribble your pants at the thought of gunning down 17 year old mothers carrying infants, you might want to keep it to yourself. Outside of wingnut circles, that's known as "psychopathic behavior."

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Bailey

April 20th, 2011  
12:59 pm

What part of illegal don't you get? Take a look at the crime rate among the illegal's. You can also take a look at how much these illegals are costing us, the working tax payers of this country! Our hospitals, schools, and jails are full of them and their children. Then rewrite your article. Illegal is illegal!!

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

pot meet kettle

April 20th, 2011  
12:59 pm

minimum wage jobs exist for a specific segment of society. If you are trying to raise a family on min wage, you have made exceedingly poor life decisions.

Consider that there is currently 25% unemployment among teenagers. Consider what would happen if there were no minimum wage laws and farmers could contract with teenagers to employ them at wages which allowed farmers to continue to be competitive in the free (for now) marketplace. Consider what would happen to the teen crime and pregnancy rates.

- [Link](#)
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ronald

April 20th, 2011  
1:01 pm

“Indeed, the business lobby is largely aligned with Republicans, who control state politics.”

That is correct, Cynthia. And there is a reason that Republicans control state politics. It's because the people of this state voted them in and will continue to do so. Yet you continue to try and paint the picture that Ga GOP is acting in opposition to the wishes of Georgia voters. Your argument is logically flawed.

- [Link](#)
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Jack

April 20th, 2011  
1:02 pm

“...most native-born Americans won't do.” “Won't do” is key here. Why work at a low-paying job when there are welfare options provided by those that “do” work?

- [Link](#)
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JV

April 20th, 2011  
1:04 pm

Even if the illegals do pay taxes of some sort, they are taking more than they are contributing. According to a 2010 cost study by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), the estimated annual total of the costs related to illegal immigration that taxpayers must bear on the federal, state and local levels is \$113 BILLION. Of that, \$84 BILLION at state and local levels. This breaks down to approximately \$1,000 per tax-paying American household. An average 27 percent of this dollar figure has to do with the administration of justice, while 16 percent are public assistance expenditures. Twenty-one percent go to medical care and an estimated seven percent support education. FAIR has a website. Look it up. As for farmers, According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), Georgia farmers received \$5.8 BILLION dollars in taxpayer federal FARM SUBSIDIES between 1995 and 2009. Georgia ranks 16th in the nation for this free money. EWG has a website. Just look it up. The immigration law is not favored by the state farm lobby. They say it will cost too them much to use the legal route called the H2A program. How about using some of that \$5.8 billion to pay for “LEGAL GUEST WORKERS”?

- [Link](#)
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pot meet kettle

April 20th, 2011  
1:05 pm

Columns such as this are a immediate reminder as to why liberals do not fare well on talk radio circuits. You can only spew this kind of illogical ignorance in print, where you do not have to defend or back up any statements with facts or knowledge. Just print the imagination you had while sitting in your kitchenette sipping coffee and you too can be a successful left wing “journalist”.

This garbage would be shot down immediately in any “real time” conversational format. (Except, I am sure that CT would have a call screener to make certain only agreeable types got on the line.)

....wonders if CT would continue to support illegals to work in the fields if Georgia farmers decided to stop paying them.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

williebkind

April 20th, 2011  
1:06 pm

joe

April 20th, 2011  
12:29 pm

I totally agree. The guest worker programs pay more than minimum wages and the workers have some benefits.

- [Link](#)
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bebe

April 20th, 2011  
1:07 pm

Enter your comments here

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Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
1:09 pm

Enter your comments somewhere else

- [Link](#)
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They cut hair, don't they?

April 20th, 2011  
1:10 pm

This article on the onion fields left me in tears. Great material, Cynthia Tucker.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Jose



April 20th, 2011  
1:11 pm

The illegals run around this country (just like the blacks) shoving their native homeland pride down our throats. My question to both groups is this. why not grow some balls and go home and take your homelands back instead of depending on the evil white man to hold your hand and provide you with jobs?

Just sayin...

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

ronald

April 20th, 2011  
1:11 pm

"totally agree. The guest worker programs pay more than minimum wages and the workers have some benefits."

Call me the bad guy if you want to, but I don't think they deserve or should receive any benefits of any type. To even suggest that they deserve benefits is an insult to the "nativists". Before you disagree with me, please remind yourselves that these people jumped the Rio Grande river, evaded our Border Patrol, and have no legal authorization to be in the country.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

tybee sun

April 20th, 2011  
1:20 pm

Enter your comments here

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

the answer

April 20th, 2011  
1:23 pm

@ Jose

Because they are unintelligent cowards that can not create anything other than crime, violence, poverty and babies

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Billybob

April 20th, 2011  
1:25 pm

False liberal template in use.....your predictability is starting to bore tucker.....

- [Link](#)
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tybee sun

April 20th, 2011  
1:29 pm

CT, Please enlighten us all: Do you even feel we need immigration laws in this country, and if so, how would you handle this explosive issue? You continually place blame(as usual) on the evil Republicans/Right, greedy corporations..... Would you just open our borders for all to enter? By the way, in my experience, most "illegal" immigrants in South Ga do not "accept American values" or learn the language (after years of arriving). We can all throw stones but please, for once, offer solutions!!!!

- [Link](#)
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Really last word

April 20th, 2011  
1:32 pm

Just because they have "fake" SS cards doesn't mean they pay income taxes!! They generally get paid in cash! 1) because they want to stay below the income level for financial assistance and 2) because they don't want to pay income taxes!! That is why so many do not have bank accounts!!! So the government can't document what they make. Cyndy Boo Hoo your desire to keep a big voting block for the liberals have caused you to be blinded by the facts.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Ann

April 20th, 2011  
1:36 pm

I used to be totally on the side of the illegal immigrant. I had very little personal experience and felt great sympathy for them. Over the last few years, I have seen a number of Georgia industries taken over by the illegal immigrants. For instance, the carpet and poultry industries have been completely taken over by them. These industries did rather well for many years with the legal residents of our state working in them. There was a time when a young person could get a high school diploma, go to work in one of these industries, and have a fair/good living if they were willing to work hard. That time has passed for our legal citizens. It's not being unwilling to do the work, it is being unwilling to do it for very low wages. Even if we have to pay more for products we need to support the legal residents of our state, rather than the illegal. I also didn't believe the hype about using social services. I have begun work in an environment that brings me in contact with the social services our federal and state governments (i.e. tax payers) have provided and have been appalled to find easily 90% of those in waiting rooms to be Hispanic. It is easy to get the services when you have a child. Have you been in an emergency room lately? Again, 80% to 90% Hispanic. By the way, Social Security Supplemental income and Social Security Disability are obtained by illegals.

Just ask someone who works with the Social Security Administration. Or better yet, check out the waiting rooms in the Social Security Offices. English As Second Language classes are primarily filled with Hispanic children and the size of a full class is very small. Teachers who teach ESOL classes are paid a bonus for that specialty. Say what you want to, until you have been in the mills, social service waiting rooms, and schools, you have no idea what you are talking about.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

sport

April 20th, 2011  
1:44 pm

Seriously CT – someone with an R next to there name could come out and say they`re really against eating shlt sandwiches and you, by natural reflex, would write an article proclaiming the merits of eating shlt sandwiches.

Your wriiting style and commentary are sooooo 2001, just pathetic

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

sport

April 20th, 2011  
1:51 pm

I forgot, it`s 420 Day, CT you are obviously stoned to the bejesus

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

the irony

April 20th, 2011  
1:52 pm

The US government will also accept Presidents with fake SS numbers too.

Are you now a “birther.” CT?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

kook hypocrisy

April 20th, 2011  
1:58 pm

Every kook on here crying for an open door policy at the border probably all have locks on their doors and windows and may even have alarms.

If you nimrods believed half of your own bs then you would gladly disable all your alarms and unhinge your doors and windows so any bum off the stret can enter your home 24/7.

Of course none of you liars would do such a thing so its laughable that you demand the country does it.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

0311/0317 -1811/1801

April 20th, 2011  
2:25 pm

Cynthia:

Question:

If you shoot yourself in the foot in an onion field should you be awarded the "Purple Onion" ?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Bob

April 20th, 2011  
2:27 pm

I believe that burglars and rapists that have jobs pay taxes too. Let's stop enforcing these laws too. Illegal aliens hurt real citizens and having them in this country is not a victimless crime. Take away their ability to make money or receive benefits and watch them self deport.

- [Link](#)
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Tundra Dude

April 20th, 2011  
2:27 pm

CT wrote, in part:

And it will hamper the state's \$69 billion agricultural industry, which depends on immigrant labor.

Or they could put on their Thinking Caps. Imo, they do not need immigrant labor, or dirt cheap labor. The wages to the picker represent a tiny fraction of the retail price at the store.

A few years ago, I got "sticker shock" at the local Kroger store. Cucumbers were a whopping 99-cents each. The average weight was about 1/2 lb. Snooping on the net, I discovered what cuke pickers in NC were getting paid per 20 lb bushel. It came to 2-3 pennies each. So, with the retailers profit, (they're always whining about their paltry 3-5% profits), and the pickers wages.....there's over 90 cents left for the growers and middlemen. I'd kinda think there's some \$\$ in the middle to be used to pay for decent wages to Real Americans.

- [Link](#)

- [Report this comment](#)

Tundra Dude

April 20th, 2011

2:36 pm

Ann@1:36 wrote, in part:

For instance, the carpet and poultry industries have been completely taken over by them. These industries did rather well for many years with the legal residents of our state working in them.

Same with the meat packing biz in Iowa. A Des Moines reporter-ette said the workers (unionized, Real Americans) were earning 15-16 an hour back in the 80's. Gee.... was meat prohibitively expensive back then...? Today it's all non-union Mex labor, earning about \$10 a hour.

- [Link](#)
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finn mccoool

April 20th, 2011

2:37 pm

*illegal workers — they've brought a crime wave to the country*

It wasn't illegals that emptied out 1/2 my retirement funds two years ago. More like npperclass Americans of decidedly European descent.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Bob

April 20th, 2011

2:41 pm

My first job was working summers in the onion and tobacco fields in Toombs county near Vidalia. Our entire crew was made up of high school students and the farmer's family. I bought my first car with the money I made. Why do we need illegals? How about we make them go through proper channels.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Joe

April 20th, 2011

2:48 pm

How does Tucker keep her job? She really only has 10 or so readers.....

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Tundra Dude

April 20th, 2011  
2:50 pm

Really last word@1:32 pm wrote:

Just because they have “fake” SS cards doesn’t mean they pay income taxes!!  
They generally get paid in cash!

A better trick for the growers and/or agents is to take out deductions, and pocket the \$, maybe send some of it in, to look legit.

- [Link](#)
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Bob

April 20th, 2011  
2:51 pm

CT-If we were to arrange for a lot of the illegal aliens to self deport by taking their financing away, what would that do for our unemployment rate? What would that do for the unemployment rate for teenagers and young adults? What would that do for the unemployment rate for young blacks? We can have these people working, providing for themselves and their communities or having packs of them attacking riders on MARTA (we know that would never happen).

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Counterpoint

April 20th, 2011  
2:56 pm

“How does Tucker keep her job? She really only has 10 or so readers.....”

.... and posters that benefit heavily from illegal aliens in GA.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

former (D)

April 20th, 2011  
3:03 pm

Bottom line is that illegal aliens TAKE from our economy much more than they contribute to it.

The recession was a wake up call for many Americans. It makes me happy to know that more and more Americans realize that the entitlement class (which includes illegals) has to go.

Liberal, progressive, socialist America is loosing ground. They are loosing the very class of people that they can look down on and depend on for votes.

Pablo has it right. Illegals are spitting on you liberals too, you are just too damn stupid to realize it!

Enablers are pathetic.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Kamchak's Gerbil

April 20th, 2011  
3:19 pm

Kamchak

April 20th, 2011  
12:12 pm  
It really chaps my a\$\$...

There are creams and ointments for that condition.

Just sayin'.

Kamy – do I bring the cream or the ointment?

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Lib Klier

April 20th, 2011  
3:32 pm

Last year, my neighborhood decided to ban all landscape companies that hired illegals – which pretty much meant no crews in our neighborhood. Neighborhood teens are now are go to lawnmowers – they are making great money and doing an excellent job.

Teens in rural counties can do the same.

With the wave of folks that now have home gardens (our neighborhood established gardens on vacant lots!), we are less reliant on the grocery for our fresh, year 'round produce.

I am a Democrat and I do not support illegal labor. I know many others that were once in support of illegal immigration that have made the change.

Often if you comfortable breaking one laws, you'll be more inclined to break others. Do not support illegal immigration unless you want to be a part of the problem. I am proud to be part of the solution now.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Jose

April 20th, 2011  
4:15 pm

Yes, we do pay taxes. WE have an ITIN, that the IRS give us in order to pay taxes. In our pay check the government deduct us SS, federal and state taxes and all that, but we do not get any service from the SS, not a dime. I'm an illegal and I can show you proof from the irs that I've been paying taxes since the very first year I came here. We wouldn't send our money to Mexico if we could stay here. Instead of buying a house in Mexico, I would get one here. It doesn't make any sense buying a house here if I'm not from here. We represent a big impact to this state. We pay rent, electrical bills, phone bills, insurance, and I can list you a lot of things that we spend in here, so don't tell us that we don't contribute to the American economy.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

roldawg70

April 20th, 2011  
5:09 pm

i have an uncle used to work in the carpet mills of dalton, the mills paid a decent wage then. not great but enough to get by. the reason immigrants get these jobs is that the mills want to pay less and the mostly latino will work for the lesser wage. so to me a lot of this rests on the employers. pay more than americans will take the job

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Vincent W. Callhoun

April 20th, 2011  
7:03 pm

Cynthia Tucker you, have written a real "dog mess" article about illegal immigration. What a disgusting piece of foul propaganda! Illegal aliens are trashing everything, sucking citizens dry financially. Your article is a disservice to citizens. The sooner illegal aliens are removed from Georgia the better off all of us will be. Title 8.0, USC, Federal immigration law was written to protect American citizens and must be enforced universally. That includes Georgia.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Jose



April 20th, 2011  
9:30 pm

I wanna see what's gonna happen to GA when illegals got kicked out...

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Joel Edge

April 21st, 2011  
6:50 am

Correct if I'm wrong, Cynthia. Haven't you been writing articles stating we should punish people who employ illegals. You know, those evil people that prey on these poor unfortunate illegals. Seems you should be cheering this crackdown.

- [Link](#)
- [Report this comment](#)

Not Blind

April 21st, 2011  
12:03 pm

Jose @ 4-21 -9:30pm. "I wanna see what's gonna happen to GA when the illegals got [sic] kicked out ....

So do I. We can get off this unsustainable path back to a sustainable path. If illegals are required for the USA's economy then we don't really have an economy, we just have a series of bubbles. I have no doubt that there will be pain for a lot of employers and businesses but the taxpayers have awakened.

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Political commentary from Pulitzer Prize winner Cynthia Tucker of The AJC

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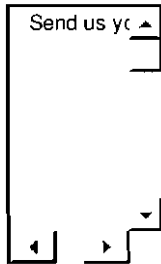
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