

## Obama's immigration policy needs reform

BY NICOLE BARNARD  
STAFF WRITER

"I thought Obama was progressive as far as basic human rights," said junior Noelle Lane.

What is Lane talking about? Barack Obama, not progressive?

Not in the case of immigration reform.

"It seems that immigration has taken a backseat due to healthcare policies," said Lane, who went on the No More Deaths trip last spring. "More people have been deported under his administration since the implementation of the racist law called 'Operation Wetback.'"

The official White House website states, "The president's plan builds a smart, effective immigration system that continues efforts to secure our borders and cracks down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants."

How can that be bad?

"The increased number of deportations is ... destroying families," said Jorge Zeballos, Hispanos Unidos de Guilford advisor and Multicultural Education Department head. "It's not a humane approach to immigration."

Junior Gabriel Pelly agreed.

"More so than any other president, Barack Obama has used deportation as an instrument of immigration policy," said Pelly.

"The problem with (the immigration policy) is that it leads to racial profiling, increased jail time for non-citizens and insecure communities," said senior Chloe Weiner, who also went on the NMD trip.

"Obama supposedly wants to fix our broken immigration system, yet he fails to identify the real problems in the system."

According to Juan Gonzalez of New York Daily News, deportation separates tens of

thousands of immigrants from their children born in the United States.

"(A)n astonishing surge of Latinos at the ballot box helped assure Obama a second term," wrote Gonzalez. "That surge convinced many Americans ... that the time had come to fix our broken immigration system."

But the administration's actions tell a different story.

"(In) his speeches, (Obama) claims to be (on) our side, but all the people ... his administration has deported say something very different," said first-year and HUG member Jose Oliva. "He won the Latino vote in 2012 ... The problem is that there are not many options for us."

"It is either Obama, who is deporting thousands but doing a few things in our favor, or the Republicans, who hardly want to do something about immigration."

Unfortunately, the effects

are evident even in places like Greensboro.

"At Oakwood Forest ... Mexican families live in fear that a family member could be deported simply for showing up to work or driving a car," said Pelly.

So what is the administration doing about this violation of human rights?

Well, nothing.

"I am not aware of any efforts from this administration to lessen the number of immigrants being deported," said Zeballos.

Lane agreed.

"Why don't we spend money (on) creating better pathways to citizenship instead of spending money on a failed and inhumane border?" Lane said.

The propaganda on the White House website says this: "The president's plan ... requires anyone who's undocumented to get right with the law by paying their taxes and a penalty, learning English

and undergoing background checks before they can be eligible to earn citizenship. It requires every business and every worker to play by the same set of rules."

According to Teaching Tolerance, "Undocumented immigrants pay taxes every time they buy gas, clothes or new appliances (and) contribute to property taxes ... They can receive schooling and emergency medical care, but not welfare or food stamps."

So they can pay taxes, but not get the benefits everyone else does?

Sounds "equal" to me!

As for learning English, I can't see an American going to another country and being forced to learn the language.

President Obama needs to reform his approach to immigration. Otherwise, he'll lose the support of his people and of his country.

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## Dead celebs: not strange to mourn strangers

Your favorite celebrity has just died. Sorry for dropping that bombshell. How do you feel?

Never fear, "Insert Name Here" is probably alive and well.



BY KINSEY DANZIS  
STAFF WRITER

But imagine if they'd really died. Imagine that they could no longer produce music, create artwork or appear in the next blockbuster. How would you feel then?

Most would say they feel at least a bit sad, which is perfectly normal, but what about the ones who let the grief dominate their lives? They've likely never met this celebrity or developed

a personal connection with them.

Don't worry; you're still allowed to mourn them to an acceptable extent. It's just the "why" that's a bit foggy.

"The issue of there being a connection with the person — which ends due to death — is a possibility," said Christopher Lootens, assistant professor of psychology at High Point University, in an email interview.

"Whether there is a connection or not depends on the person grieving and on the celebrity."

Indeed, it's a case-by-case basis. Someone could be a loyal member of a celebrity's fan base and hence know a fair bit about them, while someone else could know nothing except for their name.

Say that I am said loyal member. Despite that, I still don't know the celebrity in person, so why would I be sad? A death is a death, yes, but millions of people die every day that we often don't shed a tear for.

Is it simply because someone has died, or is it because I'll no longer be able to hear or see new works from them?

"Some deaths are quite painful to accept, so the 'death is a death' argument isn't very persuasive," said Dana Professor of Psychology Richie Zweigenhaft. "You're being

deprived of future work by that person."

Like Zweigenhaft, Lootens believes that one cause of such grief is the sudden impossibility of further contributions.

"When a celebrity dies, there's a sense of loss of that person and the entertainment that they provide," said Lootens. "We realize that we'll never see a performance or a contribution from this person again, and that sense of loss can result in feeling sad and disappointed."

That sense of loss can vary from person to person depending on what kind of effect the celebrity's work had on them.

They could've made art that inspired you, films that touched you or music that comforted you, and the knowledge that they can't provide that anymore is enough to provoke at least a bit of sadness.

It's not uncommon to know a bit about your favorite celebrity's life even if you've never actually met them. For instance, I'm a hardcore Lindsey Stirling fan. Because of a quick Google search, I know that she started taking violin lessons at age five, that she was born in 1986 and that she trained herself to dance by watching YouTube videos.

Bam — I suddenly know something about that celebrity, and that establishes a faux connection to them. But just because I know these tidbits about her doesn't mean I know anything about who she truly was, not like I would know a parent or a close friend. Should she die, I'd be incredibly sad but not inconsolable to the point where it would impair my ability to function properly.

That's not to say I wouldn't be allowed to grieve for her.

"There are no rules to say who you can mourn," said Catherine Machanic, an Early College junior. "If someone's had an important influence on your life and they die, it's normal to be sad about them even if you didn't know them personally."

So does a dead celebrity equate to, say, a dead family member? No, or at least it shouldn't.

But that doesn't mean you're not entitled to some sense of loss.