

# The wall that divides us all



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Now that the healthcare issue is somewhat settled, it's time for Obama and his cabinet to focus their energy on another issue in serious need of reform—immigration.

Before anti-immigration proponents start foaming at the mouth and sharpening their pitchforks alongside those ready to crucify the president for his healthcare law, they should think about the patriotism they guard so fervently.

If the United States is the land of the free and home of the brave, why do some American citizens so vehemently oppose the desire of those

who wish to call this country home?

Bravery isn't fearing people who don't speak English. Bravery is risking everything you have, including your life, to live in a country where you can properly feed and shelter your children.

Bravery isn't building border fences and incarcerating people for trying to make a better way for themselves. Bravery is breaking your back every day doing jobs others won't in a country that scorns you, but is infinitely better than the country you came from.

Rep. Lamar Smith of Texas, top Republican in the House Judiciary Committee, said a recently proposed bill to help legalize illegal immigrants would never pass.

"The bill doesn't have a prayer, because the American people oppose lawbreakers, which then encourages illegal immigration," he told newsmax.com.

Smith doesn't know about prayer.

The hundreds of thousands of family members who have lost innocent loved ones to the gruesome violence of the drug cartels in Mexico—they know about prayer.

If the people in my country were breaking the law by lopping heads off and dangling bodies from bridges—go ahead, pick up any newspaper in Texas—then you can guarantee I'd break a hundred immigration laws to get away from it.

Also, the belief that immigrants take jobs away from other Americans is a myth.

A U.S. Department of Labor study prepared by the Bush Administration said the thought that immigrants take jobs away from others was "the most persistent fallacy about immigration in popular thought." The study showed that immigrants are good for the economy, not vice versa.

Those who oppose immigration need to realize the excruciating

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work that goes into becoming a citizen.

About 17 years ago, my mother began the arduous journey of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen. I remember driving to Dallas to sit in line for hours at the immigration office time and time again. She took U.S. history tests that most college students couldn't even pass. She did it all to give me a better chance at succeeding in life.

A few summers ago, my mother took my sister and me to Muzquiz,

Coahuila, in Mexico. She wanted to show us the house she was born and grew up in. It wasn't much bigger than the hotel room where I'm writing this piece.

Because of my mother's hard work, I'm a junior in college with positive goals and accomplishments in my life. To think that other people can't get this chance due to tough immigration laws isn't only a shame—it's un-American.

## Student-athletes should keep their eye on the ball



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According to www.csmonitor.com, 21 percent of all college athletes have the goal to play professionally. According to the same Web site, however, only 1 percent will actually be given the opportunity to do so.

Have you ever considered what would happen if you were seriously injured, couldn't play anymore and lost your athletic scholarship?

There is a great difference in being goal-oriented and expecting something to happen, but one must also be a realist. For those of you out there "living the dream" as a college athlete, what's your Plan B?

Many people look up to and admire student-athletes for their dedication and ability to juggle great responsibility. However, I personally have had to work harder to prove myself in some classes—just because I am a student-athlete. Why is that?

Well, the main reason is that some professors have had really bad experiences working with student-athletes who could not have cared less about school; they are just here for the athletics. Then, one day, they venture out into the real world with a degree (if they even managed to graduate) that they hardly earned.

It's time to come down from the pedestal. It's time to wake up. You sure had a lot of fun in college, but now what? Are you planning to land a well-paid job with a 2.3 GPA and a degree that took you six years to earn?

It would have been really troublesome to bother and actually open the book or even come to class to pass that junior level class already on the second or third attempt.

I can only speculate, and I by no means want to suggest that I can see into the future. However, I did pass college algebra, so I know just enough math to understand what the following facts and figures suggest.

According to www.csmonitor.com, 36 percent of all college athletes not only want but



expect to one day become millionaires. So, the 35 percent who will not be making their money playing pro will have to use their education to make that million. So far, so good.

The fact that, according to the Institute for the Study of Labor, college athletes earn more than their colleagues within the fields of business, military and manual labor definitely supports your case. Too bad college athletes are more likely to end up as high school teachers than business people. Needless to say, this career path tends to pay significantly less than business.

Do the math yourself (or, if you need to, ask a tutor for assistance). If you belong to the 36 percent who expect to become a millionaire or just want a choice when it is time to hit the job market, consider trying a few of these steps toward a passing grade: drag yourself to class, stay awake in class; stop playing with your phone in class; start paying attention to what the professor says (when you have that

down, you can start taking notes too); revisit said notes before quizzes and exams, and—this is really innovative—read the book.

Combining any of these steps will further improve the grade, and, believe it or not, there are resources available (tutors, one-on-ones with professors, the library, etc). Or, you can ignore all the suggestions and talk about what an idiot I am.

You are probably right. Just don't try to look at my test when we take our next exam, and don't ask me to share my homework answers with you. All I did was follow these steps, and it takes no rocket scientist to do that.

Despite the fact that we do have several very responsible and very successful student-athletes at Texas Wesleyan, the composite GPA for all Wesleyan student-athletes dropped from 2.82 in fall 2007 to 2.78 in fall 2008 (according to the athletic banquet program). The decrease is small, but it is there, and the

numbers aren't very flattering.

So, let's remember that there is a reason why it is called student-athlete and not athlete-student.

I really hope that you have a Plan B, or a painful reality check will be waiting around the corner. Don't panic, though. It is not too late to take a step back and get some perspective on things.

I am the first one to admire people who go for their dreams, but the line between tough but possible goals and plain ignorance is far from diffuse. There happens to be too many people in the way.

But if you do get some perspective on things, I bet you will be able to see it very clearly along with alternative ways to take toward a secured future. Your options are plenty and, after all, the world could not have enough aspiring fast-food chefs, right?

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*"We are not afraid to follow the truth ... wherever it may lead."*

— Thomas Jefferson

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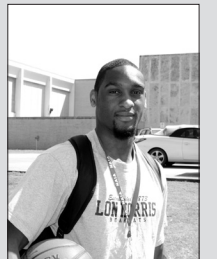
### How well do you feel student athletes perform academically?



**Bailey Williams**  
Freshman Psychology  
"Pretty well, because you generally have to maintain a certain GPA."



**Jessica Valadez**  
Freshman Theater  
"I think it depends on the person, not if they play sports or not."



**Brian Wanamaker**  
Junior Education  
"I know I perform well, I don't know about anyone else."



**Ines Perhoc**  
Graduate Education  
"I think some sports are better than others."



**Beatrice Alvarado**  
Sophomore Biology  
"I've seen a couple of friends that have less time during the season, but after the season's over, they pick it back up."