



CAPS

Californians for Population Stabilization

newsletter

Volume 39

SUMMER 1998

High-Tech Worker Issue Disputed — *American High-Tech Workers Sold Out*

By Bob Saunders, CAPS Project Coordinator

The House of Representatives' vote on a "compromise" H-1B visa bill has been postponed until September. The Republican high-pressure rush to push through a Silicon Valley friendly version of the bill to hire more foreign high-tech workers suffered a temporary defeat after the White House and congressional Republicans reached an impasse.

"There is probably no more important legislation that the Congress will pass this year that will create jobs and continue the enormous growth of our high-tech and computer industries", Senator Spencer Abraham

(R-Michigan) said. But, we ask, create jobs for whom?

What's the truth behind the computer industry's push to increase H-1B visa numbers from 65,000 to 115,000 by 2000? Harris Miller of the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) had lobbied to convince the government that a critical shortage of computer workers threatened our ability to compete in world markets. An ITAA report claimed that the U.S. currently has a shortage of 350,000 information technology workers. His report was used to convince lawmakers that a failure to import hundreds of thou-

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something new

Starting with this issue, the CAPS Newsletter will feature an article by a prominent specialist in the field of population control or environmental protection. The following was written by Lee Miller, Senior Biologist Specialist with the Bay Delta Division of the California Department of Fish and Game. Lee is a long time CAPS member.

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In 1994, state and federal agencies involved with California water problems and stakeholders for the environmental and agricultural interests reached the CALFED accord. Parties agreed to a three year (later increased to four) moratorium on the water war in California. The CALFED Bay-Delta program, established as a result of the truce in the water wars, is seeking a solution agreeable to competing environmental, agricultural and urban interests. Not mentioned in the mix of habitat restoration projects, water conservation, multi-billion water storage is the need to control the driving demand force for California's water supply — human population growth. As usual with population problems, society treats the symptoms rather than the disease.

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The Fiancée Visa — Immigration Abuse In The Name Of Love

By Joe Guzzardi, Media Director

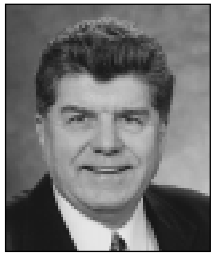
Even in a debate as divisive as the one concerning immigration, common ground can be found.

No matter what you may think about the merits or flaws of our immigration system, no one can argue that the growth of international marriage agencies, aided and abetted by the "fiancée visa" is a bad deal all the way around.

Sorry, I don't have any heart warming tales about romance to share. What I have instead is the pathetic story of a

multi-million dollar industry which markets women from developing countries as brides to western men. Russians, who are described in brochures as traditional, family-oriented and untainted by western feminism, have replaced Asians as the women of choice. According to an Internet advertisement, "Russian women's views of relationships have not been ruined by unreasonable expectations. You can marry an exotic...and she's white."

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Tom McMahon

PEOPLE WATER FOOD AND THE AIR WE BREATHE

United States hydrologists tell us that California's water supply is stressed to the limit by too many people. Something has to give and it is. Farmers are selling water rights to cities so urbanites can have the water they require. Agricultural production is limited. At the same time, prime agricultural land disappears under housing tracts and super malls. Food production continues to decrease. Food previously grown in California is now imported. The medical profession and environmental experts tell us that air pollution continues to be a serious health problem despite billions of dollars spent to reduce it.

Here are some reasons why the public doesn't understand the linkages:

- Reports intimate generalized conclusions from anecdotal news accounts without numerical and statistical evidence; for example, recent newstories stating that immigration will be the salvation of our social security system because large numbers of young immigrants pay social security taxes. Advocates of this position say that this will make up the difference for the increased demands on our social security system caused by our aging population. These claims never test their conclusions. If you run the numbers, you will see that immigration does just the opposite; it places additional burdens on social security.
- Reporters and readers are lazy. Rather than do in-depth analysis, they report the claims made by those who see technology as the answer to every problem. Technology does not always find a way nor does God always provide. Continuing growth is not a free lunch.

CAPS members understand how US population is threatening to overwhelm our environment and our human ecological support system. CAPS is in sync with world-class scientific thinkers :

*"Pressures resulting from unrestrained population growth puts demands on the natural world that can overwhelm any efforts to achieve a sustainable future... We must stabilize population."
The World Scientists' Warning to Humanity"*

This statement was signed by 1,575 scientists including half of all living scientists awarded the Nobel Prize, and received one day's news coverage and was promptly forgotten.

CAPS has engaged the press to generate a continual stream of newsworthy stories on population subjects week after week. It will take a continual drumbeat of news stories to keep our message in the forefront. Over time, we expect public opinion to join us.

"As California goes, so goes the nation" Our goal is to change our direction from local growth control to state-wide sustainability. If our current pattern continues, future generations will live in an environment populated by 50 million. This does not have to be! Projections are only mathematical indications of what will happen if we do not change current policy. California does not have to be a Titanic. We can slow down and use radar to avoid disasters. That takes intelligence, determination and foresight.

Growth is not inevitable. Neither population growth nor economic growth based on overconsumerism is desirable. What is important is growth of true wealth. Wealth in this context means riches that benefit all, an economy and jobs that lift the poor and educate the most needy. A society that respects children and teachers and give them their due is what CAPS stands for.

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“AND, THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.”

CAPS Members Meet Matching Grant Goal

From January through June, 1998 CAPS solicited your continued support of Project Spotlight and CAPS/Data. We requested your donations to allow us to meet a challenge grant offered late last year by one of our foundations.

In just six months, more than 300 members contributed \$37,240 towards our \$100,000 matching grant goal. Because of your generosity, and two grants from supporting foundations, CAPS is ready to apply the \$100,000 to Project Spotlight and CAPS/Data in earnest.

REMEMBER WHEN?

Long ago, the American cowboy recognized that our greatest natural resource—land—was being gobbled up to make way for urbanization. Charles “Badger” Clark, one of the greatest cowboy poets and song writers, used the theme of America’s changing landscape frequently in his writings. One of Clark’s most famous songs, “The Old Cow Man”, written around the turn of the century, concludes with these lines:

*Far and farther flings the wire
To crowd and pinch another inch
Is all their heart’s desire.
The world is overstocked with men,
And some will see the day
When each must keep his little pen,
But I’ll be far away.*

*While progress toots its greedy horn
And makes its motor buzz,
I thank the Lord I wasn’t born
No later than I was.*

NEW CAPS FULL-TIME STAFF:



L to R: Robert Saunders, Tom McMahon, Betsey Ballash, Joe Guzzardi, Kephra Alston and Rosemarie Menjivar

JOSEPH R. GUZZARDI, *Media Director*

Joe has been an editorial columnist for *The Record* in Stockton for the past nine years. Fluent in Spanish, Joe taught English as a Second Language to Mexican migrant workers and Southeast Asian refugees at the Lodi Adult School. He is currently on the Boards of Directors of the American Cancer Society, Planned Parenthood (Mar Monte) and the World Affairs Council of San Joaquin County.

ROBERT SAUNDERS, *Project Coordinator*

Bob has over ten years of experience in sales, management and fund raising. Formerly a campaign manager with United Way Sacramento and a consultant and project manager on various nonprofit fundraising projects, he has extensive experience working with volunteers and is an accomplished photojournalist with a long time interest in environmental issues.

ROSEMARIE MENJIVAR, *Media Relations & Outreach Coordinator*

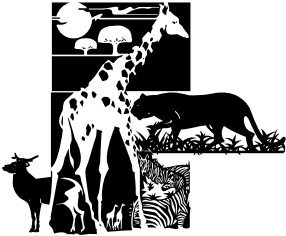
Rosemarie earned a B.A. in International Relations and Spanish at the University of California, Davis and is currently working on her M.A. in Spanish Culture and Language at California State University, Sacramento. She has five years experience in marketing and management. Rosemarie offers volunteer and interpreter services to several nonprofit organizations including Women Escaping A Violent Environment. (WEAVE).



Biography — Eddie Tabash

Eddie Tabash is our newest Board of Directors Member and our southern California spokesperson. Tabash is a magna cum laude graduate of UCLA and received his law degree from Loyola Law School. Since 1981, Tabash has been the most active man in the pro-choice movement in California having made more than 1,000 presentations for the California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. Tabash has also served on the First Amendment Committee of the ACLU of southern California since 1990.

CAPS CIRCLES THE GLOBE:



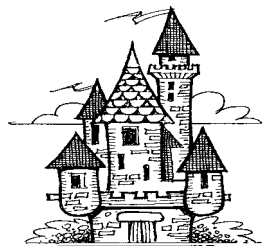
AFRICA...The Good News and the Bad News

Over the last two decades, birth rates in many African countries have fallen sharply. Urbanization, improved education for women and strong government programs have contributed to the declining fertility rate in Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe. Measured in births per 1,000 from 1975 to 1995, Kenya has dropped from 48.7 to 32.0; Ghana, 48.8 to 34.0, Nigeria 49.3 to 43.0; Senegal, 47.6 to 45.0 and Zimbabwe (1985 figures) 53.0 to 32.0

Africa's definition of family has changed. For centuries, children were considered a source of wealth. No matter how poor, Africans had many children. Today, those who have children they can't afford are considered irresponsible. Population experts point out that when fertility rates consistently decline over 10% annually, a country has entered into an "irreversible fertility transition." In other words, fertility rates should continue to decline.

On a somber note, however, according to a World Health Organization study, 58 African women die daily when they attempt to terminate unwanted pregnancies by dangerous homemade "cures" or by going to unsafe underground clinics. Abortion, which is outlawed in most African countries, remains a taboo topic for public discussion.

IRELAND: They're Building Castles"



The Irish government reported that over the last two years, in a break from earlier generations, 13,000 more Irish moved back to Ireland from America than went the other way. This reversal ends one of the longest and most sustained immigrant inflows in U. S. history. Today Ireland, called the "Celtic Tiger" by some economists because of heavy off-shore investment in computer and pharmaceutical businesses, is a land with future and promise.

INDIA: Here Comes the Bride....But She's Only Four Years Old



New York Times Pulitzer Prize winner John F. Burns reported that, although Indian law sets 18 as the minimum age for a woman to marry and 21 for a man, marriages between boys as young as 12 to girls as young as 4 remain common. According to decades of research, child marriages fuel every social malaise that keeps Indian women from attaining their rights. Included among the problems are soaring birth rates, grinding poverty, malnutrition, high illiteracy, high infant mortality and low life expectancy. In some Indian states like Rajasthan, a survey showed that 56% of women had married before 15, 14% before they were 10 and 3% before they were 5. Of those child brides, 72% were illiterate and 97% did not use birth control.

DENMARK : Immigration a Key Election Topic?



In Denmark, where only 3.7% of the population of 5.2 million were born outside of the European Union, immigration was a key topic in the recent election. Candidate Pia Kjaersgaard, who heads the Danish Peoples's Party, asked voters to reconsider the concept of asylum. Fugitives from troubled countries, according to party spokesperson Soren Espase "have every right to seek asylum—we don't mind—but we want them to go home" when the turmoil is over. Although Mrs. Kjaersgaard was defeated, mainstream politicians promised to introduce more restrictive boarder controls and measures to send more refugees home more quickly. This is in accord with the wishes of Danes who feel that emphasis on Danish culture and history is waning.

From The Media Director's Desk:



TALES FROM THE FRONT

by Joe Guzzardi

About 15 years ago, I returned from my first vacation trip to Australia. While visiting down under, I decided that Australia was the place for me. The sandy white beaches were empty, the tennis courts grass and the Aussies laid back and friendly.

Once home, I called the Australian Consulate in San Francisco to inquire about obtaining a permanent visa. "Before sending the application, Mr. Guzzardi, may I ask you a few questions?" inquired the voice on the other end of the phone.

"First of all", she began, "do you have any special skills or talents that will benefit Australians?"

"No", I replied, "I do not."

"Do you perhaps intend to start a capital intensive business?" she asked.

"No, I have no such plans."

"Let me ask one more question. How old are you?"

"I'm 38," I answered.

"Mr. Guzzardi, I'm happy that you enjoyed your stay in Australia but let me explain something. We don't want people to come to Australia just to grow old on our beaches. We want citizens who will enhance the quality of life of all Australians. I'm sure you understand."

CAPS ATTENDS THE 66th ANNUAL U. S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Media Director Joe Guzzardi represented CAPS at the 66th United States conference of Mayors in Reno, Nevada. This was CAPS' first appearance at the mayor's gathering.

Attending were 241 mayors from 45 states including 39 from California.

The gathering's theme was sustainability. Each mayor spoke about the importance of creating communities that would provide jobs, housing and a good quality of life. Even though the cities projected significant population growth over the next decade, population issues were not directly addressed.

CAPS needs the grassroots support of municipal governments to help attain our goal of immigration reform. The mayors have identified the problems. Now, they need to make the connection. Accordingly, CAPS will petition the Conference of Mayors to be a presenter at the 1999 gathering in New Orleans.

something new... , from Page 1

A year ago, I attended a meeting at which someone said, seriously, that California has enough water to meet its needs. We just need to store it and meter it out properly. This sounds like the argument "There is enough food in the world. It just isn't properly distributed."

Owens Lake is now a hazardous dust bowl because the water was drained off back in the early days of the water wars. The over drafting of ground water, the damming of every salmon stream, the decline of fisheries and aquatic resources in the estuary which includes the endangered winter-run Chinook salmon and Delta smelt, the economic losses to farmers during droughts prove that we are short on water. We cannot sustain our water supplies if the population growth continues unabated.

Water distribution is only one of several environmental problems related to California overpopulation. Overcrowded schools, urban sprawl, citizens living in poverty and a declining quality of life are concerns all CAPS members share. One has to wonder why the politicians don't get it? The numbers speak for themselves. Still, politicians prefer expensive fixes rather than the long term solution of controlling population. CALFED will spend billions for a water supply solution while no one wants to spend a like amount for global family planning.

The CAPS' mission must succeed. We will need to make an enormous effort. If we think California has problems now, wait another quarter of a century when the population hits 50 million.

CAPS DATA SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

A comprehensive report on the Sacramento City Unified School district will be available in September to members and other interested parties. The report details the impact of immigration and poverty on one of the state's largest school districts. Complete with graphs, glossary and exhibits, the report will provide an in-depth look at the challenges facing public schools today. The cost is \$5.00. write or call CAPS for your copy at (916) 446-1033.

sands of high-tech workers would cause a loss of business and jobs.

An unspoken part of ITAA's lobbying effort was that temporary guest workers are cheaper to employ. In reality, these "temporary" workers are neither guests nor temporary.

H-1B visas, which are renewable, allow workers to apply for their green cards after their three-year renewal expires. Since the H-1B program began in 1990, over 520,000 people have entered the U.S. Few leave. Approximately 80% of the H-1B recipients come to California.

WHAT CRITICS SAY

Critics of the alleged "shortage" say that the problem is not a lack of high-technology workers but a preference by high-tech companies for younger foreign workers. Statistics indicate that no such labor shortage exists. A 17% unemployment rate among computer programmers over 50, layoffs by high-tech companies and stagnant salaries are the order of the day.

In mid-May, Michael Teitelbaum, a New York demographer and former vice-chairman of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, appeared on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered" to present the case against increasing the H-1B visas. He stated that we should be training our out of work and underemployed high-tech PhD's. He further stated that we can train people in eight weeks to upgrade their skills.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF H-1B

After months of continuous lobbying by high-tech companies, the U.S. Senate voted by a margin of 78-20 to increase the H-1B visas. The increase would include an additional 30,000 in 1998 and then jump to 95,000 in the first year and increase to 115,000 through 2002. This version was steamrolled through by Senator Abraham. Abraham claimed that his bill was important for America to remain strong and competitive. Two attestations to guarantee that companies recruit American high-tech workers first and not replace laid off workers with cheaper foreign labor were rejected by the Senate.

The Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives voted on May 20 on their version of the bill, H.R. 3736. By a 23-4 vote the committee approved the bill sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) to raise the H-1B ceiling and steadily increase in smaller numbers through 2000 and then revert to 65,000. The House bill included the two provisions to protect American workers' rights.

In defense of his bill, Smith said that between December 1997 and June 1998, over 25 well known high-tech companies dismissed 142,000 workers. But Smith's bill languished as Sen. Abraham insisted on removing the worker protection clauses. The two Republicans initially fought to a standoff until Rep. Smith, heavily persuaded by House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) and several other Republican leaders, was forced into accepting a "compromise". This bill, origi-

nally slated for an early August House of Representatives floor vote and pulled due to the threat of strong White House opposition, will now have to wait until the House members return after Labor Day.

PRESIDENT CLINTON THREATENS VETO

The White House Office of Management and Budget had adamantly opposed Sen. Abraham's bill and questioned the "compromise" version, citing the numerous flaws with regard to protection of the American labor force. The "compromise" legislation will allow companies to import 20,000 more workers this fiscal year, and then jump to 95,000 in 1999, 105,000 in 2000 and 115,000 for 2001 and 2002. Worker protection provisions, though watered down, will be included.

Several days after Republican leaders reached a "compromise", the Clinton Administration, threatening to veto the H-1B bill, released a two-page list of "concerns" regarding the bill. Out of an overall list of 15 concerns, the White House focused on three-main conditions not found in a Senate-House version: 1. A 10 percent threshold for companies to file nonlayoff affidavits, 2. A tougher clause allowing U.S. workers to seek formal arbitration through the Labor Department to recover lost pay if they can prove they were replaced by an H-1B worker, and 3. A higher fee amount that H-1B employers would pay into a fund to train U.S. workers.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA (IEEE-USA) urged Clinton to veto the H-1B because it represented too great a threat to American workers.

DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSION

When the facts are examined, logic leads you to believe that the beneficiaries would be the multibillion-dollar executives and the politicians who are pulling the strings. Losers would be American high-tech workers and Californians who feel that our population has spun out of control.

What's good for the high-tech industry is not necessarily good for America.



The introduction companies—now up to 250 in the United States—are a shameless scam which benefits only those who own them, the questionable characters who patronize them and the lawyers who expedite obtaining the crucial fiancée visa.

Officially, a fiancée visa is issued when an American man petitions the INS for the woman to come to the United States. The visa is valid for 90 days. If no marriage takes place within that time, the woman must return. Whether she leaves or not is anyone's guess.

In a typical case, through the Internet a man purchases hundreds of names – Russian, Thai, Cambodian – from international marriage agencies. Men pay an average of \$7.50 per address. Then, according to California lawyer Lawrence Holmes, the best thing for a prospective groom to do is to travel to his country of choice.

Holmes, who devotes his entire practice to fiancée visas, has this potentially exhausting advice for clients in search of Russian brides: "Stay in Moscow as long as possible. Spend as much time as possible with as many women as possible. This increases your odds of success in finding the right fiancée." The only hurdle may be the fiancée's interview at the U.S. Consulate. Here, Holmes warns that mistakes in answering personal questions can tie up the paper work for several months. He cautions that both parties be well versed in the groom's likes and dislikes since "your fiancée will not know much about your background."

... "your fiancée will not know much about your background."

We wouldn't have these tawdry, unregulated businesses and these unscrupulous lawyers if the United States didn't indiscriminately hand out the fiancée visas.

No records are kept by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on how many marriages take place through matchmaker services. U.S. Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI) estimates that 3,500 men per year find wives through international agencies. As T. Alexander Aleinikoff, a former senior INS official says, "This is not to suggest that some aren't bona fide marriages but given the chance for abuse and exploitation, should we be handing out visas that aren't subject to quotas where the industry is totally unregulated?"

The State Department confirmed Kohl's concerns. Statistics show that the number of visas issued to foreign individuals intending to marry U.S. citizens has risen in the last five years. Almost all the visas go to women from Russia and the Ukraine who met their intended through international intermediaries.

CAPS Joins Activists in Washington

CAPS sent Betsey Ballash to Washington, D.C. for the April 23-25th Immigration Reform Awareness Week. Betsey was one of 250 activists who lobbied Congress to reduce legal immigration and eliminate illegal immigration.

Members of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), and Carrying Capacity Network (CCN), among others, exchanged strategies and progress reports. Conferences covered a wide range of immigration sub-topics including labor issues, asylum and refugee policies and bilingual education. Former Colorado Governor and current CAPS Advisory Board member Richard Lamm led a spirited debriefing session.

One of Betsey's visits was to the office of newly elected Representative Lois Capps. Betsey advised Congressional aide Clara Dowling about the population pressures effecting all California. For emphasis, Betsey detailed the population growth in Capps' home district of Santa Barbara.

Participants in the IRAW meeting were positive and upbeat. The trip to Washington provided an opportunity to meet people, share activist experiences and renew energies. "You are not alone" was the message sent to all, by all.

Some unsuspecting women enter into abusive marriages. They end up seeking protection using organizations like the Refugee Family Violence Prevention Project. In worst cases, marriages end tragically. In recent incidents, two brides from the Philippines were shot. One was murdered in a Seattle courtroom in 1995. The other, the fourth wife of a Texan, was killed in 1996.

The women aren't beyond reproach either. Many men complain that their new brides undergo remarkable personality changes after they arrive in the U.S. Men feel that they have been used by their fiancées to get their green cards and bring over children from previous marriages. Once here, they split.

The fiancée visa isn't in our national interest. We have no compelling need to issue such a document. I can't quote you the figures but I'm sure that we have no shortage of Americans who would love to remarry and make new lives.

Eliminating—or at the very least subjecting to rigid quotas—the fiancée visa is something that we should all be able to agree on.

Letters to CAPS

To: Senator Barbara Boxer
From: Mark Gilkey, CAPS Member
Re: H-1B Visas

Dear Senator Boxer:

As you know, U.S. businesses have been complaining about an apparent shortage of skilled workers in some sectors, such as software engineering. Initially, the argument looks convincing. Salaries for software engineers have been rising faster than salaries for most other workers, and rising price (salary) is sometimes a sign of an imbalance between the supply and demand for a product or skill.

However, the rate of salary increase for CEOs has been far higher than the rate of salary increase for software engineers. This seems to indicate that there is a serious shortage of CEOs. Yet, as far as I can tell, the business people clamoring for an increase in the supply of engineers have not been pressing for an increase in the supply of CEOs.

Thus, we must conclude that either rising price (salary) is not a good indication of a shortage or that CEOs are happy to maintain a shortage that causes their own salaries to rise while they work to eliminate shortages that cause other people's salaries to rise.

I am not asking you to refuse to consider additions to the H-1B visa program.

However, I urge you to consider very carefully whether the demands for increased H-1B visas are motivated by a true shortage of skilled people or are merely another attempt to drive down salaries. Studies show that the so-called labor shortage has been exaggerated for worker categories ranging from farm laborer to software engineer.

Furthermore, I seriously suggest that the U.S. open up H-1B visas specifically for CEO positions. Japanese CEOs, for example, are paid far less than American CEOs and do a better job. True believers in the free market have no excuse for keeping out people who will compete for American CEO jobs while demanding an increase in people who will compete for other jobs.

CALIFORNIA
POPULATION
33,252,000 AS OF
1 JANUARY 1998

Short Snorts



"MOTHER NATURE BATS LAST"

There has been a 50 percent drop in sperm count of human males worldwide during the past 40 years. Wildlife species, too, are experiencing sperm decrease. Environmental chemicals are the suspect.

At the present rate of decline, said one researcher, "it will take 70 or 80 years before sperm counts go to zero." When that day comes, the population crisis will have ended!

CAPS supports educational achievement, marketable skills, and moral integrity as necessary for the common good. CAPS deals with *numbers of people* and promotes population stabilization as essential for a better quality of life for all. CAPS does not discriminate people by race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, sex or national origin.

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