



**Immigrants Targeted:
Extremist Rhetoric Moves into the Mainstream**

©2007
www.adl.org

About This Report

The national conversation about immigration, both before and after the June 2007 defeat of the proposed immigration reform legislation in Congress, has become a deeply polarizing issue in American politics and public life.

While there are valid and sincere arguments on both sides of the issue, the debate has also been framed, at times, by vitriolic anti-immigrant – and particularly anti-Hispanic – rhetoric and propaganda. Purveyors of this extremist rhetoric use stereotypes and outright bigotry to target immigrants and hold them responsible for numerous societal ills.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which previously has documented how extremist groups like the [Ku Klux Klan](#) and neo-Nazis have exploited the immigration issue to advance their own agenda, has become increasingly concerned about the virulent anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic rhetoric employed by a handful of groups that have positioned themselves as legitimate, mainstream advocates against illegal immigration in America.

Unlike the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis, who make no attempt to hide their racism and bigotry, these anti-immigrant groups often use more subtle language to demonize immigrants and foreigners. They are frequently quoted in the media, have been called to testify before Congress, and often hold meetings with lawmakers and other public figures. However, under the guise of warning people about the impact of illegal immigration, these anti-immigrant groups often invoke the same dehumanizing, racist stereotypes as hate groups.

A closer look at the public record reveals that some of these supposedly mainstream organizations have disturbing links to, or relationships with, extremists in the anti-immigration movement. Often identified in the media or their mission statements as “anti-illegal immigration advocacy groups,” they attempt to distort the debate over immigration by fomenting fear and spreading unfounded propaganda through the use of several key tactics:

- Describing immigrants as “third world invaders,” who come to America to destroy our heritage, “colonize” the country and attack our “way of life.” This charge is used against Hispanics, Asians and other people of color.
- Using terminology that describes immigrants as part of “hordes” that “swarm” over the border. This dehumanizing language has become common.
- Portraying immigrants as carriers of diseases like leprosy, tuberculosis, Chagas disease (a potentially fatal parasitic disease), dengue fever, polio, malaria.
- Depicting immigrants as criminals, murderers, rapists, terrorists, and a danger to children and families.
- Propagating conspiracy theories about an alleged secret “reconquista” plot by Mexican immigrants to create a “greater Mexico” by seizing seven states in the American Southwest that once belonged to Mexico.

This anti-immigrant propaganda and rhetoric, once the domain of hate groups, is now part of the lexicon used by anti-immigration advocacy organizations, politicians and media figures considered mainstream.

In this report, part of a series of reports on immigration and extremism, ADL exposes those individuals and groups who are playing a key role in mainstreaming extremist rhetoric in the immigration debate in various aspects of American life.

Group Highlighted in Report

The Dustin Inman Society – Georgia

Donald Arthur (D.A.) King is the founder and leader of the Marietta, Georgia-based Dustin Inman Society (DIS), a group that focuses entirely on opposing immigration of Hispanics to the United States (Dustin Inman was a 16-year-old boy who was killed when an alleged undocumented immigrant crashed into the back of the Inman car in 2000). King has described the United States as a country “being invaded and colonized,” and its “way of life” destroyed with the “Hispandering” of his state, which he has taken to calling “Georgiafornia.”

King routinely makes derogatory statements about Mexican immigrants, equating them to criminals. In a July 2004 article, he wrote, “We have become sadly acquainted with the absolute and brazen disregard for the law that comes from the third world horde that is allowed to swarm over our border with Mexico...It is clear that when the mostly Mexican mob illegally ‘migrates’ into our nation, it brings with it the culture of lawlessness and chaos that is responsible for the very conditions that they flee in the rapidly deteriorating example of Democracy without the rule of law that is Mexico.” Commenting on Hispanic immigrants in a May 2004 article, King asked, “Must the United States silently suffer the incursion of one million people a year because they are brown?”



D.A. King speaks at the April 2007 Dustin Inman Society rally during “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” in Washington, D.C.

Drawing on the vocabulary of anti-government extremist groups, King claims that there are designs by “the Globalist elite” to form a “new America” that would eliminate American sovereignty to create a “New World Order.” In a June 2006 article on VDare, a Website that publishes racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant articles authored by extremists, he described the ABC network’s airing of an award show hosted by the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy group, as “Reconquista TV,” referring to the conspiracy theory that Mexicans are allegedly plotting to conquer the Southwestern United States.

King also maintained a blog on VDare, which also posted many of his articles. In one blog entry, he discussed his experience at a March for Dignity, comprised of, in King’s words, “mostly Hispanic demonstrators.” He wrote, “I got the sense that I had left the country of my birth and been transported to some Mexican village, completely taken over by an angry, barely restrained mob....My first act on a safe return home was to take a shower.”

In September 2006, he attempted to distance himself from VDare. The Dustin Inman Society Website states, “D.A. King demanded that [VDare] remove his name from the VDARE Editorial Collective.” However, King also requested the VDare “archive his writings along with other past authors.”

Despite King’s numerous other inflammatory statements, the national media and elected officials have provided King with a mainstream platform. He has toned down his rhetoric in mainstream television and print media and his statements and articles now reach millions of Americans. In May 2007, Anderson Cooper interviewed King on *CNN Today*, introducing him as a “columnist” and “activist.” Twelve mainstream newspapers have printed King’s articles, most notably *The Washington Times*, which neutrally describes the Dustin Inman Society as “a Georgia-based coalition of citizens with the goal of educating the public on the consequences of illegal immigration.” King’s pieces, mostly discussing immigration, are also featured regularly in Georgia in *The Marietta Daily Journal*.

On the political front, in August 2006, King served as a witness at a Gainesville, Georgia, field hearing of the House of Representatives Education and the Workforce Subcommittee. As participants entered the building, Dustin Inman Society members greeted them. Though King softened his language during his testimony, he had secured a permit for his group to demonstrate. One person held up a sign saying “Stop

the Invasion.”

King has not, however, completely abandoned his problematic rhetoric, actions, and affiliations.

Speaking at a Newton County (Georgia) Republican Party meeting in April 2007, according to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, King reportedly told attendees that undocumented immigrants are “not here to mow your lawn – they’re here to blow up your buildings and kill your children, and you, and me.”

That same month, King organized a kick-off rally for “Hold Their Feet to the Fire,” a series of anti-immigrant events held in Washington, D.C. He brought together anti-immigrant speakers from around the country, including his self-described “personal friend” Terry Anderson, Rick Oltman, and William Gheen, all prominent anti-immigrant activists. The Dustin Inman Society organized a similar rally in 2005, featuring *Chris Simcox*, currently the leader of the border vigilante Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, which encourages armed patrols and surveillance by volunteers to prevent Mexicans from crossing the border into the United States. In 2005, Simcox co-founded the *Minuteman Project*, which had a similar agenda. Today, the *Minutemen* are a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep undocumented immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters continue to advocate patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.

Mothers Against Illegal Aliens – Arizona

In January 2006, Michelle Dallacroce founded Mothers Against Illegal Aliens (MAIA), a group that, in her words, was formed “to show every mother in America what is going on on our streets.” Through media appearances, connections with extremists, and personal appearances at anti-immigration events, Dallacroce echoes the anti-immigrant themes of a “mass invasion” of unintelligent, disrespectful, conspiratorial criminals while targeting her message to women and families. She focuses on immigration as a threat to American children and denigrates the values of immigrant families, branding immigrant children as “dumb” and violent.

The Introduction to the MAIA Website states, “Our beautiful Nation has been turned into a jungle by the mass invasion of illegal aliens - the streets of America; the neighborhoods and communities where we live; the malls and stores where we shop; the schools where our LEGAL [emphasis in original] children attend - and yes, even the churches where we worship--are now the Citadels of fear, bigotry, racism, physical danger and hate! The LEGAL children of America's 21st century have become the scapegoats and the victims of this invasion of illegal aliens...As evidenced by Spanish homework being sent home with our American Children.”

Dallacroce constantly voices anger over the integration of American and immigrant children in schools. In a May 2006 interview on CNN's *Nancy Grace*, she lamented, “My children, as well as my grandchildren and everyone’s legal citizen children in our schools, are being affected, dumbed down.”

She has also claimed that immigrant children are not only “dumb” but raised to be disrespectful and violent. Following an immigration rights Labor Day rally at the Arizona State Capitol in September 2006, media accounts described a woman screaming at a child through a bull horn, surrounded by counter-



protestors who referred to Mexicans as “dogs.” In an Internet post, Dallacroe admitted, “I am the lady who is being talked about...We have a prime example of what kind of children are being born and what they are being taught by their illegal alien parents to disobey and disrespect American citizens. This 9 year old boy is being taught to be a violent and hostile child. If this was my child I would have washed his mouth out with soap or better yet, I would have put a lot of tabasco sauce in his mouth...”



Michelle Dallacroe at a September 2006
Minuteman Civil Defense Corps rally in Arizona

In an April 2006 appearance on FOX News's *Hannity and Colmes*, Dallacroe made several derogatory statements about Hispanics, then conjured the anti-immigrant conspiracy theory that Mexicans are engaged in a plot to reclaim the American Southwest. She explained, “What we have got coming over here, that people don't respect the American people. They don't respect America. They want to take over the Southwest...They're using our hospitals...they're tearing apart our country.”

Dallacroe publicly supports and works alongside the border vigilante *Minutemen*. The Minutemen are a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep undocumented immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters advocate patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.

Dallacroe counter-protested with the Minutemen at a pro-immigrant rally at the Arizona State Capitol in September 2006. That same month, Dallacroe spoke at a Minuteman rally in Arizona and in February 2006, she spoke at a Minuteman rally at the U.S. Capitol. According to the *Arizona Daily Star*, at a February 2006 MAIA demonstration in Arizona, Dallacroe stated, “By us supporting the Minuteman...we working [sic] together to protect our families.”

In addition to her work with the Minutemen, Dallacroe has appeared with white supremacist J.T. Ready. When Ready organized a rally at the Phoenix Mexican Consulate in April 2006, Dallacroe was an invited speaker. Ready, who advocates placing landmines across the border, was a Minuteman volunteer. He attends Klan and neo-Nazi events and was a “special guest speaker” at a September 2007 protest against the Mexican Consulate in Omaha, Nebraska, sponsored by the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) – Washington D.C.

The Washington D.C.-based *Federation for American Immigration Reform* (FAIR) founded in 1979, claims to work to “improve border security, to stop illegal immigration, and to promote immigration levels consistent with the national interest.” Possibly due to its large size (it claims over 250,000 members and supporters), D.C. location, and exposure, elected officials look to the organization for input. To that end, FAIR boasts that it “has been called to testify on immigration bills before Congress more than any organization in America.” FAIR is more nuanced in its use of language than other anti-immigrant groups and it has been used as a resource by officials, the media and within anti-immigration policy circles. However, a close look reveals a pattern of extremist affiliations and a strategy of founding and empowering smaller groups that promote xenophobia.

Controversy over FAIR's extremist ties dates back to its founder, John Tanton, a pioneer of the anti-immigrant movement. Tanton founded several other organizations,



Rick Oltman, right, speaks at an April 2006
Minuteman rally in Arizona after presenting the
group with a lantern to signify that the immigrants
are coming “by land”

including U.S. English, a group that seeks to make English the official language of the United States. He publishes *The Social Contract*, an anti-immigration journal whose Website links to a number of extremist sites, including: VDare, a Website that publishes racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant articles authored by extremists; *American Border Patrol*, the virulently anti-Hispanic border vigilante group whose leader, *Glenn Spencer*, claimed that the Mexican government is “sponsoring the invasion of the United States with hostile intent,” and the *Minutemen*, a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep undocumented immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters advocate patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.

An article in the Spring 2007 issue of *The Social Contract* lauds Sam Francis, a deceased white supremacist, as a “formidable and articulate champion.” Tanton remains on the FAIR Board of Directors. In 1997, Tanton told the *Detroit Free Press* that if the borders are not secured, America will be overrun by people “defecating and creating garbage and looking for jobs.”

FAIR received mainstream media coverage in April 2007 by co-sponsoring “Hold Their Feet to the Fire,” a series of anti-immigrant events in Washington, D.C., that brought together several members of Congress, anti-immigration groups, media figures, border vigilante groups, and citizen activists from around the country. Through press conferences, continuous radio broadcasting from over 35 hosts, lobbying training and demonstrations, participants voiced their opposition to the pending immigration legislation in the 110th Congress and heard from many of the figures who inject ugly stereotypes into the national immigration debate.

Rick Oltman, while acting as FAIR’s Western Field Director, spoke at a Minuteman rally in Arizona in April 2006; he also presented the Minuteman group with a lantern to signify that the immigrants are coming “by land.” A May 2006 *Los Angeles Times* article discussed a meeting between Oltman, Mothers Against Illegal Aliens president Michelle Dallacrose, and Rusty Childress, leader of United for Sovereign America, an anti-immigrant group that attracts extremists to its events.

FAIR’s current Western Field Representative is Joseph Turner, who also heads the California-based anti-immigrant group Save Our State, whose rallies have attracted the support of Minutemen and neo-Nazis. In the Save Our State “Partner Web Sites” section, Turner includes several Minuteman groups and American Border Patrol.

During a May 2005 appearance on *The Political Cesspool*, a Tennessee-based radio show hosted by white supremacist James Edwards that routinely features neo-Nazis and white supremacists as guests, Turner stated, “I am supportive of the Minuteman Project in general...”

Furthermore, FAIR reportedly accepted over \$1 million in the 1980s and 1990s from The Pioneer Fund, a foundation that promotes the study of eugenics. Racist scholar J. Philippe Rushton, The Pioneer Fund’s current president, spoke at a 2006 conference organized by American Renaissance, a white supremacist publication and Website.

Like many other anti-immigrant groups, FAIR opposes legal immigration as well as illegal immigration. Unlike many other anti-immigrant groups, however, FAIR is much more explicit about this opposition. It has consistently supported a moratorium on legal immigration to the United States, suggesting that only spouses and young children of U.S. citizens and “some” legitimate refugees should be allowed into the country.

FAIR-Cultivated Offshoots

To both broaden the demographic of its movement and cultivate a grassroots following, the Washington D.C.-based *Federation for American Immigration Reform* (FAIR) has created front groups that work together, often in concert with border vigilante groups, to broadcast a xenophobic message. At the same time, the groups serve as a defense against charges of racism.

Choose Black America

In May 2006, FAIR founded Choose Black America (CBA), which describes itself as a “Black oriented -

Black led organization and movement in the United States that is resisting illegal immigration and amnesty to citizens of foreign countries illegally within ours.” CBA’s leader, Ted Hayes, is an anti-immigrant activist with ties to the *Minutemen*. The Minutemen are a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep undocumented immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters advocate patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.

Hayes also leads the anti-immigrant Crispus Attucks Brigade, a group that Hayes made a CBA direct “subsidiary.” The Crispus Attucks Brigade describes itself as an “American Black US citizens patriotic organization in the ideological insurgency against the invasion and illegal colonization of the United States of America.” (Crispus Attucks was a black American and reportedly among the first people killed in the American Revolutionary War, during the 1770 Boston Massacre.) Hayes and the Minutemen have worked in conjunction to stage anti-immigrant events, with members of both groups sharing a stage.



Ted Hayes with Minuteman founder Jim Gilchrist

Another member of CBA is Terry Anderson, who also has ties to several figures in the anti-immigrant movement. During his speech at the anti-immigrant “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” a series of anti-immigrant events in Washington, D.C., that brought together several members of Congress, anti-immigration groups, media figures, border vigilante groups, and citizen activists from around the country in April 2007, Anderson complained that a child in an American public school is a “victim” because teachers have to “spend extra time with some little brat that’s illiterate in two languages.”

Anderson hosts *The Terry Anderson Show*, an anti-immigrant radio program, on which he has interviewed Minuteman leader *Jim Gilchrist*, *Glenn Spencer*, leader of the virulently anti-Hispanic border vigilante group *American Border Patrol*, who has claimed that the Mexican government is “sponsoring the invasion of the United States with hostile intent,” and Peter Brimelow, who runs the racist VDare Website, which publishes racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-immigrant articles authored by extremists. Anderson has himself appeared three times on *The Political Cesspool*, a Tennessee-based radio show hosted by white supremacist James Edwards that routinely features neo-Nazis and white supremacists as guests.

FAIR-Cultivated Offshoots

To both broaden the demographic of its movement and cultivate a grassroots following, the Washington D.C.-based *Federation for American Immigration Reform* (FAIR), has created front groups that work together, often in concert with vigilante groups, to broadcast a xenophobic message. At the same time, the groups serve as a defense against charges of racism.

You Don’t Speak for Me

In May 2006, the Washington D.C.-based Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) “was proud to help launch” a group called You Don’t Speak for Me (YDSFM), which claims to be a “coalition of Americans of Hispanic descent who believe that this nation must enforce its immigration laws in order to protect the security and interest of all citizens.” Though FAIR does not characterize itself as a direct

founder of YDSFM, the two groups share a spokesperson and in June 2006, YDSFM leader Miguel Cruz (who has since become a New Jersey-based YDSFM executive director) told *The Record*, a New Jersey newspaper, that “the coalition [YDSFM] is FAIR’s creation, it’s their mission...” YDSFM Chairman Al Rodriguez sits on FAIR’s National Board of Advisors.



Carmen and Joe Morales of You Don't Speak for Me at an April 2007 anti-immigrant rally in Washington, D.C.

YDSFM members speak at anti-immigrant events across the country, alongside border vigilante activists and anti-immigration figures. During an anti-immigration rally in New Jersey in July 2007, YDSFM Vice Chairman Carmen Morales proclaimed, “We are standing here, a group of Americans of all ethnicity [sic] to defend the USA [against] this huge invasion and the Reconquista!” Morales continued, “I have never seen such disarray, chaos, and so much worthless crime in this country before. Of course we have our own criminals, but do we need more from foreign countries? I don’t think so. People, we are headed towards a third world overpopulated country with no rule of law whatsoever. We are turning into what these illegal aliens left behind, so could you imagine?...Terrorists, criminals, and all kinds of people who hate Americans from around the world were crossing the border into the United States, unbeknownst to us.”

YDSFM has ties to the border vigilante Minuteman organization. The *Minutemen* are a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep undocumented immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters advocate

patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.

Rosanna Pulido serves as both the YDSFM Illinois spokeswoman and founder and state director of the Illinois Minuteman Project. Lupe Moreno, a prominent member of YDSFM, calls herself “one of the original Minutewomen.” During a June 2007 fundraiser for U.S. Representative Tom Tancredo* (R-CO), Moreno discussed “going out with [Minuteman leader] *Jim Gilchrist* to the Naco [Arizona] border to defend this nation,” referencing her participation in the April 2005 *Minuteman Project*. Moreno’s fellow speakers at the fundraiser included Los Angeles Minuteman leader Tony Dolz and Jeff Schwilk, leader of the more extreme San Diego Minuteman faction. YDSFM’s Arizona point of contact Anna Gaines is also a member of the Minutemen, according to Minuteman leader *Chris Simcox*.

Choose Black America (CBA), another anti-immigration group founded by FAIR in May 2006, and YDSFM co-organize events. On the grassroots level, the groups’ events attract Minuteman attendance and support.

In June 2007, CBA and YDSFM held a joint press conference at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. That same month, the Los Angeles Chapter of CBA and YDSFM co-sponsored a “Civil Rights March and Rally” in conjunction with other anti-immigration groups, according to a flier released by the Crispus Attucks Brigade, a CBA subsidiary group. The mission of the event was to “Retrieve...Our National Birth Right NOW From Citizens of Foreign Nations Illegally Within Ours.” In March 2007, the Crispus Attucks Brigade, the Minuteman Project, YDSFM and other anti-immigrant groups formed a “coalition” and sponsored a “Civil Rights March.” A Crispus Attucks Brigade’s flier about the march included the group’s demand for “protection of Black US Citizens From Ethnic Cleansing By Latinos, Europeans, Asians, Africans, & Others Invading and Illegally Colonizing Our Country.” During the event, CBA leader Ted Hayes shared the stage with YDSFM leader Al Rodriguez.

***ADL takes no position in favor of, or in opposition to, candidates running for office, including Representative Tancredo.**

Americans for Legal Immigration Political Action Committee (ALIPAC) – North Carolina

The platform of the North Carolina-based Americans for Legal Immigration Political Action Committee (ALIPAC), asserts that “more should be done to reduce illegal immigration.” To achieve what is a legitimate and credible policy aim, the group pledges to utilize the work of its members and contributors to support “candidates for office that are serious about immigration reform.” The group also encourages members to take individual action and lobby elected officials. But its most visible representative, ALIPAC president William Gheen, advances this mission by branding undocumented immigrants as murderous criminals infecting Americans with diseases.

At an August 2007 rally in North Carolina, Gheen stated, “Illegal aliens in this country have set up ethnic cleansing zones, ethnic cleansing zones where if you walk past the wrong sign post, the invisible line, you’re under the threat of death.”

In July 2007, Gheen appeared with Ted Hayes, leader of the anti-immigrant organization Choose Black America, on a *Fox News* segment and demonstrated his bigotry, explaining, “I can’t see how anybody would think that someone who’s here illegally in the country that’s stolen someone’s ID, stolen someone’s American job, should then be able to rape, assault or murder and not be deported.”

Gheen also inflames anti-immigrant sentiment by falsely asserting that foreigners bring disease into the nation.

During a June 2007 radio interview, he said, “We’ve got bedbugs back in all, almost all of our 58 [sic] states. We’ve got TB on the rise, we’ve got hepatitis, we’ve got HIV, we’ve got diseases like Chagas disease, which is a horrifying disease, but also, much like TB, is very, very difficult to treat at all, and it’s coming in because of the, the lack of enforcement of our immigration laws and, and the end result is Americans are suffering, Americans are dying.”

During Gheen’s speech at a June 2007 rally in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, in support of that city’s restrictive ordinance against undocumented immigrants, he said, “I want to talk about crime and disease for a second...They broke the law when they stole your identity, wrecking your life. They broke the law when they took a job they weren’t supposed to have...These people have shown a pattern of disrespect and a pattern of criminal behavior coming from gang-rule areas where there is no law. And that is what our nation is becoming like because it’s common sense that when you inject that into a nation, that is what your nation becomes like.”

He continued, “We got a problem. Well I got some news. According to some rough math I did 20 minutes ago, we’re getting four to ten TB active cases rushing across our southern border every night.”



Source: ALIPAC Website



Source: Freedom Folks blog

William Gheen and Illinois Minuteman Project founder and director Rosanna Pulido at a July 2007 anti-immigrant conference in Chicago

Gheen also maintains affiliations with the *Minutemen*. The Minutemen are a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep undocumented immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters advocate patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.

In July 2007, Gheen was a guest on *Minuteman Radio*, hosted by Minuteman Civil Defense Corps leader *Chris Simcox*. The day before, he spoke at an anti-immigrant conference in Chicago. Fellow speakers included Illinois Minuteman leader and prominent YDSFM member Rosanna Pulido and Ted Hayes.

ALIPAC had a heavy presence at the April 2007 anti-immigrant “Hold Their Feet to the Fire,” a series of anti-immigrant events in Washington, D.C., that brought together several members of Congress, anti-

immigration groups, media figures, border vigilante groups, and citizen activists from around the country. Though “Hold Their Feet to the Fire” included several mainstream, legitimate figures who refrain from extreme language in their opposition to immigration, ALIPAC invited Los Angeles Minuteman chapter leader Tony Dolz to become an official participant in Blogger’s Row, a small group of individuals who dedicated three days to “meet with citizen activists, talk radio hosts, and elected officials” and catalogue the events in their online journals.

In April 2005, Gheen was a guest on *The Political Cesspool*, a Tennessee-based radio show hosted by white supremacist James Edwards that regularly features neo-Nazis and white supremacists as guests.

Grass Fire – Iowa

Grass Fire is a non-profit group that claims to hold “a strong and unwavering commitment to conservative, pro-family and pro-faith values.” Claiming over one and a half million contacts with elected officials, the group mobilized opposition to proposed immigration-reform legislation in the 110th Congress, with a nationwide ad campaign, mass online petitions, intensive lobbying, and giant billboards across the country declaring “Stop the Invasion: No Amnesty.”

Grass Fire’s 57-page pamphlet, “The Truth About the Illegal Invasion” tries to instill fear in readers with its claims that “illegal immigration is creating a crisis of lawlessness and has led to a massive underground criminal element that feeds off human trafficking and drug running. Illegal immigration is inundating our borders with mountains of garbage. And illegal immigration is undermining American culture and threatening our future.”



Source: Flickr Website
One of Grass Fire’s giant anti-immigration billboards

In an August 2007 Internet post, President Steve Elliott asks, “Does the Mexican government care about the harm their people are inflicting on our environment with all the trash, clothing and human waste they are leaving when they cross illegally?”

Grass Fire’s “Stop the Invasion” online petition, addressed to the President and Members of Congress, portrays undocumented immigration as a “long-term threat to the American way of life.” As of August 2007, Grass Fire claims that over 720,000 individuals have signed and submitted Internet petitions.

Anti-immigrant rhetoric in media and politics

The hateful rhetoric around the immigration debate has gone beyond the rallies, lobbying, and media appearances by anti-immigration advocates. A number of media personalities in television and radio, as well as political leaders, have adopted the same language when discussing immigration issues in this country. From national TV correspondent Lou Dobbs to more extreme political commentator *Patrick Buchanan* to local radio personalities to members of Congress such as Tom Tancredo and Steve King, the use of anti-immigrant and anti-foreigner rhetoric has permeated the culture in our country.

An individual who influenced several of these figures is the late Madeleine Cosman, a self-described “medical lawyer” and propagandist who routinely demonized immigrants as a diseased, criminal element. Mainstream media commentators and politicians have utilized Cosman’s “research” to validate false allegations that immigrants coming to the U.S. carry a number of deadly and harmful diseases. In spite of her questionable data, the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* published one of



Source: Renew America Website *
Alan Keyes (left), Representative Steve King (middle), and Minuteman Civil Defense Corps leader Chris Simcox (right), at a Minuteman fence groundbreaking ceremony in Arizona in May 2006*

Cosman's articles in its Spring 2005 issue. Her mainstream exposure added a veneer of legitimacy to the anti-immigrant movement.

The following examples illustrate how this type of inflammatory rhetoric has been amplified in the media and in cultural and political arenas:

- Under the guise of delivering news and commentary, Lou Dobbs, host of *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, a weekday show on CNN, frequently spreads false propaganda about how immigrants are harming the United States. On one show, he claimed that "unscreened illegal immigrants" were partly to blame for an alleged 7,000 cases of leprosy in the United States from 2002-2005. When confronted with the United States Department of Health and Human Services's findings of 7,029 cases over the past 30 years, not three years, Dobbs refused to recant his statement. His correspondent cited Madeleine Cosman as the source of the false statistic.
- Former presidential candidate and advisor, MSNBC commentator, and columnist [Patrick Buchanan](#) has long exploited anti-immigrant sentiment. In his 2006 book, *State of Emergency: The Third World Invasion and Conquest of America*, Buchanan fills his pages with xenophobia and conspiratorial allegations. In the book, he explains that "the crisis of the West is of a collapsing culture and vanishing peoples, as a Third World that grows by 100 million people -- the equivalent of a new Mexico -- every eighteen months mounts the greatest invasion in the history of the world. If we do not shake off our paralysis, the West comes to an end."
- Lynn Woolley, a Texas radio personality, is the host of an AM radio show syndicated throughout the country. At a November 2006 rally in Austin, Texas, Woolley warned that "gate crashers" will "be running this country and hoisting the Mexican flag...in Washington." In a June 2007 article, he sounded the alarm that "Illegal Immigration Can Make You Sick" by asserting (incorrectly) that "hoards [sic] of illegals crash our border without medical screenings," carrying "tuberculosis, Chagas disease, leprosy, Dengue fever, polio, malaria, hepatitis, and Marburg disease." The source of this claim was Madeleine Cosman.
- Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo* (R-CO) has generated much attention through exploiting the immigration issue. He chaired the Congressional Caucus on Immigration Reform and became a leading national spokesperson for anti-immigration views. Tancredo outlines these views in his 2006 book, *In Mortal Danger: The Battle for America's Border and Security*, which he dedicated to Madeleine Cosman, whose work Tancredo cites in the book. Under "health threats posed by illegal immigration," he lists Chagas disease (a potentially fatal parasitic disease), dengue fever, polio, and malaria. He also promotes the fallacy that 7,000 cases of leprosy plagued the United States in the past three years. He claims, "Leprosy now is endemic to the Northeastern states because illegal aliens and other immigrants brought leprosy from Brazil, the Caribbean, India, and Mexico." Tancredo publicly supports the actions of border vigilante groups and appears with them at anti-immigrant events. He has a long-standing relationship with the [Minutemen](#). The Minutemen are a loose network of local chapters around the country, whose primary goal is to keep "undocumented" immigrants from Mexico out of the United States. The more extreme Minutemen chapters advocate patrols of the Mexican-American border by armed volunteers.
- Representing Iowa in the United States House of Representatives, Congressman Steve King* (R-IA) has characterized immigrants – both legal and undocumented – as criminals and disease-carriers. He has spoken alongside leaders of border vigilante groups and advocates a border "wall" topped with electrified wire to stop what he has called a "slow motion Holocaust" of undocumented immigration into the United States. King addressed the House of Representatives and asserted that undocumented immigration "a slow-rolling, slow-motion terrorist attack on the United States." He suggested that because undocumented immigrants comprise 28% of the prison population, "28 percent of the murders, 28 percent of the rapes, 28 percent of the violence

and the assaults and battery, first- and second-degree murder and also manslaughter attacks are committed by criminal aliens.”

***ADL takes no position in favor of, or in opposition to, candidates running for office, including Alan Keyes and Representatives Tancredo and King.**