



CONAL PIERSE

Hey, Bush, leave that border alone

All in all, there'll be just another bunch of Mexicans trying to get around a wall



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Once again, it seems that America is under attack. The enemy this time? Illegal Mexican immigrants who don't remember the Alamo. President Bush recently signed into law the annual homeland-security spending bill, which this year includes a down payment for 700 miles of fence along the US/Mexico border.

You see, it's much simpler to build a fence along the nearly 2000 miles of border than to deal with the underlying issues. However, I'm a little disappointed in Bush's level of commitment to this issue. I mean, Mordor had a wall too, and we all know what happened there. And if two ambiguously gay midgits can get past a giant iron wall and through a wasteland populated by orcs, what chance does a simple fence have against the criminal genius that is the collective

Mexican mind? Remember, we're dealing with a real nest of vipers here. Now, I know Mr Bush is a very busy man and doesn't have the time to contemplate these sorts of issues, so I've done him a favour and written up a plan of attack for him.

First of all, the wall has to be at least 20 feet high and must be made of reinforced concrete. This wall is going to work like a giant dam: there'll be so many Mexicans converging on the border that you'll be able to smell the enchiladas from Denver. Secondly, there needs to be a moat on both sides of the wall filled with specially trained dolphins. Swimming with these bad boys will fill little terminally ill Poncho's burrito with the beans of Justice.

On top of this wall will be bears and barbed wire. Why bears? The answer is simple: they're used to catching salmon as they swim upstream, denying them access to those sweet, sweet spawning grounds in what can be called nature's biggest cock block. Now if we consider this wall to be a river, Mexicans salmon, and America the sweet spawning grounds ... you get where I'm going. The second key ingredient in this recipe is that bears are cold-blooded

and without ruth. There's no reasoning with them, and they never sleep.

My next idea might be a little controversial, but let me assure you that it's in the interest of the American public. As you all know, we're currently able to genetically modify food to make it enormous. I'm talking tomatoes the size of a child. What I suggest is that we use this technology in combination with radiation therapy to make a giant Komodo dragon that will patrol the fence. Once scientists discover the gene linked to loving America and clone it into our reptilian protector, our borders will be safe and patriots will finally be able to understand the greeters at Southern Walmarts.

Funding this shouldn't be a problem, either. America-loving patriots will take time out of their busy schedules to work menial jobs like lawn care and fry-guy at McDonalds for a wage lower than illegal immigrants are willing to work for, and put the money earned towards maintenance of the wall. With their combined will and love of their country, I'm sure that America's heroes can make my plan work and ensure that their melting pot is used for freedom fries, not tacos.

Babies: from Russia's wombs with love



RAMON OSTAD

Earlier this week, I read a bit of news that reminded of one of my favorite *Futurama* episodes, in which the space captain Zap Brannigan discusses his victory against the massive Killbot army. You see, Brannigan is a very intelligent being. He knew that the Killbots had a kill limit of 500 kills each. So, in order to defeat this terrible army, he sent waves and waves of his own men in against their unstoppable forces, until every Killbot eventually reached their kill limit. He became a hero among humanity for his brilliant plan.

I was reminded of this since-canceled television show by a news article, which claimed that due to Russia's rapidly increasing death rate—the CIA pegs it at 14.65 per 1000 people (compare that to 7.8 per 1000 here in Canada), and many analysts predict the population to wane by tens of millions in the next few decades—there have been reports of many Russian bureaucrats attempting to reverse the trend by any means necessary. In the province of Ulyanovsk, for example, Governor Sergey Morozov decided to

provide his people with an afternoon off work, under the condition that they spend this free time attempting to reproduce as vigorously as humanly possible—a process he dubbed “making patriots.”

Of course, “making patriots” is all well and good, but actually delivering them is a different story altogether for the Russian people. Aside from pollution and environmental degradation (which has led to birth defects and miscarriages), a gender imbalance created by World War II casualties, rampant alcoholism, a lack of immigration and a low birth rate to match, abortion is one of the leading causes of Russia's plummeting population figures. In fact, there are more abortions in Russia than actual births, partly due to the increased risk of poverty when there's an additional mouth to feed.

As incentive, Governor Morozov has decreed that every parent who gives birth on 12 June 2007—Russia's current Independence Day—will be eligible for such gifts as washing machines and four-wheel-drive vehicles, which are blatantly obvious (if not self-explanatory) solutions to Russia's crisis. In fact, the idea is so fantastic that Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to go national with it, offering the equivalent of \$10 600CDN to every mother who gives birth to a second child.

Now, I'm a simple man. I don't know too much about international politics, economics or how to run a country—I'm really not all that experienced with patriot-making. But it does strike me as kind of odd when the leaders of a nation decide that, in order to stave off the complete extinction of their people, they should offer said people cars and washing machines in exchange for babies. Forgiving the fact that these “incentives” will probably be the used products of Russian politicians who have already bought newer models from their European counterparts, the Russian government has resorted to giving these future patriots a market value, as if they were some sort of livestock. As a result, even if these people start pumping out more units, the life expectancy will be critically low.

Apparently, giving your people proper living conditions before you ask them to make more actual people didn't really strike them as an efficient game plan. So instead, Putin has decided to put Brannigan's Law into effect. I assume that his hope is to create enough constant births that the birth-to-death ration will just sort of cancel itself out—kind of like killing enough of your own men till the Killbots just can't do it anymore. But hey, Brannigan's a hero. And there's nothing wrong with following in the ashes—I mean footsteps—of our heroes.

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CHRTC 350

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