

## Local Student Shines in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Congratulations to Bethany Qiang, an eighth grade student at Brecksville–Broadview Heights Middle School. She has earned Gold Key awards at both the Regional and National Level in The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for both her painting and writing.

Bethany has been taking lessons in Chinese Watercolor from Ms. Dorina Shen since she was in sixth grade. Ms. Shen teaches Chinese Watercolor painting at several places, including the University of Akron, Cuyahoga Community College and the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. Her artwork can be found on many continents, including North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. Ms. Shen’s artwork includes a variety of xieyi and gongbi art, both of which she teaches her students.

Bethany has done both Xieyi and Gongbi paintings. Xieyi drawings are composed of free-hand strokes which allow you to transfer your inner emotions onto paper. Gongbi shows the artist’s emotions through details. Whether it is thin lines, small dots, carefully placed strokes, etc., it is much more time consuming and requires much more patience than xieyi paintings.

Bethany submitted a painting that had a combination of xieyi and gongbi strokes of an eagle into the Scholastic Art Awards. The title of the painting is Do Not Judge A Branch by Its Bark. She has a sparking passion for many art forms, and has been drawing and painting realistic art forms since she was four. The Cuyahoga County Region’s art submissions were displayed in the Cleveland Institute of Art in January. At the Regional Level, there is the Gold Key award, the highest award, then the Silver Key award, then the Honorable Mention. At the Cuyahoga County Regional Level, Bethany received a Gold Key award for her outstanding effort.. Her painting then moved on to the National Level, where it received a Gold award. Her painting is publically displayed with other



nationally recognized Gold award artworks in Reeves Contemporary Art Gallery, located in the heart of Chelsea’s Art District in New York City.

In addition to her passion for the visual arts, Bethany also likes writing. She has been a member of Brecksville Broadview–Heights Middle School’s Power of the Pen team for the past two years. She received several awards at the District and Regional Competition last year. This year, Bethany received a Gold Key award in the Short Short Story category both at the Regional and National Level. Her story, Hell Smack Dab in the Middle of Heaven, tracks a day in the life of a young girl living under a totalitarian government. The government forces her to work in a factory during the day, while her parents are under the impression that she still goes to school. She is forbidden to tell her family about her working instead of going to school, unless she wants the government to kill her family.

Bethany attended the award ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 15 to recognize for her accomplishments, both in arts and writing.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is a prestigious national program that offers early recognition for creative teenagers and scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors. The competition started in 1923 for students in the seventh through twelfth grade. The Scholastic Art Awards represent 14 visual arts categories, including drawing, painting, sculpture, design and electronic media. The Scholastic Writing Awards represent 11 writing categories, including humor, journalism, novel, science fiction and short story. This year, the Alliance received over 100,000 works of art and writing, submitted through 82 regional affiliate programs across the nation for consideration in 25 categories of art and writing. The submissions are evaluated locally and nationally by a panel of renowned artists, authors, educators and arts professionals.

## Immigration Fact Check: Responding To Key Myths

**1. MYTH:** A comprehensive approach to immigration reform is not necessary.

• **FACT:** Mass deportation is not a workable solution. Deporting the millions of illegal immigrants who are already in the country would be impractical, harmful to our economy, and potentially devastating to families with deep roots in their communities.

• **FACT:** Keeping our Nation secure requires bringing the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants already here out of the shadows and into a regulated system. This will allow law enforcement officials to know who is in the country and allow immigration enforcement officers to focus their resources on finding and apprehending violent criminals and terrorists who want to stay hidden from the law.

• **FACT:** To help meet the needs of our growing economy, there must be a lawful and orderly channel for foreign workers to fill jobs that Americans are not doing. Current enforcement, while necessary to uphold the rule of law, is leaving farmers without workers to pick their crops.

• **FACT:** A temporary worker program will give immigrants trying to support their families a legal way to find employment, thus reducing pressure on the border. This will allow Border Patrol and immigration enforcement agents to focus on those entering the country illegally with the intent of doing our Nation harm.

**2. MYTH:** The Administration is not enforcing current immigration law.

• **FACT:** In FY 2006, the Border Patrol caught and sent back nearly 1.2 million illegal immigrants. So far in FY 2007, more than 600,000 illegal immigrants have been removed.

• **FACT:** As a result of the Administration's increased investment in border security and other deterrence factors, the number of people apprehended illegally crossing our Southern border is down by more than 25 percent.

× Since the President took office in 2001, the Administration has more than doubled funding for border security – from \$4.6 billion in 2001 to \$10.4 billion in 2007.

× The Administration has expanded the Border Patrol from approximately 9,000 agents in 2001 to more than 13,000 agents today. By the end of 2008, there will be a total of more than 18,000 agents, doubling the size of the Border Patrol under the President's leadership.

× In addition to thousands of ground sensors, hundreds of cameras, more than 350 miles of improved patrol roads, and 78 miles of permanent vehicle barriers, there are 86 miles of primary fencing now in place at the Southern border, part of 370 miles planned by the end of 2008.

• **FACT:** Arrests for criminal violations brought in worksite enforcement actions have increased from 49 in FY 2000 to a record 716 in FY 2006 – a nearly 15-fold increase.

• **FACT:** During the first half of FY 2007, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) obtained criminal fines, restitution, and civil judgments in worksite enforcement investigations against egregious violators in excess of \$29 million.

• **FACT:** ICE established the Fugitive Operations Program to eliminate the Nation's backlog of immigration fugitives. Today, there are 61 fugitive operations teams nationwide, up from 15 in 2005. ICE expects to expand this number to 75 by the end of the year.

• **FACT:** The Administration has effectively ended the practice of "Catch and Release" at the Southern border. To help sustain this, the Administration has provided funding for 7,798 new beds to accommodate apprehended illegal immigrants – a 40 percent increase over 2001.

**3. MYTH:** The preliminary background checks required for illegal immigrants to gain probationary legal status are insufficient.

• **FACT:** In order to obtain probationary status, undocumented workers must come out of the shadows, acknowledge they have broken the law, and pass a preliminary background check. There is a provision in the bill that says the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) should grant probationary status unless it has found a "disqualifying factor" by the end of the next business day, but applicants will undergo significant scrutiny in that time, as four components of the five-layered background check almost always generate answers within 24 hours. As a general rule:

The DHS Interagency Border Inspection System check is effectively immediate.

The DHS immigration records check is effectively immediate.

The biometrics check against DHS's Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) is completed within 24 hours.

The biometrics check against the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) is completed within 24 hours.

• **FACT:** In general, the only component of the background check that sometimes takes longer than 24 hours is the FBI Name Check. Of these, 68 percent are returned within 48 hours.

• **FACT:** Any portion of the background check that remains incomplete after 24 hours will continue during the probationary period. Probationary status must be revoked at any time if a worker is found ineligible for the Z visa, fails to maintain a clean record, or fails the background check required for obtaining a Z visa.

• **FACT:** No Z visas will be awarded until all appropriate background checks begun during the probationary period are completed to the satisfaction of the Homeland Security Secretary.

• **FACT:** Creating a mechanism to bring illegal workers with clean records out of the shadows will enhance our national security by letting enforcement officials know who is in the country and why they are here. This is far preferable to the status quo, under which millions of illegal workers live outside the recognition of the law.

**4. MYTH:** The Employee Eligibility Verification System (EEVS) required under the bill will create a vast government database containing extraordinary amounts of information.

• **FACT:** EEVS is first and foremost a verification service that bounces queries against existing databases to confirm data.

• **FACT:** The data currently retained by EEVS includes only the worker's name, date of birth, Social Security number, citizenship status/work authorization, and place of employment.

• **FACT:** The bill specifically requires the Homeland Security Department, in consultation with the Social Security Administration and other Federal and State agencies, to develop policies and procedures to ensure protection of this information. It further mandates that DHS's Chief Privacy Officer conduct regular audits of these policies.

## Americans Support Immigration Reform From The White House Office Of Strategic Initiatives



### Voters Want Something To Be Done.

A majority (55 percent) say even though the bill before Congress might not be exactly what they would prefer on immigration, it is important for Congress to pass a bill that deals with illegal immigration and confronts the problem. Only 38 percent say it is better to not pass a bill at all and to just enforce the laws already on the books. (Voter/Consumer Research, 6/21)

**Comprehensive Approach Popular Among Voters.** In a recent Voter/Consumer Research survey, voters were offered details of an immigration proposal similar to the Senate bill, including increased border security, creating a system for illegal immigrants already here to become legal, and a temporary worker program. After hearing the description, 68 percent supported the proposal, while only 26 percent opposed. Among Hispanics, 72 percent supported the proposal. (6/21)

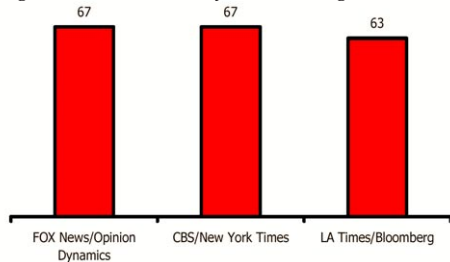
**Security Is More Than Just A Fence.** Sixty-eight percent (68%) say increasing border patrols is the most effective way of reducing illegal immigration on the Southern border, while only 15 percent say fencing is the most effective way to secure the border. (CBS/New York Times, 5/23) Pew reports 55 percent say the most effective way of reducing illegal immi-

gration is by cracking down on employers who hire illegals, while only 7 percent say fencing is the best way to reduce illegal immigration. (6/3)

**Guest Worker Program Receives Strong Support.** Sixty-six percent (66%) favor a guest worker program that allows people to come to the U.S. for a temporary period and then requires them to go home. (CBS/New York Times, 5/23) ABC/Washington Post reports 53 percent support "significantly expanding" guest worker programs that allow people here temporarily to work. (6/1)

**Support High For Legalizing Illegal Immigrants.** At least three different news agencies report polls showing strong majorities support giving most illegal immigrants the chance to stay in the United States and become legal.

Percentage that supports giving most illegal immigrants the chance to stay and become legal



## 壽險基本知識 (3)

記住年齡越大,保險費越貴,即使你 35 歲買了 30 年期的險, 也比你過了五十再投保合算的多,因為 70 以後,保費有可能是個天文數字。

壽險也不是退休計劃,如果你只想退休後也能衣食無着,那壽險不是投資方向。

關於壽險還有一條,搞清楚“住房抵押險”,就是如果你身故,這筆錢付清房屋貸款。問題是,你同時付保費,也在付貸款。最好的辦法是在算買多少壽險時,也把每月的房屋貸款算進去。

### 健康問題

如果身體不健康,保費有可能會很貴,甚至被公司拒保。

行話里,最便宜的保費被稱做“特選”或“優選費”,候選人主要是身體非常健康,且無嚴重家庭病史。如果你服用心臟病藥,或者體重超標,你的保費要比“特選”群高 50% 左右。

如果你是煙民,從事危險行業,或危險

體育運動,比如職業跳傘,你的保費就更貴了。

如果你符合上述條件之一,找經驗豐富的代理人買壽險更合適,互聯網和電話是給普通大眾服務的,而不是為客戶量體裁衣。

有的人也許會問,我為什麼要對保險公司實話實說,從而提高自己的保費?

保險公司如果覺得理賠可疑,會不遺餘力調查一切清苦。如果公司發現投保人有騙保行為,有權拒付保費。所以趁年輕,身體健康買壽險最實際。

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餐館(5-9 員工)

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餐館(10 人以上)

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