

# **‘Illegal’ Immigrants Touch a Live Wire**

The New York Times  
October 30, 2007

Re “What Part of ‘Illegal’ Don’t You Understand?,” by Lawrence Downes (Editorial Observer, Oct. 28):

I am, by any standards, a liberal, and am therefore much disturbed by the blanket terms “immigrants,” “immigration” and “migrant workers” when the distinction between legal and illegal is not made. Many illegal immigrants are admirable in their drive, determination and willingness to do whatever it takes to get here and work here. But they are here illegally, send vast amounts of money out of the country to their home countries and are often paid under the table. The cost to taxpayers of supportive services outweighs the value of illegal worker contributions.

Illegal is illegal no matter how touching, courageous or worthy the back story is.

Hope Einstein  
Stamford, Conn.,