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Debate

Should Justin Bieber Be Deported?

Two writers face off over the "bad boy" performer



TOM GARRETT





young celebrity acting out. Sure, his fans are devastated. And the editors of gossip websites are thrilled to have a steady stream of **incriminating** photos of Bieber to excite their visitors.

But Bieber isn't just another young American star who has gone off the rails. Because Bieber is not American. Born and raised in Canada, he is living and working legally in America because he was granted special permission to do so.

This is an incredible privilege that hundreds of millions of people around the world can only dream of. How does Bieber express his gratitude? By breaking our laws. By endangering our citizens. By setting an **abysmal** example for the millions of American kids who buy his music.

Just look at his smirking police mug shot. The kid is a spoiled brat. He shouldn't simply be arrested. He should be **deported**—that is, kicked out of America for good.

Dreams of America

Since the time of the Pilgrims, many people born in other countries have dreamed of coming to America to start new lives—and millions of them have. In fact, only descendants of Native Americans come from families that are not originally from foreign lands.

At one time, anyone was allowed to come to America. But beginning in the early 1900s, our government began to pass strict laws to limit the number of immigrants. Today, a **labyrinth** of rules and policies

It's time for this brat to get the boot.

BY FRANCES HANNAN

In the wee hours of the morning on January 23, residents of a peaceful Miami Beach neighborhood were awakened by the earsplitting sounds of a revving engine and screeching tires. A 19-year-old man was drag racing a yellow Lamborghini sports car, driving at NASCAR speeds through the quiet residential neighborhood. He was **allegedly** drunk and driving

without a valid driver's license. When police pulled him over, he was abusive and resisted arrest. Two days later, police detained the same young man for allegedly throwing eggs at a neighbor's house, causing \$20,000 in damage.

This drunk-driving egg-thrower is, of course, pop superstar Justin Bieber.

In many ways, there's nothing special about yet another spoiled

makes it nearly impossible for most foreigners to live or work here legally for more than a few months at a time.

Currently, more than 4 million people are on a waiting list for a green card, the official document that grants permission to live and

IMMIGRATION BY THE NUMBERS

A green card is a ticket to a new life in America. But it isn't easy to get.

484,072

people came to the U.S. in 2012 with a green card.

5

years is the average time a legal immigrant has to wait before applying to become a citizen.

4,322,575

people are on the waiting list for a green card (as of November 2013).

SOURCES: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

work in the U.S. on a permanent basis. They are families hoping to escape poverty. They are people trying to escape war-torn lands like Syria and Afghanistan. They are women seeking an education they can never receive in countries like Pakistan or Saudi Arabia.

Most of these people will never get that permission.

Why can't the U.S. just open its borders and welcome everyone in? One reason is that there may not be enough resources. Schools, food, water, fuel, housing, hospitals—the demand for all of these would be overwhelming if our nation's population suddenly exploded. That's one reason that the U.S., like most other countries, has laws about who can come here and how long they can stay. Even those who are fortunate enough to receive a green card have to wait many years to apply for citizenship.

Which brings us back to Bieber.

Bieber's Got Talent (Not)

Bieber gets to live in the U.S. because of a special type of **visa** for people with phenomenal talent or achievements, people who would make such a huge contribution to the U.S. that we rush them to the front of the line. They are doctors who research cures for diseases, artists who dazzle us with their creations, technology gurus who will help build the next supercomputer. What has Bieber contributed besides a few annoying songs?

True, many celebs have this kind

of visa, including British soccer champ David Beckham and South Korea's "Gangnam Style" pop singer Psy. But these visas are given to only a limited number of people each year. Surely someone else could put Bieber's to better use.

It seems that lots of people agree. In January, a man in Michigan posted a petition on the White House's website calling for Bieber to be deported. In less than a week, the petition had 100,000 signatures. By March, that number had risen to more than 270,000!

It Should Be Legal

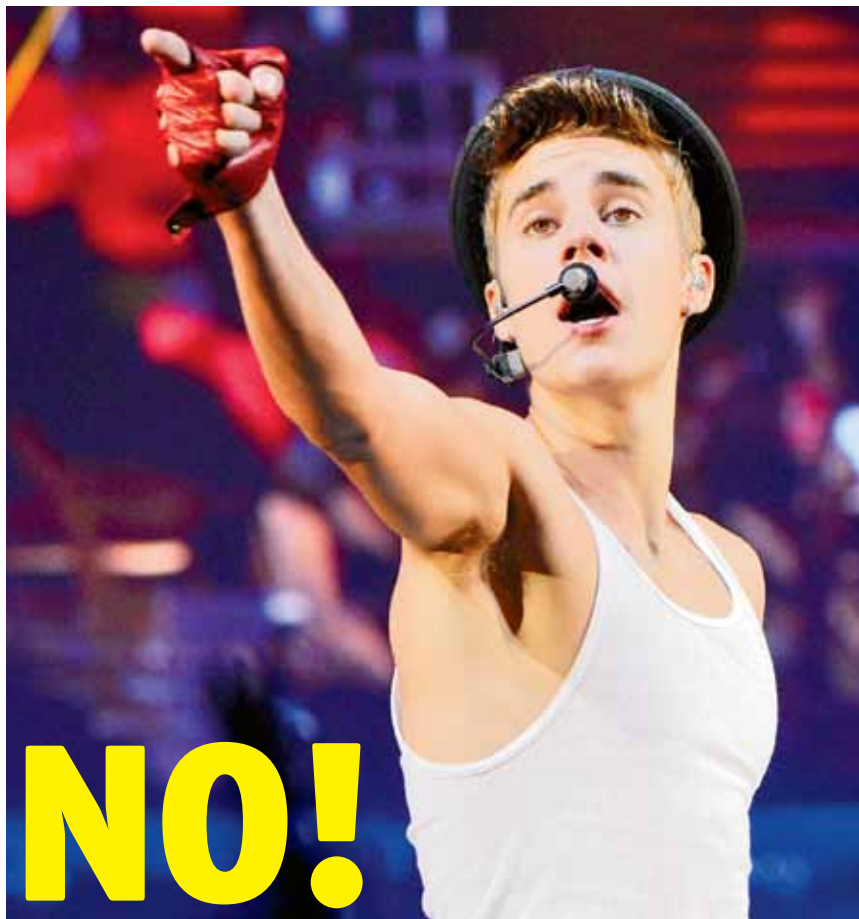
Is it legally possible for Bieber to be deported?

Deportation laws are vague, but there is a clause that says a person can be deported for "moral **turpitude**." Usually, this refers to crimes committed with evil intentions, like stealing. Crimes that carry a sentence of a year or more can also be grounds for deportation.

But shouldn't drunk driving count as "moral turpitude"? After all, in 2012, more than 10,000 people died in drunk driving crashes, according to a report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The fact is, Justin Bieber is a guest in this country. It shouldn't matter how wealthy and successful he is. Destroying property and putting people's lives in danger isn't how a good guest behaves.

It's time to tell our guest that he has overstayed his welcome. ● ➔



treatment just because he is rich and famous.

But actually, he isn't getting special treatment. He isn't even an immigrant. Bieber has an O-1 work visa, which is given to foreigners with "extraordinary ability" in science, the arts, education, business, or athletics. These visas bring talented people into our country—baseball players, scientists, and yes, entertainers like Justin Bieber, one of the most successful pop stars of all time. The average person wanting to come to the U.S. would never receive this type of visa, so in no way is Bieber taking up a spot that could be given to some hardworking foreigner.

The fact is, sending Bieber back to Canada wouldn't make a bit of difference in the life of someone waiting for a green card.

Not Guilty

In the U.S., anyone who isn't a citizen can be deported for committing certain serious crimes, particularly crimes involving drugs, theft, and violence. But it's also true that a person is innocent until proven guilty. As of press time, Bieber had been charged with crimes, not convicted of crimes. Besides, Bieber *can't* be deported—not legally. Crimes that result in deportation tend to be drug-related or **felonies**, like murder and assault. But that doesn't mean Bieber won't be held accountable for his actions. If convicted, he may go to jail, pay fines, or do community service.

What would happen if Bieber

Kicking Justin Bieber out of the United States would be ridiculous.

BY JANE BIANCHI

Maybe you think Justin Bieber has turned into a monster. Maybe you've stopped begging your parents for tickets to his concerts.

Or maybe you think he should just go back to Canada, where he was born.

If so, you wouldn't be the only one. After he was arrested for drunk driving last January, more than 200,000 people signed a petition (which probably started out as a joke) to deport him.

But kicking Bieber out of the U.S. would be ridiculous—and unfair.

Special Treatment? Nope

The controversy around Justin Bieber has raised a lot of questions about immigration. For millions of people around the world, immigrating to the U.S. would be a dream, a chance to start a new life in a country with good education, good health care, and job opportunities. But only a limited number of people are allowed to **immigrate** here each year—and some Americans are pointing to this as a reason for Bieber to go. A more deserving immigrant, they say, should take his place. These people think that Bieber is getting special

were somehow deported? He would be banned from the U.S., possibly for life. If that happened, the U.S. would miss out on a lot of money. When Bieber packs a stadium, it benefits the stadium owners and all the people employed to make the concert happen. What's more, restaurants, hotels, taxi services, and stores do more business when big acts like Bieber come to town.

It's Hard Being Famous

There is something else all the Bieber haters need to remember: Being famous is hard. Paparazzi have been stalking Bieber since he was 15. He is under enormous pressure to hold on to his success. And because of his fame, every little thing he does is scrutinized by fans, bloggers, journalists, and just about everyone else. All that stress could make any person crack.

That does not excuse Bieber's bad behavior, but he certainly isn't the only celeb to make mistakes. The pressures of fame have caused plenty of stars to act rebelliously, particularly as they've transitioned into adulthood. Think of stars like Miley Cyrus, Britney Spears, and Shia LaBeouf.

So enough is enough. Let's hope Bieber's run-ins with the law will be a wake-up call, and he will change his ways. But his past mistakes are hardly a reason to send him back to Canada. ●

NOTE: Special thanks to Allan Wernick for consulting on this article. Wernick is an immigration law expert and the director of the CUNY Citizenship Now! program, which provides law services to individuals and families on their path to U.S. citizenship.

What Do You Think?

Should Justin Bieber be deported? Find the supporting evidence each author uses in her argument. Write the information on the lines below.



YES

Bye-bye, Bieber.

1 He broke the law.

2 _____

3 _____

NO

Let the Biebs stay.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

EXAMINE POINTS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE—AS WELL AS YOUR OWN BELIEFS—and decide what you think. State your opinion in one sentence below. This can become the thesis statement for an argument essay.



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