**Wall Concerns**

**The U.S. Border Patrol’s budget has doubled from roughly $800 million in 1998 to almost $1.6 billion today. Over the same period, the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. has tripled, from some 4 million to an estimated 12 million. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 2, 2006)***

**The fact is that walls are walls – solid, impervious, hard concrete. But the truth, even the scientific truth, is that walls are nothing mostly, mainly empty space. Walls are made up of particles – the scientists tell us – and those particles are almost as far apart relatively as are the planets. Walls are merely energy dancing on emptiness, more full of perpetual motion than the waves and winds of the sea. *(James Dillet Freeman, in Unity magazine)***

**To build a wall at the Mexican border, the federal government would need to buy or condemn thousands of pieces of private property. A 2006 attempt to build a 700-mile-long fence at the border bogged down over 120 lawsuits by landowners that are still in the courts. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 3, 2017)***

**Border fence problems: The 600-mile-long fence being built along the U.S.-Mexico border is seven years behind schedule, millions of dollars over budget, and will cost taxpayers $6.5 billion to maintain during the next 20 years, government auditors report. The Government Accountability Office also noted that the infrared cameras used in the virtual part of the fence fail repeatedly, especially in sandstorms or bad weather. The fence was supposed to be completed this year, but won’t be finished until 2016. The GAO said there have been more than 3,000 breaches in completed portions of the fence, which cost about $1,300 each to repair. Border crossers have learned to cut through the fence with tools, climb over it with ladders, or use vehicles to smash through it. *(The Week magazine, October 2, 2009)***

**The same fence that shuts others out shuts you in. *(Bill Copeland)***

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