

On the subject of...

Engaging ideas

By Viki Eggers Mason



The Aberdeen Advocate

This week I've been reminded on several occasions of the special spirit of Aberdeenians. We really do mean well! We get so excited about our civic improvement projects, however, we occasionally manage to lose sight of the bigger picture.

Recently, a large sign appeared on the steps of City Hall warning that the dumping of litter on that property will earn the dumpee a hefty fine. This sign was erected as an antidote to the efforts of one group of Aberdeenians who are weary of the trashy appearance of our community. This small but dedicated group has been collecting trash from the streets of Aberdeen every weekend and depositing their collections at City Hall in an effort to open the collective eyes of the city.

It seems like a noble effort to me, designed to call attention to the really tiresome habit some folks have of just tossing their discarded pop cans, water bottles, dirty diapers, candy wrappers and tires to the side of the road (usually on the city right-of way) for somebody else to clean up. This group has

it in mind to beautify Aberdeen by example.

This particular group of litter-picker-uppers has one approach. The Trashy Ladies have another. This group of sassy and sprightly women walk the streets of Aberdeen several times each week to gather litter and a bit of morning exercise. These ladies donate the empty beer and soda cans to the Animal Shelter for recycling cash and the rest of the mess they collect is disposed of in a more lawful manner. Their work goes on without much pomp and circumstance. Their goal is to beautify our community by example.

On May 30th, the Monroe County Beautification Committee held a luncheon to honor those who work each day to make our corner of the world more beautiful. This committee talks a whole bunch about litter and cleanup efforts, as you might imagine, and manages to succeed in a big way. It's goal is to beautify Monroe County by example.

So, I wondered, which group was responsible for posting the

sign in front of City Hall and why? (Bear with me here, readers. I will eventually come to the point.)

We have in Aberdeen a group of tireless volunteers otherwise known as the Historic Aberdeen organization. Each year they invite hundreds of visitors to our community to take part in the annual Pilgrimage where lovely old homes are opened for tours. This is a huge effort and a wildly successful one.

Unless I am mistaken, this group is also responsible for the Victorian Christmas festivities we enjoyed last December. Both events are designed to showcase the beauty of our community and to bring visitors to enjoy what we have to offer.

Each spring and each fall another group of Aberdeenians roll up their sleeves and throw a big party at Blue Bluff. There is music and there are crafts. There is food and fun for all. These efforts are undertaken to bring visitors to Aberdeen.

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Before I go....

I'm a bit of a patriot. I happen to love this country and thank God every day that I was fortunate enough to have been born here. I spend more than a little time worrying about the fate of our great nation and, though I can do little to help meet the global challenges we face, I do what I can do to meet the smaller ones.

When the following article came to me via email, it hit me like a sledge hammer. I want to share it with you for the

obvious reason—that it sounds a warning knell for America—but also because, as I read it, I saw a sad parallel between the destruction of a nation and the destruction of a small southern town.

I realize the piece is full of four-bit words and lofty talk, but it's worth the effort. Please read and ponder. VEM

We know Dick Lamm as the former Governor of Colorado. In that context his thoughts are particularly poignant.

Last week there was an immigration overpopulation conference in Washington, D.C., filled to capacity by many of America's finest minds and leaders. A brilliant college professor by the name of Victor Hansen Davis talked about his latest book, *Mexifornia*, explaining how immigration both legal and illegal was destroying the entire state of California. He said it would march across the country until it destroyed

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Then we have the Visitor's Bureau. This not-for-profit organization is funded by the State Hospitality tax and is an extension of city government directed by a board of interested locals. Their goal is to bring visitors to Aberdeen.

Aberdeen has the distinction of being an official "Mississippi Main Street Community." This group employs a director whose activities are to keep our historic downtown looking lovely and our private sector businesses thriving.

Lately, we have seen the advent of yet another group, Save Aberdeen Landmarks, whose goal it is to preserve and enhance the community's historic commercial and residential buildings. This group is the brainchild of Dwight Stevens, whose vision for Aberdeen involves a vital downtown and well-preserved historical attractions.

We also have a Chamber of Commerce whose goals are practically identical to each of the others.

If you do not yet see the pattern here, I shall try to sum it up for you. Whether we are striving to attract visitors or retirees, each of these groups has the same ultimate goal. Each of them work to enhance and promote Aberdeen as a beautiful community which is a magnet for people and their money. What I find totally confusing, and have since the day I arrived here, is that there is very little cooperation among these groups. For the most part, they each operate autonomously. There is no overarching strategic plan, there is no sharing of information nor resources (read staff and money) and, perhaps most importantly, there is no system in place for eliminating costly duplications of effort, which can be one of the biggest mistakes in community building efforts.

Now, as I said, I can't understand this unproductive situation. It makes no sense to me, because my training in tourism promotion and economic development tell me that if you can cause ideas and organizations to mesh—to bring about the pooling of the resources and the plan—you can accomplish almost

anything faster, more thoroughly and more economically.

Partnerships in economic development are key. By linking with like-minded others, whether those be individuals or organizations or both, leveraging budgets and energy to accomplish the goal is simply good business.

Now, while I don't understand it, I know why this situation exists. Each

of these organizations has its own little piece of the pie and none of them wish to give up what they perceive as "control." Each has a successful strategy and they don't want uninformed others twiddling with it. Completely understandable.

Once before, I told you about an exercise we were required to do back in my Chamber of Commerce school days. A group of us was seated around a table in Boulder, Colorado. We were sworn to silence and each given a packet of geometric puzzle pieces. Our instructions were to "make a square."

It was obvious almost immediately that none of us had the makings of a square in our individual envelopes. Eventually one of us realized that the square we were to create required that we each "give up" one or more of our pieces. Oddly, the brightly colored circle I found in my envelope and for which I held no hope, turned out to be the critical piece which made our square puzzle complete. The moral of the story is, sometimes, for the good of the order, we must relinquish our grip on "power."

Before you get too excited, let me reassure you—I think each of these groups is a good one and deserves to exist in and on its own. I am in no way suggesting that we abolish any of these organizations or meld them into one, large amalgam. I simply propose that these groups need to sit down together, discover their strengths and their weaknesses, and formulate a plan to fortify the goals they share. It is then, only then, when the machinery will begin moving effectively and predictably forward.

My daddy was a mechanic. He spent his lifetime in and under automobiles making them run properly. He taught me that unless the individual cogs engage each

with the other, there can be no productive movement. As it is with cars, so is it with communities. We can only gain momentum if we enlist the help of others.

Once Aberdeen has begun to clearly see what and how she intends to present herself to the world, she can connect to the larger machinery—state and regional programs exist and should be part of our larger plan. Grants and gifts are out there waiting for worthy projects inspired by thoughtful collaboration. Just a little interaction can take us a long way.

I think it's a thoroughly engaging concept!



Your City Officials

Mayor

Honorable Jim Ballard
125 W. Commerce Street
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-4165

Chief of Police

Henry Randle
125 West Commerce Street
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-6454

Alderman, Ward 1

Alonzo Sykes
1113 Elk Circle
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-7705

Alderman Ward 2 (Temporary)

Cloyd Garth
310 South James Street
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-5734

Alderman, Ward 3

David Ewing
Post Office Box 1095
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-9150

Alderman, Ward 4

Randy Nichols
Post Office Box 1161
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-3352

Alderman, Ward 5

John Allen
1006 West Commerce Street
Aberdeen, MS 39730
369-4683

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all vestiges of “The American Dream.”

Moments later, Lamm stood up and gave a stunning speech on how to destroy America.

The audience sat spellbound as he described eight methods for the destruction of the United States. He said, “If you believe that America is too smug, too self-satisfied, too rich, then let's destroy America. It is not that hard to do. No nation in history has survived the ravages of time. Arnold Toynbee observed that all great civilizations rise and fall and that an autopsy of history would show that all great nations commit suicide. Here is how they do it,” Lamm said:

“First, to destroy America, turn America into a bilingual or multi-lingual and bicultural country. History shows that no nation can survive the tension, conflict and antagonism of two or more competing languages and cultures. It is a blessing for an individual to be bilingual; however, it is a curse for a society to be bilingual. The historical scholar, Seymour Lipset, put it is way: 'The histories of bilingual and bicultural societies that do not assimilate are histories of turmoil, tension and tragedy.' Canada, Belgium, Malaysia and Lebanon all face crises of national existence in which minorities press for autonomy, if not independence. Pakistan and Cyprus have divided. Nigeria suppressed an ethnic rebellion. France faces difficulties with Basques, Bretons, Corsicans and Muslims.”

Lamm went on:

“Second, to destroy America, invent 'multiculturalism' and encourage immigrants to maintain their culture. Make it an article of belief that all cultures are equal; that there are no cultural differences. Make it an article of faith that the Black and Hispanic dropout rates are due solely to prejudice and discrimination by the majority. Every other explanation is out of bounds.

“Third, we could make the United States an 'Hispanic Quebec' without much effort. The key is to celebrate diversity rather than unity. As Benjamin Schwarz said in the Atlantic Monthly recently: 'The apparent success of our own multi-ethnic and multicultural experiment might have been achieved not by tolerance but by hegemony. Without

the dominance that once dictated ethnocentricity and what it meant to be an American, we are left with only tolerance and pluralism to hold us together.’ Lamm said, “I would encourage all immigrants to keep their own language and culture. I would replace the melting pot metaphor with the salad bowl metaphor. It is important to ensure that we have various cultural subgroups living in America enforcing their differences rather than as Americans emphasizing their similarities.

“Fourth, I would make our fastest growing demographic group the least educated. I would add a second underclass, unassimilated, undereducated and antagonistic to our population. I would have this second underclass have a 50% dropout rate from high school.

“My fifth point for destroying America would be to get big foundations and business to give these efforts lots of money. I would invest in ethnic identity, and I would establish the cult of “Victimology.” I would get all minorities to think that their lack of success was the fault of the majority. I would start a grievance industry blaming all minority failure on the majority exploitation.

“My sixth plan for America's downfall would include dual citizenship, and promote divided loyalties. I would celebrate diversity over unity. I would stress differences rather than similarities. Diverse people worldwide are mostly engaged in hating each other—that is, when they are not killing each other. A diverse, peaceful or stable society is against most historical precepts. People undervalue the unity it takes to keep a nation together. Look at the ancient Greeks. The Greeks believed that they belonged to the same race; they possessed a common language and literature; and they worshipped the same gods. All Greece took part in the Olympic Games. A common enemy, Persia, threatened their liberty. Yet all these bonds were not strong enough to overcome two factors: local patriotism and geographical conditions that nurtured political divisions. Greece fell.

E. Pluribus Unum—From many, one. In that historical reality, if we put the empha-

sis on the ‘pluribus’ instead of the ‘unum,’ we will ‘Balkanize’ America as surely as we did Kosovo.

“Next to last, I would place all subjects off limits. Make it taboo to talk about anything against the cult of 'diversity.' I would find a word similar to 'heretic' in the 16th century—that stopped discussion and paralyzed thinking. Words like 'racist' or 'xenophobe' halt discussion and debate. Having made America a bilingual/bicultural country, having established multiculturalism, having the large foundations fund the doctrine of ‘Victimology,’ I would next make it impossible to enforce our immigration laws. I would develop a mantra: Because immigration has been good for America, it must always be good. I would make every individual immigrant symmetric and ignore the cumulative impact of millions of them.”

In the last minute of his speech, Governor Lamm wiped his brow. Profound silence followed. Finally he said, “Lastly, I would censor Victor Hanson Davis's book *Mexifornia*. His book is dangerous. It exposes the plan to destroy America. If you feel America deserves to be destroyed, don't read that book.”

There was no applause. A chilling fear quietly rose like an ominous cloud above every attendee at the conference. Every American in that room knew that everything Lamm enumerated was proceeding methodically, quietly, darkly, yet pervasively across the United States today. Discussion is being suppressed. Over 100 languages are ripping the foundation of our educational system and national cohesiveness. Even barbaric cultures that practice female genital mutilation are growing as we celebrate “diversity.” American jobs are vanishing into the Third World as corporations create a Third World in America. Take note of California and other states. To date, 10 million illegal aliens and growing fast. It is reminiscent of George Orwell's book *1984*. In that story, three slogans are engrained in the Ministry of Truth building: “War is peace;” “Freedom is slavery;” and “Ignorance is strength.”

Governor Lamm walked back to his seat. It dawned on everyone at the conference that our nation and the future of this great democracy are deeply in trouble and worsening fast. If we don't get this immigration monster stopped within three years, it will rage like a California wildfire and destroy everything in its path, especially “The American Dream.”





The Aberdeen Advocate

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YOU!



Get involved!

The Aberdeen Advocate is committed to the goal of improving the quality of life in Aberdeen and Monroe County by identifying and exposing waste and mismanagement in Government. To these ends we humbly offer our observations and opinions.

“All the problems we face in the United States of America today can be traced to an unenlightened immigration policy on the part of the American Indian.”

... Pat Paulson

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