

## On the subject of...

# Developing Revolt

by Viki Eggers Mason



THE TRUTH IN BLACK AND WHITE

# The Aberdeen Advocate

In case you don't get it yet, I'm in the business of revolution. Every day somebody asks me why I must always be so negative about Aberdeen. Every day I patiently explain myself this way: We are being shortchanged, Aberdeen. We are being cheated out of our wealth, however modest it may be, by self-serving leaders who have apparently lost whatever reason they may have possessed many years ago when you first elected them. Not only are they playing fast and loose with truth and honor, but they are also spending our little town to destruction. It's not just our wealth being squandered, but it is also the legacy we might have left our children. We deserve better, and here at the *Advocate*, we mean to drag Aberdeen (kicking and screaming, if necessary) toward recovery.

As the anniversary of America's independence approaches, I am increasingly proud to live in a country where it is the will of the people, not the whims of dictators, which steers the ship of state.

The furor currently astir in Washington, D.C., over the immigration bill demonstrates to me that leaders, even the occasionally misguided ones like our current President, eventually bow to the will of the people.

I've always been a supporter of George W. Bush. I've even supported Trent Lott, but these days my email out-box has been spitting out message after message telling those men I will have no part of amnesty for 10 to 13 million criminals who came here to live the good life, but who failed to take the essential first step by following the rule of law. It is the freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution made possible by the rule of law that sets us apart from the third-world nations from which these immigrants are fleeing.

Lest you be confused, you should know that coming to the United States as a legal worker isn't all that difficult. All one must do is complete some pa-

perwork and pass a rudimentary background check. In other words, it's very likely that many of the 10 to 13 million illegals the Senate is about to pardon couldn't get a passing grade on their police report! (Rowe has covered that matter elsewhere in this edition, so I'll belay my rant until another day.)

In a representative republic like ours, the people hold all the power cards. It's a handy arrangement so long as we voters do our part. We must take the time to stay educated and to play those cards when it becomes necessary. In a perfect civic situation, we would all know the problems our government faces, we would evaluate the situation, and we would formulate opinions. Then, we would play the cards by making phone calls, writing letters insisting that our leaders perform according to our wishes. So should it be in decisions in Aberdeen.

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## Immigration Issue Both Complex and Critical

By Contributing Editor Don Rowe

Running off at the keyboard wondering is it just me or does anyone else find it amazing that our federal gub'mint can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of Washington (and her calves to their stalls), but are unable to locate 10-13 million illegal immigrants wandering around the country?

Speaking of illegal aliens, this week's column will focus on that very topic – currently the nation's No. 1 political problem. But first, using a combination of old-school and new-school (Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Diction-

ary and the Internet's Wikipedia), let's attempt to define several key words and/or phrases germane to the subject.

- Immigration is defined as the "movement of people from one country to another."
- Immigrate is defined as "to come to a country to which one is not a native, usually for permanent residence."
- Immigrant is defined as "a person who migrates to another country, usually for permanent residence."
- Citizenship is defined as

"the state of being vested with rights, privileges and duties of a citizen."

- Citizen is defined as "a native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection" (distinguished from an alien.)
- Alien is defined as "someone who is not a citizen, a resident born in or belonging to another country who has not acquired citizenship by naturalization" (distinguished from citizen).

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# Developing Revolt

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Sadly, our little representative republic has degenerated to the point that it is more like a dictatorship than a democracy. Here, a few powerful men make all the decisions in utter ignorance of and with total disregard for the will of the people.

I have long been interested in the "citizen input" period which appears on each agenda for the meetings of Aberdeen's board of aldermen. It is during this time when *good* leaders would eagerly await suggestions from the citizens on the street. When I first started haunting those meetings nearly four years ago, the public comment period came at the end of the agenda. This ordering of the city's business worked nicely for the citizens, as they first had the opportunity to listen and learn about current events during the course of the meeting, then were afforded the chance to ask questions and air their concerns later.

About two years ago there appeared a little notation near the Public Comment agenda item. It read: "Three minute maximum." Shortly afterward, this change was followed by some grumbling from aldermen that the citizens were "blindsiding them" with questions for which they had not sufficient time to prepare answers. For my part, prepared answers leave much to be desired. Nevertheless, there followed a period of time when the aldermen would not even listen to citizen input unless the citizen arranged well in advance of the meeting to be allotted time on the agenda. This extricated the aldermen from the hot seat and, for a time, made their lives a good bit easier.

Unlike Sheila Higgins, whose crusade to get Aberdeen's dangerous ditches made safe for small children is moving forward even though it is still largely ignored, the average citizen grows weary of the political game-playing and eventually gives up. Higgins, on the other hand, just keeps making those telephone calls and documenting the deplorable

disinterest demonstrated by city government. (Someday, when a child dies in one of Aberdeen's ditches, Sheila's phone records will be a matter of great embarrassment to our City fathers. They may also represent the ammunition behind a serious "hit" to our town treasury but, for now, they are merely an irritating annoyance.)

As long as our leaders can deftly manage to avoid our questions and ignore our concerns, they can carry on as usual doing as they please with our future. As long as we allow them the luxury of bobbing and weaving around our civic concerns, it will not matter that we hold the power cards. As long as they refuse to remember who pays them, they can run amok. So, you see, as bad as the crew up in the boardroom is, ultimately it's our own fault. It has always been our job to supervise them and we have failed most miserably. I know you hate to hear that, but it is Gospel and until you step up to your duty, our dismal situation will never change.

In the coming months, we have an opportunity to reclaim our community. Not only do we have the opportunity, in my estimation, we have an obligation to do so. There are very few things in this life of which I am certain, but here's one of them: If we don't elect a new, clean slate of leaders in the coming municipal election, we are doomed to corporate failure here in Aberdeen. If we don't take charge of the problems we face, and we face monumental ones, our lovely town, with all its charm and potential, will become a sad, if sterling example of what happens when good people stand by and do nothing.

So, you see, at the Advocate, we sound the alarm because somebody must. If the news is unpleasant, I'm sorry. If it is painful, that's ok by me. If it wakes you up and makes you angry, I've done my job. I mean to make business as usual a thing of the distant past in Aberdeen, Mississippi.

In the months leading up to the next municipal election, I'm looking forward to bigger and better fireworks. So, yes, I'm all about revolt and if you think it's been uncomfortable in the past, hang on.

You're in for a very wild ride.

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### An Apology

In my "Open Letter to Billy Crews" column in the June 11, 2007, edition of *The Aberdeen Advocate*, I took issue with the fact the Monroe County newspapers are laid out in Tupelo and I made reference to the *Daily Journal* layout people as "not caring."

It was brought to my attention that although the paper is indeed laid out in Tupelo, Aberdeen's Barbara Harrington and Amory's Robby Byrd are the one's responsible for the page layout.

I regret the error and apologize to the layout people at the *Daily Journal* who, as it turned out, have no say as to the story locations.

Rowe

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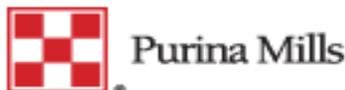
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Furry friends like those depicted above are available for adoption at the Aberdeen Animal Shelter. We welcome gifts and donations of all kinds. Currently, due to our feline population, dry kitten chow is desperately needed! Also, gifts of laundry detergent and chlorine bleach are always appreciated.

Please find room in your heart and home to adopt one of these homeless pets.

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# Immigration Issue Both Complex and Critical

Continued from Page 1

## On Becoming an American....

*"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the man's becoming in very fact an American, and nothing but an American. If he tries to keep segregated with men of his own origin and separated from the rest of America, then he isn't doing his part as an American. We have room for but one flag, the American flag.... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language....and we have room for but one soul (sic) loyalty, and that is loyalty to the American people."*

-- Theodore Roosevelt, 1919

- Illegal immigration is defined as "immigration across national borders in a way which violates the immigration laws of the destination country."
- Illegal alien (or illegal immigrant) is defined as "a foreigner who either illegally crossed an international political border, or a foreigner who legally entered a country but overstayed his/her visa."
- Amnesty is defined as a general pardon for past offenses or violations against a government which would be subject to prosecution, often granted before any trial or conviction.

Historically, there has always been more opposition than support for immigration (not to be confused with human migration which has been in existence since the dawn of mankind). Too, immigration is oftentimes politicized and, in the case of the United States, has become a major political issue of late.

Like any other issue of national importance, those for and against immigration have differing perspectives which they believe support their position. Ironically, those in favor of the current immigration legislation claim wide, but rare, bipartisan support which ranges from

profit-minded business owners on the right of the aisle (whose interests are championed by the likes of the United States Chamber of Commerce and Mississippi Senator Trent Lott) to the liberals, ethnic activists and politically-correct media types on the opposite side who collectively base their arguments on three main factors:

- Economics (cheap labor supply).
- Humanitarian (poor people moving to rich countries to improve their standard of living).
- Cultural diversity (multiculturalism where different ethnic groups retain the right to preserve their culture).

Those who oppose immigration base their stand on issues such as:

- Economics (depressed wages, income tax avoidance and the drain on public funds due to the cost of education, health and welfare).
- Language (press one for English).

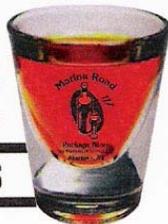
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# Immigration Issue Both Complex and Critical

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- Environmental degradation (because of over-population).
- The loss of national identity (altering the composition of the nation's population).
- National security and terrorism.

Now, assuming we can all agree on what's been written so far, permit me to review a few basic facts and then I'll define my position on the matter.

Throughout our relatively short history, legal immigrants have been good for America, and they deserve all of our thanks and respect for helping to build the country. Make no mistake, most of our ancestors came to this country as immigrants and we currently enjoy the fruits of their labors.

On the other hand, illegal immigrants

### **There's no time for letters!**

**You must call your Senators TODAY at each of the offices below and tell them Mississippians do not want amnesty for the 10 to 13 million lawbreakers who came to our country illegally!**

### **Vote NO on Amnesty!**

#### **Senator Trent Lott:**

**228-762-5400 -- Pascagoula Office  
228-863-1988 -- Gulfport Office  
601-965-4644 -- Jackson Office  
662-234-3774 -- Oxford Office**

#### **Senator Thad Cochran:**

**601-965-4459 -- Jackson Office  
662-236-1018 -- Oxford Office  
228-867-9710 -- Gulfport Office**

or illegal aliens are criminals who break our laws simply by being here. Under Title 8 Section 1325 of the U.S. Code, illegal entry into our country is a federal crime (a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a fine for a first offense). If repeated, the charge becomes punishable as a felony. Thus, illegal aliens do not deserve employment opportunities or any government benefits. But most importantly, they do not deserve amnesty in any form.

In summary, I don't want 10-13 million illegal aliens altering the landscape of the country my ancestors have defended in any number of wars since our country was founded. I do, however, want my borders, my language and my culture preserved out of respect not only for all those who came before me, but also for my children, for my grandchildren and for all present-day and future Americans.

*Next week: Go ahead, call me a racist!*



**NOTE: The following letter was supposedly written to Iowa Senator Tom Harkin. Whether it actually was or not, we'll probably never know.**

Dear Senator Harkin,

As a native Iowan and excellent customer of the Internal Revenue Service, I am writing to ask for your assistance. I have contacted the Department of Homeland Security in an effort to determine the process for becoming an illegal alien and they referred me to you.

My primary reason for wishing to change my status from U.S. citizen to illegal alien stems from the bill (S. 2611, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006) which was recently passed by the Senate and for which you voted. If my understanding of this bill's provisions is accurate, as an illegal alien who has been in the United States for five years, all I need to do to become a citizen is to pay a \$2,000 fine and income taxes for three of the last five years.

I know a good deal when I see one and I am anxious to get the process started before everyone figures it out. Simply put, those of us who have been here legally have had to pay taxes every year, so I'm excited about the prospect of avoiding two years of taxes in return for paying a \$2,000 fine. Is there any way that I can apply to be illegal retroactively? This would yield an excellent result for me and my family because we paid heavy taxes in 2004 and 2005.

Additionally, as an illegal alien, I could begin using the local emergency room as my primary health care provider. Once I have stopped paying premiums for medical insurance, my accountant figures I could save almost \$10,000 a year.

Another benefit in gaining illegal alien status would be that my daughter would receive preferential treatment relative to her law school applications, as well as "in-state" tuition rates for many colleges throughout the United States for my son.

Lastly, I understand that illegal status would relieve me of the burden of renewing my driver's license and making those burdensome insurance premium payments. This is very important to me given I still have college-age children driving my car.

If you would provide me with an outline of the process to become illegal (retroactively, if possible) and copies of the necessary forms, I would be most appreciative. Thank you for your assistance.

Your loyal constituent,

Donald Ruppert  
Burlington, Iowa



May 1, 2007—Chicago, Illinois USA



# The Aberdeen Advocate

## THE TRUTH IN BLACK AND WHITE

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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Subscribe me!</b></p> <p><b>NAME:</b> _____</p> <p><b>ADDRESS:</b> _____</p> <p><b>PHONE:</b> _____</p>	<p><i>"The making of an American begins at the point where he himself rejects all other ties, any other history and adopts the vesture of his adopted land."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>James Baldwin</i></p>	
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