



Chronicles of Diversity

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America Amok

The two sound bites I have heard from organizers of Monday's immigrant rally claim that it was only a strange coincidence that May Day was chosen for this event. Wasn't it just a year ago that there was a May Day for Marriage rally. Seems like a decade ago. One might believe that evangelical Christians chose such a date because it made for a marketing slogan that was easy to remember, just to keep it very simple. However, to say that Monday was part of any May Day random coincidence is completely absurd.

By it's other name, International Worker's Day, May Day among other things commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, but over the years has become the Holy Day for all the world's socialist, communist, and anarchist believers. It is now much more important in other countries because of our "better dead than

red" attitude in the last century. Except for the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand which celebrate their Labor Day on different dates, to other countries around the world, May first is Labor Day.

My talking points, on the subject of illegal immigration in this country mostly from Mexico and Latin America is that they can't make a living wage at their NAFTA exported American jobs, so the only alternative is to come to the United States to take whatever jobs they can get. To say that they only work in the fields, in jobs no American will take, is the other side of the spin of the amok that has become the right side of the equation. The crew that put the roof on my house were Mexican. Since it is a relatively steep roofed English Tudor, the roofing company sent out it's best crew to do the work. They just happened to be from Mexico. But if you look at all construction jobs in this



area, most and much of the best work is done by immigrants from all areas of the world.

If you really want to cut out all the spin, Americans can't do these jobs anymore because first of all they don't know how to work, period. Add to that statement the qualifier, of physical, period, and the number of born and raised Americans that can do anything to justify their position in life falls to a distinct minority. Who, or what is to blame? There are many factors, but most of it probably boils down to superfluous wealth. Modern Americans of all ages don't know how to work, because they never have had to.

The other Amok that has finally gotten some attention this week is the price of gasoline. I heard the oil man leader of the free world state that this problem we have known about for 20 years and have done nothing. This of course points the finger of guilt at the Presidential administration, most closely modeled by the current President, the Gipper himself, Ronald Reagan. The basis of our present Amok, not only in energy but in the rest of the economy, is that so called free markets are the only way to promote economic growth.

This of course flies in the face, of the free market bubble that burst giving us the Great Depression, and also the period of this nation's greatest economic expansion from the 1930's, through WW II and Korea, and through the 1960's when business and government both shared a role in America's economic prosperity. It was only when the War on Poverty and Viet Nam over taxed the economic system that it all fell apart.

The fact of the matter, is that when I was in graduate school, more like 30 years ago, we knew that the oil would run out. Or more precisely that the cost of producing a continuing oil supply at prices commensurate with their then contribution cheap energy to economic growth would soon end. That also should have been about the time that President Bush was at Harvard Business School. Perhaps he didn't take that class because he was busy elsewhere. The truth about our so called addiction to oil, is that oil is too valuable of a commodity to waste on transportation.

So for at least 30 years this country has been drifting gradually towards, this Amok where we have 3 plus per gallon gas, with prices set by monopolistic energy giants that manipulate prices to line their corporate profits and blame it, spin it, towards unrest about Iran, Iraq, Israel, weather, India, China, environmental regulations, sun spots, the price of tea, the desire of a bigger corporate bonus. The list will be endless. I have no problem with 3 per gallon gasoline, I do have a problem with how we got here, and where the profits are now flowing.

One thing you can say about the Robber Barons that were somewhat responsible for sending the world into the great depression. They were at least real people, like individuals with a human personality. As a result of that humanity, to some extent the world was a big Monopoly game, but at least sometimes they landed on Community Chest, and sometimes had to pay taxes. Furthermore, they actually built something that added to the nation's infrastructure, and primarily believed in America as a nation.

Since the Reagan Revolution, this country has not had a tax basis to maintain the country's infrastructure, little lone add significantly anything but that required by former legislation. Trickle down economics now works wonderfully well for the nation's 11 20 million illegal immigrants. There is no tax incentives at the true entrepreneurial level to invest in anything truly new that could meet our future energy needs. Just big tax breaks for big international corporations for long known marginal technologies.

Ethanol from corn is still kicking around, because of corporate special interests. It has been known since I was a wee lad, that it takes more energy to produce corn fuel, fertilizer etc. than is ever recouped in the harvested grain, because of the way American corporate agriculture has developed. It will be interesting to see if General Motors will survive with their public commitment to ethanol based fuels in their gas guzzling large personal vehicles.

Why would anyone what to invest their retirement in anything but blue chip public companies that gobble up one another under the guise of economic growth, when what is happening is that the nation's underlying strength, and the world's

true greatest nation, is downsized and the jobs exported to Mexico, where even the Mexicans can't make a living in their lower priced economy. Don't think I am giving a hard time just to the Mexicans, they can just walk across the border. The commitment and the funds required to enter this country from overseas is just too prohibitive to most who desire to come here across at least a thousand miles of open ocean.

Ten years ago John Kenneth Galbraith who died last Saturday was quoted as saying: After the Dow Jones Industrial Average's 1,500 point climb to break the 6,500 mark in November 1996, Galbraith remarked to Reuters: "There is too much money chasing too little intelligence to manage it. It can't last." Reuters

Ten years later on the week in which he died, we are truly beginning to see the fruits of the truth of those remarks. The problem is that all the politicians also fit that same concern, they also have too little intelligence to provide even a dialog from which to develop a viable forward looking strategy. That is true of both Democrats and Republicans. Again Galbraith is quoted as saying, "Democrats are 'not appreciably' better than Republicans at creating 'great and wise courses of action.'" The Oregonian

Everything eventually runs out of gas. There is no free lunch. These are two of the principles that we use in our teaching a Metis Phylogenesis. Both of these natural axioms seem very much in evidence in this week's current events. The problem is that they are not just current events, but for the foreseeable future they are our world's and our nation's events, should we not see stupendous natural or terrorist happenings. Then we shall change from asking, "Will I have enough to retire in the manner to which I have become accustomed?" to "Do I have any skills that can help me to survive?"

The problem with all too many Americans is that if the stock market money comes back into line with intelligence, then their remaining money, will not allow them to retire, and they don't have any real skills, or the strength by which to live in the real world in which at least some concept of real physical work is required in which to survive.

Life in America Amok, doesn't sound all that appetizing, at least from today's mindset. I suppose the concept "The bigger they are the harder they fall." is really a corollary to "Everything eventually runs out of gas." carried forward to it's ultimate conclusion. So how far is the fall going to be?

Well, in our all so popular libertine conventions, since it is all about me, I suppose that is at the bottom. In the popular Pogo cartoon from the early days of the environmental movement, Pogo makes the comment, "We have met the enemy, and the enemy is us." This Walt Kelly cartoon presented in it's original context for Earth Day 1971 is found: <http://planetwaves.net/pogo> Only in the good old days of the Galbraith era, does any concept of the "us" exist. Pogo made his comment at the end of that time to his friend Porkypine. Today Pogo would have to say to himself, "I have met the enemy and the enemy is me." That is the ultimate cultural bottom.

It truly amazes me that really nothing has been done on any of these problems pretty much in my adult working life. And now ladies and gentlemen, we have an energy crisis with no short term solutions. We not only have most of the world hoping to come and live in this country, but thinking they have an excellent chance to not get caught if they do it illegally. Congress both Republicans and Democrats have done nothing but posture, bicker, and stand for sound bites that have no basis in reality. And then there is the President, that hasn't vetoed anything, has not fired anyone, and smiles and says, "We are working really hard."

Then it comes to the church which thinks that "Intelligent Design" is an intelligent evangelistic idea. That if we make enough noise about the upcoming Da Vinci Code movie that revival will sweep the nation. It is OK to believe that people are basically good, and only bad people will go to hell. Of course we don't know, or personally associate with any bad people.

Finally, there is the business sector. The Dow closed Tuesday at 11416.45, almost double upon what Galbraith's statement just 10 years ago was predicated, so it still must be the intelligent place to put all your money. Furthermore, Apple Computer closed at 71.62 up 2.02, and Microsoft only lost 28 cents to close at 24.01, Bill's still the richest guy

on earth. Of course there are those temporary aberrations in the commodity markets, oil again is about 75 bucks and pretax unleaded will probably be at 2.20 tomorrow, so it's just 30 cents a gallon that goes into the oil companies black hole. Silver Tuesday closed at 14.35 up 14 cents and gold was up 3.70 closing at 671.10 up about a hundred bucks in the last month. Life is good in America Amok.

I guess my hope and my prayer is that it doesn't have to be this way. Leadership could lead and perhaps some minority would begin to follow. There's an old saying, that was the motto of my high school graduating class, and I think it was old even back then. "Even the longest journey begins with the first step." The NKJV states the Biblical Proverb 28:19 this way:

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;

But happy is he who keeps the law.

You can't complete a journey if you are not going anywhere. America Amok exists because of a lack of vision beyond personal and selfish indulgence. That was not what made America the greatest nation on earth. That moral stand must begin within the church, but sad to say most Christians don't have any theological teaching any different that what is presented in the real world. Just as in Old Testament Israel, the lack of true leadership by those in religious authority are the true cause of this land of America Amok, because they have left there calling to pursue worldly gain religious enterprise. I think it was L. Ron Hubbard of Scientology who said that religion was the easiest way to make a lot of money. The truth of the Da Vinci Code lies not just in the book and the movie but throughout the religious spectrum.

Our latest Chronicles:

Plaid Hood, Tall and Strong, circa 2020; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/plaidhood2-22-6.pdf>

Thesis Seven: Indulgences; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/thesisseven3-1-6.pdf>

The Nature Deficit Divide; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/naturedeficit3-8-6.pdf>

Birds & Snakes; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/birdsandsnakes3-15-6.pdf>

Given Gifts; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/givengifts4-12-6.pdf>

Our rights and our dusty responsibility; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/rightrespon4-19-6.pdf>

Solomon's folly today; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/solomontoday4-26-6.pdf>