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Signs of Limousine Liberalism

By Matt A. Mayer

I'm sure you've seen the yard sign by now. It started popping up shortly after Donald Trump became president of the United States. The sign has three colored rectangles that contain the statement: "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor." The green rectangle is in Spanish; the blue rectangle is in English; and the yellow rectangle is in Arabic. (Why not in Urdu, Farsi or Bahasa Indonesian?). It started in Virginia and has spread to liberal homes across America.

Ironically, the sign is offensive, as the enlightened liberals who place it in their yard do so for two reasons. The first is they want everyone to know that they are enlightened and welcoming people, unlike Trump and his supporters who, they believe, want to kick all non-white citizens out of America. This purpose fits the liberal's belief that, despite their public support of egalitarianism, they are, in fact, intellectually and morally superior to those knuckle-dragging, God-fearing, gun-toting deplorables of whom they aren't very welcoming.

The second more insidious and offensive reason is they want to send a message to their Trump-supporting neighbors that they know those unenlightened neighbors don't welcome people no matter where they are from. Their only "proof" for this belief is that their neighbors are conservatives. This passive-aggressive attempt to shame their neighbors into either putting up a sign to show they, too, are welcoming, or, by failing to do so, admit they must not be welcoming of others is the morphing of bumpersticker politics to the front yard that is part of [America's civic war](#).

It also is pure and utter bunk.

The reality is that many of the people sticking that sign in their yards live in comfy suburbs or wealthy urban enclaves with very little actual diversity. If they have non-white neighbors, they likely are highly educated African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians or Asian-Indians. Those places likely don't contain Section 8 housing or homes rented to refugees. It is more likely those cities have a Whole Foods, lots of mini-vans and stay-at-home moms sporting Lululemon clothes than a halal meat market, a bunch of rusted-out cars, or burka-clad women. The public schools in those places are safe, clean and high-performing.

Take my [city of Dublin, Ohio](#), where I've seen the yard sign. The median household income is over \$120,000, with median homes prices coming in at \$341,600. Of the 43,000 residents of Dublin, 75 percent are white, 17 percent are Asian, 5 percent are Hispanic and 2 percent are African-American.

The three high schools are ranked among the best in America.

You may see an occasional hijab being worn by a woman driving a luxury car or an elderly woman in a sari taking a walk along the well-manicured neighborhoods or walking paths. Immigrants in Dublin are doctors, engineers, scientists, professors or are in another highly-skilled profession. Many of the non-African-American minorities in Dublin are second- or third-generation Americans who live the same lifestyles as their white neighbors.

It is easy to be welcoming in such suburban sameness. I wonder how welcoming those liberals would be if the second-generation Indian doctor or naturalized Chinese scientist was replaced with a large refugee family from Somalia who hadn't yet adjusted their lifestyle to Western ways or a strict Wahhabi family from Saudi Arabia who didn't value tolerance (or Jews or girls walking around in skimpy outfits or neighbor men talking to their wives) as much as the liberals did?

Frankly, I always thought the Koch Brothers would have gotten a far better return on their investment if they would have diverted the hundreds of millions of dollars they spent on political races to buying homes near loud-mouth liberals in Malibu, California; McLean, Virginia; Aspen, Colorado; Chappaqua, New York; and other liberal enclaves. They then could provide those homes to very diverse groups of people who had no hesitation in bringing their customs and ways from their rural villages in Central America, the Middle East or Africa with them. Can you imagine the reaction Barbra Streisand, George Clooney or Hillary Clinton would have had to a [ritual goat slaughter](#) in the [backyard next to them](#)?

The yard sign is just the latest in limousine liberalism. Liberals spend their lives allegedly fighting for the little guy, but interestingly live their lives largely among the elites of America. It is why the Obamas fight against school choice, as [they send their kids to expensive private schools over failing public schools](#). It is why Al Gore pontificates about climate change, as [his mansion churns out huge amounts of carbon dioxide](#). It is why liberals lecture their neighbors about welcoming all people, knowing full well no one except well-educated and wealthy people can afford to buy homes near them.

After walking or riding past one of those yard signs in my neighborhood several times, a question began nagging at me: If the liberals posting the signs cared so much about

diversity, why did they buy houses in non-diverse areas removed from the people who actually could read the Hispanic or Arabic sections of the signs? If they really didn't care who their neighbors were, why did they move to the meccas of wealthy, white, highly educated America where statistically the odds of them living next to non-whites is really low?

Here's how I see it. If you want to prove a point to your neighbors about how welcoming and enlightened you are, then stop lecturing them with a vapid yard sign, put your principles where your mouth is, and move your family to a truly diverse area. Show me, don't tell me; or stick the yard sign in the recycling bin and soothe yourself with a trip to Whole Foods.

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