

City, No Space for Hate act like thought police



MICHAEL ENYEART · WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019 · 3 MINUTES

Published in The Herald-Times August 21, 2019.

This guest commentary was submitted by Michael Enyeart.

The Herald-Times reported “Abby Ang, a lead organizer with the protest group No Space for Hate, said Tuesday that she wasn’t sure what her group’s response would be to news of Schooner Creek Farm’s return. She was afraid for her organization’s members to return to the market and questioned whether an increased police presence and the city’s other public safety measures would solve concerns about white supremacy.”

That is wise. I remember the day before fourth grade started, I decided to have batting practice on bumble bees that lived in the school construction trailer behind my home. Things were going fine, until a bee got through my swing and stung me between the eyes. I ran to my bed. By the time my mother found me, both eyes were swollen closed and I missed the first three days of school.

The problem with Ang’s comment is the fact that white supremacy has not been expressed at farmers’ market.

She and her gang are upset because there is a couple with a young baby selling vegetables at the market, that she thinks are racists, based on doxxing them on social media.

From there, her gang escalated. That attracted extremist responses from the left and right (Antifa and 3 Percenters). I’ve seen various social media comments that all sides are using crowd-source funding to profit from this conflict.

Many of the gang, including its leaders, call for the market to be shut down on social media. Hard-working community farmers have invested decades to build and sustain this market. The gang managed to transform that venue of harmony and good will into a theater of conflict. In doing so, they caused enormous economic harm and fear to the farmers and the public. But the gang doesn’t give a damn about that. Fear is their tactic. This is their expression of social justice.

The Mayor John Hamilton swore to uphold the Constitution, but the mayor is openly helping Ang's gang chum the water, by continuously scheming to harass and exclude this couple from the market, based on their alleged private beliefs. The mayor is openly railing against several Constitutional rights. Let that sink in. Is that what liberals have become? Thought police?

Had the gang not done what they did, today the alleged racist couple would still be quietly selling vegetables, nursing their young baby, and minding their own business, as they have done all along, even while uncivil extremism buzzed around them like angry clouds of hornets.

Since when did it become an American principle to persecute someone because we don't like their thoughts and beliefs? History informs us of the horror of government persecuting people because of their beliefs. I find it abhorrent the mayor has used his high office to do that.

Looking deeper, it seems to me like these protesters are actually raging against the racism that is part of every human's subconscious. Maybe they should rave instead.

There is always hope that people will come to their senses, and I see perhaps Ang's comment reflecting that. Albeit slowly.

One would need to be blind and deaf to not understand that structural racism is grievous in our society. I support addressing that in ways that produce improvement. The protest has done the opposite.

When I step back and look at this, I see that I didn't learn to rave until I went to Cambodia at age 64. But, then again, I learned not to swing a bat near a bee nest in the fourth grade.

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