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SLICING AND DICING AMERICA

By Steve Bakke  May 24, 2019



We Americans are “sliced and diced” in many different ways, with a goal of appealing to our sense of uniqueness, thereby capturing political support and ultimately our votes.

This process of “identity politics” sorts people by race, religion, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender identity, culture, etc. The goal is to gain political advantage, and democrats use this process very skillfully in their attempts to appeal to a particular individual or group. This “classification process” can easily result in an individual associating with more than one “identity.”

A political theory was recently expressed by Yale professor Greta LaFleur. Reacting to presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg and his same-sex spouse appearing on the cover of Time magazine, she stated that “perhaps this is heterosexuality at its immaterial and strategic best.”

She observed that this is an image of sexuality that could award the presidency to democrats, i.e. Buttigieg and his husband are a “vision of heterosexuality without straight people.....[offering voters] the promise that our first gay first family might actually be a straight one.

As part of my search for an understanding of this professor’s comments, I ask: Is this theory a strange form of identity politics carried to a silly and absurd extreme?