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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**  
**E PLURIBUS UNUM –**  
**ASSIMILATION ISN'T**  
**SUBORDINATION!**

By Stephen L. Bakke  April 10, 2017



*Here's what provoked me:*

*Remember the name "Ron Smiley"? He's the fellow who so often takes issue with my opinions published in the Fort Myers News-Press. He really got exorcised about my recent thoughts about the importance of assimilation by our immigrants. I got a good laugh from his equating me to the evil alien "Borgs" from Star Wars. Of course I had to respond!*

*Here's my response:*

**E Pluribus Unum – Assimilation Isn't Subordination!**

Re: "E Pluribus Unum" on March 13, Ron Smiley equated me and other conservatives with "Borgs," with subordination being our intent. He asserted that E Pluribus Unum has "nothing to do with people's different cultures." B/T/W, "Borg" is an evil alien race from the Star Trek franchise. They forced all newcomers to be "assimilated.....resistance is futile."

The message in my March 6 letter was that lack of assimilation is tearing our culture apart because it emphasizes our differences and has led to political correctness, divisive identity politics, and extreme intolerance.

Come back from outer space, Mr. Smiley, and grasp what the world means by assimilation. It has nothing to do with imitation or subordination, and everything to do with understanding of, and respect for, our laws and institutions. It assumes that our Constitution is embraced and complied with.

Assimilation has nothing to do with giving up religion and traditions. Those are Constitutionally protected as long as there is compliance with our rule of law and our Constitution. Those are about the only constraints.

Mr. Smiley, I can only assume you find some value in the chaos, division, and even violence that is encouraged by lack of assimilation and isolation.