

Willse: Community voices conflict to create balance

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to be forthright in its motivations for military action, there is someone to demand transparency. For every person who thinks there should be no American involvement in Iraq, there is someone to remind him or her of a moral obligation to protect human life when reasonable and possible to do so, and particularly from the clutches of genocidal dictators. For every person who can't

distinguish between protected and unprotected speech and so attacks legal expression, there is someone to stand up and defend basic First Amendment rights.

So, thank you to the many rational thinkers in the campus community who have time and again helped make my work worth the effort.

Thanks for reading.

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Jagernauth: Parties must fight to preserve progress

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to the progressive movement to stop them. Those enemies are, of course, religious fundamentalists.

The ultra-conservative right wing's attempt to legislate a biblical moral system is nothing short of an attempt to transform America into a pseudo-theocracy where politicians are mere puppets for an elite religious class. Some might say I am exaggerating, but it is happening, law by law, judicial nominee by judicial nominee, election by election.

Additionally, one of the most important institutions for a well-functioning democracy, a free press, has drastically declined in the last few years. The problem with the press is not whether it is liberally or conservatively biased, but whether it is willing or able to serve as an independent watchdog against all forms of power, whether left or right, corporate or governmental. Unfortunately, time and time again the press has proved unwilling to shine a

light on the abuses of the powerful, leaving the American public vastly unprepared to protect its interests from its own elected officials.

So what can be done? How can we fight this slow erosion of progressive values?

Libertarians and secular Republicans, who have lost their political control to religious fundamentalists' bend on building a global military and religious hegemony, need to take their party back.

Progressives and secular Democrats, who have lost political control to power-hungry elitists who feign populism in order to hide their corporate interests, need to take their party back.

And people of faith, whose religion gives them the strength to love and accept rather than judge, need to take back their churches, synagogues and mosques from those who have twisted the Bible to further an agenda of hate.

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