

It's Been a Good Run by John Littig

Authors abound for the *Progressive View* column. There is apparently no shortage of liberal-minded writers with the willingness and energy to fill that space weekly.

For almost three years, I have been writing under the *Republican Perspective* banner. Other writers have contributed from time to time, but for the last few months mine has been the only byline. I've had some very essential and effective help. Two trusted friends have reviewed my essays for factual accuracy, tone, and clarity. One is a retired English professor and a college administrator, the other is a retired federal executive and a Mensa member---both are heavy hitters. Their help has been essential.

For me, at least, writing is hard work. Few conservatives seem inclined to invite that monkey to climb on their backs. Maybe it's that conservatives are, by nature, conservative---content to remain spectators as the opinion battle swirls on around them. I also suspect some feel it's rather undignified to present oneself on the opinion page. Sort of akin to participating in a protest, sit-in, wet T-shirt contest, or mud rassing.

So lately I've been carrying the banner alone. And it's been a good run, commenting on such phenomena as:

- The narcissism which abounds in the president's orations.
- The global warming scientists' ship getting stuck in record Antarctic ice formation.
- The disarming of law-abiding citizens so as to make campuses safe for mass murderers.
- The GEICO "hump day" camel being deemed offensive to Arabs.
- The need to protect college students from hearing opposing points of view.
- The president learning of his administration's scandals and shenanigans "from media reports."
- The LGBTQ community's need to punish and re-educate those who do not celebrate their life choices.
- The president ignoring the plight of his own brother while pursuing his "My Brother's Keeper" initiative.

By my count, about 75 essays in all. It's been a target-rich environment. Our political/social milieu, and the absurd statements and actions of the politicians and celebrities who populate it, just seem to cry out for comment.

One thing I seem to have successfully avoided, as I look back on this experience, is writing rebuttals of the *Progressive View* authors---or anyone else for that matter. I guess I just felt they should have their say and I should have

mine---and I've left it at that. So it hasn't been difficult to avoid a back-and-forth debate. I just never even considered doing it.

My mentioning of other Rossmoor writers has been minimal, and never negative. I decried the shameful charge of racism against my colleague Chris Panton. I alluded to the series of articles on the national debt which I had co-authored with Steve Nieman. And I referred to fact that Gary Hansen and I had collaborated to write a pair of side-by-side essays. We had advocated for a more civil tone---peace in the valley, if you will. Sadly, these efforts seem to have made not even a smidgen of difference.

So it has been a good run, but now the pressure of competing priorities simply doesn't allow me time to continue to write. I may still pen the occasional column---but the weekly offerings are over. At least for now.