

MATTHEW HOY FEBRUARY 18, 2017 4:56 PM

Well, Tribune readers, it's been fun



BY MATTHEW HOY

I didn't leave the Republican Party. The Republican Party left me.

I may one day return, but that day is at least four, and possibly eight, years off.

Like approximately 11 percent of voters in San Luis Obispo County last year, I couldn't in good conscience mark my ballot for either [President Donald Trump](#) or [Hillary Clinton](#).

While I still support the vast majority of the self-professed ideals of the GOP, I cannot put my faith in a narcissistic egomaniac who is now the titular head of the party. The Tribune has expressed its opinion that it would like a conservative Republican to write in this space semi-monthly, and I no longer fit that description.

So, this is my final column for The Tribune. I will continue to write — as I have for the past 15 years — at my blog [Hoystory.com](#), and I may pop in periodically in the Facebook comments beneath stories, letters and opinion pieces on [The Tribune's website](#).

I've often said that I'm a conservative first, and, until last summer, a Republican second.

I'm still a conservative, which means I will praise Republicans when they get it right and criticize them when they get it wrong. The same goes for Democrats and third-party politicos of any stripe. But in the future, you'll have to read that at my blog.

I appreciate the opportunity The Tribune has given me over the past year to share my opinions and insights with you.

The 40 percent of San Luis Obispo County citizens who cast their vote for President Donald Trump last November deserve to have their point of view represented in the Opinion pages of this newspaper.

The editors of the Tribune don't believe that I'm the best person to do that, so I wish Andrea Seastrand, my successor, the best of luck in articulating those beliefs to readers.

On another note:

It would be a breath of fresh air if we could tone down the level of vitriol in our politics today.

Reading some of the Letters to the Editor and various columnists can make one despair at how divided Americans are today. Reading the comments below the various articles could quickly convince many that we have a mental health crisis.

Before you sit down to write a letter or leave a comment, there's a few things you should do.

Take a deep breath.

Realize that the person you're responding to, whether on the political left or right, isn't really a fascist, or a communist or a nazi.

But what about ...?

No, not even that person.

It wasn't different when your side did it. Whatever "it" is or was.

Realize that the politicians on your side are just as cynical, hypocritical and self-interested as the ones on the other side.

Your political opponents are not evil, they are just wrong.

Name-calling and insults do nothing to convince them that they're wrong — they just convince them that you're crazy.

And there's way too much crazy around here.

Matthew Hoy is a former reporter, editor and page designer. Read Hoy's blog at [Hoystory.com](#). Follow him on Twitter [@Hoystory](#).

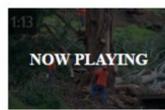


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VIDEOS



Cal Poly dormitory remains threatened by unstable hillside; two large trees cut down



Cal Poly dormitory remains threatened by unstable hillside; two large trees cut down



Students evacuate Fremont Hall at Cal Poly after storms



Heavy overnight rains add more water to an already raging San Luis Obispo Creek

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ABOUT MATTHEW HOY



Matthew Hoy, a conservative, is a San Diego-area native and 1994 graduate of Cal Poly's journalism program. He spent 15 years at various newspapers along the West Coast, including The Lompoc Record, The Daily World in Aberdeen, Wash., The North County Times in Escondido and The San Diego Union-Tribune. For 15 years, Hoy has written a blog on politics and the media, [Hoystory.com](#). Hoy's column will be published in The Tribune every other week, in rotation with liberal columnist Tom Fulks.

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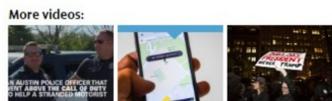
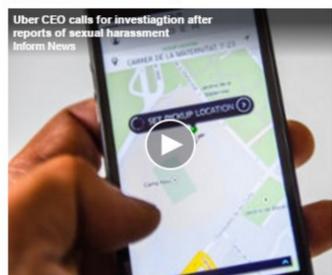
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COMMENTS

8 Comments

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Chris Temple · Atascadero High
Surfers call it the "cleanup set."

Thank you President Trump.
Like Reply · 1 hr



Tom Neuhaus · President at Project Hope and Fairness
Matthew, I rarely agreed with you, but this last piece is a gem. It's important that both progressives and conservatives differentiate our classic disagreements from the cheap and tawdry fascistic lines, for which about 30% of Americans have fallen. Thanks for exemplifying what good citizenry is.
Like Reply · 1 · 18 hrs



Jay Bonestell · Artist at Bonestell Studios
Why are you being so reasonable now, Mr Hoy? If you had only been this decent in previous columns I'd really be sad to see you depart.
Like Reply · Feb 18, 2017 9:45pm



David Ciuffardini
Thank you Matthew for trying to instill some common sense and decency among your fellow Republicans and a party that was infiltrated and perverted after the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower (a noble and respected Republican who warned us ALL about the evils of the military industrial complex.)

When the impeachment process commences, we must soften our hearts and forgive Trump supporters and work extra hard to bring our nation together.

While Trump himself favors torture and government sanctioned death penalty for Americans, we must stand firm and oppose both measures for him and his accompli... See More
Like Reply · Feb 18, 2017 6:20pm · Edited



Tom Neuhaus · President at Project Hope and Fairness
Actually, I would like to substitute the word "Earthlings" for every "American". We are not the great nation we purport to be and we need--Number One--humility. Sadly lacking in today's Amerika.
Like Reply · 1 · 12 hrs



Bob Shanbrom · San Luis Obispo, California
Very classy farewell column. You, sir, have intellectual intergity. I'm a progressive and I know that by failing to honestly engage with people of opposing political viewpoints we enabled this disastrous Trump presidency. All the best to you.
Like Reply · 1 · Feb 18, 2017 6:09pm



Chris Knudson
Be well...
Like Reply · Feb 18, 2017 5:41pm



Aaron Ochs · Who cares? at None of Your Damn Business!
Thank you for providing a sane, measured conservative column every other week. I'm going to miss your independent views.
Like Reply · 1 · Feb 18, 2017 5:35pm



Lynette Tornatzky · UCLA
Thank you Mr. Hoy for your time at the Tribune. I hope you do not feel too bad about being cast aside. I read the comments under the Commentary and LTEs and see how it was that you were "not Republican enough" for these times. I see Ms. Seastrand on the Board of Supes replays. Sigh..... I only hope that she is still the same person that was once willing to do this: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/.../photo.../article39498675.html>but these days, I have my doubts.

I wish you the best in all sincerity. I am a Dem, but lament the days when the Republican candidate was someone I could vote for if they were the best person for the job. That time has passed.
Like Reply · 1 · Feb 18, 2017 5:43pm · Edited

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