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RELIGION PROFESSOR IN THE DEPTH OF DESPAIR



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 30, 2017

Here's what provoked me:

A lot of column space was devoted to a depressed college professor (emeritus) who is retired from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Some may recall that as my undergraduate alma mater.

Here's my response:

Religion Professor in Depth of Despair

A Luther College religion and philosophy professor emeritus told of his despair and cynicism about the United States. His "hope and confidence are now completely extinguished, leaving nothing but acidic cynicism" (December 30, guest column).

He longs for Obama, writing: "Dear Barack, I miss you.....I miss your voice; the measured, thoughtful rhetoric.....", and now the Professor's cynicism is back "with all the lethargy and anger that comes with it."

His comments about Iowa republican office holders seem to indicate he respects only those who think like he does. Perhaps the Professor suffers from confirmation bias, complicated by long, cold, dark winter days.

We have a different time, new personalities and policies, and many unsolved problems. The Professor sees society "humming along" if only we would see things through his eyes. As a frustrated and oft-complaining Trump voter, I can partially sympathize but also recognize that he is hoping for something that won't work.

From reading "Dear Barack," it seems he wants a salve, not a solution. Barack's style didn't work, and that led to a change. We don't need the eloquent, but weak words of Obama; we do need the ineloquent, clumsy, unintellectual, but tough words of President Trump.