

The politics of trust

In any relationship, you have the expectation of trusting the individual you are with. You expect to know that they will support you, help you and look out for your best interest. At the most basic level, you expect stability and continuity. You don't see or expect betrayal. Although at times it just seems to go with the territory. Yet the expectation should be of the freedom of a relationship and not the burden of it.

In politics, government or any organization, like any relationship between either two individuals or entities, you have the same expectation. You expect to be protected.

Throughout the Middle East the average individual has the expectation that their government would look out for their best interest and provide economic stability. But the time came when it didn't happen and they took matters into their own hands. You see it's like a domino effect as governments are toppled and changed through the sheer will of the individuals unwilling to remain complacent as their liberties are stripped. It's the ability to use their voice and determination to instill change. It's as simple as refusing to allow a stagnant relationship to fester.

It's become no different within

our own borders as people lose their jobs as much-needed government programs lose funding and as people struggle just to keep their homes, yet where are the voices? Where are the protests? Why is the majority not standing up and refusing to accept the status quo? It's a time when people need strong programs to help supplement their incomes and create stability. It's a time when governments are failing to support and care for their citizens. Where are the citizen protestors in this country?

Protests have erupted in Wisconsin over the state budget. The rest of the country must be asleep. The majority of states are cutting massive amounts or program budgets, yet you don't see any massive protests. The Tea Party movement should have sparked or inspired the average citizen to action, although you had a political movement the average working class citizen has taken no stand to protect their rights or make demands to protect their standard of living.

The upheaval in the Middle East and Africa has sparked a domino effect. The difference between the Tea Party movement and protests in

Egypt and Tunisia is simply that the Tea Party movement was a political movement whereas the Egyptian protests were sparked and driven by the average citizen. There was no class or political boundaries. The people had enough and refused to comply and bend to political pressure.

Now to think a little closer to home, last year many individuals throughout North Carolina received IOU's instead of tax refunds from the state. The state is quick to take but slower to give back.

All of these things become personal suddenly when state issues begin to affect Fayetteville State University students directly. Imagine being a student and expecting that your classes will be available next semester. Imagine being a student who works for the university and suddenly finds themselves without a job or the expectation of a job.

The unemployment rate for the Fayetteville area in December was at 9 percent, down from 9.3 percent from November, according to the North Carolina Employment Security commission. The unemployment rate for December in North

Carolina was 9.7 percent. Therefore the Fayetteville area average is less than the state unemployment average.

Given all that information then why are people losing their jobs at such a high rate. Why is FSU expected to have such high cuts? More importantly how will the 8.2 percent tuition increase affect the students on top of the reduced services and class availability.

I keep hearing that FSU will protect the "core." The university cannot make such deep cuts in personnel, services and classes and still maintain a quality level of education for students. How can you protect the "core" when those needed to service and maintain the core are being sacrificed?

The big question is where are the student voices and protests against such high tuition increases, loss of services and classes. Where are the student protests and voices speaking against the loss of their quality of life on campus and in the community?

Most of the country just isn't passionate over a mutual goal even if it means allowing the government to strip away rights one at a time and strip away necessary services for those in need. When does it stop?

You have to care before there is nothing else left to protect.

It has become too much. When does this relationship between students and FSU become something that students refuse to stand and allow to maintain a choke hold on the quality of education and life on campus?

When do you say "I'm done, It stops here and no more."?

This relationship has gone far enough. It's time to let your voices be heard. It's time to put aside the expectation that things will just get better, that FSU will somehow provide. It's time to just refuse to allow the loss of so many things.

According to an article in the Fayetteville Observer, last Saturday Fayetteville State University has the largest tuition hike in the UNC system. What happened to that 6.5 percent increase that no one seemed to care about. No one spoke out and now it's 8.2 percent.

It's time for the relationship to change. It's time to hold the university to a higher standard and expect that support and trust or it is politics as usual.

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BAYAT
FINDING
MY VOICE

Where is the passion?

By Nike Pascal
Staff writer

Regardless of the different political parties, who is voted into office or the issues plaguing Americans addressed during the campaigning season or at national conferences, no resolutions are applied that actually work. The concerns of Americans remain the same: health care, un-employment and lack of quality education.

The unemployment rate is 9.0%. It has not changed since last year. The minimum wage is \$7.25/hr according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"There are two problems with the jobs recovery...employers haven't added enough jobs.

And those they have added aren't particularly good ones," said Chris Isidore, senior writer for New York and author of Jobs are back! But the pay stinks. In other words this new job creation is too small in quantity to impact the unemployment rate and to add to the situation. The majority of these jobs are currently paying less than \$9/hr.

Earning less than \$12/hr makes it extremely difficult for anyone to make ends meet and raise a family. Low paying jobs in combination with a higher cost of living have driven

When will Americans speak up and stop carrying the nation's financial setbacks in silence? Recent events across the Middle East have toppled governments over economic woes.

many Americans to work two jobs to manage. It has also contributed to the low standard of living. On Sept. 16,

2010, the Census Bureau released Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the U.S. 2009, which indicated that 43.6 million Americans were living in poverty, making it the highest amount since 1994 and the number of people without health coverage rose to 50.7 million.

Last week, President Obama proposed the 2012 budget. The new budget plan is for \$3.7 trillion and it comes along with numerous cutbacks in social aide programs like the low income heating assistance program and a purposed tax increase. If the budget is passed

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