

**Siuslaw News**  
 P.O. Box 10  
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# Opinion

## In the light of a thousand good deeds

### GUEST VIEWPOINT

By **ROBERT ORR**  
 DUNES CITY COUNCILOR

On the chilly, windy and wet Florence morning of Jan. 21, I joined hundreds of my fellow coastal citizens and millions of others worldwide for a march through the streets. I did so not so much in protest of the Trump administration's policies as in support of the values I believe we can — and should — share: respect, kindness, honesty, justice and equality.

Admittedly, there is much with which I disagree about the policies of President Trump, from environmental protection to health care and immigration to global citizenship. But those are the political differences

that lead us into lively dialogue which drives a healthy democracy.

No, on this occasion I did not march to protest any political agenda.

I marched because I am concerned about the potential loss of critical values I believe we must all embrace in order to live together successfully and respectfully in a civil society.

A year ago, I started a non-profit organization called Students for a Better World. Its purpose is to support, recognize and reward children and teens who find creative new ways to make the world better, healthier and safer.

In so doing, we wish to instill in youth the importance of giving to others, with the hope that children will learn to make kindness and compassion priorities throughout their lives.

We formed Students for a Better World well in advance of any indication as to which candidate might become our next president, but I now find that the mission of our organization has taken on vital new

importance.

On Jan. 21, we saw the makings of a revolution as millions of people around the world gathered peacefully and with remarkable restraint to speak out on behalf of justice and equality for those who do not always receive it.

It is a revolution that we desperately need throughout this country and around the world in answer to unfortunate attitudes and behaviors that

could quickly become the norm in our society in light of a president whose words and actions often defy basic tenets of decency and respectfulness.

It is a revolution that, if successful, will allow us all to turn away from dishonesty and disrespect, and move even further in the direction of a kinder, gentler, more peaceful world.

We are blessed to live in these coastal communities where volunteering is a way of life and friendliness can be found in nearly every daily interaction.

Let us not forget the importance of those actions when we

witness contrary approaches by our leaders.

Practice kindness: help a friend in need; greet a store clerk with a smile; open a door for a stranger; be honest in your personal and business dealings; honor and respect the many differences among us; give generously of your time, energy and earnings to the charity of your choice; and do your part to ensure that the darkness of injustice and disrespect is forever washed away by the light of a thousand good deeds.



### LETTERS

#### WON'T BE FOOLED

It seems that many people in our country think their "rights" include the government providing for their every need from cradle to grave.

That kind thinking is a slow progression from republic to democracy and, eventually, socialism. The media is included in this progression toward a one-world government.

Nowadays, we need two incomes to "get by" and children are being raised by the system, which decides what they eat, learn and don't learn. Children are immunized at the time they're born yet they seem to be having more health issues in terms of things like leukemia and diabetes — because big pharmaceutical is big business.

We now have a President who has taken the scrutiny of the whole world to bring back jobs

to this country and put the USA first — made in America, by Americans.

I won't be fooled by a system that has become a political regime. Instead, I will support President Donald Trump and his efforts to make America great again.

*Guthrie Wilson  
 Florence*

#### CORPORATE POWER

Welcome to the Corporate States of America, where I feel we are witnessing the culmination of corporate power where "old money" governs not for the benefit of the common good but for its own bottom line.

Welcome to the privatization of everything that can further enrich the wealthy at the cost of everyone else.

If we allow it to happen, we may soon be saying goodbye to the protections offered by government standards, as well as programs like Medicare, social security, the Veterans Administration, public education, healthcare, environmental regulations for clean air and water, not to mention laws guaranteeing racial justice, equality and even Freedom of the Press.

That's unless we insist on a fair, sustainable country with equal justice for all by holding our elected and appointed officials accountable.

We can and must.

*Julie MacFarlane  
 Florence*

#### INQUIRING MINDS

I'd like to see an article regarding the full explanation of our national debt.

I, as a retired senior citizen living in Florence, find that myself, my wife and those acquainted with us really have no idea about the National Debt.

I constantly read about Trump, Clinton and their associated parties, but nothing to do with the real facts of our debt.

Who loans us the money?

What if we, the USA, fail to make payments in a timely manner to whomever?

How can our Congress so easily extend that National Debt Limit year after year?

I'm not looking for a political answer favoring either side, just an honest answer.

Inquiring minds would like to know.

*Thomas Nieland  
 Florence*

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