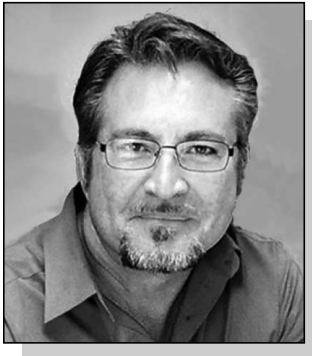


Siuslaw News
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Opinion



Opposition for opposition's sake is a big mistake

spective on the road to maturity.

However, opposition itself isn't a sign of maturity.

Opposition for sake of opposition only limits our opportunities, our perspectives and the kind of understanding that helps us grow as individuals.

Maturity happens with the recognition of this fundamental truth.

Over the last several days I've heard a growing rhetoric from democratic leaders in Congress about the need to "oppose everything" the Trump administration proposes.

This includes our own Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, who told "Politico" (Jan. 30) that he would automatically "filibuster any and all Supreme Court Justice nominees Trump puts forward."

It was only a year ago that

Republican leadership in our nation's capitol did something similar by refusing to consider then-President Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, for the very same appointment.

And the beat goes on.

While I agree that any nominee seeking Congressional

Perhaps more importantly, this kind of "obstructionist" mentality also runs the risk of delegitimizing future challenges within our system of checks and balances when they could matter most.

This isn't the time to over-reach or grandstand simply for

divide and conquer. Without question, we are already a nation divided. Our representatives in Congress must put aside their need to conquer each other and remember that the true casualties of this kind of political war are those who they are supposed to be representing.

Do I agree with or even support all of the decisions, Executive Orders and nominees the current administration has put into play during the last two weeks since taking office?

Absolutely not.

Truth be told, I haven't found myself in support of most decisions made so far.

But for every Neil Gorsuch that members of Congress fervently oppose purely for the sake of opposition, a Betsy DeVos is confirmed to a post without qualification thanks to divisiveness and the mindset

of settling old scores.

A little more than 200 years ago, our nation opposed tyranny in order to pursue the dream of being free. It was part of a necessary step toward independence.

Our forefathers were mature enough to recognize that opposition itself wasn't enough to secure our nation, but that it would take perspective and understanding to help us grow as individuals and a people united.

As we enter the early part of our nation's own "terrible twos," we need to remember that fundamental truth.

Because unlike the stage we must deal with as parents, in this case we really do need to act as if the future of the world depended on it.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com.

From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

approval should be scrutinized for their qualifications, to enter into that process with a preconceived conclusion and public promise to automatically deny approval merely continues the kind of partisan politics that have turned the wheels of government into the rusted grind of rickety gears that Americans have lost faith in.

the sake of being in opposition or playing it safe with party politics.

Americans are divided because their representatives in Congress have allowed themselves to become divided simply on the merits of which side of the aisle they happen to sit on.

One of the most basic techniques of winning a war is to

LETTERS

ORWELLIAN FEARS BECOMING REALITY

In the book "1984," George Orwell predicted much about our information-technology connected world of today. In his book, Orwell even describes how the citizenry is surrounded by "Big Brother" slogans like "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery" and "Ignorance is Strength."

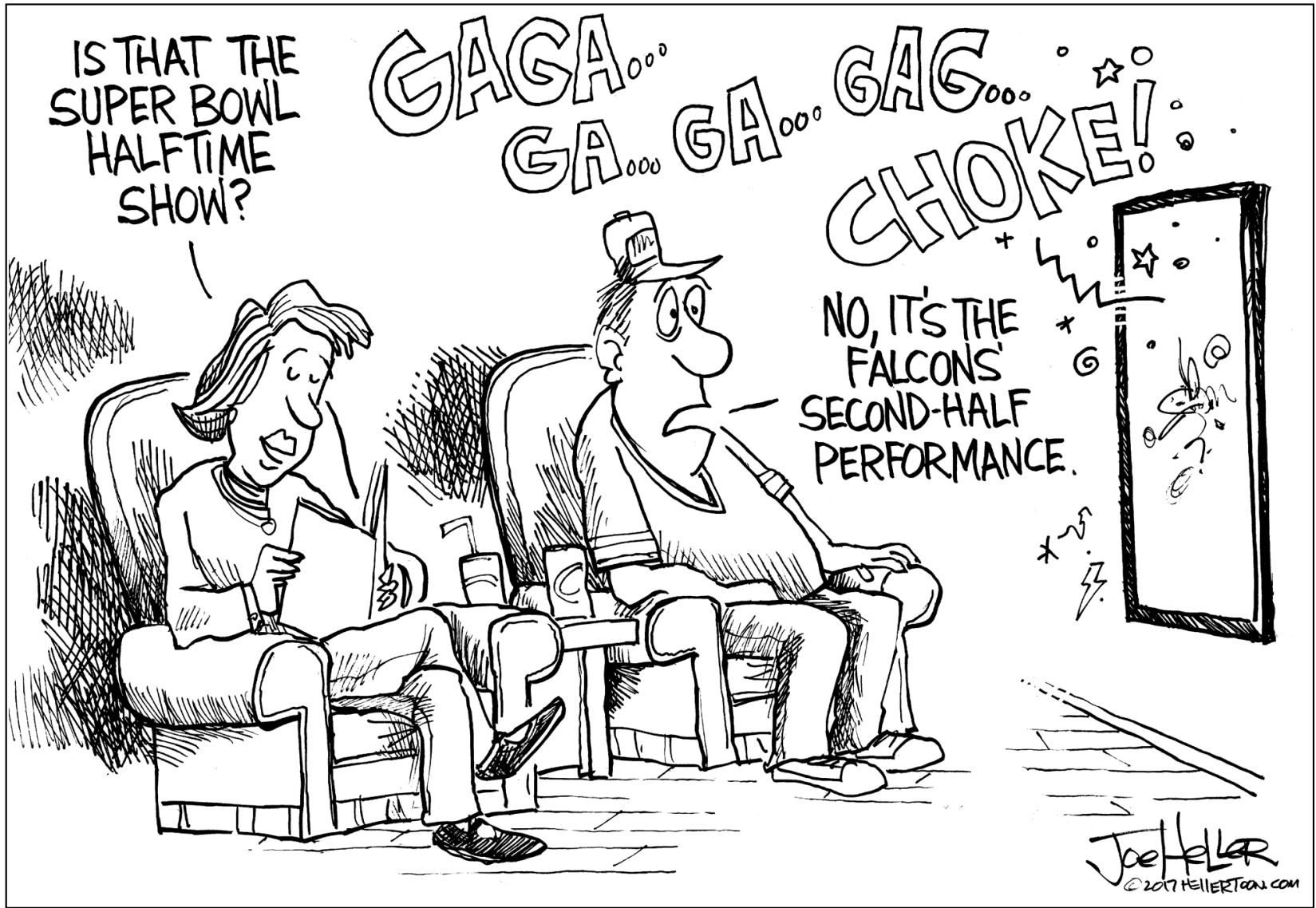
Erily, the same slogan-based rhetoric echoes today in slogans like "America First" and "Make America Great Again."

Today's fully wired citizen lives in a world of constant connection and Big Brother-type communication under the guise of the Trump administration's "alternative facts."

In fact, Orwell envisioned a world where all truth is what one dictator decides it is; where two plus two equals five.

For instance, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in a recent CNN interview she thinks White House chief strategist Steve Bannon is "pulling the strings" in President Trump's administration.

"I think that it is a very unfortunate image



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor concerning issues affecting the Florence area and Lane County.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters should be limited to about 300 words and must include the writer's full name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

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because, clearly, Bannon is more than a strategic adviser. I think he's the person pulling the strings," Albright told CNN, referring to Bannon's placement on the National Security Council's Principals Committee.

On Jan. 28, President Trump signed an executive order that restructured the National Security Council and added Bannon.

The order also demoted the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to a position under Bannon who, prior to being named as President Trump's Chief Strategist, ran the online news site Breitbart — well known as a racist and white supremacist platform.

Albright, who served as the head of the State Department under President Bill Clinton, said Bannon's influence is "passing strange."

"If I may say so, given his background and his approach to national security policy, his admiration for Lenin and a number of things, it troubles me a great deal having [Steve Bannon] in these all-important national security meetings," Albright said.

Likewise, retired Admiral Michael Mullen

said Bannon should not be on the National Security Council (NSC).

Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under former Presidents Obama and George W. Bush, and a former member of the NSC, warned that having Bannon on the council while downgrading the roles of national security officials would have a negative, partisan influence.

"Having Mr. Bannon as a voting member of the principals committee will have a negative influence on what is supposed to be candid, nonpartisan deliberation," Mullen said. "I fear that it will have a chilling effect on deliberations and, potentially, diminish the authority and the prerogatives to which Senate-confirmed cabinet officials are entitled."

Meanwhile, John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons in England, said he is "strongly opposed" to allowing President Trump to address both houses of Parliament when he comes to the UK on a state visit later this year because of what he described as President Trump's overt "racism and sexism."

Big Brother, it seems, isn't the only one watching us.

By Dave Masko
 Florence

FASCINATING PERSPECTIVE

I have been attending the latest class being presented by retired assoc. professor Joel Marks, which follows his previous Old Testament and "America at the Crossroads" classes. His latest class, which covers the New Testament, combines the Jewish heritage with the emergence of Christianity for an unusual but fascinating perspective on the life of Jesus Christ.

Further information on what is becoming an increasingly timely subject is a great help.

Patricia Kane
 Florence

(Editor's note: Classes are ongoing Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Church of Jesus Christ LDS, at the corner of North Fork and Munsel Lake roads.)

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