

Siuslaw News
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Opinion

The First Amendment
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend." —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



LETTERS

WE ARE DOING BETTER

I would like to agree with Linda Abell ("We Can Do Better In Florence," May 30) up to a point. I also know folks all over the country — and yes, some are of a different political outlook than mine.

However, I am usually able to argue my point up until they either start with name-calling or simply quit.

Some are still friends; and others, well, never really were.

As for the "until now" point made by Linda Abell, we take different paths. Unlike those on the extreme left, I see the divergence of paths and objectives more to policy than people. I understand that is not where some would go, because their policies more than likely would never pass congress without deceit — as Obama Care did.

As for degrading the discourse, I lived through eight years of racially-based excuses for everything from poverty to policing. During that time, food stamps went through the roof and every chance was taken to blame criminal behavior on one's skin color.

And what do we have for it?

Record numbers of police killings by thugs who think they are justified because of their social standing or the color of their skin. We also have a group called Black Lives Matter, which is essentially akin to the "poor me" whites.

I detest anyone who uses their skin color to justify their actions or their circumstances.

Lying and cheating are not new or unusual in politics. Most of us remember President Kennedy's many affairs and drug abuse. Or his brother, who should have been in jail for manslaughter. Or President Johnson, whose language by all accounts could make sailors blush. And how about Bill Clinton, who was convicted of lying under oath?

And let's not forget his wife, Hillary, who is still under investigation. Even if her criminality is proven beyond a reasonable doubt, I doubt she would ever

spend a day in jail.

That is the swamp: All of those who on both sides have been there so long that the wheels are greased for them to get away with almost anything.

The reason some only hear "sideshows and propaganda" is because, oftentimes, they only listen to those who parrot their point of view.

Try listening to both sides and it will become clear where the truth is.

Yes, ignorance is a fatal flaw in our system. When it comes to policy, we must use our brains first and above all else.

Linda Abell said we must have a heart for the neglected and downtrodden — and yes, you would be right.

The best way to help them is to make it possible for them to help themselves.

That is why we are doing better now. The current President is getting government out of the way for those who want to succeed at their chosen professions. Burdensome regulations are being eliminated and the rule of law is once again becoming supreme in this land.

I thank the day President Trump was elected and am looking to four more years when his first term is done.

It's my hope that those who hate him will come to see his greatness.

—David Eckhardt
Florence

CYCLE OF INTOLLERANCE IS RETURNING

I recently watched Steven Spielberg's movie "Amistad" for the fifth time. It reminded me of how intolerant our county was and is becoming once again.

President Trump and his base have been outspoken about immigrants when, in fact, we are all immigrants. Even his ex-wife, Ivana (Czech) and current wife Melanai (Slovenia) are both immigrants.

You must go back in time to find the names of native Americans who were here long before us and died due to diseases, warfare and slavery: Iroquois, Mohawk, Seneca, Hurons, Algonquians,

Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Lakota, Apache and Mohican, Siminole, Tillamook and Chumash.

With the slave trade of African Americans, I have no idea where to begin or end because it was so egregious — and not just "a Southern thing" because everyone of wealth including our so called founding fathers delved into the exploitation of others for labor.

In the late 1800s, Ellis Island became the mixing pot of immigrants arriving in America. Between 1892 and 1897, 1.5 million immigrants arrived in this country. Then the Chinese migrated to the West Coast to work in the gold mines and railroads — and quickly experienced the same inservitude and discrimination that early white Americans placed on everyone of color.

Not to be forgotten are the Japanese, who traveled from Japan to the Hawaiian Islands and then to our West Coast. They were successful in farming and business but experienced the same discrimination during WWII with internment camps through Executive Order 9066, which in my opinion is the largest unlawful modern day blot on our government.

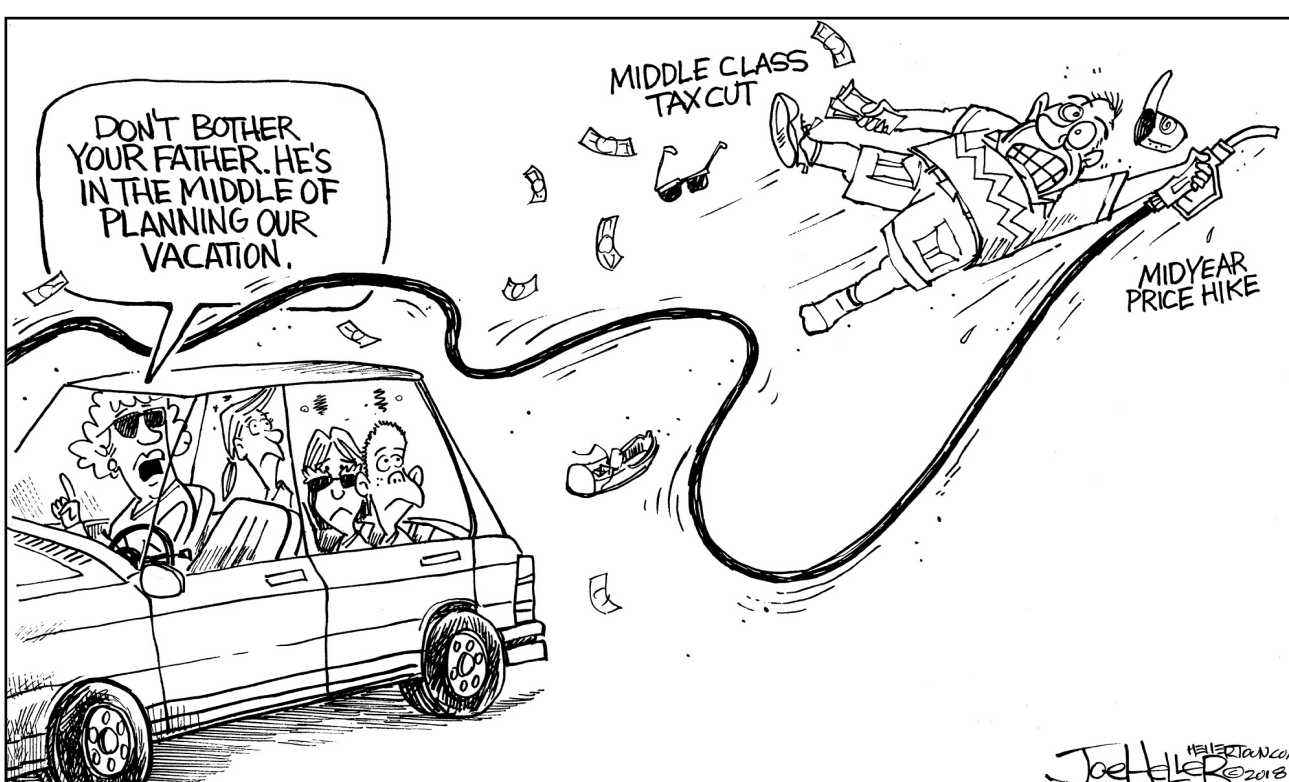
Approximately 120,000 American-born Japanese were put in camps around 1943. I have two American-Japanese lady friends my age who were incarcerated and sent to the Manzanar and Minidoka interment camps at the age of three with their families.

After WWII, white migrants from The Dust Bowl found better paying jobs on the West Coast. Then Mexicans migrated to fulfill those jobs. They were not considered immigrants but migrants just like my family from Oklahoma.

I went to grammar school and high school with first-born American/Mexican kids.

Today, we call them illegal immigrants because, thanks to President Trump, the cycle seems to be returning.

—Win Jolley
Florence



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The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. 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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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