

Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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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

DEFINE OUR COUNTRY BASED ON PRINCIPALS OF DECENCY

The practice of ripping children from their parents and separating families is utterly cruel and immoral.

These people are not "illegals."

They are not M-13 members or terrorists.

They are human beings seeking political asylum from a country where their lives are endangered. As refugees, they have every right to petition the United States to have their request for asylum heard on a case-by-case basis. What they don't deserve is to have their children thrown in metal cages, where they spend up to 22 hours each day without proper medical care and nutrition, terrified and not knowing where their parents are.

They don't deserve the physical and psychological trauma inflicted on them by ICE agents who appear to be acting as Trump's private gestapo.

As Americans, most of us had ancestors who came to this country seeking refuge from religious and political oppression. Most Americans even claim to believe in a compassionate and loving god. If so, how can we allow this inhumane practice of separation of families to continue?

We must not be complacent or numb.

Demand politicians take a stand against fascist policies and put an end to this. Cruelty is not democracy and hatred is not freedom. As Americans, we can choose to define our country based on the principles of decency and compassion for all humanity.

It is my constant prayer this is the America we will become.

—Linda Olsen
Florence

PATRIOTISM IS NOT PARTISAN

The card found in the Veterans Park is a wonderful reminder that children are this country's future.

The heartfelt message from a 5-year-old thanking veterans for protecting us is truly noteworthy and every veteran, regardless of political affiliation, should be able to view this remarkable evidence of awareness and gratitude.

Patriotism has nothing to do with partisanship. So why will it reside in a place that seems to serve only one belief system?

It has been proposed that the local military museum might be a more inclusive location for it.

I couldn't agree more.

Apparently, Lawrence Ferguson and MJ Flowerday of Patriot Place think that only those veterans who share their opinions and values should have a "heartwarming" experience.

I'm sure Mallory didn't think so.

—Peggy Bradley
Florence

IT'S UP TO US TO DEFEND OUR OWN DEMOCRACY

Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press are guaranteed in our U.S. Constitution. Our democracy relies on these freedoms.

However, our president's constant portrayal of "fake media" and attacks against the press are a cause for concern.

We could live under a dictatorship like Syria, Saudi Arabia, China, North Korea or countless other countries where freedom of speech is nonexistent.

It's up to us and our congressional leaders, liberal and conservative, to defend these constitutional principles.

Otherwise, we could end up in a very different country we no longer recognize as a democracy.

You choose.

—Julie MacFarlane
Florence

Want to be a better father? Get a bigger grill

Tomorrow morning, I will awaken to the sizzle of bacon and eggs, the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and shuffle of approaching feet as I lay in bed quietly thinking to myself, *My God, my wife is leaving me.*

Then I'll remember, *Wait — It's Father's Day!* A day when we fathers are revered for our wisdom, patience and, in a few rare instances, our neckwear.

For one whole day I'll be the perfect father since my wife will be handling everything for me. She does this to help me relax and enjoy my special day.

The problem is, it's hard to relax when, by handling everything herself, my wife makes it clear I could be replaced by a new dishwasher and a few extra power cords.

Okay, that's not entirely true. But our son already takes out the trash, leaving me with "The Grilling of Food" as my main contribution to the daily operation of our family.

I have managed to keep this duty the way most men do, by making the task of grilling appear as complicated and miserable as possible, even if it means faking a heat stroke while grill-

ing pre-cooked hot dogs.

I realize there are many new fathers who have made themselves indispensable during the diaper-changing phase.

Just remember: Your indispensability in this area — much like this morning's tightly-wrapped dooty — will eventually disappear into the Diaper Genie.



Siuslaw News

The Lighter Side

BY SYNDICATED HUMOR COLUMNIST
NED HICKSON

That's when grilling even the simplest things, such as a bratwurst, should be made to look as difficult as possible.

To do this, you'll need a large grill. The bigger the better. In fact, if a Hibachi is your main grilling source, go now, hop into your vehicle, and accidentally back over your Hibachi several times and replace it with something more practical.

And, practically speaking, we're talking a grill roughly the size of an Oldsmobile.

Why?

You need a large cooking surface so that you can convincingly spray down flames and battle for control over a raging inferno that, if not for your grilling skill, would quickly consume everyone's bratwurst — and quite possibly the county.

Unless you are highly experienced in pyrotechnics, or live

near an open gas line, trying to produce this same effect on a Hibachi is very difficult.

Once you have your giant grill, you'll need to keep a spray bottle handy. Your wife will assume it's to prevent charring.

This is partially true. But mostly you'll be using it to spray on your face and body to appear as though you are perspiring when, in fact, you are frequently supplementing any loss of body fluid with liberal amounts of ice cold beer

hidden behind the grill.

Lastly, you should purchase a special, custom-made spatula that is so enormous and so heavy it can only be wielded with two hands. This will make the grilling process appear even more difficult by requiring a "spotter" every time you flip someone's burger.

Put all of this together — spray bottle, giant grill, two-handed spatula — and you'll have the dramatic image you want: a sweat-stained father staggering in and out of the flames of his grill, both hands gripped tightly around the handle of his 50-pound spatula as he devoutly retrieves the evening meal.

Sure, this may sound like a lot of effort; you could fold clothes instead.

But the effort is worth it when it comes to family.

Besides, it's really hard to keep beer cold when it's hidden in the laundry.

(Write to Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com, or c/o Siuslaw News, 148 Maple St. Florence, Ore. 97439)

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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.

Email letters to:

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