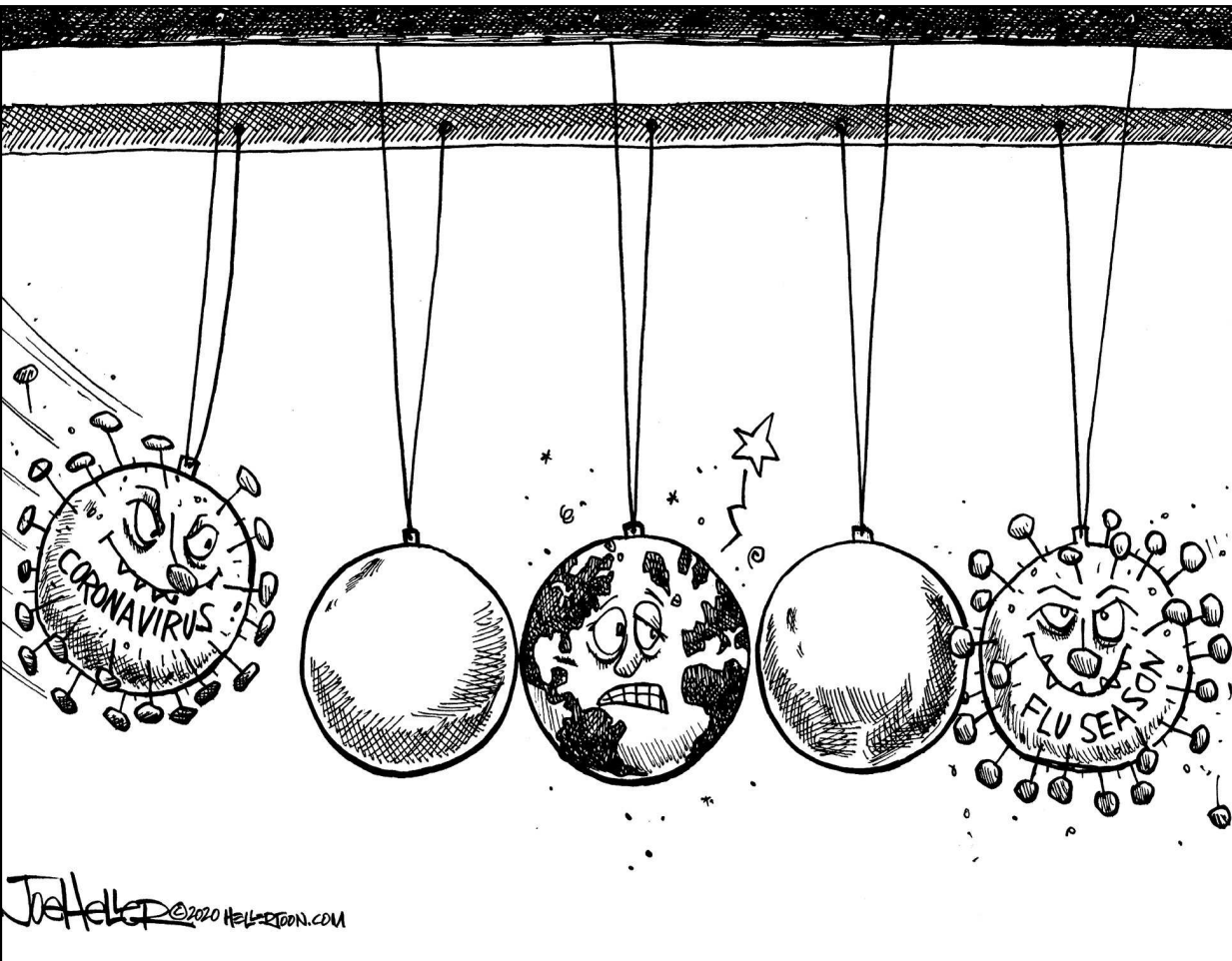


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

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

COLD AN ICE AGE HAPPEN AGAIN?

"At the time of the Pleistocene, the continents had moved to their current positions. At one point during the Ice Age, sheets of ice covered all of Antarctica, large parts of Europe, North America, and South America, and small areas in Asia.

"In North America they stretched over Greenland and Canada and parts of the northern United States. The remains of glaciers of the Ice Age can still be seen in parts of the world, including Greenland and Antarctica.

"But the glaciers did not just sit there. There was a lot of movement over time, and there were about 20 cycles when the glaciers would advance and retreat as they thawed and re-

froze." (<https://www.livescience.com/40311-pleistocene-epoch.html>)

Do you think this could happen again?

—Robert Miller
Florence

PROS, CONS OF SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE NEED CLARIFICATION

The controversy about the virtues or disadvantages of a single-payer health care system need clarification.

If a true single-payer system is enacted it is true that private health insurance policies would disappear. However, if a system that allows both private policies and a "public option" is adopted, it would require health providers to maintain administrative staff to cope with the intricacies of the various and numerous

private policies.

That extra cost would be included in the premiums for the "public option" subscribers.

What that boils down to is that the wealthy demanding private insurance would be subsidized by the lower-income sector. The wealthy always have the option to obtain private health care at their own expense if they deem it necessary.

In the distant past, I lived in two foreign countries (England and Germany) that both made single-payer health care available to non-citizens and I never had to wait for appointments.

I am now awaiting an appointment in Eugene on the last day of March that was booked in January.

—Bill Durst
Florence

We need strength of character 'for our nation to endure'

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

Philip DeMers letter, "Let's Stop the Political Hatred" (Feb. 5) asks "Where does this hatred come from?" in response to some people's reaction to supporting President Trump.

During last week's National Prayer Breakfast, Arthur C. Brooks spoke to the group, which included the President, congressional members and others, and conveyed the same concerns Mr. DeMers expressed in his letter.

Brooks gave a sincere and inspirational talk specifically focusing on the divisions in our country and in our government. He asked that people be respectful and tolerant, expressing the need to come together in a way that allows discourse that leads to working together toward solutions for the issues dividing the country.

He finished his talk saying, "Ask God to take political contempt from your heart" and urged our leaders to make that commitment publicly.

President Trump then took the microphone and essentially

mocked Brooks' call to civility, telling him, "I don't know if I agree with you, Arthur [laughter] and I don't know if you are going to like what I'm going to say [more laughter]."

He then went on to attack politicians sitting with him in the prayer meeting.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Karen Mahoney Florence

He mocked Senator Pelosi's [Catholic] faith and stated "I don't like people who say 'I pray for you'" and also mocked Senator Romney for acknowledging his faith [Mormon], oath of office and the rule of law imbedded in the Constitution for his decision to vote against the President in one of the Articles of Impeachment.

"I don't like people who use their faith as justification for doing what was wrong," Trump said at the prayer breakfast. This diatribe was not a one-time response to the impeachment trial but rather a continuation of three years of attacking those who disagree with him, whether it be by Tweets, at press conferences, rallies or during television interviews.

Regardless of our differences, we all have one thing in common: we all want a strong president who focuses on the well being of our country and encourages people to work together for the common good.

President Lincoln, in the Gettysburg Address, did that without vilifying his adversaries by calling the Civil War "A test of whether our nation would endure."

I truly want to understand how Trump supporters can listen to the insults, debasement, crudeness and threats that come out of the Oval Office on a near-daily basis.

How can they not understand that Trump stokes fear, hatred and inciting retaliation against those who disagree with him? He demands absolute loyalty, which is how every dictator — past and present — grooms followers rather than supporters. Every despot has used the same playbook to obtain absolute control and the President appears to be following the same playbook.

That is why some have made comparisons to Hitler and other despots.

We need strength of character — not divisiveness — for our nation to endure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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:
nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

WHERE TO WRITE

PRES. DONALD TRUMP The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20500 Comments: 202-456-1111 Switchboard: 202-456-1414 FAX: 202-456-2461 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213 www.whitehouse.gov	U.S. REP. PETER DEFazio (4TH DIST.) 2134 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-6416 541-269-2609 541-465-6732 www.defazio.house.gov
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