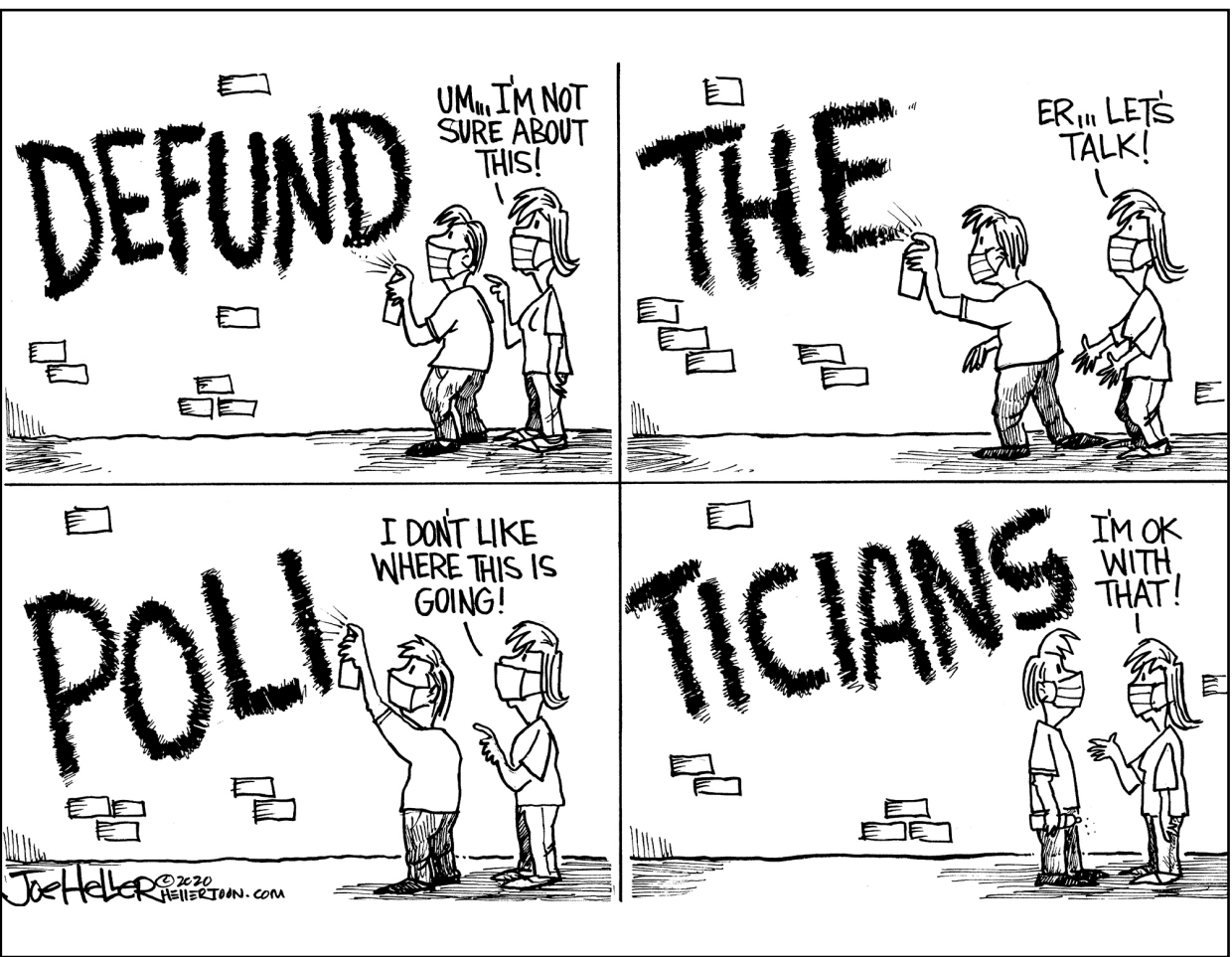


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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)



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Siuslaw News

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that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.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

LETTERS

LEE WAS NO 'AMERICAN HERO'

I would like to remind Joel Marks ("General Lee's Greatness Should Not Be Disposed Of," June 10) that General Lee resigned from the United States Army to join the Confederate Army. The Confederate Army was fighting to dissolve the Union in order to maintain states' rights to continue the practice of white supremacy in the form of ownership of black men, women and children.

I would not call the monument in Virginia an honor to a "sacred" history.

Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Adams and Boudinott were certainly imperfect men, but they never tried to dissolve the United States.

Lee led a treasonous insurrection of Southern states. By the way, they lost the war; Lee is hardly an "American" hero.

He may have been a Confederate hero, but to people of color he is a painful reminder of southern whites "putting their knee on the neck" of all black people to keep them from achieving the rights and privileges that whites take for granted.

—Marybeth Marengo
 Florence

SEEMS STRANGE TO ME

Does Germany have statues honoring Hitler? Does South Africa have monuments lauding Apartheid?

I'm sure there were excellent strategic military leaders in the Third Reich but does Germany name military installations after them? I don't think so.

I could be wrong but I doubt it.

I find it amazing that in the U.S., many active military and veterans wearing the American flag and their branch-of-service logos on baseball caps and jackets support honoring men who, in any other country or situation, would be considered traitors for taking up arms against their own country and killing so many of their fellow countrymen.

Seems strange to me.

—Judy Kinsman
 Florence

THANK YOU POLICE AND PEACEFUL PROTESTORS

I was very pleased to see people coming out to support our local police department on June 10. When invited to participate in the Black Lives Matter rally on June 2, they drove by many times and helped participants feel safe as they exercised their free speech rights.

The Black Lives Matter rallies highlight racial inequities in everyday life and emphasize that when

Black Lives Matter, then All Lives Matter. The original slogan — Black Lives Matter, Too — is important to remember.

Thank you Florence Police; and thank you supporters of our police department.

Thank you to everyone who supports community awareness and fights racism — things we can all agree on.

—Tina Haydel
 Florence

ALL LIVES MATTER

I was born in Concord, NH, in 1930, so I have been around for a while. I was not born with racism and my sister and I were raised by a mother and father that did not teach us racism.

In my opinion, racism has to be taught, not inherited.

I abhor what is going on in my country presently with all the rioting, burning, looting and killing. What that infamous police officer did was inexcusable and he deserves to go to trial by his peers for what he did and get a just sentence.

But likewise, those who recently killed police officers have to be deemed under the term of racism — yet I neither see nor hear about any demonstrations for them.

Today, there were a few demonstrators at the corner of 126 & 101. When I approached them asking who was sponsoring or organizing the group, a lady pushing a baby carriage approached and said these were all students — some past, some present.

When I asked if they were going to hold up signs saying "All Live Matter" instead of their BLM signs in regard to the murdering of the white police officers during the riots and looting, I was told that was a different subject.

Excuse me folks, but I took that as a racist statement if ever there was one.

I have had Chinese, Native Americans, Muslims, Blacks, Mexicans and Lord only knows what other nationality or religion at my dinner table over the years.

I honestly don't feel I am a racist by any standard. But if we are going to demonstrate, then where are the demonstrations for the four, five or six members of the Black community killed every weekend in Chicago by other Blacks?

Black, White, Yellow, Red what ever the color of skin — All lives matter.

—Tony Cavarno
 Florence

WHAT ABOUT GANG WARS AND SHOOTINGS?

I would like to thank all who turned out for the rally on Wednesday (June 10) thanking our police here and everywhere. I'd also like

to thank the man holding the sign saying, "All Lives Matter."

The police everywhere are getting a bad rap. They are not the bad guys; they are here to protect us no matter what color you are.

If I was at that rally, I would have had a sign stating, "Keep our statues and protect our heritage."

How come the protesters don't mention the black guys, the Crips and Bloods and others who operate all over the country, including gang wars, shootings, robberies and other atrocities?

What about all the shootings in Chicago every day?

All this goes on all the time, but these people who would like to make "black lives matter" should mention these things.

All lives do matter.
 God bless America.

—Darryl F. Parsons
 Florence

HEARTENED BY KINDNESS OF LOCAL YOUTH

My brother-in-law, an expert flyfisher, has not been fishing for several years due to advancing Parkinson's combined with recent COVID-19 restrictions.

As the weather warmed, we planned an outing to fish Cleawox Lake in his now seldom-used drift boat. About 9:30 a.m. this past Sunday (June 14), we entered the Florence Taco Bell drive through for a breakfast burrito with the drift boat trailing.

After committing to the drive-thru, we saw the extremely sharp left turn required to exit. We had no chance of successfully navigating that exit turn. We were stuck; backing up was not an option.

As I walked to survey the situation, three young men appeared at the stern of the boat.

One stated: "Can we pick it up and move it?" — which they promptly did.

Problem solved in 5 seconds.

We were now positioned to easily clear the yellow posts guarding the exit. These young men volunteered their assistance (and strength) with grace and ease.

At a time of great uncertainty and strife in our nation, I am heartened about the future of our county when I witness such gracious, unrequested acts of service.

I want to express my gratitude for their assistance; their families and the community can certainly be proud and optimistic about the future generation with young men such as these three who helped us quickly escape an unforeseen jam.

They "Made the Day" for two older guys visiting Florence in the hope of catching a fish.

—Tom Fauria
 Eugene

(See more letters on A5)

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