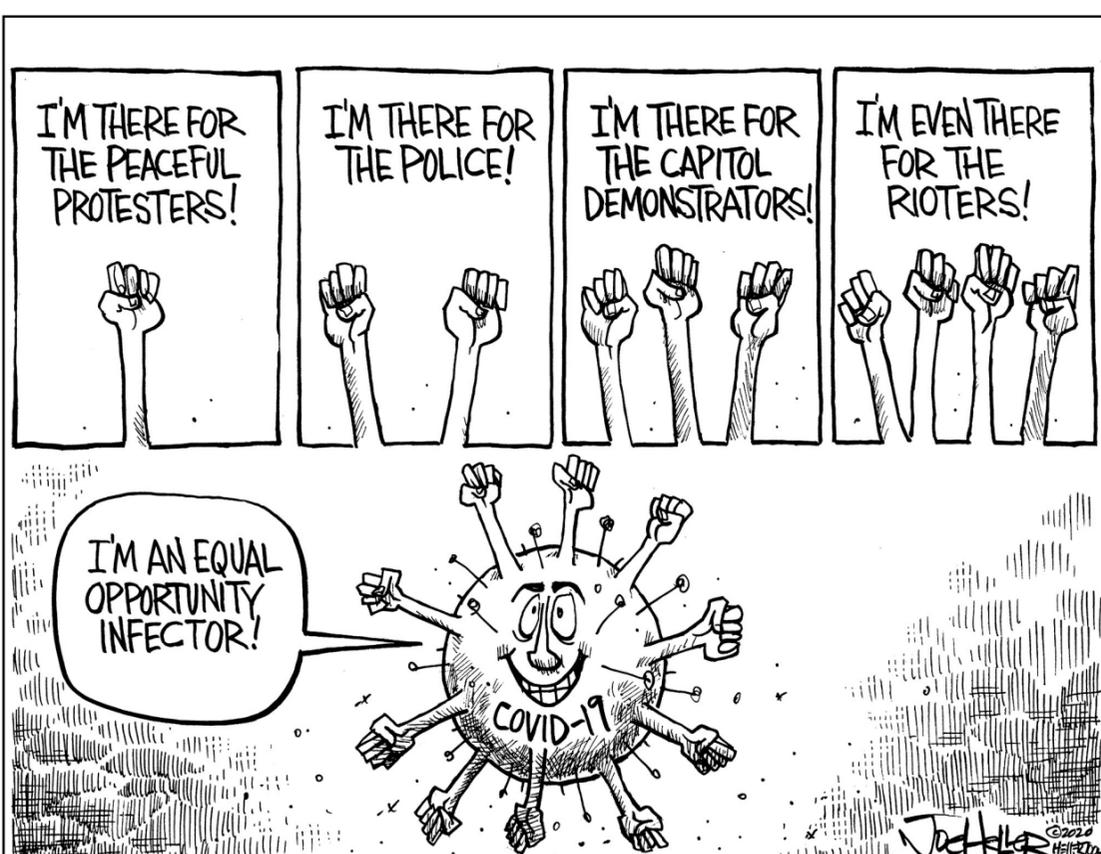


Siuslaw News
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Opinion

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

CHUCK TRENT FAR AND ABOVE THE AVERAGE MAN

Chuck Trent, the unpaid director of Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County, is one of the finest men I have ever known. The dedication and sacrifice that he has shown to revitalize the club is something few men would ever tackle.

It has been a real struggle with hours of scratching for every penny, just to make sure that the children are safe and cared for by the dedicated staff.

Chuck is far and above the average man in his ability to organize and plan for the future of this vital community resource. There are hundreds of working families that count on the club to keep their kids safe, fed and educated with the kind of activities that they enjoy.

Many members of this community have shown their support, with their checkbooks. They are to be highly commended. But those that have used social media to bash Chuck and actually call him terrible names should be ashamed — very ashamed — for teaching your children to behave this way.

When you have a man that has dedicated his life to this club for no pay and sacrificed his personal time, you should be giving him an award and stepping up to support all that he does for your children.

Is the school giving the club major support as they should be doing? Are those that appreciate all that Chuck has done for this community letting him know that you support him and will help him with his good works?

I challenge Florence to step up and be counted as major supporters of Chuck and what he does for the children at Boys and Girls Club of Western Lane County. He should be praised not hurt by vicious attacks.

—Karen Harden
President of Mapleton Food Share

DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS AND PRESENT THEM AS FACT

I was dismayed by the recent Letter to the Editor from Pamela Richardson ("This Country Has Beaten Down Marxism Before," Aug. 12) condemning the BLM movement for defacing the North Jetty with graffiti.

I'm wondering how Ms. Richardson is able to discern that the graffiti was actually done by someone who supports BLM? Was there video footage of the culprits?

For the record, during the demonstrations in Minneapolis, it was reported in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* that an individual posing as BLM was recorded breaking windows; that individual turned out to be a neo-Nazi.

The same thing happened in Richmond and elsewhere. This is not a new trick, it even has a name: False Flag Operation.

The Proud Boys have made a habit of using it, and Ms. Richardson should be wary of assigning blame sans evidence.

I don't know if that's what this was, but neither does she.

In addition, Ms. Richardson claimed that the BLM movement is Marxist. I personally know many people who fully support BLM and I've never actually met a Marxist in my life.

While someone who is Marxist may also be a BLM supporter, it does not hold that this makes BLM a Marxist organization. I'm quite sure that there are more than a few neo-Nazis and KKK members who fully support the Republican Party, but that does not mean the Republican party is a KKK or neo-Nazi organization.

In fact, if memory serves, David Duke once endorsed Donald Trump. That may say something about Duke, it says nothing about the Republican Party as a whole. As Ms. Richardson notes; be careful with whom you align yourself.

I urge you to apply a little critical thinking before jumping to conclusions and then try presenting them as facts.

—Raymond Plumery
Florence

WILLFUL IGNORANCE IS THE WORST KIND

Garbage gravitates to the gutters on either the extreme left or the extreme right side of "any" road.

There's a reason why a higher point (crown) is designed for the middle of roads; if per the off chance it's not, the road quickly deteriorates.

There's an old saying: ignorance is bliss, with some it's a blessing.

Those ignorantly blessed zealots that use a vicious common language should take special note of Jimmie Zinn's opinion letter ("Listen Up Right-Wing Zealots And Leftist Commies," Aug. 12).

He's right on.

And remember: sincere or willful ignorance is the worst kind.

—Jeff Talbot
Florence

ARE WE TO BE GOVERNED BY MOB RULE OR LAWS?

In response to Ms. Donna Mlinek's Letter to the Editor ("Respecting Constitution, Bible Is Not Exclusive, July 29), a lot of us thought Keith Kraft's Letter ("What 'Far Right' Means To Me," July 22) was on point.

In the great USA, we kneel to pray and we stand when the National Anthem is played.

We also put our right hand over our heart; active and retired military stand and salute the flag.

Kneeling during the national anthem by a few athletes is, admittedly, in protest — not a gesture of respect for the flag and for which it stands.

I think our police force is the best anywhere. Yes, you will find a few bad apples in every basket. They put their lives on the line for us every day and I am grateful for their service.

The protestors in Portland, Eugene, Springfield and elsewhere seem to be anything but peaceful. They have set fires, looted, destroyed property and caused millions of dollars in damage, as well as causing injury to people.

Perhaps Ms. Mlinek would see things differently if she was a business or property owner in one of those cities.

The riots have been going on for more than two months now. Are we to be governed by mob rule?

Or can we address our grievances in a lawful manner through proper channels?

—Lillian Swant
Florence

NO SUCH THING AS 'A LITTLE BIT MARXIST'

Marxist theory took over Russia in 1917. Over a period of years, 100 million Russians were murdered by a Marxist government. Some were my ancestors.

In a socialist country, bending a knee in protest will get you shot. Groups like Antifa and BLM would be considered terrorist organizations and be rounded up, sent to work camps or killed.

Being "a little bit socialist" is like being "a little bit pregnant."

And I do not think the Constitution or Bible need a lot of interpretation.

—Martin Cable
Florence and Sherwood, Ore.

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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 un-sourced 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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