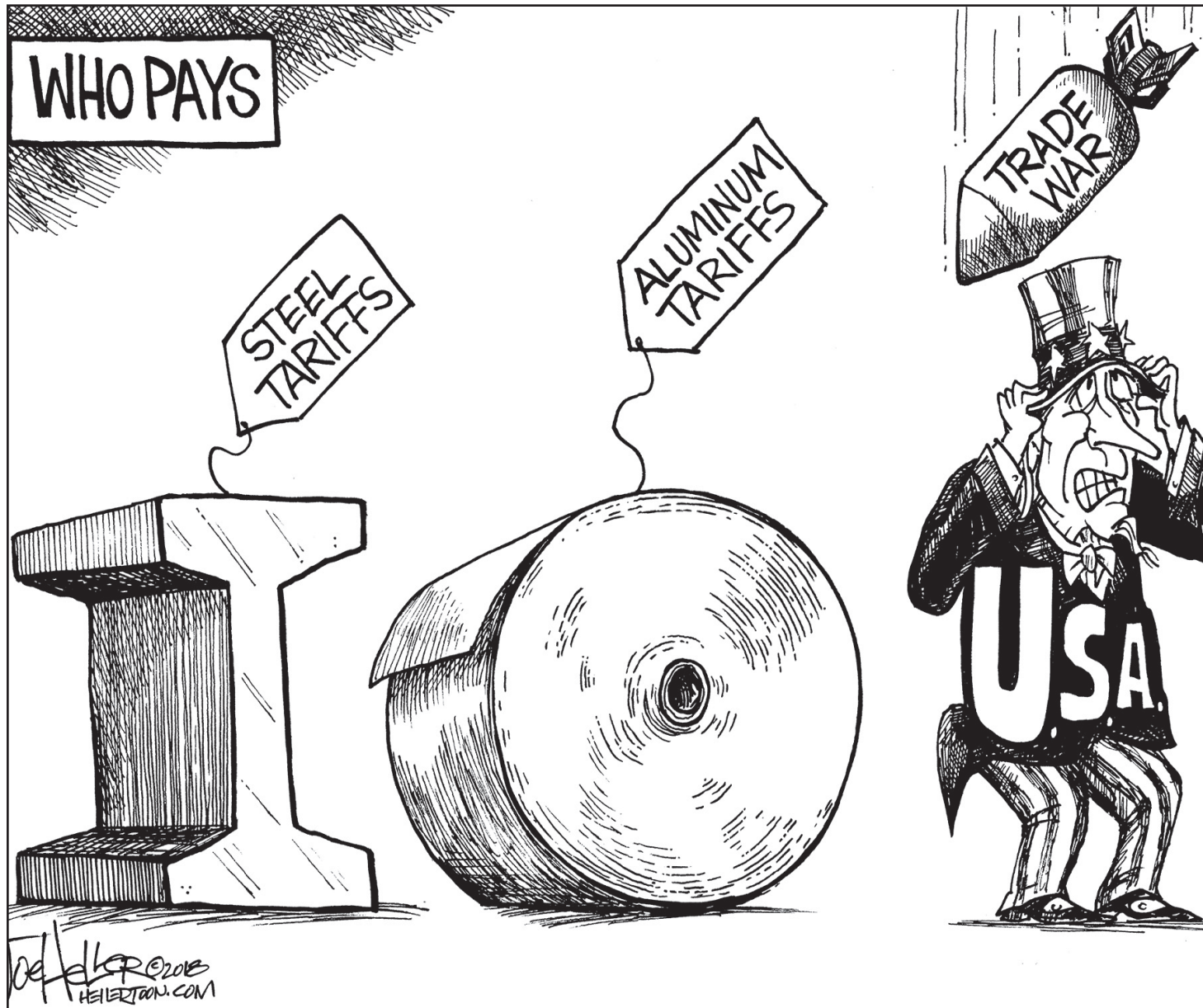


# OPINION

## 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 their Government for a redress of grievances.



## LETTERS

### Give facts, not opinion

Well, here we go again. God's out and Ol' Glory's on fire. Right here in Cottage Grove, it seems local news paper has become judge and jury.

I'm talking about the article regarding a new business in our town and people from out of town, like Portland, connected to the Antifa mob.

The article in the local paper had a very short report of a woman who broke all the front windows of the business. The woman even waited around because she

wanted to make a statement. She is connected to Antifa and even had the organization's phone number if she got arrested.

The article said there was no motive and she was a transient. Most of the article pointed to the business and how their son was in prison, then went on about the troubled son who is an adult and has nothing to do with this business.

For all who don't know what Antifa is, it is an anti-fascist group which came about in the late 20s. Originally, it protest against big

government but during the Obama time changed its agenda. Now it's attacking freedom of speech by damaging property, refusing to allow people to speak and spraying people with chemicals and paint.

It won't be long until they try to stop a business because it belongs to owners who are Christians, Jewish or something else they disagree with.

I ask *The Sentinel* to give us the facts not opinion. Let the people decide if a business will make it in this town through the power to

patronize.

—Cheryl Mulhall  
Cottage Grove

### (Managing Editor's Note:

In the story "Vandalism Targets Main Street Business" published June 13, the story made no mention of the suspect, Laura Rose, being a transient. And at press time, the police had not yet verified that the phone numbers found on her were associated with Antifa or the Civil Liberties Union.)



## Will we succumb to our worst or best nature?

cate and inspire — but that it would require us to ensure it would be used towards those ends.

"Otherwise," he said, "it is merely wires and lights in a box."

But things are different in this era of social media communalism. It's no small irony that, while we have become increasingly engaged in sharing our thoughts and experiences

truly know.

We can leave comments and engage in the conversations of strangers without consequence or accountability.

It's an era of communication unlike any other, and the ultimate repercussions on our culture remain to be seen.

In the same way that Murrow expressed the need for us to have a willingness to use the medium of television to teach, educate and inspire, we need to ask ourselves what direction we will take with the evolution of social media.

Will we succumb to the worst of our nature or the best of it?

Will our smartphones and other digital devices be utilized to improve the way we communicate and broaden our understanding of each other and the world?

Or will they prove to be little more than micro chips and lights in an even smaller box?

Write to Ned Hickson at:  
nhickson@cgsentinel.com

### From the Managing Editor's Desk

Ned Hickson

In the late 1950s, iconic newsman Edward R. Murrow recognized a paradox developing as the advent of television was transforming news reporting from the purely word-driven medium of radio into a much more powerful visual medium available in homes across America.

Murrow understood that news journalism would never be the same. He also recognized the responsibility that accompanies that kind of power.

In 1958, during a Radio-Television News Directors Association and Foundation dinner where he was the keynote speaker, Murrow spoke of the new television medium and the potential effects it could have on journalism and our society as a whole.

Known as his now famous "Lights in a Box" speech, Murrow explained how the new medium had the potential to teach, edu-

Over the course of the last few years, we've seen social media platforms such as Facebook and others succumbing to the worst — rather than the best — we have to offer as a society.

It's human nature to be drawn to things that disturb us. It's the reason we gawk at the scene of accidents; why there are more NCIS spin-offs than any other genre on TV; and why Greek mythology is full of cautionary tales that end in tragedy.

We find a certain comfort in recognizing when the mistakes of others have led to their misfortune — and how we can avoid making those same mistakes.

with more people than ever before, we have simultaneously come to accept that we are sharing those very things with people we will likely never meet.

Through that acceptance we are slowly laying the groundwork for the kind of social disconnect that we have begun to see with live streaming of disturbing events — and, perhaps even more disturbing, having them shared hundreds of thousands of times by others.

In a way, social media is promoting a culture of digital-aged peeping Toms, encouraging us to gawk through an endless array of partially open windows into the lives of others — many of whom we don't

### Letters to the Editor Policy

*The Sentinel* 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 without documentation will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside *The Sentinel* 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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