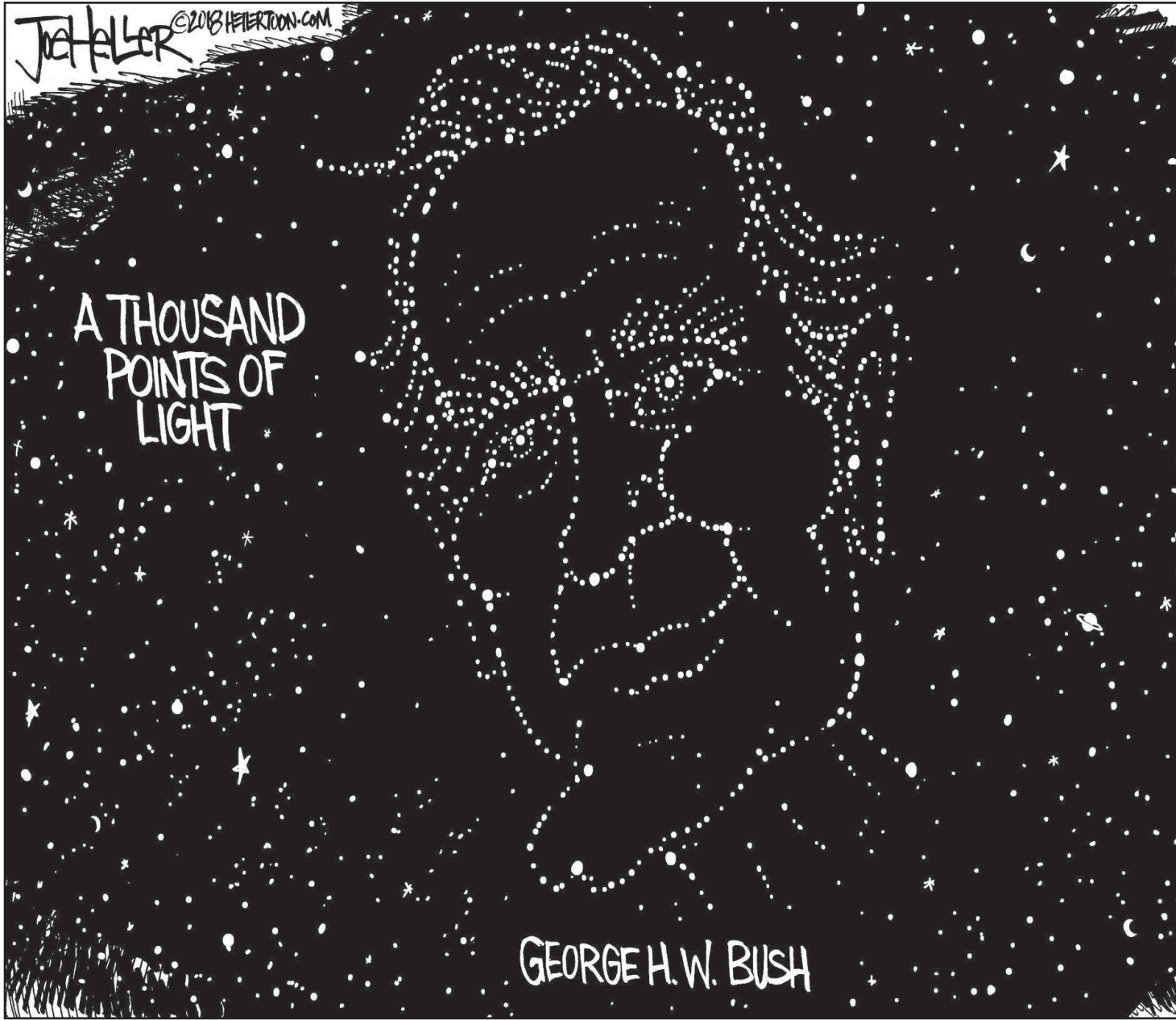


# OPINION

## 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.



### LETTER

#### Listen to our moral compass as a community

Cottage Grove Community United is increasingly alarmed at the rise of white supremacy in our country.

It has manifested in extremely violent acts like the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Penn., and the murder of two African Americans in a Kentucky grocery store.

It also shows up in small, yet abhorrent acts, such as the man who yelled "Heil Hitler" during a performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" in Baltimore, Md., earlier this week or racist messages targeting people of color on college campuses — including here in Oregon.

These are all signs that white supremacists are becoming bolder, including in our own community. The Laskeys, who own and operate Wolfclan Armory on Cottage Grove's Main

Street, have [family members with] ties to white supremacist-related violence, including a criminal conviction of a hate crime against our friends and family at Temple Beth Israel.

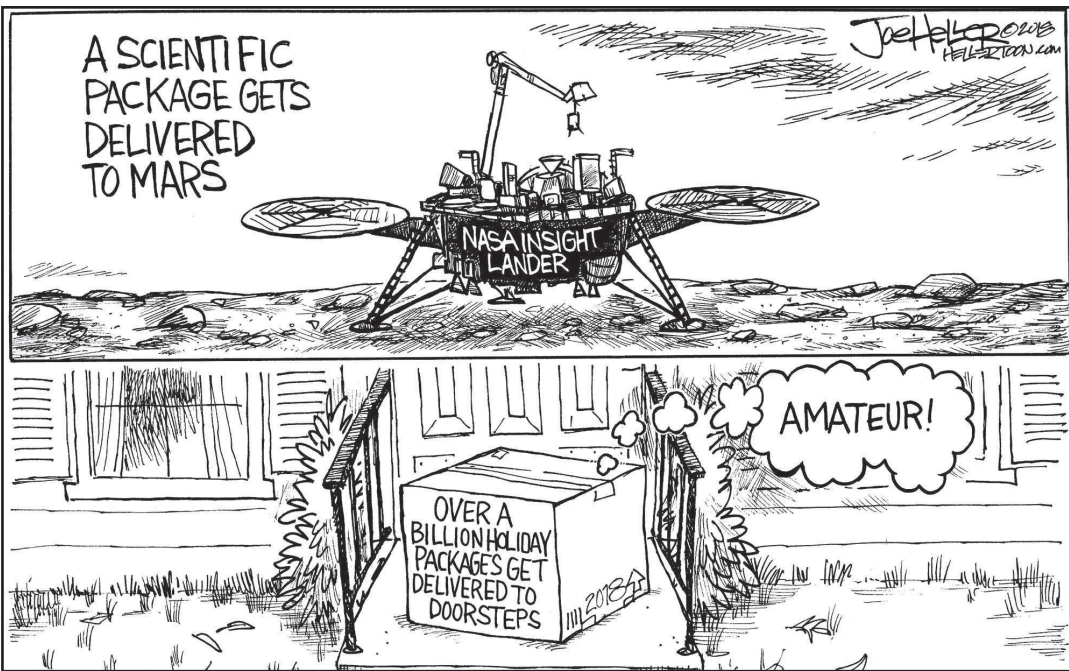
This moment calls on us to take on the difficult and critical work of listening to our moral compass, build-

ing bigger and stronger community, and fighting injustice for the long haul.

We are no strangers to antisemitic and racist violence in Oregon, but we also have a long history of powerful resistance and organizing by ordinary people who have built longer tables instead of taller fences.

We stand on their shoulders and reach out to you, our neighbors, to help build a community that welcomes and embraces people of all races, ethnicities, faiths and traditions.

—Cottage Grove Community United



#### 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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