

Cottage Grove Sentinel
 116 N. Sixth St.
 Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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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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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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.

Send letters to:

nhickson@cgsentinel.com

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Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Don't let fear of parachute pants keep you from your high school reunion



When it comes to receiving unsolicited material in the mail, few things are more frightening than an invitation to your 35th high school reunion. Except maybe a voodoo doll made from your own clothes and hair. The difference, of course, is that high school reunions don't come along every day. And while a voodoo doll is certainly unsettling, it's not as unsettling as talking with someone who remembers what you looked like in really tight parachute pants. Not that I ever wore any. I'm just saying, in the 80s, a lot of people did. And there's a chance someone who

looked like me might've been wearing a pair when — after losing circulation in his legs — he fell headfirst into the tuba section during a homecoming game. The truth is, all of us had embarrassing moments in high school. Especially since to-

After looking through it, I just kept reminding myself that times have changed. I've matured. Experienced life. Made my own way in the world. No one would ever recognize me as the geek I once was. Especially since to-

in a bump-and-grind while trying to sneak bologna from the snack table. I've never been a good dancer (and by this I mean someone who is a danger to himself and others), and thanks to our high school yearbook staff, this frightening display has been documented as far back as 1984.

Not that you had to tell my date this. She was *there*; a vision in pink ruffles, trying to escape the flailing arms of her tuxedoed attacker.

They say the past makes us who we are today. Because of this, I plan to attend my 35th high school reunion next month.

According to my friend the therapist, it could go a long way in helping me overcome my phobia of tuba players in parachute pants...

From the Managing Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

That's what made those years so memorable, and why now, when we gather to re-live those special times as adults, we do so within the general vicinity of an open bar. This is especially true if, like me, you made the mistake of looking back through your yearbook before the reunion — an experience that can prove more traumatic than high school itself.

day's geek is 25 pounds heavier. If you're looking for undeniable proof of your high school geekness, look no further than your prom photos. If that doesn't work, then look at mine. It's amazing how perspectives change. At the time, I thought I looked like James Bond in my tuxedo when, in fact, I actually looked like an undernourished waiter caught

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