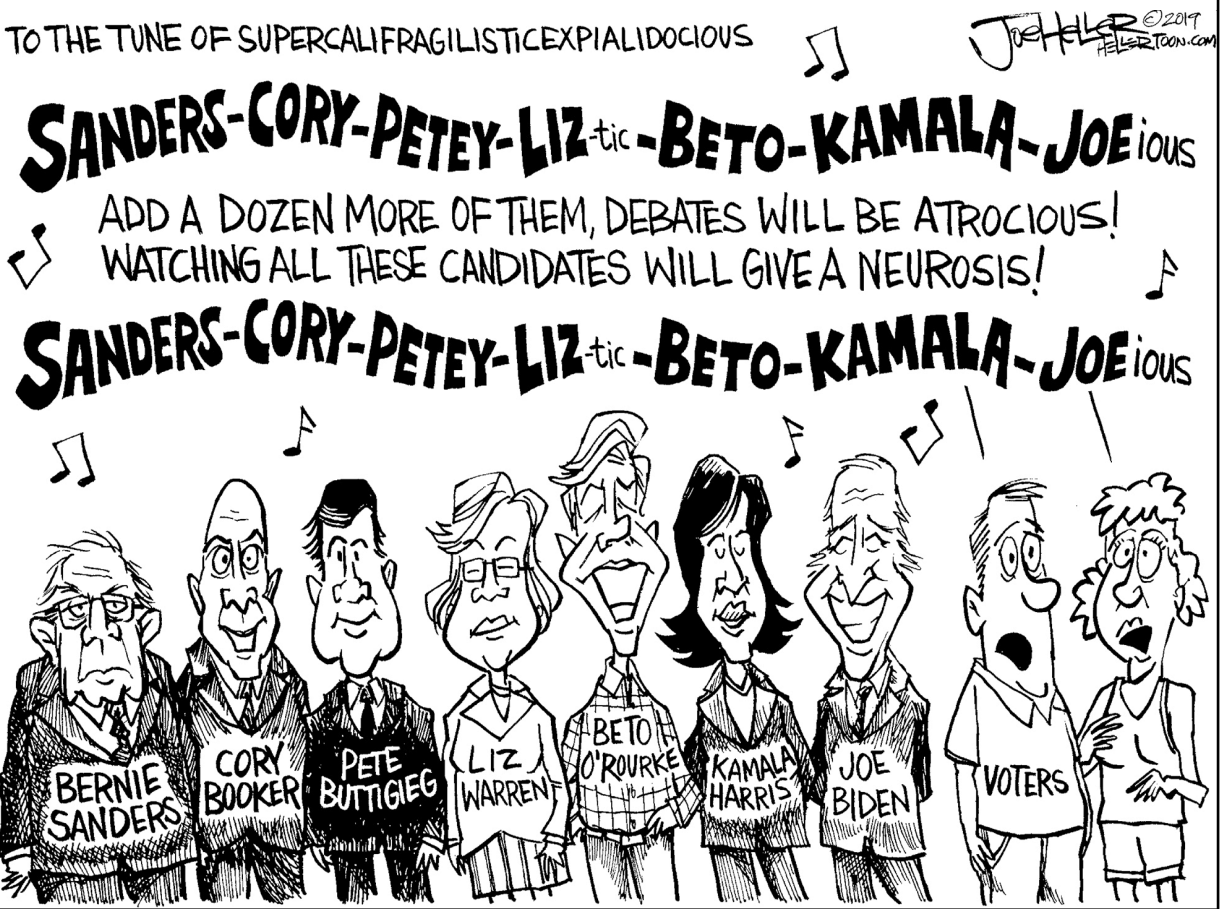


Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. Sixth St.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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:
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Boosting a daughter's self image by going for bust sends the wrong message



While Franklin's parents said their "gift" is meant to boost their daughter's self-esteem, I don't think going for bust is the answer. Even though Kay and Martin Franklin are cosmetic surgeons themselves, and say they only want the

head from the luggage machine, Jenna will be happy — and confident that she can lose her parents in a crowd, which is really what the whole thing is about.

We still have two teens at home. I can tell you the things that either em-

never met, the road our sons and daughters must navigate to define themselves is full of swerves and near misses.

It's our job as parents to not only be there on those rare occasions when they actually stop to ask for directions, but also to close the road when we know they don't have the skill to navigate what's ahead.

Is a 16-year-old capable of understanding how her body will change and how breast implants will impact those changes?

As parents, we need to recognize this and intervene when it comes to decisions that have long-term consequences, even when our kids don't agree or understand.

In all honesty, I'm glad the situation with the Franklins arose. It has prompted me to try even harder to ensure my daughter's self-confidence and self-image are grounded in who she is — not how she looks.

Besides, I'd also like to avoid the cost of breast implant surgery; the fact is, I'm flat busted.

From the Managing Editor's Desk
Ned Hickson

best for their daughter, they have to see how the need for self-image "improvements" won't end there.

It'll be a tummy-tuck at 17, then higher cheekbones and a thinner nose for her 18th birthday. At 21, she can get those pouty lips she always wanted, and maybe a little eye work. Perhaps touch up those pointy ears she used to get teased about in grade school. Eventually, it will be time to tighten that sagging 23-year-old chin.

Then finally, when she's completely unrecognizable and can't pass through airport security without an X-ray of her

power or implode their self-confidence — and what they identify as being important to them — can literally change from moment to moment. On more than one occasion I have started a harmless conversation over breakfast on, let's say... why I like Fruitloops... and found myself the unwitting participant in a what felt like an interview with Gary Busey.

Between the Molotov cocktail of hormones coursing through their veins, the constant flux of influences in their lives thanks to social media, the tether of cyberspace, and the occasional friend you wish your child

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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