

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anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or without documentation will not be published.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

LETTERS

WEAKNESS OF STRONG MEN STRIPPED BARE

As I greet my 70th birthday, I can attest to the sorry fact that more often than not — on both the personal and the social scale — that deeds of ethical horror have become more and more common over the last two decades.

On the personal scale, I have borne uncomfortable witness to an increasing normalization of the public denigration of human dignity by surveillance and physical and verbal disrespect on the part of law enforcement.

This human ugliness has gone hand-in-hand with a program of incrementally diminishing Civil Rights in Media rhetoric, and in legislation against — and toleration of abuse towards — targeted minority populations.

To what purpose?

I can see but one.

Both trajectories serve to buttress the confidence of bully leaders who are painfully aware of their shortcomings as leaders, and who are insecure in the

public perception of their degree of social control.

Is all this by design?

I am of a generation that such a thing can not be believed to be on purpose and by design in our America.

—Leo Rivers
Cottage Grove

WHY SLOW DOWN THE USPS?

The USPS has been a vital part of our nation since 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first postmaster general by the Second Continental Congress.

I don't understand our president's promotion of deliberately trying to cripple the Postal Service — especially prior to an election — when mail-in voting appears to be critical for safe balloting.

I have heard the theory that the current postmaster general is the sole architect of these policies. If that is so, then the president has the full authority to get involved since — as we have heard repeatedly — federal employees serve at his pleasure.

The buck stops with the president on this issue, but he apparently has chosen not to get involved.

We in Oregon are fortunate to have a decades-long history of successful mail-in balloting. According to Wikipedia, Oregon established vote-by-mail after the passing of a citizen's initiative in 1998 by a margin of 69.4 percent to 30.6 percent.

However, it appears that even here, the sabotage of the USPS may already be resulting in a slow-down of mail delivery. Have your magazines and other bulk mail begun showing up late?

Mine have.

I don't look forward to worrying about the delivery of my ballot or prescriptions.

Whatever your political disposition, if you want your vote to count this fall, you may want to vote as early as you feel comfortable doing so — and strongly consider utilizing Lane County's election drop boxes.

—Craig Barns
Cottage Grove

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