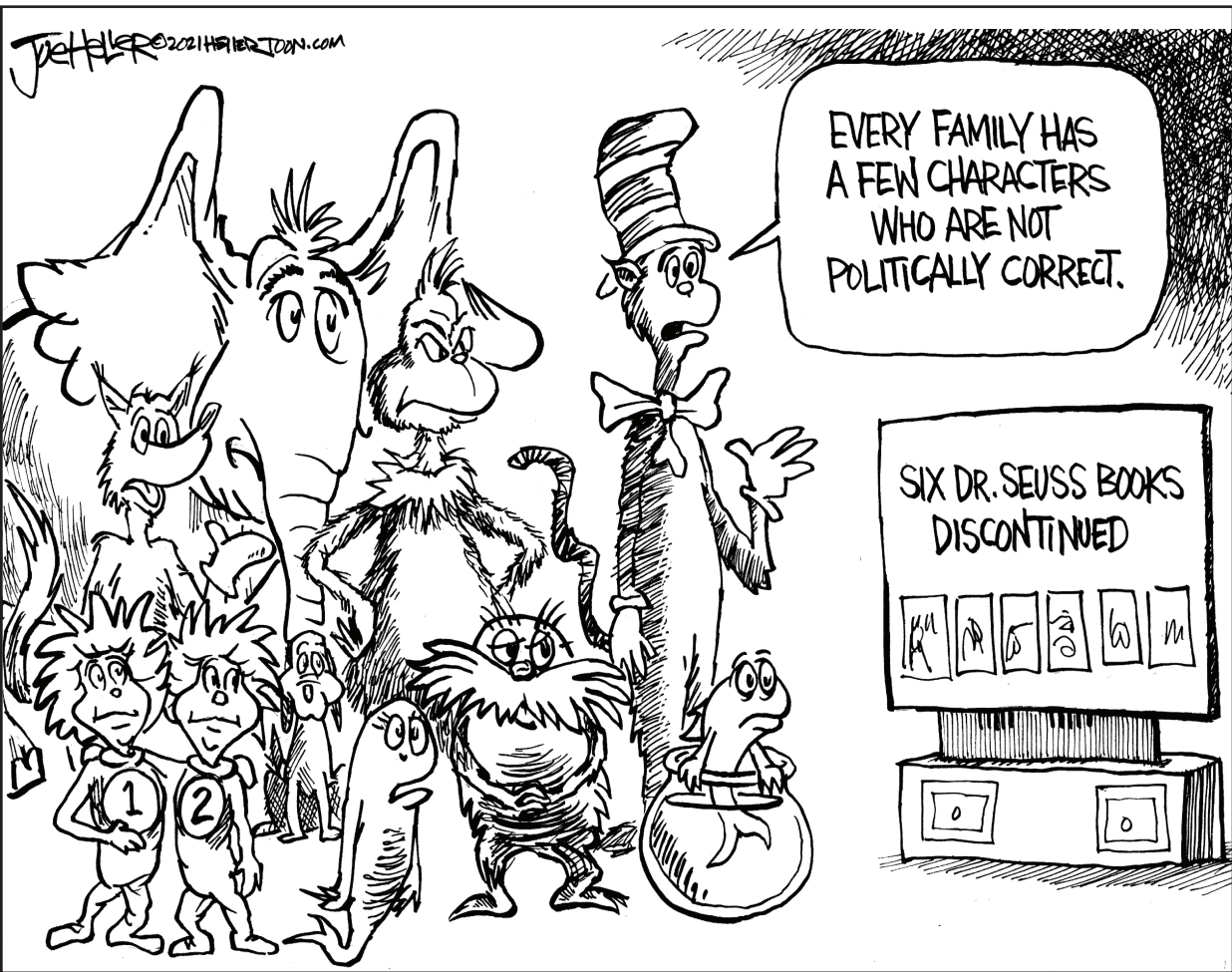


Cottage Grove Sentinel
116 N. Sixth St.
Cottage Grove, Ore. 97424

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)



LETTERS

THIS IS NO TIME TO LOWER OUR GUARD WITH COVID

Across the country, we have experienced the state's mandate for the coronavirus pandemic to wear protective masks, adhere to social distancing and not expose yourself to eating or drinking inside an establishment that has by mandate been closed down.

In states like Florida and Texas, the mandates have been disregarded, establishments have opened and more people have been infected.

I still will not eat or drink inside any establishment until I think it is safe.

—Winford Holley
Cottage Grove

'HUMANITY' IS DEFINED BY THE 'THREE CS'

Contemplating our humanity, I opened Webster's New Explorer College Dictionary and found a dry line about apes, walking upright, and brain developed for speech and abstract reasoning.

But as a "root word," things become more clear.

Humanity: 1) The quality or state of being humane: compassion. 2) The quality or state of being human (the common humanity of all peoples).

Humane: 1) Marked by compassion, sympathy or consideration of others.

Brute strength is not what sets us above the other animals; it is our sole ability to contemplate our own spirituality.

We need the three "C"s: Comprehension, Compassion and Cooperation.

—Sarah Cunningham
Cottage Grove

WE CAN'T REMAIN COMFORTABLE AND EXPECT POSITIVE CHANGE

This country was built on slavery and the repercussions from that institution continue to be felt today. Except for white nationalists who wear their supremacy with pride, most white Americans aren't even aware of their part in promoting a racist

system.

I wasn't.

It was only after feeling helplessly distraught after yet another Black American was killed under questionable circumstances that I began to look deeper. I still have a lot to learn, but I do know the moral imbalance in this country can only be corrected with the acknowledgment of our complicity and participation in its correction.

To quote "White Fragility" author Robin Diangelo: "The racial status quo is comfortable for white people, and we will not move forward in race relations if we remain comfortable."

Perhaps when Americans are willing to educate themselves on the significant challenges of life as a minority in this country, real racial equality can become a reality.

Then America can live up to the moniker of "the land of the free."

—Carolyn Rich
Cottage Grove

There are options for those who want to recycle

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

The Sentinel has been enjoyed by me every week for most of my life. It has done a great job.

This week, I am writing in answer to Marnie Stavens' letter about how bottle fees without a refund is wrong (Feb. 18 edition).

With great pressure from the beverage industry and retail stores such as Safeway, Walmart, Fred Meyer and others, then-Governor John Kitzhaber signed HB 3145 in 2011. The bill opened the door to move bottle returns away from retail stores that sold them.

In time, under the name Bottle Drop, retail locations were built and, once opened, Safeway and other retailers could greatly reduce — or not have to accept — returns. The stores are currently using COVID-19 as a flimsy excuse to get out of

their obligation.

The good news is that there are two Bottle Drop locations in Eugene and Springfield: 2105 W. Broadway of Garfield Street in Eugene, and 2289 Olympic next to Jerry's in Springfield.

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Alvin Roby Eugene

Each takes as many as 350 bottles per person per day. If you don't want to mess with it, you can have an account set up. They provide green bags you fill out with your own U.P.C. code and all you have to do is drop them off.

There is even a nonprofit account you can use for churches or school groups if you want to donate your return money as a fund drive.

Each location takes bottles from all stores. It is clean and quick. The Eugene return is set up to take plastic and glass without deposit, such as ketch-

up and wine bottles.

They also accept clean plastic shopping bags and garbage bags.

If you want to help out the environment, create jobs and reduce your carbon footprint, stop off at waste Management (3100 E. 17th St. in Eugene), where you can drop off — for free — unlimited amounts of glass, metal, Styrofoam, all papers, #2 milk jugs, batteries, televisions, etc.

In addition, St. Vincent dePaul has a drop-off for clothes and household items; you can empty out your garage for sure.

Now, you can vote or not vote for Kate Brown — who had nothing to with the situation — or focus your frustration toward something that can make a difference.

Oh, and just to clarify, nobody in Oregon charges for C.R.V. That is an abbreviation for "California Redemption Value."

Thanks for recycling; you're doing a good thing for all of us.

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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.

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