

Proud Christian

Though I often feel passionate about many issues, I rarely feel motivated to address them publicly anymore, because I believe most people don't care about anyone else's opinions; however, I find myself compelled to respond to Carl A. Johnson's letter in *The Daily Astorian's* Open Forum ("Christian values," April 8).

Just because people professing to be Christians act in a certain manner does not mean that they are reflecting Christ and his teachings. Unfortunately, Christ has been misrepresented since the beginning of time, and will continue to be misrepresented until his return. (Come soon, sweet Jesus.)

Christ's message is one of love, forgiveness and repentance of sins; it speaks to the betterment of oneself through charity and compassion for others. I apologize for all the cults out there, including the Catholic Church, that have used, twisted and tarnished the gospel message for filthy lucre and control over others.

As far as the Scripture Mr. Johnson quoted, Timothy 1:2,11,12 — The premise of this scripture is that if a man is truly a God-fearing Christian, as Christ is the head of the church and gave his life for her, so is the husband the head of the wife, and is to give his life for her.

As loud and opinionated as I can be, I have no problem being submissive to a strong and godly man. I actually resent the Women's Liberation Movement and see it as a turning point for the degeneration of families, (Satan's great plan), and subsequently, the collapse of a 10-Commandment based Christian value system that has guided mankind since the dawn of time.

Left to our own devices, well, just look around you — a crumbling and fallen world rife with spiritual orphans flailing about lost, angry and scared.

I do not worship the same God that the Muslims do: my God would never order me to murder anyone, in fact, I love and pray for my enemies. (A daily affair, as the list seems to increase exponentially.)

I will defend our Lord Jesus Christ and his word until he returns to reign in truth and glory.

Shame on you, Carl.

CONNIE PHILLIPAKIS
Astoria

Stop delaying

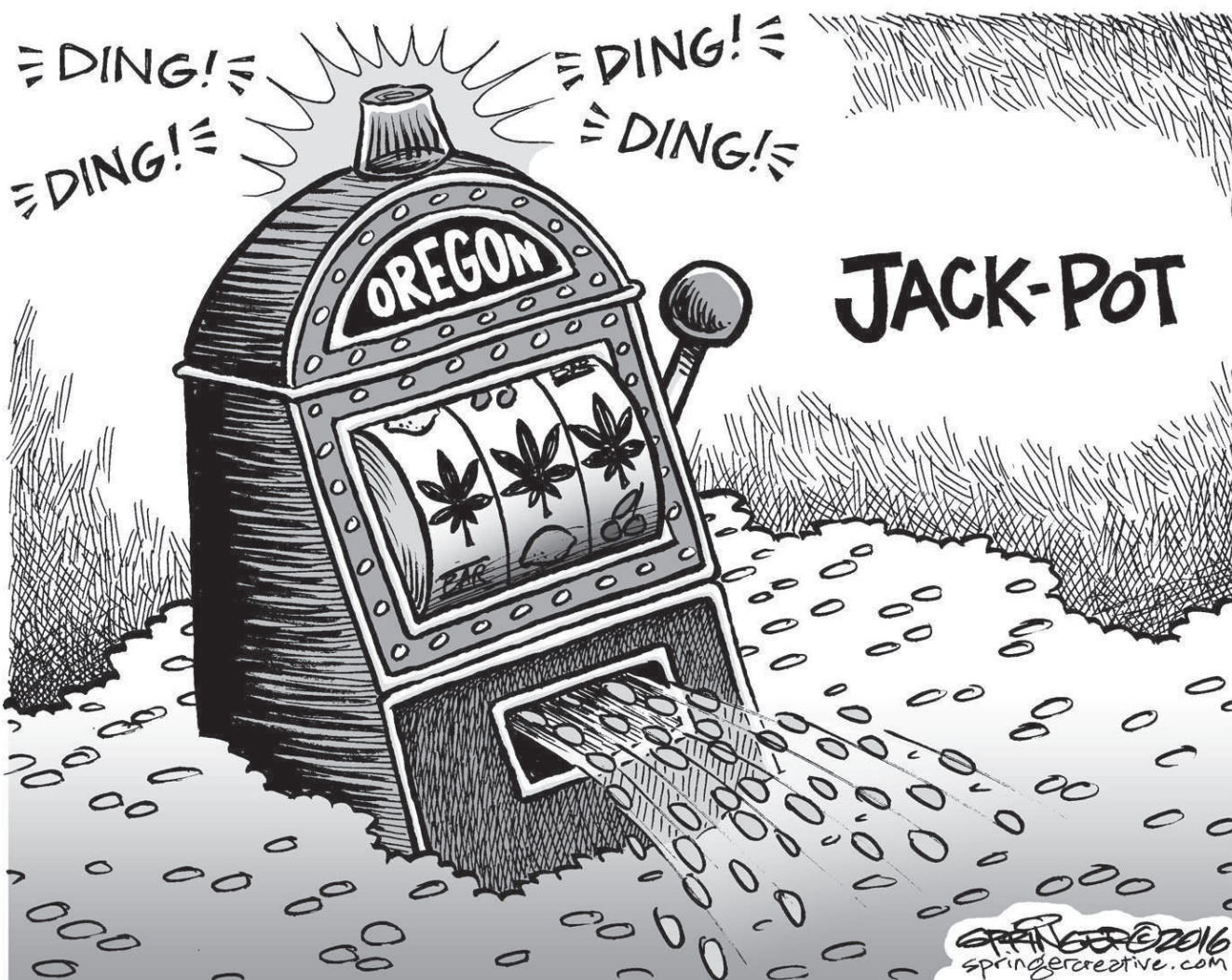
I wish to provide my opinion on the April 15 article published concerning Jessica Smith ("Smith will go to state hospital for evaluation," *The Daily Astorian*). I believe that the criminal justice system should take mental health seriously, but in the case of Jessica Smith, I feel that we must carefully consider what is at stake.

It's quite possible that Smith is severely depressed. At this time, the trial is set to begin in June 2017, nearly three years after the alleged crime took place. In my opinion, the delay in this prosecution process is ridiculous.

I understand that it's important to give both the defense and the prosecution ample time to prepare, but with the excessive pre-trial motions by the defense, this case has simply been dragging on for too long. There comes a time where we must all face the consequences of our actions, and I believe that Smith's time is far overdue.

As District Attorney Joshua Marquis said in court, "the clock starts ticking, and after three years the defense can move to dismiss the case." I feel that the recent changes in Smith's mental health are nothing but an act to delay the trial, thus giving her an opportunity to have her case dismissed. Although I feel that mental health is an extremely important issue to be considered during a trial, I believe that it should never be used for the defense to gain an unfair advantage.

In light of her recent suicide attempt, I feel that Smith should definitely be evaluated by a professional. I think Judge Cindee Matyas should also take into consideration the possibility that this is all just an act to delay the trial. It's important that Smith be held



accountable for her actions, in spite of whatever mental health issues she claims to suffer from.

MEISHA BOETTCHER
Astoria

Vote McIntosh

I have had the pleasure of practicing law in Clatsop County for more than 48 years, and have had the opportunity to appear before a wide variety and diversity of judges from around the state, as well as Clatsop County, during that time. I believe our county has been well served and benefited from the quality of our judges.

Dawn McIntosh is the most qualified, experienced, and knowledgeable candidate to continue that strong legacy, and has the personal integrity to do it right.

I have seen Dawn in action and also worked with her for a few years. She is honest and thorough in her work. She knows the law, and has the strength and fortitude to manage the courtroom and dispense justice fairly.

Dawn has more experience in some of the toughest cases than any other candidate, and her knowledge of courtroom procedures and rules of evidence along with her decisiveness make her perfectly suited to serve as judge.

I encourage you to join with me in extending the legacy of a strong judiciary and casting your vote for Dawn McIntosh as the next circuit court judge.

STEVEN T. CAMPBELL
Seaside

Let there be brew

The controversy over Gearhart Grocery turning itself into a brewpub and deli is laughable at best, sadly ignorant at worst. I am in favor of the owners doing what they need to do to make their business profitable and successful. That they have managed to survive as long as they have speaks only to their work ethic — nothing else.

I live within walking distance to Gearhart Grocery. I rarely shop there unless for emergency needs, or because it's the only place locally that carries the coffee I like. I'll miss that coffee, but the owners are under no obligation whatsoever to remain open simply for my convenience. As long-time Gearhart Grocery employee Alyssa Logan said, "although people love us, they do not shop here nearly enough for us to be a successful, profitable business" ("Gearhart Grocery," *The Daily Astorian*, April 1).

Nostalgically opining about corner neighborhood groceries is foolish. Times have changed. Get over it. Or purchase the grocery and put some sweat equity into your nostalgia, while praying it doesn't drain your bank account.

If it's the Gearhart Comprehensive Plan you want to cite, then close every gift shop, restaurant, hotel, bed and breakfast, recreational vehicle park, antique store, real estate office, store selling clamming gear or shellfish licenses, etc. in town. They all promote tourism every bit as much,

sometimes more, than a simple little brew pub and deli could possibly hope to promote.

The Gearhart Grocery's brewing system will not create a "fireman's ball 24/7" situation as one panicked individual complained. For pity's sake, they are a half block away from the police station. I sincerely doubt they will be a rowdy den of hedonism wreaking drunken havoc on the community. At least not any more than McMenamins, Pacific Way Café, the Great Wall or any other of the many establishments which sell alcoholic beverages and food in this community.

A place within walking distance, and not out on U.S. Highway 101, where I can sit down to a sandwich and a draft beer sounds good to me. If their beer and food is good, I will visit them a lot more frequently than I have to date. Oops. That might make them a successful, profitable business. But darn, I'll have to drive to Astoria to get the Columbia River Coffee Roasters coffee I like. How inconvenient.

BILL GRAFFIUS
Gearhart

The lost are blind

Rebuttal to Carl A. Johnson's letter ("Christian values?" *The Daily Astorian*, April 8): Mr. Johnson, I invite you to a public discussion regarding Judeo-Christian values, the history (actually heritage) of our country, and the impact of Judeo-Christian values on not only our country, but western civilization from the time Paul the Apostle took the Gospel of Jesus Christ west until our present day.

The correlation between Paul's westward delivery of the Gospel (he was specifically hindered from going east), and the subsequent dominance of first western Europe, and second the U.S., on the world scene is not secular coincidence — it is a divinely ordained outcome.

Your statement that "this country is great because of diversity and the freedom of choice" ignores the correlation just outlined, as well as the correlation of the disintegration of first, the British Empire, as she fell away from her Christian faith, and now, the slide of the U.S. as we have, tragically, followed in her footsteps as we continue to erase God — the god of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, and his son, Jesus Christ, "who is God manifest in the flesh," from our national conscience.

By the way, the Book of Romans (authorized version) in Chapter 1, verse 28 states: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient."

Because God is true and his word truth, we understand that as America has not "retained God in their knowledge," he has given us over, nationally, to a reprobate mind — and hence our national leadership is unable to govern as it should, and our nation continues to slide.

Consider the correlation

between increased divorce rates, violent crime, drug abuse, academic performance by our high school students, the rise of the national debt and the general weakening of our country with 1963, the year we banned the reading the Bible and prayer in our public schools. Consider again that he held our leader accountable later that year.

Thank you for the opportunity to encourage the brethren to be bold in their faith.

GARY MAURO
Warrenton

Bait and switch

This is how fisheries management in the state of Washington works: First, you advertise in January that we are expecting the biggest run of fish this year in the Columbia River since 1938. You then open fishing when there are very few fish in the river.

On April 1, you sell all the excited fisherman their required new fishing license for the year. On April 8, when the fish are finally in the river, you close all fishing. All the fish go up the river to be gill-netted above the dam, the lower river sport and commercial fisherman get few fish, and the game department gets all the money. A very good business deal.

The game department's recent emergency closure, with little advance warning, on the last day of an already short season, was an unwise decision. I found out about the Saturday closure on Friday afternoon. We had bought bait, tackle and food. We had friends and family coming from as far away as Seattle. Two of these people had taken time off from their jobs. This decision affected a lot of other people with similar circumstances.

Businesses and professional guides had counted on this day for fishing. If the fish runs are in such dire conditions, then they should never have been opened in the first place.

They say that if the run improves, they may reopen the river at a later date. Wouldn't a better decision to have been to leave the river open the one more scheduled day, and then maybe reopen it a day or two later in the late season?

The game department's management policies seem to be doing a disservice to the fisheries resource and the citizens who are trying to enjoy it.

RON SPAHMAN
Ocean Park, Washington

We need Bernie

I am very proud of U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley for endorsing Bernie Sanders, because he is the candidate who mirrors Merkley's own concerns in his campaigns. We still need free trade, access to health care, economic equality and campaign finance reform. Bernie is the only one of the candidates who promotes these issues, that have been the bane of the American people for so long. I'm glad he has a fellow traveler in Sen. Merkley.

But that seems to be where my pride ends. The sudden closing of Bank of America in

Clatsop County caused a huge upheaval for its clients — that fact did not garner a comment in *The Daily Astorian*. I know a lot of people, mostly senior citizens, who had a real tough time making the transition, and some are still struggling.

I was very disappointed that Al Jazeera America went away. It was the one unbiased channel news station that showed and told what the rest of the world was doing. It had great journalists. It showed different cultures, which are a part of our world. It taught and explained. It spoke to the issues that were too in depth and too off the grid and frankly, too smart for most Americans. We wouldn't be in such a pickle if more people were readers than consumers. But now, there's very little real news to watch anymore.

And, I am disappointed in journalists on television in general. Most of the research is poor, way too much hoopla and way too little professionalism. Unlike the days of Ted Turner, there are times — on weekends or holidays, or in the late evening — that no news is available. None. It seems impossible in this world of technology.

I'm afraid the country is getting dumbed down, and is beginning to reap what we have sown. Something needs to change. Join the revolution. Vote for Bernie.

MARY TANGUAY
WEBB
Astoria

Bernie for president

Idolatry of money and corporate socialism are undermining democracy and destroying capitalism. When individuals or small groups accumulate power, both democracy and capitalism are in peril. People are the decision-makers in a democracy and capitalism requires fair competition.

Forbes says approximately \$21 trillion is in offshore accounts set up to avoid taxes. The recent disclosure of the "Panama Papers" is only the tip of the iceberg. Huge sums so concentrated eventually cause economies to collapse. A democratic capitalist society is without such staggering concentrations of wealth. Money benefits economies much more if recycled by increasing numbers of citizens with spendable incomes.

When money is allowed to flow freely among average citizens, it's "velocity" is increased, a benefit supported by leading economists. As a result of Bernie Sanders' economic proposals, which include a \$15 minimum wage, Asher Edelman, noted Wall Street expert, says Sanders is the best candidate for the economy.

As a Democratic capitalist without the support of dark money, Sanders is our only opportunity to reclaim our government for the people and by the people before various entrenched establishment forces, including the Democratic and Republican parties, solidify their power.

Sanders' presidency will help ensure our children and grandchildren are not pawns of

the dark money, save our economy from the destruction of concentrated wealth, and stimulate healthy economic growth to be shared more broadly.

Vote for a fair market democratic capitalist. Vote Bernie Sanders.

CAROL SCHERER
Eugene

Support school plan

I have been part of the effort to start a charter school since the closure of our grade school in 2013. I understood that the district didn't have the funds to maintain the building, or to move it out of the tsunami zone. It seemed that a tuition-free charter school would help the district and our children, since Seaside wouldn't have to build, purchase or maintain a building, and we would still have 5 to 10-year-old children attending school in town.

The district openly opposed us at first, but then changed tactics and said they would allow us to operate. They presented us with a list of "negotiable terms." Even though the norm is less than four conditions, they gave us 11. We thought we could work with those.

We didn't know there would be no negotiation, no cooperation, no working together. Saying they supported us was actually a plan to stall and weaken our efforts, while making it appear they cared about Cannon Beach grade school students staying near their families. They very much want Cannon Beach to support their efforts to build schools in Seaside, but they did not meet once with the charter school board to come to any sort of compromise.

Please don't believe our efforts have been as incompetent as they would have you believe. Many have worked very hard to overcome the numerous and varied obstacles to opening a charter school. Any board member would be happy to tell you what we have accomplished.

As an example, when the Seaside board said we were significantly short of funds, they didn't count the money the school district will have to give us to operate. For some unfathomable reason they felt we should have their state mandated funds in the bank. We had all of our building costs, curriculum funds, supply costs, payroll funds and more than the 10 percent extra that they required. We have been good stewards of the funds this community has donated to us.

Of course we want better, safer junior and high schools in Seaside. We also don't want 5-year-olds taking 45-minute bus rides (one way), we want to be able to easily volunteer at our local school, bring forgotten lunches, backpacks, and homework. We want to be able to get them quickly if they are ill. Not everyone can easily leave work and run to Seaside; not everyone has a vehicle to do this. I don't even want to imagine how long a 5-year-old will be separated from their family when an earthquake collapses roads and bridges.

In 2014 we had a wonderful vision, which the city council members of Cannon Beach shared when making plans for our school to share property they purchased south of town. Plans for not just a school, but also a community center for gatherings of all kinds. The possibilities are endless if we all work together. Please don't let this dream die. Thank you to all who continually support our efforts.

PATTI ROUSE
Cannon Beach

McIntosh for judge

I write this letter to urge you all to vote for Dawn McIntosh for Circuit Court judge. I first met her over 20 years ago when as a new judge, she was a deputy district attorney. She has the experience to handle all aspects of a judge of the Circuit Court — criminal law, domestic relations and civil matters.

She will be able to do the job from day one, and will be a credit to the bench in Clatsop County. She has the judgment and work ethic to be a great judge.

PAULA J. KURSHNER
Judge, Senior Circuit Court
Portland