

Thank you

I would like to thank everyone who voted for me on May 17 to serve as county commissioner for District 4. It is an honor to be elected. I look forward to representing you, when my four-year term begins in January.

I would also like to thank all those who supported my campaign. I will continue listening and learning about the job ahead in order to be as prepared as possible. I am grateful to be living in Clatsop County, and look forward to serving as an elected representative of the community.

KATHLEEN SULLIVAN
Astoria

Surviving together

I read the letter titled "Surviving survival" (*The Daily Astorian*, May 27), and wanted to write some words of encouragement and give some tips. I lived through a catastrophic hurricane on Kauai in 1992, and was the public relations/marketing director for the local hospital at the time. Where I lived, we had no electricity, phone or TV for 2 1/2 months. Clean water was spotty for a while.

The letter poses good questions. Following our disaster, I became a little hyper-vigilant. I obtained a bachelor's degree in emergency management, took steps to prepare for future hurricanes, and the lessons learned remained with me ever since. Then I moved to the Northwest, not knowing what eventually lies awaiting all of us here. The effects of that hurricane will pale by comparison to a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

I have a few key points. You can prepare for some of what will happen. You can't prepare for all eventualities. However, you will be amazed at how people work together to deal with the problems at hand. You'll pool your food together. You'll share key items that can't be obtained because the stores are closed. Life becomes very communal following a disaster.

In your preparations, think "old school." There's no internet for you, no phones, no email, texting, etc. We found the most effective communication was bulletin boards. Using manual typewriters, we wrote pertinent bulletins and posted these on bulletin boards throughout the community.

Realize that all of your public servants (i.e. police, fire, medical, etc.) are victims, just like you, and are facing responsibilities of work while solving problems of shelter, water, food, child care, etc. for their families. By the way, childcare following a disaster is a big deal. Schools are obviously closed. If you have to work, what do you do with your children? At our hospital, we realized if we expected people to come to work, we had

Letters welcome

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Letters should be fewer than 450 words and must include the writer's name, address and phone numbers. You will be contacted to confirm authorship.

All letters are subject to editing for space, grammar and, on occasion, factual accuracy.

Letters written in response to other letter writers should address the issue at hand and, rather than mentioning the writer by name, should refer to the headline and date the

letter was published. Discourse should be civil and people should be referred to in a respectful manner. Letters referring to news stories should also mention the headline and date of publication.

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E-mail to editor@dai-lyastorian.com;

Online form at www.dai-lyastorian.com;

Delivered to the Astorian offices at 949 Exchange St. and 1555 N. Roosevelt in Seaside.

Or by mail to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103

to provide food and childcare.

The outpouring of generosity and kindness I saw in the aftermath of that disaster far outweighed any negative. It will always be the first thing that comes to mind as I reflect on what was an incredible hardship.

Survival is instinctive. In a crisis like this, people will work together to solve their immediate problems. Yes, plan as much as you can. Do things that will mitigate problems. But also realize that what you didn't foresee — you'll work together to deal with in the aftermath.

And by all means, talk to those who have gone through major disasters. We can help you think of things you wouldn't think of if you haven't been through one (i.e. how do you pay staff when there are no computers to do a payroll?).

SCOT ROSKELLEY
Cathlamet, Washington

Budget control?

I was dismayed to read about the Cannon Beach budget plans ("Cannon Beach boosts budget by a third," *The Daily Astorian*, May 6). Acquiring property in the tsunami inundation zone sounds like a horrible idea.

The idea that "as you enter town we want something we can be very proud of" indicates that there will be a massive building project ahead, with associated tax increases. If the city truly wants to beautify, I would suggest spending the money on underground utilities, better maintaining landscaping in parking areas and paving streets.

Also interesting was money budgeted for a "salary survey." Will the taxpayers ever see the results, or will it be like the last expensive survey?

Since this type of survey is commonly used to justify salary increases, if the results show employees are overpaid, will it quietly be filed away? How about some transparency here?

PHILIP HALL
Cannon Beach

Upgrade lights

There are three main traffic lights in the Warrenton area, heading south on U.S. Highway 101. There is the light at the main turn into the city of Warrenton, the light at the turn into Fred Meyers and finally the light at Marlin Avenue. All of these lights are marvels of modern traffic control, featuring sensors that detect when cars are present and change the lights so that the traffic flow is at its most efficient.

The problem is that they do not sense light, or short vehicles, such as some motorcycles. This is a problem, because if one of these vehicles is the first vehicle in line at one of these stop lights, you might as well pack a lunch, because the light will never change, as they do not trigger the sensors.

So now, what to do? Would it be legal for the vehicle in the red light, after having waited through several cycles of traffic lights without ever getting the green light, so to speak?

I guess with all the disgruntled drivers lined up behind, honking their horns and working up to a good ole fashioned case of road rage, it would be the prudent thing to do, and I think that the Oregon Driving Regulations might even allow that. If an accident should occur, however, and it was you who had run the red light, let us pause and think just what your insurance company might think about your actions.

Anyway, what is the point, you may well ask? The point is that in this day and age, and with lasers and infrared sensors available for this type of thing, perhaps it is time to upgrade the current system and prevent this traffic snarling situation and, at the same time, make these intersections safer for everyone.

Just a thought, I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Lovable Bernie whacks Israel

By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER
Washington Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON — Part of Bernie Sanders' charm is that for all of his arm-waving jeremiads, he appears unthreatening. He's the weird old uncle in the attic, Larry David's crazy Bernie. It's almost a matter of style. Who can be afraid of a candidate so irascible, grumpy, old-fashioned and unfashionable?

After all, he's not going to win the nomination, so what harm can he do? A major address at the party convention? A say in the vice presidential selection? And who reads party platforms anyway?

Well, platforms may not immediately affect a particular campaign. But they do express, quite literally, the party line, a written record of its ideological trajectory.

Which is why two of Sanders' appointments to the 15-member platform committee are so stunning. Professor Cornel West not only has called the Israeli prime minister a war criminal but openly supports the BDS movement (boycott, divestment and sanctions), the most important attempt in the world to ostracize and delegitimize Israel.

West is joined on the committee by the long-time pro-Palestinian activist James Zogby. Together, and reported *The New York Times*, they "vowed to upend what they see as the party's lopsided support of Israel."

This seems a gratuitous provocation. Sanders hardly made Israel central to his campaign. He did call Israel's response in the 2014 Gaza war "disproportionate" and said "we cannot continue to be one-sided." But now Sanders seeks to permanently alter — i.e. weaken — the relationship between the Democratic Party and Israel, which has been close and supportive since Harry Truman recognized the world's only Jewish state when it declared independence in May 1948.

West doesn't even pretend, as do some left-wing "peace" groups, to be opposing Israeli policy in order to save it from itself. He makes the simpler case that occupation is unconscionable oppression and that until Israel abandons it, Israel deserves to be



AP Photo/Noah Berger
Connor Anderson cheers for Democratic presidential candidate U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., during a campaign rally at the Cubberley Community Center Wednesday in Palo Alto, California.

It is ironic that the most successful Jewish presidential candidate ever should be pushing the anti-Israel case.

treated like apartheid South Africa — anathematized, cut off, made to bleed morally and economically. The Sanders appointees wish to bend the Democratic platform to encourage such diminishment unless Israel redeems itself by liberating Palestine.

This is an unusual argument for a Democratic platform committee, largely because it is logically and morally perverse. Israel did in fact follow such high-minded advice in 2005: It terminated its occupation and evacuated Gaza. That earned it (temporary) praise from the West. And from the Palestinians? Not peace, not reconciliation, not normal relations but a decade of unrelenting terrorism and war.

Israel is now being asked — pressured — to repeat that same disaster on the West Bank. That would bring the terror war, quite fatally, to the very heart of Israel — Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ben Gurion Airport. Israel is now excoriated for declining that invitation to national suicide.

It is ironic that the most successful Jewish presidential candidate ever should be pushing the anti-Israel case. But perhaps not surprising considering Sanders' ideological roots. He is old left — not the post-1960s, countercultural New Left. Why, the man honeymooned in the Soviet Union — not such fashionably cool communist paradises as Sandinista Nicaragua where Bill de Blasio went to work for the cause or Castro's Cuba where de Blasio honeymooned. (Do



Charles Krauthammer

lefties all use the same wedding planner?)

For the old left, Israel was simply an outpost of Western imperialism, Middle East division. To this day, the leftist consensus, most powerful in Europe (which remains Sanders' ideological lode-star), holds that Israeli perfidy demands purification by Western chastisement.

Chastisement there will be at the Democratic platform committee. To be sure, Sanders didn't create the Democrats' drift away from Israel. It was already visible at the 2012 convention with the loud resistance to recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital. But Sanders is consciously abetting it.

The millennials who worship him and pack his rallies haven't lived through — and don't know — the history of Israel's half-century of peace offers. They don't know of the multiple times Israel has offered to divide the land with an independent Palestinian state and been rebuffed.

Sanders hasn't lifted a finger to tell them. The lovable old guy with the big crowds and no chance at the nomination is hardly taken seriously (except by Hillary Clinton, whose inability to put him away reveals daily her profound political weakness). But when he makes platform appointees that show he does take certain things quite seriously, like undermining the U.S.-Israeli relationship, you might want to reconsider your equanimity about the magical mystery tour. It looks like Woodstock, but there is steel inside the psychodelic glove.

Where to write

• **U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D):** 2338 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515. Phone: 202-225-0855. Fax 202-225-9497. District office: 12725 SW Millikan Way, Suite 220, Beaverton, OR 97005. Phone: 503-469-6010. Fax 503-326-5066. Web: bonamici.house.gov/
• **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D):** 313 Hart Senate Office

Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Web: www.merkley.senate.gov

• **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D):** 221 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Web: www.wyden.senate.gov

• **State Rep. Brad Witt (D):** State Capitol, 900 Court Street N.E., H-373, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1431.

Web: www.leg.state.or.us/witt/ Email: rep.bradwitt@state.or.us

• **State Rep. Deborah Boone (D):** 900 Court St. N.E., H-481, Salem, OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1432. Email: rep.deborah.boone@state.or.us District office: P.O. Box 928, Cannon Beach, OR 97110. Phone: 503-986-1432. Web: www.leg.state.or.us/boone/

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