

Mr. Terrific

Wasn't Hal Snow terrific? I crossed paths with Hal 30 years ago with soccer as the catalyst. I played and coached, and he had sons who played. Heck, he recognized that a whole community of kids who wanted to play.

Thank you, Steve Forrester, for your comments in the editorial, "A Tribute: Region is richer because of attorney Snow" (*The Daily Astorian*, Dec. 20). How you introduced politics into the article was thought-provoking to me. He was obviously close to local government as an adviser, but he certainly was not a politician; or, was he the best politician in the county?

He obviously accomplished so much, but I will only focus on soccer and the Lower Columbia Youth Soc-

cer Association. When it came to LCYSA and building soccer fields, realizing the need for a quality place to play, his sideline connections to local government was just another tool, another avenue, another partnership. He had plenty, because he was never afraid to start a conversation and ask for help. And when you sensed his enthusiasm, and his generosity, and his sincere effort, not many of us could say no. He accomplished, in my mind, what local government is incapable of doing: He pulled people and funds together, no taxes required, and built a complex that continues to flourish, continues to receive generous community support, and is still run by volunteers.

When Hal used the expression "isn't that terrific," always

with his infectious smile and laugh, it was clearly his way to express satisfaction. When Hal said thank you in a published acknowledgement of LCYSA donors, it always included hundreds of people in the community. The lists of donors gave you a hint as to how many people crossed paths with Hal. It didn't matter the size of the contribution, everyone's contribution mattered — the moms who donated time to pick up rocks, as well as the truckers and bulldozer operators were equally vital. It was never about him, yet without his vision the four soccer fields now at the complex probably would not have happened. If you ever played soccer or had a child who played at the complex, know that your path also crossed Hal's.

What a wonderful friend,

family man, gentleman, adviser, LCYSA and I have lost. I spent many a day maintaining the fields with Hal. I will always cherish those moments. Thank you, Hal and family, from LCYSA.

Isn't it terrific that we knew Hal Snow.

JERRY BOISVERT
Warrenton

Chicago sanctuary

So, the headline read: "8 Skilled, 60 wounded in Chicago over Thanksgiving weekend," yet the mayor of that fair city feels that it would be a good idea to be a "sanctuary" city for immigrants who have entered this country illegally.

According to the mayor, this would mean that the Chicago law enforcement agencies would refuse to work with the

U.S. Marshals and the other federal immigration enforcement agencies to identify and detain individuals who have entered the country, and are living here illegally. Perhaps it would be more productive on the part of Chicago's city government if they were to work more closely with the federal law enforcement agencies to stem the epidemic of crime that is gripping that city.

Perhaps the first step to quelling the current wave of lawlessness in this locale is to enforce the laws of the nation more stringently, and not less so. Perhaps, and I know that it sounds almost like hearsay, by showing support for law enforcement, both local and federal, the goal of reducing crime and bodily injury to the citizens of that community would be far more likely

to occur. To continue to pout, throw a tantrum and refuse to support a federal government that pledges to re-institute the rule of law to all the cities of these U.S. seems awfully counterproductive to me.

I always thought that a strong, capable and objective police force that upheld the local and federal laws without bias was the best protection that citizens of any community could have. To be the mayor of a major American city and to stand on a dais and announce to the world that you are opposed to supporting the laws of this republic, certainly seems to send the wrong message to the citizenry, to me. Nice going Mr. Mayor.

That's what I think; I could be wrong.

DAVID GRAVES
Astoria

Israel's Netanyahu makes Trump his chump

By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

New York Times News Service

For those of you confused over the latest fight between President Barack Obama and Prime



Minister Bibi Netanyahu of Israel, let me make it simple: Barack Obama and John Kerry admire and want to preserve Israel as a Jewish and democratic state in the Land of Israel. I have covered this issue my entire adult life and have never met two U.S. leaders more committed to Israel as a Jewish democracy.

But they are convinced — rightly — that Netanyahu is a leader who is forever dog paddling in the middle of the Rubicon, never ready to cross it. He is unwilling to make any big, hard decision to advance or preserve a two-state solution if that decision in any way risks his leadership of Israel's right-wing coalition or forces him to confront the Jewish settlers, who relentlessly push Israel deeper and deeper into the West Bank.

That is what precipitated this fight over Obama's decision not to block a U.N. resolution last week criticizing Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The settlers' goal is very clear, as Kerry put it Wednesday: to strategically place settlements "in locations that make two states impossible," so that Israel will eventually annex all of the West Bank. Netanyahu knows this will bring huge problems, but his heart is with the settlers, and his passion is with holding power — at any cost. So in any crunch, he sides with the settlers, and they keep pushing.

Obama ordered the U.S. to abstain on the U.N. resolution condemning the settlements (three months after Obama forged a 10-year, \$38 billion military aid package for Israel — *the largest for any U.S. ally ever*) in hopes of sparking a debate inside Israel and to prevent it from closing off any chance of a two-state solution.

Driving drunk

Friends don't let friends drive drunk, and right now Obama and Kerry rightly believe that Israel is driving drunk toward annexing the West Bank and becoming

either a binational Arab-Jewish state or some Middle Eastern version of 1960s South Africa, where Israel has to systematically deprive large elements of its population of democratic rights to preserve the state's Jewish character.

Israel is clearly on a path toward absorbing the West Bank's 2.8 million Palestinians. There are already 1.7 million Arabs living in Israel, so putting these two Arab populations together would constitute a significant minority with a higher birthrate than that of Israeli Jews — who number 6.3 million — posing a demographic and democratic challenge.

I greatly sympathize with Israel's security problems. If I were Israel, I would not relinquish control of the West Bank borders — for now. The Arab world is far too unstable, and Hamas, which controls another 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza, would likely take over the West Bank.

My criticism of Netanyahu is not that he won't simply quit all the West Bank; it is that he refuses to show any imagination or desire to build workable alternatives that would create greater separation and win

Israel global support, such as radical political and economic autonomy for Palestinians in the majority of the West Bank, free of settlements, while Israel still controls the borders and the settlements close to it.

Bibi never lays down a credible peace plan that truly puts the ball in the Palestinians' court. And when someone like Obama exposes that — and Bibi comes under intense criticism from the liberal half of Israel, which sees the country getting more and more isolated and less and less democratic — Bibi just calls Obama an enemy of Israel and caves to the settlers. U.S. Jewish "leaders" then parrot whatever Bibi says. Sad.

More troubling

More worrisome is the fact that President-elect Donald Trump — who could be a fresh change agent — is letting himself get totally manipulated by right-wing extremists, and I mean extreme. His ambassador-designate to Israel, David Friedman, has compared Jews who favor a two-state solution to Jews who collaborated with

the Nazis. I've never heard such a vile slur from one Jew to another.

Trump also has no idea how much he is being manipulated into helping Iran and ISIS. What is Iran's top goal when it comes to Israel? That Israel never leaves the West Bank and that it implants Jewish settlers everywhere there.

That would keep Israel in permanent conflict with Palestinians and the Muslim world, as well as many Western democracies and their college campuses. It would draw all attention away from Iran's own human rights abuses and enable Iran and ISIS to present themselves as the leading Muslim protectors of Jerusalem — and to present America's Sunni Arab allies as lackeys of an extremist Israel. This would create all kinds of problems for these Arab regimes. A West Bank on fire would become a recruitment tool for ISIS and Iran.

One day Trump will wake up and discover that he was manipulated into becoming the co-father, with Netanyahu, of an Israel that is either no lon-



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik
President Barack Obama meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington in November 2015.

ger Jewish or no longer democratic. He will discover that he was Bibi's chump.

What a true friend of Israel and foe of Iran would do today is just what Obama and Kerry tried — assure Israel long-term military superiority to the tune of \$38 billion, but, unlike Trump, who is just passing Israel another bottle of wine, tell our dear ally that it's driving drunk, needs to stop the settlements and apply that amazing Israeli imagination to preserving Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

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Open House: 3-3:45PM
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Scappoose, OR

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