

Another Democrat falls

Add another illustrious Democrat to the lengthening list of sex predators, misogynists, perverts and all-round low-life savages. The latest to join that sparkling list of Democrats is Hollywood mogul and movie producer Handsome Harvey Weinstein.

Handsome Harvey was revered by highly-placed Democrat politicians, and it wasn't because of his looks or manners. He was tolerated because of the huge amounts of dollars he donated to the Democratic Party, not to mention the bags of cash he bundled for many low-life Democrat politicians.

Literally dozens of beautiful women have come out — after years of silence because of fear of retribution — to expose the vicious, depraved pervert as having forced his repulsiveness on them for promises of Hollywood-style fame and fortune or, conversely, threats of career destruction for noncompliance.

At least two or three have accused him of rape. Repulsive Harvey is the latest to join the list of Democrats, most of them elected politicians, engaged in this type of behavior. The Hall of Shame includes the late, not-so-great U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, who not only was a serial womanizer, but also one who left one of his female victims to drown in a Cape Cod pond; the disgraced, impeached Bill Clinton, who sexually assaulted a long string of women (his wife, Hillary, led the “cleanup” squad to squelch and destroy his victims), and Anthony Weiner, alias Carlos Danger, pervert and close friend of the Clintons, who displayed his private “wares” to women and children via computer.

Other Democrats in the Pantheon of Disgrace include Ku Klux Klansman U.S. Sen. Bobby Byrd, racist President Lyndon Johnson and racist and liar President Barack Hussein Obama — a partial list that must make Democrats swell with pride.

There's one bright spot in the Democrat darkness, however, and it's the fact that that pathetic loser and punchline, Hillary Clinton, never made it to the room of her dreams — the Oval Office. For that gift, we can thank President Donald J. Trump.

E. ROBERT NASSIKAS
Astoria

Animal cruelty

The Jordan World Circus is coming to town. With a long and horrific history of negligence, mistreatment and violent behavior toward the animals in their care, the Jordan World Circus had their license as an animal exhibitor revoked in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, yet they are still able to bring and exploit lions, tigers, bears, elephants and other animals to venues across the U.S.

According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), to bypass the inconvenience of losing their exhibitor's license, the Jordan World Circus simply is able to lease animals from other unscrupulous exhibitors, such as Carson and Barnes Circus, who also have a disgusting history of animal abuse and neglect, with over 100 violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

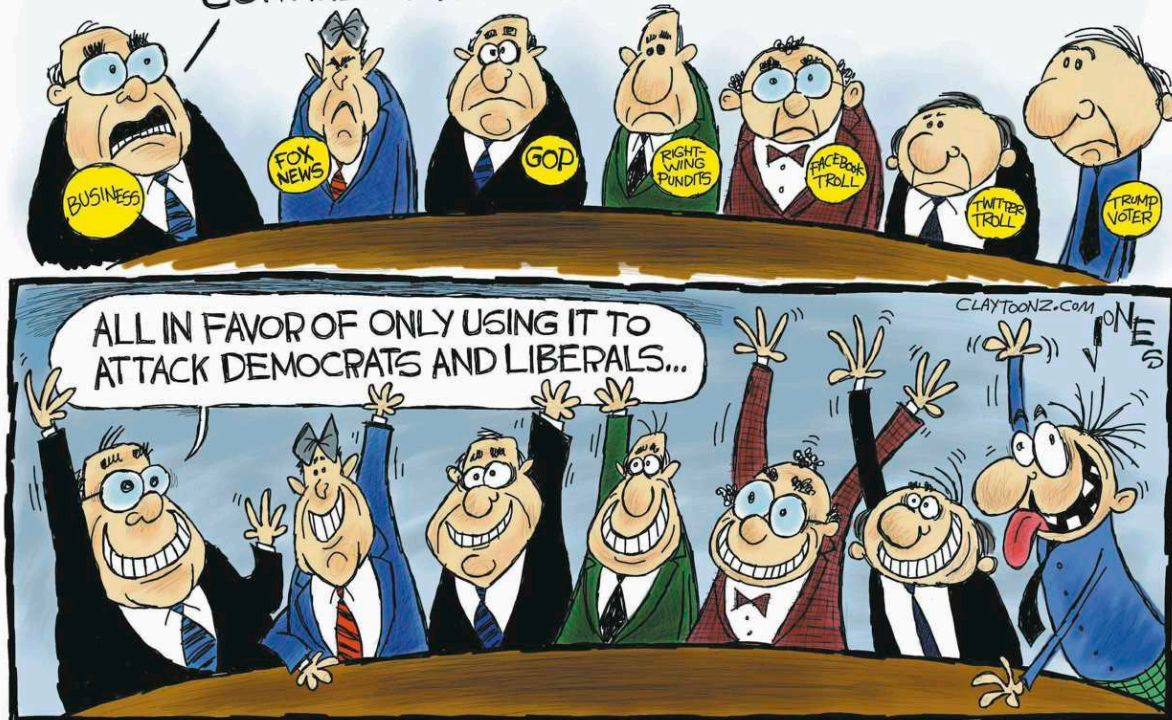
Animals that are forced to do tricks and stunts for human amusement suffer mental and physical trauma. Animal trainers and associated operators assure us that the animals in their care are trained with positive reinforcement, but don't be fooled. If this is true, then why do you see the trainers with bullhooks, electric prods and whips in their hands? Behind the scenes these magnificent and majestic animals are beaten and abused into submission to perform senseless and inhumane stunts and tricks, such as tigers jumping through hoops on fire, dancing bears and elephants standing on their heads.

As most circuses operate the majority of the year, these animals are deprived of socialization, stimulation and physical exercise. Animals entrusted in the care of the Jordan World Circus will never experience something as simple as running free as they were meant to be. Transported thousands of miles annually, elephants, lions, tigers, bears and other circus animals are confined to small, inadequate cages.

This is totally unacceptable and in the year 2017. It is way past time to evolve, and put circus animal acts into the history books. As Albert Schweitzer once said, “Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace.”

In 2014 Clatsop County voters approved a ban for the use of bullhooks, electric prods and whips on elephants, felines and primates in Clatsop County. Let us take this one step further to ban circuses that continue to allow cruel animal acts in

ALL IN FAVOR OF USING THE HARVEY WEINSTEIN ISSUE TO UNDERSTAND THAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM EVERY WOMAN FACES... AND TO CONFRONT OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EPIDEMIC...



their venue. Please show your support by not attending the Jordan World Circus.

STACEY MCKENNEY
Astoria

Don't attend the circus

The circus is coming to the Clatsop County Fairgrounds on Monday. Thanks to county Measure 4-170, which bans bullhooks, electric prods and whips, there will be no elephants.

According to the Fair Board, there will likely be at least one tiger. How will they be controlled and trained? The use of bullhooks, electric prods and whips are the most likely way.

Please do not attend. No animal should suffer for our entertainment.

LORI DURHEIM
Astoria

Bad parenting

Moved to Astoria a year ago, and I have come to love this town. Today, though, I saw two things that are making me think about the children of this town, and what they are being taught.

While shopping at Safeway, I watched a young girl about 11 years old climb the stack of pumpkins outside the store, with her mother's encouragement, so that she could take a picture of her daughter standing on top of the pile of pumpkins. The mother had no regard for her daughter's safety or the fact that she was damaging property that didn't belong to either of them.

The second instance involved a father walking on the sidewalk outside my apartment, looking at the painted rocks in my front yard. He told his daughter it was OK to take one of my painted rocks, and when I knocked on the window and motioned for her to put it back, her father came back to stare in my window at me, trying to intimidate me.

If the girl had asked me, I would have given the rock to her — but neither her or her father asked — they just took it. Stealing and damaging other's property are not things my parents taught me, and I am appalled at these two parents' behavior, and the example they are setting for their children.

HANNAH MEDFORD
Astoria

Save our community

My husband and I have both worked and lived in Gearhart, enjoying family and friends here for over three decades. In fact, Gearhart is where we met and married. Jim, a now retired urologist, traveled from Portland to Providence Seaside to practice several times a month to care for the local people he cared about. I co-owned the Pacific Way Café building during the 1970s and 1980s.

We have felt community pride, cooperation and made lasting friendships in our small city. We want a solid and safe community — where we can know, and get along with one another — to continue. We want volunteer firemen and women. We want volunteers in our libraries and schools.

We want our community members to run for our volunteer government. We want locals involved in the Start Making A Reader Today (SMART) program. We want coaches for our kids. We want to visit and interact with friends as we drop by the post office or walk our dogs.

None, or rarely, do the above happen when we create a growing motel-like interfacing with people. In the past two-plus years we have seen our neighborhood become an increasing mix of rotating short-term rentals. As we saw this unfold, we

have watched neighbors and newcomers buy, only to embrace the short-term rental trend.

There are nine homes on our street, three of them are short-term rentals. Both Jim and I worked with the city to come to an understanding that would work for both sides. We didn't get all that we wanted, but neither did the other side. What we have in place now it is an honestly regulated and safe code.

Please help us save our community, and the citizens who care about where they live. Gearhart residents, vote “no” on the Gearhart Measure 4-188, and urge your neighbors to do likewise. Do your part as a caring and concerned citizen.

JIM and MARILYN
GILBAUGH
Gearhart

Save the neighborhood

I am asking Gearhart residents to please vote “no” on Measure 4-188, which would repeal our existing common sense short-term rental ordinance. Our current ordinance provides fair and appropriate oversight of fire, safety and septic inspections, and controls over parking, garbage, noise and the number of visitors per rental.

If our current ordinance is repealed, there will be no limit on the number of short-term rentals allowed in our residential community. Do we, as a community, want to lose the neighborly quality of our town? Do we want to allow for an unlimited number of commercial short-term rental units, with a constant turnover of visitors, to take over Gearhart?

Many of those who support the repeal of our existing ordinance speak to the need to protect individual property rights, that an owner should have the right to use their property in any way they choose. In fact, individual rights are always balanced with the rights of the community as a whole.

That's why we have zoning laws. Every city in the nation has laws dictating where certain types of residences and businesses can exist. Gearhart's Comprehensive Plan and zoning laws state very clearly the intention to maintain Gearhart as a residential community.

An individual's right to drive a car 100 mph anywhere they please is superseded by the community's right for safety, so we make laws called speed limits. So it is with property rights. An individual's right to use their property as a commercial enterprise with little oversight for safety, septic, garbage and parking in a residential neighborhood is superseded by the rights of the community. Thus we have a fair ordinance that protects our community values.

Please vote “no” on Measure 4-188 to maintain Gearhart as a neighborly residential town, and not allow it to become a high-traffic commercial rental enterprise.

ERIC HALPERIN
Gearhart

Keep it friendly

Dirty politics has no place in Gearhart. Let's stick to the facts. The ballots are out, and we can argue about the merits of both sides of Measure 4-188 all we want, but we need to understand we are all part of this community.

The facts are that a “no” vote will protect our current laws, which have a balanced and responsible cap on nightly rentals while allowing all of our citizens to rent a room, level or entire home for 30 days or more at any time, with no permit, requiring adequate septic regulations recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality, and legal safety inspections for fire and life safety. It also promotes a sustainable year-

round economy through the influx of full-time residents.

A “yes” vote would allow unlimited nightly investment rentals on all of our neighborhood streets, no DEQ-recommended septic regulations, and eliminates legal safety inspections that require fire escapes in bedrooms. Measure 4-188 replaces them with inspections from a “home inspector,” who legally is not allowed, and not required, to report on fire and life safety issues in the state of Oregon.

Ultimately, it's up to the citizens to decide what's best for Gearhart. We all have a right to publicly advocate for the issues that are important to us, and no one should try to silence a neighbor, a citizen or an elected official from sticking up for what they believe in.

We have already had a very divisive few years, and with a few weeks left in this election, let's not personally attack each other, let's not spread false and misleading claims, let's not steal people's signs or ignore neighbors when we walk by them on the street.

This is Gearhart. Let's refrain from the dirty politics we see everyday on the news. I'm going to personally reach out to someone today who is on the other side of Measure 4-188, and tell them I respect their opinion; I hope you do the same.

MAYOR MATT BROWN
Gearhart

Vote 'no' for Gearhart

Gearhart Citizens: Vote “no” on Measure 4-188. Voting “yes” rescinds common sense, community standards and protections.

Vote “no” to preserve fire and safety protections. In case of fire, occupants must have access to escape. Vote “no” to continue to ensure that septic systems work properly. Failing or overtaxed septic systems affect our community's water supply.

Vote “no” to continue to ensure reasonable and responsible property occupancy. Vote “no” to continue to ensure 24-hour property response in case of emergency.

The existing ordinance is working, and should not be repealed. Vote “no” to keep our community safe and vibrant.

For more information, go to www.keepegarhartresidential.com. Join me in voting “no.”

BEATRICE “BEBE” MICHEL
Gearhart

No 'virtual motels'

If Measure 4-188 passes, Gearhart will become what it was more than 100 years ago — a destination resort town. Our comprehensive plan, first written in 1978, supports and protects Gearhart as a residential community.

The most important part of the upcoming ballot measure is buried toward the bottom. “Remove current limitation on the number of Vacation Rentals” or put another way, an unlimited number of nightly short-term rentals are allowed. Every house in Gearhart could be a nightly vacation rental if this passes. Existing Ordinance 901 allows for a limited number (currently 84) of nightly rentals in residential areas. This is more than enough.

We have a high-density tourist zone in town. There are more than 200 units available for nightly rentals. That is 17 percent of Gearhart's total housing. The number of nightly rentals is the highest amount it has ever been. We don't need more.

Long-term rentals of more than 30 days still are an option for homeowners in Gearhart. This remains protected by the existing ordinance. Long-term renters have always been welcome, and are part of our com-

munity. Our county needs more housing. Let's encourage this.

Last on the ballot is something that appears almost innocent: “Require public vote for the Vacation Rental Ordinance or any subsequent ordinance relating to Vacation Rentals.” Currently our city council has the ability to change the existing ordinance if needed. If passed, Measure 4-188 removes all abilities of our elected representatives to do anything at all regarding nightly rental regulation. Any changes would require yet another public vote. Each additional vote costs Gearhart about \$10,000. The option of changing any provision of Measure 4-188 is virtually removed if it passes.

If this measure passes, you could have a “virtual motel” next door, forever. Do you want that? I sure don't.

Vote “no” on Measure 4-188.
MAGGIE SHUMAKER
Gearhart

It's about the money

Gearhart's vote on Measure 4-188 has begun. With the campaign starting the final push, it's obvious what this thing is all about. It's neither profound nor complicated: It boils down to money.

The sponsors of Measure 4-188 want to reserve their “right” to make as much money on their property as possible. They want no hindrances, certainly no regulations. They believe it's their right to turn their property into a motel. Not only to use it as a nightly rental, but to remove any obstacles that might reduce profits if they decide to sell. Regardless of the impact on their neighbors.

The catch is that this commercial activity; nightly rentals were never legal. This would-be motel is in a R-1 zone — a residential zone. Commercial use is not permitted. We've been a sleepy beach community, where a handful of vacation rentals coexisted peacefully with full-time and seasonal residents. Nobody gave it any thought — until several years ago. That's when the short-term nightly rentals became supercharged by the internet. That's when this cancer came to visit Gearhart.

The city was kind and conciliatory with those who had conducted illegal rentals. Through this usage was never a “right,” it was grandfathered into Ordinance 901. Everyone in town was given several months to apply for permits as short-term nightly rentals. This process entailed septic inspections, fire and safety inspections, occupancy limits. This seemed like reasonable and pretty common sense stuff. But clearly this was not enough.

Those in favor of Measure 4-188, which is heavily financed by short-term nightly rental interests, are trying to convince us that growth of short-term rentals will bring “economic benefits” to Gearhart. Since the existing short-term rental Ordinance 901 has been put in place, the number of full-time residents has increased. This is what creates a more sustainable, robust year-round economy.

Even if their arguments weren't so self-serving, there are few in our community who would trade our town's beauty and quiet neighborly atmosphere for all the money in the world. Our town is a gem.

Our town is not for sale. Vote “no” on Measure 4-188.

LISA CERVENY
DAVID RUSSELL
Gearhart

The ballots are coming

Let's get real. You live here because Gearhart is a great neighborhood community. There are few places left where there's little crime, kids can ride their bikes to the Sweet Shop, and you are greeted by your first name at the post office. It's a short hike with your dogs to the best beach in Oregon.

This is our home — whether it's a full-time family, or seasonal week-enders in love with the bakery, unique shops, great eats, challenging golf or just hanging with friends. All are welcome. Always have been, and always will be. Protect this best place, your place, with a “no” vote on Measure 4-188 and the unlimited invasion of short-term rentals.

Today Gearhart is wisely managing just over 280 licensed rentals. Our city's safety inspections and regulations are keeping renters safe, streets open and safe to first responders, our septic and water systems safe.

Most importantly, our quality of life is being looked out for by our city council, mayor and Gearhart neighbors — folks you know — grassroots Gearhart, not the Goliath \$20,000-plus bankrolled initiative of vacation rental companies and absentee short-term rental owners.

VICKIE ABRAHAMSON
Gearhart