

Siuslaw News
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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.

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Siuslaw News

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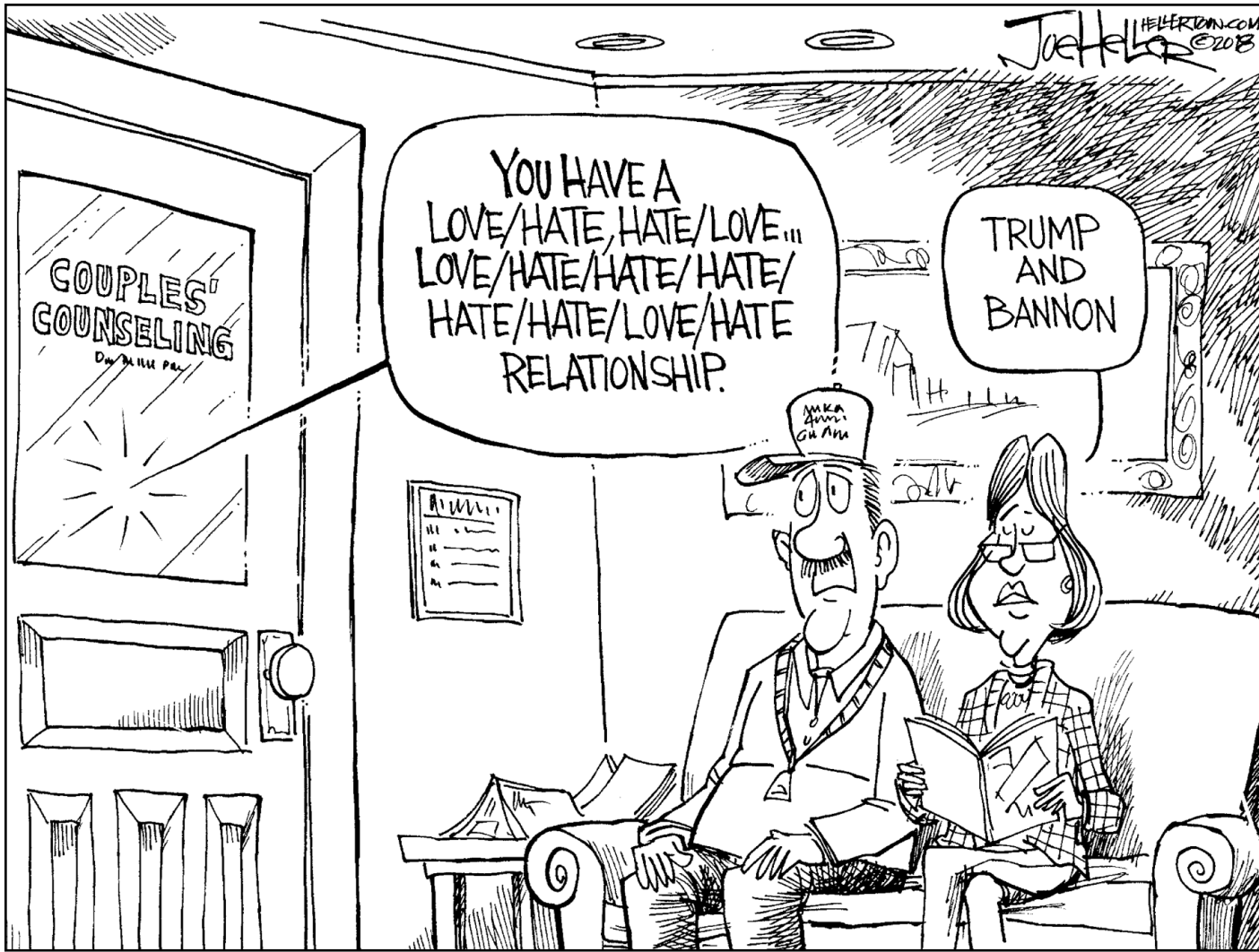
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Huckabee's comparison of Trump with Churchill is its own 'Darkest Hour'

(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 Darkest Hour" is as powerful as Gary Oldman's portrayal of Winston Churchill's response to Nazi Germany's seemingly imminent defeat of England.

Knowing anything about Churchill, his history and those times makes preposterous the favorable similarities Mike Huckabee saw to Trump in the movie, tweeting "... see The Darkest Hour about Churchill. A reminder as to what real leadership looks like." He then elaborated in additional tweets, "Churchill was hated by his own party, opposition party, and press." "Feared by King as reckless, and despised for his bluntness," and "But unlike Neville Chamberlain, he didn't retreat. We had a Chamberlain for 8 yrs; in @realDonaldTrump we

have a Churchill."

I assume the derogatory comparison of Obama to Chamberlain is to be expected of Huckabee.

But in favorably comparing Trump to Churchill, Huckabee neglects to recall that

much owed by so many to so few."

In making his apples-to-oranges comparison, Huckabee might have remembered Trump received five deferments from the Vietnam draft, never occupied a public

office like "believe me," "beautiful" and using "the blacks," "the Muslims" or "the gays" as a way of dog whistling a group's otherness.

Huckabee's comparison is factually incomplete and intellectually odious.

But to the predisposed mind it is affirming.

Proclamations like "Hated by his own party, opposition party, and press," "Feared by King [the Establishment] as reckless," "...despised for his bluntness," and "...unlike Neville Chamberlain, he didn't retreat," bolster Trump's own media campaign and prime surrogates for his litany in an effort to recast his character weaknesses, moral deficiencies and knowledge gaps in a positive light.

This vulgar perversion of Churchill's strengths is the ironic downside to a powerful movie as America faces what politically may rival Watergate as its darkest hour.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

By **ARNOLD BUCHMAN**
 FLORENCE/SCOTTSDALE

Churchill was an officer in the British Army during the first World War; received numerous medals for valor; served in public posts for over five decades, twice as prime minister and once leading Britain as prime minister during World War II; brought countries together to defeat the Nazi tyranny; won the 1953 Nobel Prize in Literature and gained a lasting place in the annals of oratory with phrases like "blood, toil, tears and sweat" and "never was so

service post prior to the presidency, has befriended autocrats, turned America inward from traditional alliances and revived the "America First" attitudes that surfaced as Churchill was standing up to German aggression.

Before proclaiming that "with Trump we have another Churchill," Huckabee would do well, in passing, to note that the coiner of "covfefe" is unlikely to gain literary immortality with his tweets or oratorical stature with verbal

LETTERS

GOVERNMENT IS TO BLAME IN VENEZUELA

In response to James Sherwood's Letter to the Editor ("Real Cause for Venezuela's Suffering," Jan. 3), Venezuela was a basket case long before the Trump administration.

By 2011, there was a shortage of two million homes. Housing shortages were further exacerbated when private construction halted due to the fear of property expropriations by its socialist government.

Inflation in 2014 reached 69 percent, and was the highest in the world. By 2015, inflation was 181 percent and 800 percent in 2016.

The cause of the Venezuelan crisis is control of the economy by its own government.

— Ian Eales
 Florence

KEEP HEALTHCARE FOR OREGON CHILDREN

The ballot is most likely in your hands, and if you read the voters pamphlet you could be confused because some seeming to support measure 101 are trying to trick voters into voting "no."

It's sad that they would resort to this kind of subterfuge, legal or not.

The Oregon legislators worked together to pass this legislation. Now, we need to reaffirm it.

I will vote "yes" so Oregon children

can have healthcare.

—Nancy Rickard
 Florence

LOWER COSTS OR MORE CHAOS?

Mr. Peck, in his recent Guest Viewpoint ("Be Informed When Placing Your Vote on Measure 101," Jan. 3) supporting a "no" vote on Measure 101, mentions the previous Guest Viewpoint by Dr. John Egar and myself ("No On Measure 101 will Raise Healthcare Costs," Dec. 30), in which we researched and listed various reasons, and facts, to support a "yes" vote.

Mr. Peck references those facts as merely "statistics" but didn't address them in any way.

If M101 fails, every Oregon healthcare premium could rise significantly.

Medical providers, hospitals and clinics will shift their new unreimbursed treatment costs — for potentially 400,000 "former" Medicaid-Oregon Health Plan enrollees no longer receiving coverage — to other insurance carriers.

Almost every professional healthcare, physician and hospital organization in the state supports M101. Approximately 70 percent of the state revenue raised by the underlying House bill will come from those various provider organizations — yet they support M101.

If M101 fails, Oregonians turn their back on billions of dollars in federal

matching funding. The match rate is usually at least three times any state Medicaid funding.

For the 400,000 Oregonians added to the OHP since 2012, the Feds will pay about 95 percent of the Medicaid-OHP costs at this stage.

Only about 30 percent, or less, of the new state revenue comes from the assessment — or premium tax — on various carriers issuing healthcare policies. Ignored is the fact that premiums in the "individual market" are expected to see a 6 percent net reduction due to the new "insurance stabilization" efforts built into the bill.

This decreases premium prices more — 6 percent more — than the 1.5 percent tax may raise them.

Why ignore this?

The underlying bill affirmed by M101 has already been through a complex Legislative process. It created an insurance stabilization process when it was apparent the GOP-dominated Congress's would fail to refund any federal process, and was actually encouraging risk-pool fragmentation.

M101 represents and affirms a state legislative bi-partisan 3/5th majority vote that provides needed and critical certainty of funding for the near-term.

Improvements, without the chaos of cutting benefits or coverage for up to 1 million Oregonians, will come in future Legislative sessions.

—Rand Dawson
 Siltcoos Lake

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