

Dear Fellow Resident,

The purpose of this note is to clarify certain facts and explain the strange ambience pervading Council House that you may have encountered since you moved here. I perfectly understand your astonishment. After all a residence for seniors is supposed to be peaceful, restful and free of open conflicts.

I feel particularly qualified to speak on this matter since I was involved in this feud from its very beginnings.

A man named Paul Trummel moved here in 1999 and a week later I was introduced to him by another resident. Frankly and honestly I was enchanted with the arrival of this new tenant who like me had experienced World War II in Europe as a child; who like me, had traveled extensively around the world and who like me, spoke different languages. He was good looking, well dressed, funny, of a quick mind, well read, a computer expert with a pleasant British accent.

We went out for drinks, for dining, for lectures, he introduced me to a lady friend of his. I in turn introduced him to friends of mine. We had good laughs and interesting conversations. I was enchanted with the arrival of this man at Council House. Soon however, I was having doubts about the mental state of this man, because of his strange behavior with people, strangers really, that we met outside Council House. I asked myself, was he a curmudgeon, an eccentric or psychotic, or all of the above?

One of the pleasures of going to lectures and conferences is the opportunity to meet people with diversified interests and different views. At UW in particular, after the usual Q&A sessions people gather around a table with refreshments and interesting conversations (conversations that often turn out to be more interesting than the lecture itself) take place. On several occasions Paul Trummel simply spoiled it. In Trummel's presence one quickly discovers that the man is an inveterate show-off. The salient feature of his character is the overriding compulsion to impress and to impose himself on others. His unwavering self-regard and self-righteous condescension quickly repels anyone. His lady friend, a retired UW professor (a REAL professor), told me that everyone she ever introduced Paul Trummel ended up disliking him. I should have taken this as a warning.

Paul Trummel is an extremely arrogant man and insufferably smug with a low opinion of joy. He is a man who demands rapt obedience from friends and acquaintances and a man who cannot suffer being contradicted. He is a man who speaks in a scornful and interruptive manner when in the presence of those he judges as less intelligent or less educated than himself.

Within weeks of his arrival he started having conflicts with the Administrator (then, Mark Mullen) and members of the staff.

At that time, a long time resident of Council House, Grace Burton, published a small news bulletin called Connections. The purpose of that bulletin was to introduce Council House to new tenants, celebrate birthdays and inform, but above all to maintain a friendly atmosphere. After two or three minor conflicts with the Administrator and several staff members, Paul Trummel started publishing his own newsletter called **Disconnected**, a news letter whose sole purpose was to attack and demean the management of Council House.

Paul Trummel holds three Press Cards from three different journalist associations and sees himself as an investigative journalist free to act upon the lives of others as he sees fit. Maybe he agrees with Stanley Baldwin's view that journalists have enjoyed "*the privilege of the harlot down the ages: power without responsibility*," so his writings are not to be read and understood, they are essentially a display of verbal virtuosity and their sole purpose is to inspire awe and fear. He likes to invoke H. L. Menken's admonition: "*Never mess with a man that buys ink by the barrel.*" Intimidation is Paul Trummel's game. His jaunty bravado in public and his boasting self-satisfaction barely disguises the private turmoil of his inwardly tortured mind.

I invite you to visit his web site [Contracabal.org](http://Contracabal.org) and judge for yourself.

There is a point to be made about his web site. Until Paul Trummel started attacking Council House his web site was entirely devoted to attacking the University of Washington and other universities and several individuals working there: Tenured Professors, Deans, Provosts, Marshals, (the wife of the President of the University of Washington in particular), in-house lawyers, District Attorneys even the Washington State Attorney General and today our governor. I personally contacted about fifty people named on his web site and among other things I found out that all without exception - and in spite of it - have prospered very well in their careers since being attacked by Paul Trummel. Ironically the woman (Suzanne Dee Lebsock) he attacked so furiously ended up receiving the Genius Award from the McArthur Foundation to the tune of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In his news letter Trummel started making withering denunciations of the Administrator, by then Steve Mitchell, in a tendentious, extreme, abstruse and convoluted language and no one was spared. For instance, there was a tenant here suffering from diminished intellectual capacities. She was obese, ugly and by moments totally disconnected from the reality surrounding her. One evening Paul Trummel saw her in a night gown in the laundry room and published in his newsletter the most horrendous comments about her ugliness, her obesity and, of course blamed it on the management of Council House which allowed such a monster to roam freely the hallways of this residence. Do not expect to find this on his web site.

Grace Burton was a particular target of this man. Grace found herself dying of cancer and made a conscious decision to die in her bed rather than a nursing home or hospital. I informed Paul Trummel of the situation of this woman and asked him to leave her alone. Of course he refused and being the man he is, he intensified his attacks on her.

An example of Trummel's malevolence was the accusations made against the resident directly above his apartment (910), a five feet tall, 84 year old, shy, timid, 98 pounds petite woman. He accused her of making unnecessary noises during the night. The management immediately moved her to another apartment because of the panic he created in her mind. He then, attempting to justify the alleged noises made by her, went around the building in the late hours of the night listening at people's doors. When confronted, he reversed himself and started saying that this building was structurally "sick" and that the structure carried and amplified sounds.

A group of fourteen people - without announcing themselves - came to see me one day and all expressed their concern about this man. Some were in a state of agitation with tears in their eyes. They wanted to know what this man wanted and why he was acting this way. When they left, I e-mailed him immediately and told him about the encounter I had just had with fourteen residents that were extremely concerned about his actions. He became very indignant, accused me of holding "*caucuses*" behind his back and of betraying him.

I replied that he should pay more attention to peoples feelings and emotions. He answered: "*You don't know anything about politics and journalism,*" and told me to F... myself.

Within weeks, Trummel filed an anti-harassment petition against Steve Mitchell; it was denied and denied with prejudice. When weeks later Steve Mitchell in his turn filed a similar order the Judge not only granted it but immediately threw Trummel out of Council House. This is an important point to be remembered: in his petition Steve Mitchell **did not** ask for eviction or expulsion from Council House. The eviction was confirmed six months later. Do not expect to find it on his web site, Trummel is very selective in his description and interpretation of facts. Again, do not expect to find this on his web site. Like the incident with the woman in the laundry room Paul Trummel purged this little fact from his web site. He has an uncanny ability to use out of context writings or pronouncements by those he dislike as his Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 posting on his web demonstrate.

Well, I always try avoid a fight but never back off from it. And have been doing it ever since, particularly on the Internet. If you Google my name, you will find several instances where I attacked him. Since his expulsion from Council House, Paul Trummel - not exactly an example of moral rectitude - slipped into the bizarro and has leveled the most absurd accusations against Council House, Steve Mitchell, members

of his staff, the Board of Directors and several tenants, myself particularly. He distorts truth, conceals facts and fabricates self-serving tales.

Here is some of his most absurd, asinine, extravagant and fallacious accusations - accusations that would be laughable if they weren't so ludicrous: He hints that Audrey is responsible for her aunt's death here at Council House; that Audrey's family benefitted financially from the death of their relative; that Steve Mitchell is a homosexual and addicted to pornography; that I am an extremely violent man; that Audrey misuses Council House funds; that members of the Board of Directors conspire with HUD, Judges, the Seattle police department, city hall, the DA's office and everybody else in order to abuse residents. As a man with no moral center, his allegations range from the pitiful to the wicked. As the years have gone by, any shred of a moral rationale has completely disappeared from his web site.

To this day, Paul Trummel has not been able to present A SINGLE proof of his allegations because his allegations are simply the machinations of a very disturbed mind. This is particularly revolting because, like him, it is evident that his lawyers do not possess the moral and ethical yardsticks needed by their profession. Aquinas defined law as the ordinance of reason without passion but it is clear that in today's legal climate his lawyers see Council House as target with deep pockets.

A never easy man to get along with, Paul Trummel has made blood enemies of men and women his entire life. Oscar Wilde's pun: "*He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends*" is quite fitting. His attempts to project a glorified self have become so ingrained in his disturbed mind that it is now impossible for him to tell what's real and what's made up. This is a man who insists on being referred to as "*professor*" of sometimes Rhetoric, sometimes Journalism and yet, refuses to name the universities or colleges where he taught; who says that he was a University administrator without naming the university; who professes to hold not one but two PhD's without showing them or mentioning from where they were issued; who pretends to be a journalist with 45 years experience but is unable to show where he was ever published; a clerk in the British army, he says to any one who wants to hear it that he was a British Commando in Palestine; a man who refers to his own mother as "*the bitch*" and to his father as being "*a spineless moron*;" three times divorced, estranged from his own children who refuse any contact with him; a man with a long record of legal battles (mostly lost causes); twice evicted in Seattle, etc.

I could go on and on about this fictional character but there is one more demonstration I want to make. In a display of shameless anti-Semitism and a cold, absolute and frightening show of insensitivity, Paul Trummel insists on referring to himself as a Holocaust survivor because of the Nazi bombings in England that killed over seventy thousand people. This is a man filled with the kind of malignity that appalls even the most solid mind.

Now, his friends here at Council House.

They are six overt ones plus a sinister, clever, cunning, Machiavellian and manipulative covert one.

The six overt supporters of Paul Trummel share with him dark psychological impulses that compels them to - relentlessly and unfailingly - dedicate themselves to the destruction of Council House and Steve Mitchell. They all play fast and loose with the facts, do not hesitate to lie even in a Court Room and are bent on heaping calumny and scorn on anyone disagreeing with them.

Like him they pretend to have degrees in different disciplines, yet cannot produce proof of it.

Like him they are in a permanent process of re-inventing themselves.

Like him they advertise gifts and talents they don't have.

Like him they project a life story that is a fairy tale.

Like him they seek to frighten and intimidate.

Like him they are obsessed with conspiracy theories.

Like him they want to manipulate and control people.

Like him they have led a life of deceit, despair and delusion.

Like him they desperately try to validate a life of utter failure.

Formed by nature for social life, human beings are born with a strong desire to please and a strong aversion to offending their fellow human beings. We can infer from that that we are naturally inclined to act in such a way that would be praised by others. We judge the conduct of others as proper if it harmonizes with what we would feel and do in their circumstances, and likewise we judge our conduct as proper if it is approved of by others.

For most of us Council House is the last stop in the long journey of life. We have survived the insults that life has thrown in our paths. Each of us has lived through joys and sorrows, pain and pleasure, success and failure and we all learned that self-love and self-acceptance are the prerequisites to the genuine love of others. No man is, or can be, an island. Everyone, no matter how egotistical, needs to belong to a collectivity larger than himself and as a social species we have an obligation to community and society to participate in the process of determining how best we should live together because the desire to be happy is central to man's nature. Paul Trummel and his friends are human beings without hope and as such have a very hard time being fully human because hatred of others deprives one of hope and happiness.

Humans have evolved with an in-built tendency to co-operation, along with a tendency to withdraw that co-operation if exploited. Hence, I can argue that the essential feature of an ethical life - reciprocity - can be explained by evolution. We are social animals.

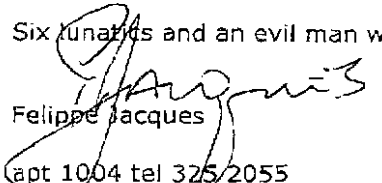
Do not let yourself be frightened by Paul Trummel's friends. This is a beautiful place and with little effort you can make it better for yourself and others.

Council House exists to serve us and has been doing so for thirty-four long years. It is a home, our home and the home is the place that nurtures moral connections to others. The individuals referred to above are nothing more than simple nuisances, hindrances, irrational pests. Ignore them, build your own nest, decorate it to your tastes and preferences, make it a place you enjoy to return to, surround yourself with friends and things you appreciate, live your own life.

These people in their attempt to destroy Council House provide us with an eloquent demonstration of their failed lives. They are beings out of balance, they lack a willingness to choose moderation over madness and they have long ago lost the bonds of civic trust and the normal patterns of social cohesion. They are presumptuous and foolish people deserving the consequences of their actions. Without a tether to reality, their actions and words aren't just nonsense, they are pernicious nonsense.

Welcome to Council House, remember this a good place, a warm and friendly place.

Six lunatics and an evil man will not change it.

  
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