

The Worst-Kept Secret in Liberal Orange County

We expect this kind of thing from the OC GOP, but y'all were supposed to know better.
Content Warning: addiction, racism, sexual violence | For clearer versions of images, [click here](#).

On Friday, April 2, 2021 at 9:41pm, [@InMinivanHell](#) received a private Twitter message from the official account of Vern Patrick Nelson's [Orange Juice Blog](#), which read, "Hey minivan hell ignore whatever's coming." At 9:42pm, [@Autre_Vierge](#) received a very different message from the same account: "Suck my cock I'm drunk."

I wish I could tell you this is unusual.



A former DPOC Executive Director [resigned](#) in the midst of an internal investigation of workplace sexual harassment. A former CDP delegate was [ousted](#) from party leadership in part because of his [targeted harassment](#) of a female colleague. A former DPOC West Vice Chair was [accused](#) of raping his ex-wife, who has not pressed charges because, "he threatened that if I did he would harm me or my family members." A former Executive Director of the OC Labor Federation, [fired](#) for sexually harassing and assaulting women who worked with him, welcomed two Democratic city councilmen to the [restaurant](#) he co-owns.

In Huntington Beach's liberal [Facebook forum](#), one regular poster has harassed multiple women, once going so far as to purchase a URL using a woman's name and design a website which stated in big, bold letters, "[\[Name Redacted\] is an Imbecile](#)." Another of his victims wrote to me, "I'm nervous and upset to the point that I don't want to even speak anonymously about this person for fear of reprisal... His aggressive private messages to me after an innocuous political comment were troubling enough that I'm considering reporting to local authorities."



John Jones

I'm guessing you're either off your meds or on too many meds. Here, chew on this:

[http://www.\[REDACTED\].com/](http://www.[REDACTED].com/)



[REDACTED].COM

[REDACTED] is an Imbecile

Like · Reply · Share · 10h



This doesn't faze his political allies, who applaud his online "activism" against HB's controversial Mayor Pro Tem and his girlfriend. "Why pick on [him] if he's exposing Amber," one Huntington Beach woman asked after seeing a post about his behavior, "If women have problems with him,

they need to address it and confront him, he did the same thing to me." All due respect to more pragmatic OC liberals, but if we have to convince someone to respect us, are they really on our side?

Liberal OC blogger Dan Chmielewski has been harshly critical of discriminatory and sexual misconduct by fellow liberals, leftists, and Democrats, but this appears to be a classic case of pot-and-kettle finger-pointing. He was recently called out by Melissa Fox for an extremely misogynistic and racist comment directed at Irvine Vice Mayor Tammy Kim, after [criticizing](#) her anti-Asian hate resolution for failing to include old white men like himself. Another OC Democrat confirmed, "I've personally witnessed him yell at, harass, belittle, and dismiss women so many times I've lost count. This man's outdated misogynistic and racist views have no place in our party."



Melissa Fox @melissajofox · Apr 17

This comment by a white male Irvine "liberal" blogger, made to our Korean-American Vice Mayor Tammy Kim, who is also a hardworking mom, is [#racist](#) and disgusting. It should be condemned without reservation by every decent person in [#Irvine](#). [#StopAsianHate](#) [#StopRacistStereotypes](#)

You refuse to recognize Asian hate via human trafficking. IPD has no answer. Do I need to go somewhere in Irvine and ask for a happy ending or do those running these businesses support you?

2

1

8

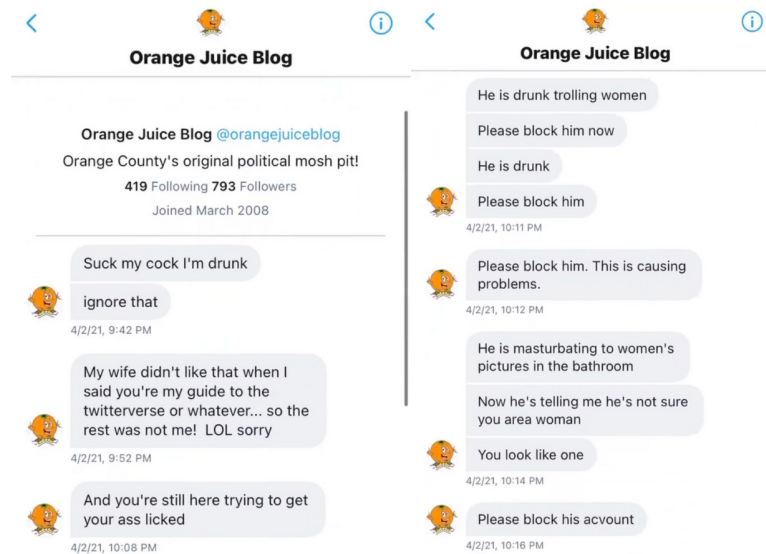


When I started writing '[Tito Watch](#)' for *Orange Juice Blog* in December 2020, I didn't know much about the reputation of the blog or its owner. From what I could tell, Vern Nelson appeared to be a like-minded ally and, at least for his age, a relatively feminist guy.

His friend and co-blogger Greg Diamond tells a strikingly different story. In a [comment](#) on *Liberal* OC, Diamond admitted, "Vern's problem with women was that he was lecherous, bad at monogamy, and relatively forward in being willing to make advances, which some women found creepy." With friends like these, who needs enemies?

This statement was intended to defend Nelson’s honor after he was accused of sexual assault in 2017. Nelson vehemently denies the allegations, and used his [platform](#) to smear his accuser’s name. The grudge lingers: in a January comment on one of my articles, he called her [“the evil little fuck.”](#)

As troubling as the assault allegation is, it’s ultimately her word against his. No one will ever know what truly happened. But we have screenshots of what was said on April 2nd.



While Nelson is the sole owner of the account, he and his wife, Anaheim activist Donna Acevedo-Nelson, confirmed that they both accessed the *OJ Blog*’s Twitter that evening. At first glance, the messages to @Autre_Vierge appear to be written by two different authors, but it’s impossible to say with absolute certainty who said what, or even who started it. One of the final messages she received was, “He is masturbating to women’s pictures in the bathroom.” Her profile picture was [posted](#) on the *OJ Blog*’s Twitter an hour later.

When asked for an explanation, Nelson said his wife “[went crazy](#)” because she thought he was “flirting” with @Autre_Vierge when he replied to a [thread](#), “You are certainly my guide to the Twitterverse.” @Autre_Vierge did not respond to the tweet, tag him anywhere in the thread, or reply to any of his direct messages.

One of the blog’s followers confronted Nelson in a [message](#) the next morning, and received an emotional [voicemail](#) from Acevedo-Nelson on the afternoon of Easter Sunday. In it, she said she didn’t know who had posted the picture because “we’re not Twitter people” and added, “I don’t want [Vern] to feel bad, that he’s a bad person or anything. It’s just his drinking that’s bad.” There was a deeper voice in the background during the call, which seemed to prompt her when she paused.

Nelson has struggled with alcoholism for years, which is not, in and of itself, an indictment of his character. However, he either sent some of those lewd messages, or was so careless with his account that he put a completely innocent woman in the line of fire during an extremely toxic marital fight-- his addiction provides context for his behavior, but it doesn't excuse the resulting harm.

When I asked how she was feeling the next day, @Autre_Vierge said, "I'm less shaken up and more completely exhausted." I think a lot of us are feeling the same fatigue; tired of broken promises, betrayed trust, snail-paced change... tired of simply existing in a world seemingly rigged against us. I know I risk losing the small platform I've built by authoring this, but I would rather burn bridges than become complicit through my silence. I've walked a mile in these women's shoes. #MeToo.

On its face, this looks like an isolated incident, a personal moral failing, but it's indicative of a larger, systemic failure to deal with the misogynists in our midst. Men who abuse their platform, power, and privilege are enabled by their friends-- of all genders-- who are more concerned with political expediency than they are with upholding their professed values. It's time for the liberals of Orange County to practice what they preach.