It is the wild horse that threatens to agitate the entire well-behaved herd.

The idiom means “an individual who gives the group a bad name,” “one who brings disgrace on his group.” So the political party did not only have one, but two “害群之馬” (hai4 qun2 zhi1 ma3).

There is a similar English expression, but it is based on sheep, a black one, to be exact.

A “black sheep” is “one who is considered disreputable (名聲不好的) or disgraceful by his or her relatives or associates,” “a person who causes shame or embarrassment (尷尬) to his or her group.”

Terms containing the character “害” (hai4) include:

- 毒害 (du2 hai4) – to harm gravely
- 損害 (sun3 hai4) – to damage (to reputation, business, etc)
- 遇害 (yu4 hai4) – was murdered
- 除害 (chu2 hai4) – destroy the evils