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Pay attention to the common man and woman

In his classic play, *Death of a Salesman*, one of Arthur Miller's characters said of protagonist Willie Loman: "Attention must be paid to this man."

Years before that was written American composer Aaron Copeland wrote a piece called *Fanfare for the Common Man*.

Our government and big business leaders would do well to heed those messages in today's topsy-turvy world. Multiple survey results from across the spectrum of sources show that the American household is generally unsettled about the nation, the world and their specific situation.

There are people in the world who accomplish great things in science, business, politics and the arts. They are heralded for their achievements—prizes, acclaim, money. We hear about these men and women. Successful people have worked hard. They have experimented. They have practiced. They have failed many times. It is important too for all of us to remember that they put their pants on one leg at a time just like the rest of us.

The single parent juggling full time work and raising children, often with modicum of assistance, should also be applauded. Or, the middle class couple striving to put aside money for their kid's education while assuring their children have educational and extra curricu-

editorial

lar opportunities. Or, the small business owner who must navigate the local and federal rules that regulate their operation, while trying to make a profit.

Millions of American families are doing the best they can at creating and living their life. It is safe to say that most people want to do good—if not big—things. Most will never compose a symphony, but they can help their children compose a school paper.

Six years after the Great Recession (statistically) ended, many household budgets are still stretched. Though inflation is very low, there is still underemployment, leaving many to wonder what happened to the American Dream they were promised if they followed the rules and worked hard. And yet they continue on with their lives, dutifully paying taxes, obeying laws and raising our nation's next generation.

Frustrated by both the overreach and the gridlock of Washington, Americans will lash out—thus the staying power of presidential candidates like Donald Trump and Dr. Ben Carson. If you politically corner Americans, they will swipe back at the status quo every time.

Our leaders should understand the fears of the people. That starts with celebrating the lives and the accomplishments of the common man and woman. —LAZ

CNBC does the impossible, unites crowded GOP field

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, had a standout moment early in last week's Republican debate when he went after, not other Republicans, but the CNBC moderators,

none of whom appeared to have "any intention of voting in a Republican primary." CNBC's Jim Cramer and Rick Santelli later asked questions a conservative would ask, but the event began with questions from moderators John Harwood, Becky Quick and Carl Quintanilla that reinforced Republicans' belief that the network is in the Democrats' pocket.

Harwood launched the debate with a gotcha question for billionaire Donald Trump. Personally, I like gotcha questions—as long as they are good gotcha questions that home in on a candidate's core contradictions. Many of the CNBC gotcha questions, however, were picked-over bones. Is Trump for real? What about his corporate bankruptcies? A good interviewer addresses old questions with an angle that invites a unique response.

There was a clear bias in the language used by the CNBC Three. When Quick asked a question about the gender wage gap, she called it "our cause." When Harwood asked Trump about deporting 11 million undocumented immigrants, Harwood did not refer to the fact that they are here illegally. Indeed, Harwood did not even refer to their immigration status. He simply noted Trump wanted to "send 11 million people out of the country." This was a Republican primary debate, and maybe the folks at CNBC haven't noticed, but Republican voters care about distinctions as to whether someone is in the country legally or not.

Panelists asked the kind of guilt-by-association questions they rarely, if ever, ask Democrats. Quick asked former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina about former HP board member Tom Perkins—who backed the HP board's firing of Fiorina, but now supports her candidacy. Perkins, quoth Quick, "said a lot of very questionable things ... I think his quote was that 'if you pay zero dollars in taxes, you should get zero votes. If you pay a million dollars, you should get a million votes.' Is this the type of person you want defending you?"

If the above questions are fair game

guest column

because there is guilt by association, I have a request for the MSNBC moderators of the next Democratic debate on Nov. 6: Please ask Hillary Rodham Clinton what she thinks about her new best friend on Twitter

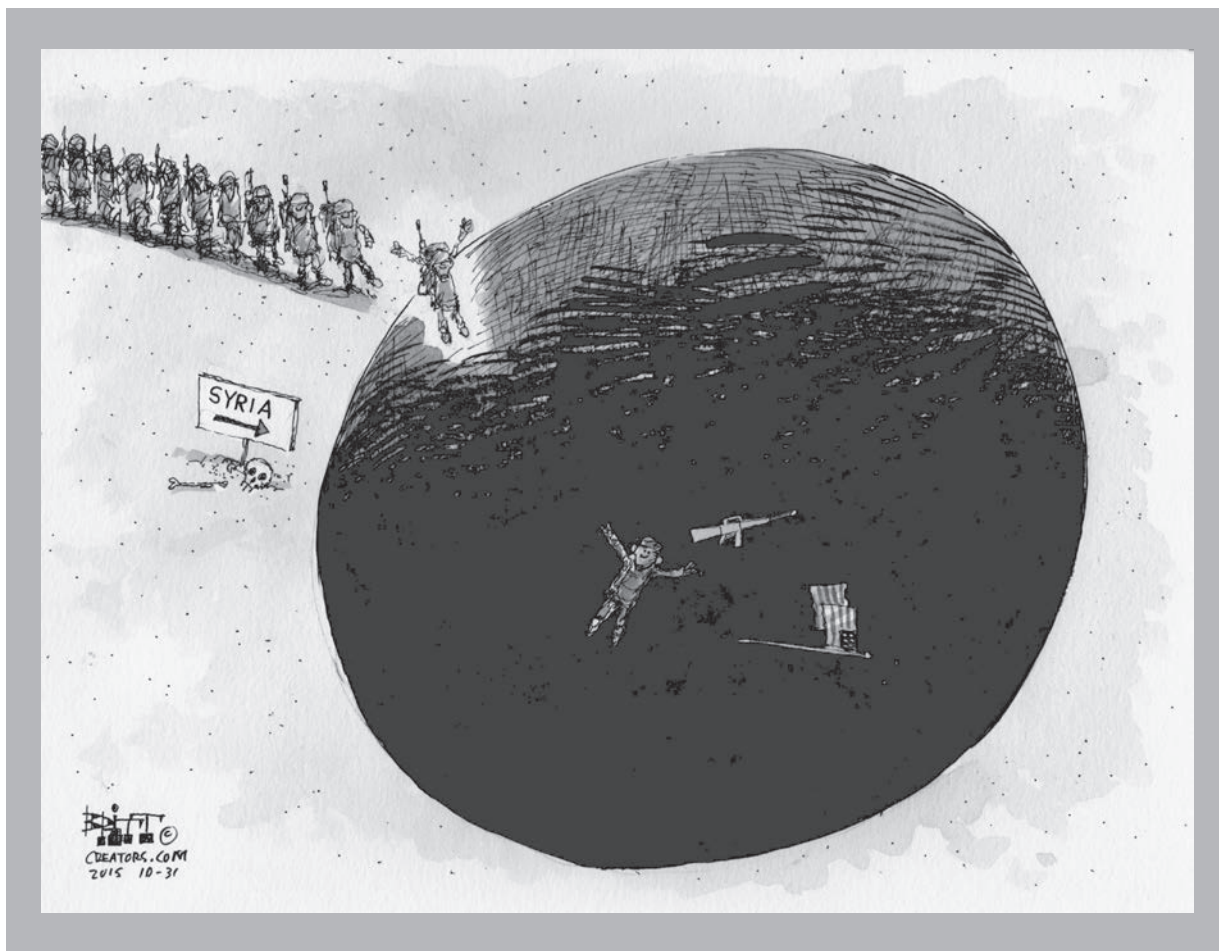
Kim Kardashian baring her behind all over the Internet.

In that vein, Quintanilla asked retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson how he could serve on the board of Costco, when "a marketing study called the warehouse retailer the No. 1 gay-friendly brand in America, partly because of its domestic partner benefits." Carson countered that it is wrong to assume that someone who opposes same-sex marriage is a homophobe.

CNBC had signaled the third Republican primary debate would be about "job growth, taxes, technology, retirement and the health of our national economy." I expected questions on the sharing economy. Uber did come up once, when CNBC's Sharon Epperson asked Fiorina if she thought Washington should mandate employer-sponsored retirement plans for small businesses—even Uber drivers: "Should the federal government play a larger role in helping to set up retirement plans for these workers?" It would appear Epperson never heard of individual retirement accounts.

Quick fell down in the preparation department. Thus Trump was able to deny that he ever called Florida Sen. Marco Rubio the "personal senator" of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg because of his support for H-1B visas. Quick apologized when Trump denied the statement—even though it came from his own website. If Quick had been prepared, she would have had a marvelous opportunity to question Trump on how familiar he is, or is not, with his position papers. There was no such follow-up.

Having spent time in pressrooms at national conventions and political debates, I know how my profession unapologetically lists to the left. Everyone in the business knows this is a liberal bastion. But when Rubio asserts the media are the Democrats' "ultimate superPAC" and Cruz sends out fundraising appeals as he declares "war on the liberal media," then my colleagues point at CNBC as a stand-out malefactor. If only ... (Creators Syndicate)



Oregon's veterans continue to serve

By CAMERON SMITH

Veterans' Day is one day to honor the service and sacrifice of all who have raised their right hand, worn the uniform, defended our freedom, and stood guard over our peace.

Across our 70 year history, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has witnessed generations of service members returning home and then using their hard-earned leadership skills and experience to significantly contribute to our communities.

What many citizens may not know is that one out of every 12 Oregonians is a veteran. While our veterans gain great strength from their service, it is not surprising that many can face challenges as they reintegrate home. For those impacted by their service, we must understand their tenacious spirit and resiliency. They deserve nothing less than the best in care, resources and support.

There is never a doubt, though, that our learned resilience, idealistic pride, and unwavering dedication to our families, community and each other is stronger because we served in uniform.

Take the recent examples of young returning veterans from Oregon like Alek Skarlatos and Chris Mintz. Alek captured international headlines for thwarting a terrorist attack while travelling in France after his deployment in Afghanistan with the Oregon

guest column



Cameron Smith

Army National Guard.

Similarly, Chris Mintz, an Army veteran, also chose to run toward chaos on the Umpqua Community College campus to help protect fellow students. He was shot multiple times and thankfully

continues to recover for his young family and community.

These stories have made the national news, but our local veterans' community is filled with everyday examples of inspiring continued service. Bill Griffith is a former Navy Corpsman who served in Vietnam and is continuing to serve his fellow veterans as an award-winning volunteer Long Term Care Ombudsman. He was recently recognized for his advocacy for our aging veterans at the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles and other skilled nursing facilities, receiving the Governor's Volunteer Award in October.

A recent appointment to ODVA's Advisory Committee, Kim Douthit, is a Coast Guard veteran and continues

to serve student veterans in her role as a veterans' coordinator at Portland Community College. She is a leader for both our fastest growing demographic, women veterans, and for all veterans across Oregon.

While our focus is on our veterans, we also must remember the service and sacrifice of our military and veteran families. Judi Van Cleave of Portland was elected as the National President of Gold Star Wives of America. Her late husband was a disabled Korean War veteran. Judi's significant service for two decades with Gold Star Wives of America continues to honor our fallen and their families.

Across our team at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, many of us are veterans and family members, and we continue to be inspired by our current service members, veterans and their families. We are honored and privileged to serve them — not just on Veterans' Day, but throughout the year. It is their individual stories that make up the incredible fabric of our community.

No matter the branch of service, no matter the era, no matter who we are, or where we live; we stand proudly together. We are Oregon veterans.

(Cameron Smith served three tours in Iraq as a U.S. Marine captain and is the director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs.)

The real GOP divide

By E.J. DIONNE JR.

Maybe our definition of the Republican presidential contest is a little off.

It's often cast, accurately enough, as a choice between "outsiders" and "insiders." But another party division may be more profound — between Republicans who still view the country's future hopefully, and those deeply gloomy about its prospects.

The pessimism within significant sectors of the GOP is more than the unhappiness partisans typically feel when the other side is in power. It's rooted in a belief that things have fundamentally changed in America, and there is an ominous possibility they just can't be put right again.

This is one of the big contrasts between the two parties: Democrats are more bullish on the future.

Hillary Clinton has a big lead in the national polls because Democrats broadly favor continuity, with some tweaks. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders offers a tough critique of inequality and the outsized power of the rich. But he and his supporters are comfortable with the country's cultural direction and have enough faith in government to believe it can engineer the reforms that economic fairness requires.

These thoughts are provoked by an evening spent watching last week's GOP presidential debate with a group of Republicans pulled together here for me by Sarah Stewart, a New Hampshire political consultant.

They were anything but pitchfork-bearing rebels, and many of them are involved with local government. There was not a Donald Trump or Ben Carson supporter in the lot, although Jon DiPietro, a libertarian-leaning businessman, said he gets Trump's appeal and could imagine voting for him.

The consensus was that the strongest performance came from New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, not Marco Rubio, the man lifted high by the very media he and the others enjoyed attacking during the event. Rubio gained ground with some in the group, but Newton Kershaw III, a success-

other views

ful developer, said the young Florida senator still hadn't persuaded him that he had the experience to be president.

Rubio, Kershaw said, looked "rehearsed and studied."

Gary Lambert, a former state senator who chairs Sen. Lindsey Graham's campaign here, spoke for the group in praising Christie for having some of the evening's best moments. Lambert also offered his take on Carson's appeal: "He remains so calm. I could never do that." Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz also got some nods of approval.

But the most instructive part of the evening came toward the end when Ross Terrio, a Manchester school board member, took the conversation to a different place, describing his response to President Obama's time in office. "I have gotten so pessimistic," he said. "I used to be such an optimistic person. Maybe Obama just sucked the life out of me." Terrio, who works as a pharmacist, has no complaints about

his personal situation but wonders how his neighbors with much more constrained incomes can make it.

DiPietro shared Terrio's worries that the country's problems might be beyond our ability to solve, especially if Democrats win the White House again.

Others in the group pronounced themselves more hopeful, Pappas, perhaps, most of all. She highlighted her faith that the inventiveness and entrepreneurial spirit of the next generation would pull the country through.

But that this argument about the country's long-term viability could break out among these thoughtful citizens — they in no way fit the stereotypes we liberals sometimes hang on conservatives — speaks to a central reality of our politics: Many Republicans see government itself as almost irreparably broken.

This is why there's cheering on the right for the obstructionism of groups such as the House Freedom Caucus. Throwing sand in the gears of the machine is an honorable pursuit if you believe the machine is headed entirely in the wrong direction. It's also why Trump and Carson will not be easily pushed aside.

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