

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



STEPHEN A. FORRESTER, *Editor & Publisher*
 LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*
 BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*
 CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*
 JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*
 DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*
 HEATHER RAMSDELL, *Circulation Manager*

Time to speak up for commercial fishing

Last week included one of the signature events on the Pacific Northwest's annual calendar: the setting of spring fishing seasons on the Columbia River.

The forecast for the important spring Chinook run is about 300,000 to the river's mouth, about 28 percent fewer than last year but more than the 10-year average of 285,000. Forecasts are one thing and reality quite another, but there is a good chance that fishermen and the businesses that rely on them will have a fun few weeks from March 1 to April 9.

The initial allocation is 7,515 fish for recreational fishermen below Bonneville Dam, 1,222 for the mainstream non-tribal commercial fishery and 198 for select area commercial fisheries. Gillnetters will get two days of fishing — tentatively March 29 and April 5.

This also is a good time to note that in 2015 sea lions killed 8,500 spring Chinook salmon in the tail-race just below Bonneville, and many more in the relatively unobserved 140-plus miles between the dam and the river's mouth. Smart beasts that they are, it is widely anticipated they will again be showing up in the river in force in coming weeks.

The differences between all these numbers may

come as a surprise to those who don't pay attention to Columbia fishing issues. From the rhetoric of those who oppose commercial fishing, you might suppose gillnetters were swallowing up a vast proportion of the salmon run. In fact, in this rather typical year, mainstream gillnetters will harvest perhaps half of 1 percent of the run. And that's if they're lucky — accidentally catching too many fish from a run protected by the Endangered Species Act sometimes drastically curtails even this sort of conservative season.

It's no wonder consumers have to pay so much for a precious meal of our home-grown spring Chinook salmon. If we want this first taste of Pacific Northwest spring to remain part of our culture and economy, we need to continue speaking up for commercial fishing families who put Columbia salmon on our tables.

Sensible salmon management requires all fishermen to work together — along with tribes, river managers, conservationists, leaded leaders and others — to continue rebuilding runs.

This would remove tools for suicide

Suicide and guns go together. So do suicide and prescription drugs.

A researcher at the University of Washington took that relationship and developed a concept that might lead to a breakthrough in Olympia. The online news outlet *Crosscut* reported Friday that gun lobbyists joined suicide prevention advocates in supporting a bill aimed at inhibiting guns and prescription drugs availability to suicidal people.

Tom James reported that Jennifer Stuber, a UW professor of social work and leader of a suicide prevention group called Forefront was the catalyst for the new discussion. Joining her at an Olympia legislative hearing were the head of the state pharmacy association, a gun owner and the NRA lobbyist respon-

sible for the Western states. James reported: "Aimed at suicide prevention, the measure builds a figurative beachhead of education by creating and incentivizing suicide prevention training for pharmacists and gun shop owners — who between them dispense the means of about 70 percent of suicides."

This concept that is poised to advance in Olympia is rooted in public health research. Harvard School of Public Health physicians Matthew Miller and David Hemenway wrote in 1999 that America's "firearms-related suicide rate is 11 times that of the average of other industrialized nations."

America's epidemic of gun violence calls for incremental change. That's what this is, and it sounds promising.

The cultural manners war

By DAVID BROOKS
New York Times News Service

Donald Trump was inducted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2013.

He'd been involved with professional wrestling for more than a quarter-century.

At first his interest was on the business side, because so many of the events were held at his hotels. But then he got involved in the story lines, appearing in the ring as an actual character.

His greatest moment came in 2007 with the pay-per-view series called "Battle of the Billionaires," when he verbally went up against the WWE's chief executive, Vince McMahon. The feud started when Trump interrupted McMahon on Fan Appreciation Night and upstaged him by raining thousands of dollars in cash down on the crowd in the arena. It continued with a verbal barrage and proxy match, and ended with a triumphant Trump shaving McMahon's head in the middle of the ring.

I mention this because the thing I've found most surprising in this presidential campaign is the way the nation's crisis of political authority has produced a hunger for masculine spectacle.

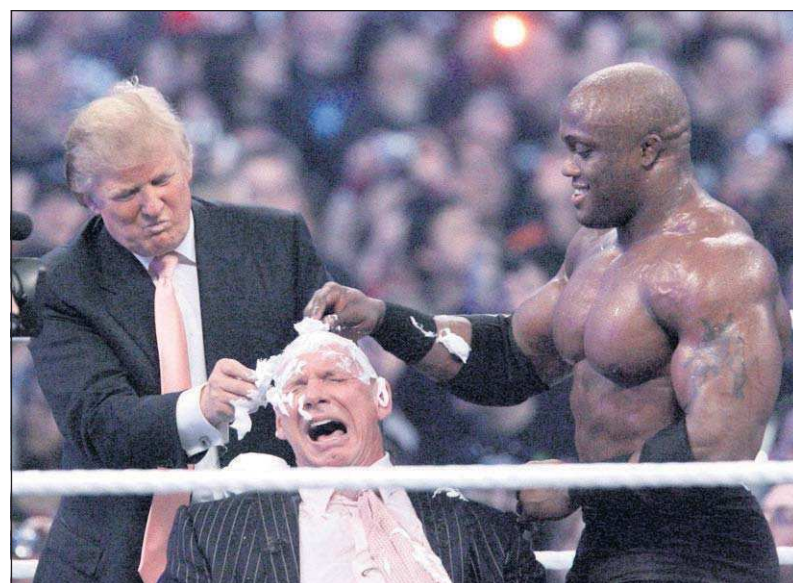
This is an anxious and angry nation. Many people have lost faith in institutions and the nation's leadership. Many feel powerless, in decline and adrift. Somewhere in his marketer's brain Donald Trump intuited that manners are more important than laws and that if you want to assault the established powers you have to assault their manners first. His campaign has been one long exercise in taking the "low," or proletarian, manners of professional wrestling and interjecting them into the "respectable" arena of presidential politics.

By shifting the cultural language Trump initiated a new type of culture war, really a manners war. He seemed fresh, authentic and resonant to a lot of people who felt alienated from the way elites govern, talk and behave.

Professional wrestling generates intense interest and drama through relentless confrontation. Everybody knows it's fake at some level, but it is perceived as fake and real at the same



David Brooks



Carlos Osorio/AP Photo

Donald Trump, left, and Bobby Lashley, right shave the head of Vince McMahon after Lashley defeated Umaga at Wrestlemania 23 at Ford Field in Detroit in 2007.

time (sort of like politics). The story lines are Manichean — good takes on evil, winners take on failures. The audiences fiercely identify with different characters. What matters is not so much who wins or loses, or whether you are good or evil, but the aggressiveness by which you wage each mano-a-mano confrontation.

Trump brought this style onstage at the first Republican debate, and a thousand taboos were smashed all at once. In respectable politics, as in respectable society, there is a certain code of refinement. It is through this code that the educated class defines what's proper and improper and imposes an invisible social power on society.

Trump smashed through that and created a riveting spectacle. He insulted people's looks. He stereotyped vast groups of people — Mexicans and Muslims. He hinted at menstruation. He called members of the establishment morons, idiots and losers. He bragged and boasted without cessation.

Social inequality is always felt more acutely than economic inequality. Trump rose up on behalf of people who felt looked down upon, made them feel vindicated and represented and turned social conduct on its head. He led a one-man linguistic revolution.

The cultural element of this revolution was based on his complete rejection of the feminist transformation. Over the past few decades, at least in respectable society, there has been a shift in the way men and women are supposed to behave. Blatant machismo has been condemned and

female empowerment celebrated. But Trump was unabashedly masculine. His machismo is still the lingua franca of pro wrestling, cage fighting and some action movies.

His candidacy is an implied critique of the feminization of America — that the country has become too soft, too nice, too lacking in old-fashioned male authority. Trump responded with ridiculous aggression every time his authority was questioned. When John McCain attacked him, Trump responded, "He's not a war hero."

Every time Trump was challenged on anything, he was compelled by his code to double down the confrontation and fire back. He shoved aside his early competitor Jeb Bush, who was raised to be a gentleman, the embodiment of exactly that code Trump was upending.

When he was praised by one of the world's most venomous thugs, Vladimir Putin, he had the canniness to embrace the praise and lavish it back — a response that would have violated every fiber of a respectable person's body.

I still don't think the spectacle is going to carry Trump to the White House or even the nomination. But I do think this has been a period in which many silent segments of society have found their voices, often in shocking and impolite ways.

The next president will have to respect these voices, understand their grievances and channel what is legitimate in their concerns in deferential ways, reminding everyone from all classes that we are one nation, one people, with one fate.

This is an anxious and angry nation.

Wind and sun instead of fire

By PAUL KRUGMAN
New York Times News Service

So what's really at stake in this year's election? Well, among other things, the fate of the planet.

Last year was the hottest on record, by a wide margin, which should — but won't — put an end to climate deniers' claims that global warming has stopped.

The truth is that climate change just keeps getting scarier; it is, by far, the most important policy issue facing America and the world. Still, this election wouldn't have much bearing on the issue if there were no prospect of effective action against the looming catastrophe.

But the situation on that front has changed drastically for the better in recent years, because we're now achingly close to achieving a renewable-energy revolution. What's more, getting that energy revolution wouldn't require a political revolution. All it would take are fairly modest policy changes, some of which have happened and others of which are underway. But those changes won't happen if the wrong people end up in power.

To see what I'm talking about, you need to know something about the current state of climate economics, which has changed far more in recent years than most people seem to realize.

Most people who think about the issue at all probably imagine that achieving a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions would necessarily involve big economic sacrifices. This view is required orthodoxy on the right, where it forms a sort of second line of defense against action, just in case denial of climate science and witch hunts

against climate scientists don't do the trick. For example, in the last Republican debate Marco Rubio — the last, best hope of the GOP establishment — insisted, as he has before, that a cap-and-trade program would be "devastating for our economy."

To find anything equivalent on the left you have to go far out of the mainstream, to activists who insist that climate change can't be fought without overthrowing capitalism. Still, my sense is that many Democrats believe that politics as usual isn't up to the task, that we need a political earthquake to make real action possible. In particular, I keep hearing that the Obama administration's environmental efforts have been so far short of what's needed as to be barely worth mentioning.

But things are actually much more hopeful than that, thanks to remarkable technological progress in renewable energy.

The numbers are really stunning. According to a recent report by the investment firm Lazard, the cost of electricity generation using wind power fell 61 percent from 2009 to 2015, while the cost of solar power fell 82 percent. These numbers — which are in line with other estimates — show progress at rates we normally only expect to see for information technology. And they put the cost of renewable energy into a range where it's competitive with fossil fuels.

Now, there are still some issues special to renewables, in particular problems of intermittency: consumers may want power when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. But this issue seems to be of diminishing significance, partly thanks to improving storage technology, partly thanks to the



Paul Krugman

realization that "demand response" — paying consumers to cut energy use during peak periods — can greatly reduce the problem.

So what will it take to achieve a large-scale shift from fossil fuels to renewables, a shift to sun and wind instead of fire? Financial incentives, and they don't have to be all that huge. Tax credits for renewables that were part of the Obama stimulus plan, and were extended under the recent budget deal, have done a lot to accelerate the energy revolution. The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, which if implemented will create strong incentives to move away from coal, will do much more.

And none of this will require new legislation; we can have an energy revolution even if the crazies retain control of the House.

Now, skeptics may point out that even if all these good things happen, they won't be enough on their own to save the planet. For one thing, we're only talking about electricity generation, which is a big part of the climate change problem but not the whole thing. For another, we're only talking about one country when the problem is global.

But I'd argue that the kind of progress now within reach could produce a tipping point, in the right direction. Once renewable energy becomes an obvious success and, yes, a powerful interest group, anti-environmentalism will start to lose its political grip. And an energy revolution in America would let us take the lead in global action.

Salvation from climate catastrophe is, in short, something we can realistically hope to see happen, with no political miracle necessary. But failure is also a very real possibility. Everything is hanging in the balance.

Everything is hanging in the balance.