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Associated Press Photo

Chum salmon navigating through McNeil River Falls in Alaska.

Treaty rights require fish

Fifty percent of nothing is nothing

Teams

responsible for salmon must

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The fishing rights guaranteed to Indians by treaties and court decisions are meaningless if there are few fish to catch. These "treaty tribes" are entitled to half the salmon. But 50 percent of nothing is nothing. Tribal negotiators are increasingly insisting that there be

actual flesh attached to the bare bones of

treaty rights. As a practical matter, this means the team of agencies responsible for salmon must ensure that salmon prosper through a combination of strategies, such as hatcheries, habitat restoration, modifications

of hydropower operations, predator management and harvest adjustments.

The current management plan, a result of a federal court ruling, expires Dec. 31, 2017. The states, tribes and feds have started deciding what comes next in terms of harvest strategies.

It is possible the next harvest plan will be essentially identical to the current one, which is based on stock abundance. This means estimating how many fish are

returning in various runs, including the 13 species covered by the Endangered Species Act. Managers then determine how many can be caught before the species recover to a healthy population.

There are several suggested alternatives — even including

no harvest at all. Chances are good that agencies will prefer to stick to something pretty close to the status quo. But our region's many nongovernmental experts — including commercial and recreational fishermen on the Columbia River — may have better

ideas and should

promote them.

Underlying any approach, we all should bear in mind the principle of insisting on a path toward sustainable salmon recovery, and resist squabbling over a share in an ever-threatened and too often diminishing set of salmon runs. Different fishing interests, cooperating together, must advocate for actual recovery, and be unsatisfied with small percentages of small salmon runs.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS

Oregon's public universities shouldn't meet behind closed doors

The (Bend) Bulletin

The presidents of Oregon's seven public universities — Portland State, Oregon State and University of Oregon, plus four smaller schools in Ashland, Klamath Falls, La Grande and Monmouth — are meeting together regularly behind closed doors.

That may, or may not, be legal. At the moment it's unclear whether the new group is subject to the state's open meetings law — the Legislature's lawyers say probably not, though they believe minutes of the group's session are subject to public disclosure.

So far Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has not weighed in on the

Oregon's system of higher education has undergone dramatic changes in the last few years. Former Gov. John Kitzhaber persuaded lawmakers to replace the state's old Board of Higher Education with a Higher Education Coordinating Commission in 2011. As part of the

change, the individual universities were given more autonomy, including the right to create their own boards of governors.

HECC exercises considerable control over the universities despite the changes, to be sure. It decides how much money for higher education to ask lawmakers for every two years. It approves new degrees and academic programs. And, its power extends beyond the universities to community colleges; state-supplied, needs-based financial aid to students; trade schools; programs aimed at veterans; and more.

Given the breadth of HECC's reach, it's easy to understand why the public universities want to ensure they approach the commission with a single voice and

Yet arriving at that message should not be done in secret. The schools, after all, receive millions in taxpayer dollars, and collectively they are the largest supplier of post-secondary education in Oregon.

The university leaders should decide to make their meetings public.

FOOL ME ONCE... THEN ... HEY, KID ... WANTSOME CANDY?



The dark knight

Telcome to a world without rules. (I want you to read this paragraph in your superscary movie trailer voice.) Welcome to a world in which families are mowed down by illegal immigrants, in which cops die in the streets, in which Muslims rampage the innocents and threaten our very way of life, in which the fear of violent death lurks in every human heart.

Sometimes in that blood-drenched world a dark knight arises. You don't have to admire or like this knight. But you need this knight. He is your muscle and your voice in a dark, corrupt and malevolent world.

Such has been the argument of nearly every demagogue since the dawn of time. Aaron Burr claimed Spain threatened the U.S. in 1806. A. Mitchell Trump is Palmer exaggerated the Red Scare in 1919, and Joe not really

McCarthy did it in 1950. And such was Donald Trump's law-and-order argument in Cleveland on Thursday night. This was a compelling text that turned into more than an hour of humorless shouting. It was a dystopian message that found an audience and

then pummeled it to exhaustion. Will it work? Well, this fear builds on the sense of loss that was the prevailing theme of this

convention. We heard from a number of

mothers who lost sons and siblings who lost

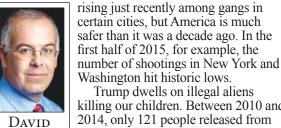
The argument takes the pervasive collection of anxieties that plague America and it concentrates them on the most visceral one: fear of violence and crime. Historically, this sort of elemental fear has proved to be contagious and it does move populations.

Finally, a law-and-order campaign calls upon the authoritarian personality traits that Trump undoubtedly possesses. The GOP used to be a party that aspired to a biblical ethic of private charity, graciousness, humility and faithfulness. Mitt Romney's convention was lifted by stories of his kindness and personal

Trump has replaced biblical commitments with a gladiator ethos. Everything is oriented around conquest, success, supremacy and domination. This was the Lock Her Up convention. A law-and-order campaign doesn't ask voters to like Trump and the Republicans any more than they liked Richard Nixon in 1968.

On the other hand, there are good reasons to think that this law-and-order focus is a significant mistake, that it over-reads the current moment of Baton Rouge, Dallas and Nice and will not be the right focus for the

In the first place, it's based on a falsehood. Crime rates have been falling almost without fail for 25 years. Murder rates have been



Brooks

changing his

party as much as dissolving it.

Comment

killing our children. Between 2010 and 2014, only 121 people released from immigration custody later committed murder; that's about 25 a year. Every death is a horror, but the number of police officers killed each year as a

result of a crime is about 55, in a nation of over 320 million people. The number of police deaths decreased by 24 percent between 2005 and 2015.

The main anxieties in this country are

economic and social, not about crime. Trump surged to the nomination on the back of his supposed business acumen, not because he's a sheriff. By focusing so much on law and order, he leaves a hole a mile wide for Hillary Clinton. She'll undoubtedly fixate at the Democratic convention in Philadelphia on economic pain. Trump could

end up seeming strangely detached. But if Trump is detached from the country, and uninterested in anything but himself, he's also detached from his party. Trump is not really changing his party as much as

dissolving it. A normal party has an apparatus of

professionals, who have been around for a while and who can get things done. But those people might as well not exist. This was the most shambolically mis-run convention in memory. A normal party is united by a consistent

belief system. For decades, the Republican Party has stood for a forward-looking American-led international order abroad and small-government democratic capitalism at

Trump is decimating that, too, along with the things Republicans stood for: NATO, entitlement reform, compassionate conservatism and the relatively open movement of ideas, people and trade.

There's no actual agenda being put in its place, just nostalgic spasms that, as David Frum has put it, are part George Wallace and part Henry Wallace. Trump's policy agenda, such as it is, is mostly a series of vague and defensive recoils: build a wall, ban Muslims, withdraw from the world.

This is less a party than a personality cult. Law and order is a strange theme for a candidate who radiates conflict and disorder. Some rich children are careless that way; they break things and other people have to clean up

David Brooks became a New York Times Op-Ed columnist in September 2003.

YOUR VIEWS

Development commission should think bigger than downtown

Exactly what is the Urban Renewal District and where exactly is it? You would think from the actions of the Pendleton Development Commission, the commission made up of the mayor and city council, it would be the historic downtown area and the river "parkway" between Main and Southwest 10th. It does, however, also include most of the old town south of the river and north of the railroad tracks.

With a competent Downtown Business Association in place that actually admits there is a tree and parking problem, I think it's high time for the PDC to start focusing on the rest of the district. One of the biggest eyesores is all the overhead power lines and fiber optic cables that has given the Urban Renewal District the appearance of a third world country. The resurrection of the district should at least include an attempt to move the lines underground when the opportunity arises, when any new construction or major renovation occurs.

It never ceases to amaze me that there is such an emphasis to install handicapped accessible

curbs at all the new street corners and then pour a new sidewalk with power poles located dead center in the middle. Take a look at the missed opportunities at the new early learning center, both new elementary schools, the new Verizon store and city hall. Even the new cell tower installation near PGG sprouted a new power

It might be nice, since "grant seeking" has become such a vital part of city finances, to hit up Pacific Power & Light for a grant to finish installing the missing street lights on both the viaduct and the new overpass. Looks like a win-win situation for PP&L.

I, and probably all the residents of the URD, would like to know exactly how much the district's tax base has increased since an administrator was hired, as those residents are most likely paying the bill. Instead of a city solar farm and perhaps a windmill or two that would reduce or eliminate that \$195,000 street light power bill, we get proposals for dog runs and boat ramps that both reduce water quality in our river. What next? Maybe fill that big hole in Community Park. Now there's a thought.

Rick Rohde **Pendleton**

LETTERS POLICY