

YourCarMatters

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services April 2012 Newsletter

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News To Make You FURIOUS

Another visit with ALEC, with a Travon Martin update!





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News To Make You Furious

Another visit with ALEC... with a Travon Martin update!

Money Saving Programs

See our website for complete details

Carbon Neutral Program

Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and save 10% off labor cost!

Labor Lock Program

Pay today's prices for the rest of your life!

Planned Maintenance Package

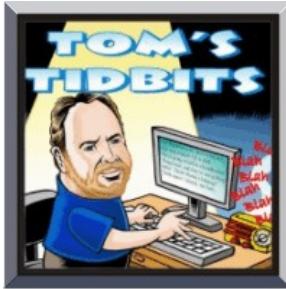
Get up to a 60% discount by buying your basic yearly maintenance services in advance

First-Time Clients ONLY!

Save \$75 to \$150 on our most thorough inspection!

Moneysaving Programs

To stretch your hard-earned dollars their farthest



Tom's Tidbits

Equal Protection is more than a good idea

Greetings!

Equal application of law is one of the most basic foundations of a functional society. Without equal justice there is no freedom. Without fair and consistent enforcement of the rules of any game, the door is open for some to take advantage and the rest to take offense. We all know that laws are applied differently in our society to white and black, rich and poor, insider and outsider, yet we all still cling to the idea of equal protection under the law.

The Travon Martin murder is consuming the news cycle because it touches on so many deeply sensitive issues in our society. The story is still rolling out and will undoubtedly change as it goes on, but some of the most fundamental questions it raises are about equal protection in our diseased justice system.

Murder might be the most egregious arena for unequal protection, but it's not the only one. Theft is a serious crime; when someone steals your wallet or your car we expect the law to punish them. What if someone steals your retirement, the equity in your house, or the retirement and equity of millions of other people? We want them punished, but can we still expect them to be punished? If not, then what kind of equal protection do we have?

Americans have fought and died for two centuries to defend idealistic principles like equal justice under the law. A justice system that favors particular groups or is used as a bludgeon against others is not a justice system. If we aren't able to feel the protection of law equally, then we'll feel the effects of our crumbling democracy.

Make a great day,

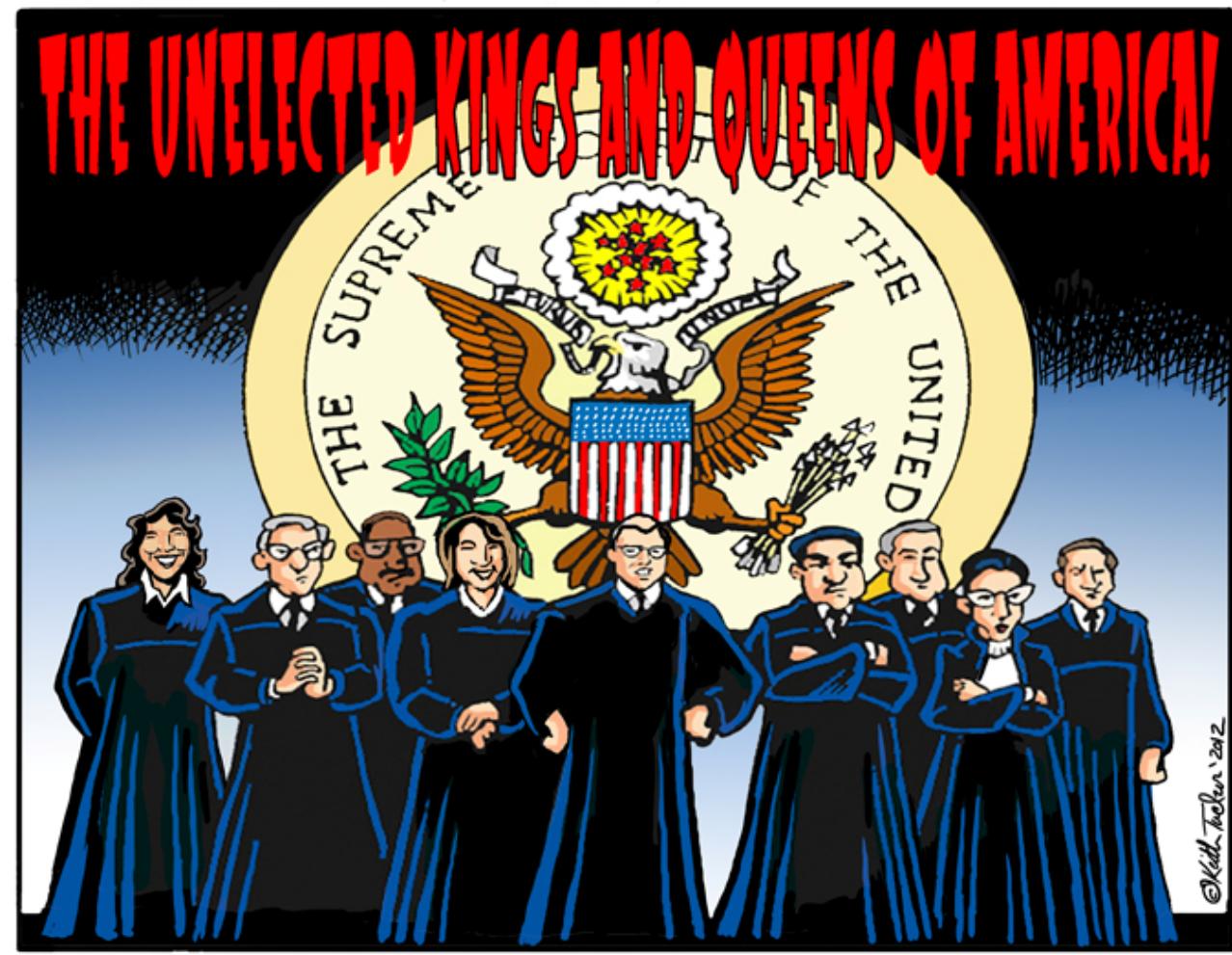
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

Tom



"What NOW?!!" Toons

You can't see this one anywhere but here



"WHAT NOW?!!"

© KEITH TUCKER
www.whatnowtoons.com



The Fighter With The Strong Left Hook

Meet Steve Novick, candidate for Portland City Council

If you haven't met [Steve Novick, candidate for Portland's City Council Position 4](#), you're missing out. We've known him as a Tom Dwyer client for years, but most people know Steve from his 2008 primary battle with Jeff Merkley to unseat Senator Gordon Smith. State primary battles don't usually make national news, but Steve's did. It wasn't the issues as much as the breakout style of his commercials: "[Beer with Steve](#)", "[To Tell The Truth](#)", and "[Not Prettier, Just Better](#)" have garnered over 250,000 views on YouTube and led to interviews on MSNBC, Fox, and more. He narrowly lost that election to now-Senator Merkley, but the State's loss could be the City's gain if Steve Novick's Progressive vision, energy, and integrity can find a seat on the City Council...

Steve was born in New Jersey in 1963, and his family moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon ten years later. Budget problems closed the Cottage Grove schools in 1976, but ninth-grader Steve was ready to move on anyway. He enrolled at the University of Oregon, graduated in 1981, and then went on to Harvard Law School where he earned his law degree at age 21. Steve worked briefly at law firms on both coasts before joining the Environment Division of the United States Department of Justice, litigating violations of the Clean Air and Water acts and serving as lead counsel on the Love Canal toxic waste cleanup.

In 1996 Steve came back home and continued to be a strong advocate for Oregon interests. His resume includes chief of staff for the Oregon Senate Democrats, the Center for Constructive Citizen Action's successful fight against Bill Sizemore's Measure 91, fighting waste in the Oregon Lottery, member of the Board of the Oregon Environmental Council for over a decade, and Program Committee of the Portland City Club. Steve now works with the Oregon Health Authority on ways to simplify the Medicaid application process, and is helping the state prepare for the Medicaid expansion when Obamacare takes effect in 2014.

We covered a lot of ground when we talked with Steve about his council run, but a couple of his ideas particularly stood out- his ideas on police funding and healthcare.

When it comes to police, Steve pointed out that the way the justice system is funded has a lot to do with how it meets the public. "It's currently a very disjointed system. The City hires the police, the County runs the jail, parole, drug, and mental health programs, and the State funds the prisons. They are all separate agencies with separate agendas, and it leads to each agency doing its own job without considering the impact on the other agencies. Police officers end up spending large amounts of their time as first responders to people with mental health issues rather than the jobs they are trained to do. I think the City, County, and State should sit down to combine their budgets into a lump-sum for public safety and set priorities and strategies within that budget." This would give the agencies flexibility in how they spend their dollars and how they work together to achieve their ends.

For instance, in a situation where an offender is eligible for a 5 year prison sentence a DA might (in consultation with the other agencies) choose 3 years of prison and 2 years of less-expensive ankle monitoring in order to make dollars available for treatment of 2 other mentally ill people who have had run-ins with the law. “An exception to that would be crimes like murder, rape, or other sexual assaults”, which would not be included in the lump-sum budget. “This is very much like Governor Kitzhaber’s approach to health care, in which the total amount of health care money can be balanced between ‘reactive’ and ‘preventative’ medicine”, making the patient’s total health care the goal.

Another of Steve’s proposals involves an innovative way to make Portland attractive to business “I don’t think strategies like cutting business taxes or building sports arenas are good for long term development. Businesses and people like the things that come from taxes, things like schools and roads. Sports are fine, but the kind of business you want to attract is the kind that sells goods to other people and brings the money back home.” Steve’s idea is based on an idea from Atlantic City where the casino workers union, which is self-insured, was looking for ways to cut costs. “They found that a large part of their cost was driven by a very small percentage of people. Consultants told them that if they could get this group of people to take better care of themselves they could see significant cost reduction.” So the union set up a free clinic staffed with a couple doctors and nurses, but focusing on health “coaches” who helped the problem clients remember medications, stay on exercise programs, modify their diets, and get to scheduled appointments. After twelve months in the program emergency room and hospital visits were down more than 40% and surgeries were down by 25%. The patients were healthier overall, they saw major improvements in blood pressure and cholesterol, and a significant percentage had stopped smoking.

“I read about this program and thought what a powerful it could be for the City in business development”, Steve said. He thinks the City could start a pilot program, similar to the Atlantic City model, for its own employees. From there the County and School Districts could join in, and form a network of these health coaching clinics. With the bugs worked and the benefits proven, the program could be offered to private employers as an incentive for relocation. “Most companies know health care is killing them, but unless you’re a very big company it doesn’t make sense to start a program like this individually. But if the City did it and was able to offer it, I bet a lot of businesses would be glad to come into the network.” As Steve points out, “one of the best things about the Atlantic City program was that it was an example of the union taking charge of their own future by thinking outside the box. It was a very ‘Portland’ solution.”

These are only a small sample of Steve’s unique and powerful ideas for Portland, but it should give you a good sense of his priorities and approach to complex problems. His website has much more detail on each, and also describes his plans to improve education, equity of city services, and more. Steve has built his career fighting to protect the environment, fighting for transparency in public spending, and fighting for effective and responsible government. He’s in another fight now, one to serve the people of Portland. We hope you’ll consider Steve and his passionate service in the May elections, and that you too will support Steve Novick, “the fighter with the strong left hook”.



Singing the Health Care Blues

Single Payer Blues Festival

Are you singing the Health Care blues? You're not alone. Millions of uninsured and underinsured Americans have been singing for years. The President and Congress sang all last year, and the Supreme Court joined in this month. But other people are singing as well... Norman Sylvester is singing, and so is the Lloyd Jones Struggle. LaRhonda Steel, Jim Mesi, and Sonny Hess are all singing, and for just one night it might be a good thing. The Inner City Blues Festival Reunion "Healing the Health Care Blues"

show, benefitting [Single Payer Health Care](#), is coming to the [Melody Ballroom](#) on April 14th, and you can be there too...

The Inner City Blues Festival has deep roots in Portland. It started as the "Jam for Jesse", a fundraiser for Jesse Jackson's 1988 run for president. The first venue was the Royal Esquire Club on NE Alberta, and for the next 15 years the Festival hit the hottest blues venues in Portland... Texas II, Shango's, Crystal Ballroom, Melody Ballroom and more. And the players! Blues enthusiasts could savor the sounds of Jim Mesi, Lloyd Jones, Norman Sylvester, Paulette Davis, Linda Hornbuckle, Duffy Bishop, Lilly Wilde, Janice Scroggins... the royalty of Northwest Blues turned out year after year to support a range of community causes. But time takes its toll on even the best events, and the Inner City Blues Festival closed its doors in 2003.

If there's a bright side to the national health care debate it's that it has inspired people to take action on behalf of single payer health care. It certainly struck a chord with the blues community in Portland. Writing for the Jazz Society of Oregon, Lynn Darroch explains "Musicians are used to playing benefits for colleagues with medical needs and no health insurance. But this time, they're being proactive -- they're playing a benefit concert for a movement that's designed to get them all covered. If the campaign for single payer health care in Oregon succeeds, musicians should never have to play a fund-raiser for an ailing colleague again." Norman Sylvester, also speaking to the Jazz Society, said "It's a humanitarian movement to advocate for change. Musicians basically try to stay neutral as far as politics go, but health care is a humanitarian thing. Everybody has to have a health care program. Where is the money for health care going to come from for a musician who has to haul his equipment across town, play four hours, and gets \$300 for the whole band? Health care is this astronomical iceberg, and we're on the Titanic now." Norman's putting his music where his mouth is with a [theme song he wrote for the movement called "HealthCare Blues"](#), and of course he'll be headlining the show in April.

With healthcare providing the impetus, the Inner City Blues Festival is returning to the spotlight after a seven year hiatus, and we want you to be a part. "Healing the Health Care Blues", the Inner City Blues Festival Reunion, hits the stage Saturday, April 14, from 7:00 pm to midnight at the Melody Ballroom. Proceeds from your \$15 ticket will go to the [Oregon Single Payer Health Care Campaign](#), and you can pick up tickets for yourself and all your friends at [Music Millennium](#), [Geneva's Shear Perfection](#), [Reflections Coffee and Bookstore](#), and [Pattie's Home Plate Cafe](#).

Single payer benefits everyone, and it needs everyone's help to work. [KPOJ Radio](#), [Portland Jobs with Justice](#), [Physicians for a National Health Program](#), [Health Care for All Oregon](#), [Mad as Hell Doctors](#), and [Tom Dwyer Automotive Services](#) are stepping up to sponsor this event. What will **you** do?

Inner City Blues Festival Reunion – Schedule

Saturday, April 14, 7:00 pm to midnight, at the
Melody Ballroom.

6:00 pm -- acoustic blues by guitarist Steve Cheseborough
in the Information and Sponsors Village area
7:00 -- Lenanne Sylvester-Miller & Janice Scroggins:
“Tribute to Lady Day”
7:40 -- Single Payer Health Care introduction
7:55 -- Lloyd Jones Struggle Band
8:55 -- Chatta Addy’s African Drumming Procession
9:20 -- Mad as Hell Doctors
9:30 -- Norman Sylvester Band with vocalists LaRhonda
Steele, Sarah Billings & Peter Moss
10:30 -- Shoehorn “Tap-dancing Sax player”
11:00 -- “All Star Blues Jam” including Sonny Hess, Bill
Rhoads, Jim Mesi, Lloyd Allen, Richard Arnold, and Seth
and Nico Cordova-Wind

Celebrity Announcers:

Paul “Mayor of North East” Knauls and Renee Mitchell.





The Fight To Ban DHMO

Hydric Acid found in food, water supplies, much more

DHMO, hydric acid, di-hydrogen monoxide... it goes by a lot of names. The media never talks about it, our politicians don't regulate it, and you've probably never heard of it before, but chances are you are unknowingly exposed to it every day. DHMO is widely used as coolant in nuclear reactors and is critical to the production of biological and chemical weapons, but it's also used in thousands of common food products. Like any industrial chemical it can and does escape into the larger environment. DHMO, known to be responsible for thousands of deaths each year worldwide, has been found in every lake, river, and stream in the US. And that's just the start...

Only one group, DHMO.org, is leading the fight to make people aware of this ubiquitous chemical. They have built an exhaustive website describing the history of DHMO, its uses, problems, health impact, environmental impacts, and more. If there is anything missing from the DHMO.org website, you may find it at this link to Uncyclopedia. And, no matter how unpopular the issue or dangerous the material, there is always a lobbying group in favor of it. Friends of Hydrogen Hydroxide has been formed to not only argue against DHMO regulation, but to actually increase its use. Check them out for the "other side" of a one-sided issue.

Really, the only way to get the full story on this underreported killer is to go to DHMO.org, but we'll give you some of the high points from their website below...

MSDS Data Sheet

Because DHMO is so common in industrial applications it has its own government-approved [Material Safety and Data Sheet \(MSDS\)](http://Material Safety and Data Sheet (MSDS)) with chemical properties, exposure rules, disposal procedures, and all the technical details necessary for anyone working with this potentially dangerous chemical.

Industrial Applications

- nuclear power plants
- production of Styrofoam
- biological and chemical weapons manufacture
- spray-on fire suppressant and retardant
- byproduct of hydrocarbon combustion in furnaces and air conditioning compressor operation
- cult rituals
- heroin addicts who often mix DHMO with heroin prior to injecting
- the Serbian military ethnic cleansing campaign
- many terrorist organizations
- community swimming pools to maintain chemical balance
- additive in homeopathic medicine
- animal-based research laboratories
- pesticide production and distribution
- US military in the torture of suspected terrorists
- transportation companies use containers on top of a dihydrogen monoxide and sodium chloride solution to transport goods, although purer dihydrogen monoxide has also been used

Food Production and Contamination

- Additive to food products, including jarred baby food and baby formula, and even in many soups, carbonated beverages and supposedly "all-natural" fruit juices
- Cough medicines and other liquid pharmaceuticals
- Spray-on oven cleaners
- Shampoos, shaving creams, deodorants and numerous other personal care products
- Bathtub bubble products marketed to children
- Preservative in grocery store fresh produce sections
- Production of beer by all the major beer distributors
- Coffee available at major coffee houses in the US and abroad
- Frequently used to clean food for packing, but food washed using DHMO frequently carries trace amounts

Health and Environmental Effects

- While DHMO has been shown to aid athletic performance under controlled situations, it can be deadly if swallowed in large enough quantities. It causes death within minutes when accidentally inhaled, even in small quantities. Thousands die from DHMO exposure worldwide every year.
- Prolonged exposure to solid DHMO causes severe tissue damage
- Excessive ingestion produces symptoms including excessive urination, bloating, cramping, and more
- DHMO is a major component of acid rain
- Gaseous DHMO can cause severe burns
- Contributes to soil erosion
- Leads to corrosion and oxidation of many metals
- Contamination of electrical systems often causes short-circuits
- Exposure decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes
- Found in biopsies of pre-cancerous tumors and lesions

Communities Fighting Back

Only one municipality, [Aliso Viejo, California](#), has made any attempt to ban DHMO on a large scale, but the campaign was abruptly stopped. The official reason given was a "paralegal who did bad research", but the influence of groups like Friends of Hydrogen Hydroxide may have played a role as well. No further attempt to regulate DHMO has been made since this first attempt was stamped out, either by Aliso Viejo or by any other municipality.

What Can You Do

If reading this article has you wondering how you can help in the fight against DHMO, look no further. [DHMO.org](#) is the central clearing house for all DHMO activism, and if anyone can put you to work it will be them. Beyond that, you can SPREAD THE WORD! Forward this story to your friends, and make sure everyone knows about DHMO, the silent killer spreading around the world.



Shop Talk

We've Changed Our Tire Rotation Policy

Tire maintenance is one of the most basic things you can do to keep your vehicle safe and dependable. Until recently, when you buy new tires we've put the new tires in the FRONT of the vehicle to keep the better traction with the steering wheels and the weight of the engine, and to extend the life of the older tires.

However, new information is making us change our policy. Research has shown that having the better treads on the BACK of the vehicle gives better stability in wet driving conditions, so from now on we'll be putting the new treads on the back unless you request otherwise. This month's Shop Talk will bring you some of the research and our new Tire Replacement Policy.

Here are the facts and research behind our decision

This first [link is to a video by Michelin](#) that gives the best explanation of the research. It compares two cars side-by-side on a controlled track with wet pavement, and you can really see the effect of the heavier tread in back. Here are other links to sources we respect, but they all tell the same story...

[Tire Rack.com- "Where to install new pairs of tires"](#)

[CarTalk.com- "Why should two new tires always go in the back?"](#)

[HondaTech.com- "Rotate your tires- Put best tread in back!"](#)

[Consumer Reports- "Help keep your vehicle's tires safe"](#)

[SaferCar.gov- "Tire Rotation"](#)

[YahooAnswers- "Where to put my two new tires to prevent hydroplaning?"](#)

[TireRack.com- "Where to Install New Pairs of Tires?"](#)



... and here is our new

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Tire Replacement and Rotation Policy

- Tires will be sold in sets of four when practical.
- New tires sold in pairs must be mounted in the back without informed consumer over-ride.
- Tires can only be rotated when differential wear is less than 3/32" and the remaining wear on the worst tire is 5/32" or greater. Tires with less than 5/32" can never be moved to the front of a vehicle.
- The policy is primarily for the installation of new pairs of tires. We will continue to try to extend the tire life of our client's vehicles thru consistent rotation just as before with the exceptions listed above.
- The new safety guide lines, while promoting safety, will consume tires unable to be rotated at an accelerated rate. Please buy tires in sets of four and take care of them to insure long life and safety.
- If you do want your tires mounted in a different pattern, you will be asked to sign a statement saying that you "...understand the safety implications and accept all liability to myself and others for requesting my tires to be rotated."



Health Notes-

New smaller batteries have new larger problems

Gone are the days of the clunky "D"-cell batteries. Today's slim and hyper-compact technology has slim and hyper-compact batteries to go with it, and the tiny batteries that were once seen in cameras, calculators, and hearing aids are showing up everywhere.

Variously called "coin batteries", "button batteries", or "watch batteries", they hold much more power in a smaller space than their predecessors but their new technology has also brought new dangers. Before we get into the details, please try this true/false quiz to gauge your knowledge of button battery dangers. (*Answers are at the end of the article*).



#1- I should not worry if my child swallows a button battery because they are similar in size and shape to a coin, and will likely pass through the intestines like a coin.

#2- I do not need to be concerned with my children gaining access, because the battery compartments on my kid's toys are secured with a screw.

#3- I am careful not to leave small items like individual button batteries where my child can reach them, so this will not be an issue for my family.

#4- My mom wears a hearing aid with a button battery but she should not worry because this is a child-related hazard.

#5- If I suspect that my child has swallowed a button battery, the first thing I should do is seek immediate medical attention.

#6- I should be concerned about other batteries sizes too.

As you can tell from the quiz the dangers of button batteries involve swallowing, but it's not the traditional choking hazard that causes the problem. These new battery designs use thinner walls than the older designs, and the metal is vulnerable to stomach acids. Also, the smaller batteries are more likely to "stick" in the digestive tract, increasing the exposure to the digestive juices. These facts combined mean a battery casing can rupture and release acid into the body, and the resulting burns can injure or kill.



Consumer Reports has put together a [video explaining the problems with button batteries](#). The video shows the types of products using these batteries and what you should be on the lookout for. (For instance, toys have rules for the closure and protection of batteries, but those musical greeting cards don't. Kids can EASILY get the batteries out of these cards). They also show the type of burns that these batteries can cause, using pieces of ham in a petri dish as a stand-in for a kid.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has released [guidelines to deal with the hazards of button batteries...](#)

- Discard button batteries carefully.
- Do not allow children to play with button batteries, and keep button batteries out of your child's reach.
- Caution hearing aid users to keep hearing aids and batteries out of the reach of children.
- Never put button batteries in your mouth for any reason as they are easily swallowed accidentally.
- Always check medications before ingesting them. Adults have swallowed button batteries mistaken for pills or tablets.
- Keep remotes and other electronics out of your child's reach if the battery compartments do not have a screw to secure them. Use tape to help secure the battery compartment.
- If a button battery is ingested, immediately seek medical attention. The National Battery Ingestion Hotline is available anytime at (202) 625-3333 (call collect if necessary), or call your poison center at (800) 222-1222.

Quiz Answers

Question 1- False

In some instances a button battery will pass. However, the button battery could become stuck or lodged in the throat. When this happens, the battery can cause chemical burns in as little as two hours. If you suspect that your child has swallowed a button battery, immediately seek medical attention. Immediately call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 or your poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

Question 2- False

It is true that the battery compartments on children's toys are secured with a screw, but adults must ensure that they are secured properly. Adults also should be aware that other non-child related items that are commonly left within a child's reach do not have screw-secured backs.

Some items with button batteries that are commonly left within a child's reach include: remote controls; bathroom scales; musical greeting cards, light-up watches, pens and jewelry, and video games

Question 3- False

While that is a great first step in protecting your children from this hazard, it is not the only concern. A recent study found that in more than 60 percent of the incidents involving children, the child was able to access the battery directly from the product. Children's toys and products are required to have screw locked battery compartments to prevent access. However, other products such as remote controls, game controls, and light-up pens and watches do not have to meet those same requirements. These products should be kept out of reach from children.

Question 4- False

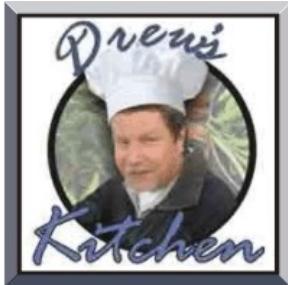
Adult consumers, particularly seniors, also have unintentionally swallowed button batteries. In these instances, the battery often was mistaken for a pill.

Question 5- True

If a button battery is swallowed, contact your local poison control center or your physician immediately. It is important to determine the type of cell that has been ingested and the location of the cell. Most ingested batteries will pass through the intestines without any difficulty. If symptoms indicate that a battery is lodged in the throat, complications are more likely and immediate removal is usually necessary. Immediately call your physician, the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 or your poison center at 1-800-222-1222.

Question 6- True

Other sizes, such as AAA batteries, are also an ingestion hazard and should be kept out of reach of young children.



Drew's Kitchen

Simple French Onion Soup

If the last two month's recipes have been a little challenging, here's something easier but still satisfying. I've tried French onion soup in a few restaurants and never liked it, probably because I ordered it at chain places that used a frozen or dehydrated recipe. This recipe uses fresh ingredients, basically beef broth and roasted onions. I always prefer fresh ingredients when cooking, so I decided to give this one a try. I liked the results, and I think you will too.

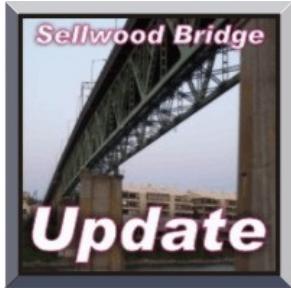
Ingredients

4-5 large onions, (abt 4 lbs, red and/or sweet)
2-4 sprigs fresh thyme
3-5 bay leaves
3-5 cloves garlic, minced
Kosher salt

Fresh ground black pepper
Flour, about 1/4 cup (see note below)
1-2 cups dry red wine
8 ounces beef broth

Directions

- Start by prepping the onions. Cut off both ends and cut them in half. Peel the outer layer, then cut into thin strips.
- Melt a few tablespoons of butter or fat (I use bacon fat) in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the onion, minced garlic, bay leaves and thyme and set heat to medium-low. Cook until the onions start to turn translucent without mixing them.
- Add salt and pepper. Turn the onions a few times to make sure everything gets some time on the bottom to caramelize. Don't worry too much about burning the onions; it produces a deep color and rich flavor.
- Add your wine to de-glaze the pan. Use the liquid and scrape any pieces off the bottom, and then cook the onions for several minutes. Stir frequently or until most of the wine is cooked off. Remove the thyme and bay leaves.
- Add enough flour to lightly coat the onions, about two tablespoons. Cook for about 5-10 minutes, until the dry flour taste is cooked out.
- Add beef broth. Simmer for 20 minutes to a half-hour and reduce the liquid to concentrate the flavor.
- Ladle into oven safe bowls and add croutons to the top to keep the cheese from sinking.
- Layer the cheese on top of the croutons. Lots of recipes call for gruyere, but it is usually expensive. Nice substitutes are deli sliced Swiss or Provolone cheese.
- Arrange the bowls on a baking sheet and broil for a couple of minutes, or until the cheese is bubbling and browned around the edges. Serve immediately.



Sellwood Bridge Update

Hurry up and wait

We looked around for something interesting about the obsolescent overpass, but there was just nothing. Construction got off to a good start but it will be in a holding pattern for a while. In-water work (any work that disturbs the river bottom) had to end February 15 in order to protect the Spring Chinook migration. Crews got a lot done before the cutoff, including driving 108 piles into the river bottom (some as deep as 155 feet) for the temporary detour bridge. Staff-Jennings is also completely gone. But, for now, construction will be limited to on-land construction and nothing much will change with the bridge itself. The in-water construction will be lifted in mid-July, so things will be ramping up again then.

In the meantime, if you need a Sellwood Bridge fix then the place to go is the main webpage for the project at www.sellwoodbridge.org. It's got more information than you could ever assimilate, including a [live camera](#), and a [time-lapse video](#) covering the construction.



This month's construction picture...

In-water construction is on hold, but that just means stuff that will disturb the river bottom. Surface and land work are still going on, as this picture of a tugboat moving construction platforms in front of the ex-Staff-Jennings site show.





Book Spotlight

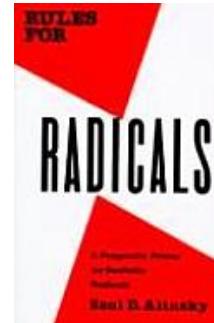
"Rules for Radicals" by Saul Alinsky

Flip on any media platform, and you won't have to wait long to hear the name Saul Alinsky. Alinsky was a community organizer who died over 40 years ago, but to hear Fox tell the tale he has been ruling the Democratic party from beyond the grave ever since. Our Book Spotlight this month offers you the chance to get to know the driving force behind the Maoist Communist Socialist Anti-Constitutional tidal wave that's sweeping the country by reading the actual words of the Left-Wing Radical Icon in his most famous book...

[Rules For Radicals](#) by Saul Alinsky

First published in 1971, *Rules for Radicals* is Saul Alinsky's impassioned counsel to young radicals on how to effect constructive social change and know "the difference between being a realistic radical and being a rhetorical one." Written in the midst of radical political developments whose direction Alinsky was one of the first to question, this volume exhibits his style at its best. Like Thomas Paine before him, Alinsky was able to combine, both in his person and his writing, the intensity of political engagement with an absolute insistence on rational political discourse and adherence to the American democratic tradition.

The father of modern community organization, Saul Alinsky taught a generation of activists and politicians how to effectively construct social change. In *Rules for Radicals*, Alinsky writes with passion and intelligence, carefully outlining "the difference between being a realistic radical and being a rhetorical one." Indispensable since its first publication in 1971, this book continues to inform and inspire all those who believe that political engagement is the key to maintaining America's democratic tradition.



(You may also be interested in these other books by Saul Alinsky...)

About the Author

Saul Alinsky was born in Chicago in 1909 and educated first in the streets of that city and then in its university. Graduate work at the University of Chicago in criminology introduced him to the Capone gang, and later to Joliet State Prison, where he studied prison life. He founded what is known today as the Alinsky ideology and Alinsky concepts of mass organization for power. His work in organizing the poor to fight for their rights as citizens has been internationally recognized. In the late 1930s he organized the Back of the Yards area in Chicago (the neighborhood made famous in Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle*). Subsequently, through the Industrial Areas Foundation which he began in 1940, Mr. Alinsky and his staff helped to organize communities not only in Chicago but throughout the country. He later turned his attentions to the middle class, creating a training institute for organizers. He died in 1972.



BONUS- Book excerpt- Alinsky's "13 Tactics for Radicals" -BONUS

1. Power is not only what you have, but what the enemy thinks you have.
2. Never go outside the expertise of your people. Doing so will cause insecurity, anxiety and uncertainty.
3. Whenever possible, go outside the expertise of the enemy.
4. Look for ways to increase insecurity and uncertainty. Make the opposition live up to their rules. No one can.
5. Ridicule is man's most potent weapon. It infuriates the enemy. Their reaction will render them ineffective.
6. A good tactic is one your people enjoy.
7. A tactic that lasts too long becomes a drag. Rabid interest has a relatively short shelf life.
8. Keep the pressure on, find different tactics and actions, and utilize all events as they happen for your purpose.
9. The threat is usually more terrifying than the thing itself.
10. The major premise for tactics is the development of the operations that will maintain a constant pressure upon the enemy.
11. If you push a negative hard and deep enough, it will break through into its counterside. It will become a positive.
12. The price of a successful attack is a constructive alternative.
13. Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it and polarize it. Make everyone believe all the angels are on one side and all the devils on the other side.



Humorousness

Because life's no fun without a few laughs

Like you, we get a few emails each month that make us smile... of course, we get a lot more that don't, but you won't see those here. You'll see jokes and riddles, cartoons and pictures, pretty much anything that will bring a giggle. We'll stay away from the raunchy or obscene, but humor is very subjective and if we DO run something that offends you, please remember that we probably weren't trying to. And of course, if you have any chuckles you'd like to share with our audience, just email them to TomDwyer@TomDwyer.com. And now, without further ado, we bring you this month's Humorousness! (And please, remember to tip your waiters and waitresses!)

Do-It-Yourself Car Repair

Whether your vehicle needs something now or needs something that can wait, we'll give you the straight story. But when your car needs something now and you just don't have the money to take care of it, you may need an "interim" fix. Take a look at these solutions from other people in the same situation, and you may find inspiration for your own car repairs... or improvements. By the way, we don't recommend any of these solutions!





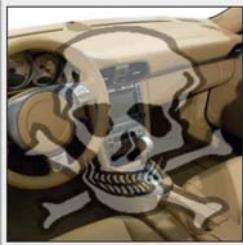


Popcorn Shorts

Cool or important stuff that's too short for a big article

Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. Bet you can't eat just one!

[Can that "New Car Smell" actually kill you?](#)



Can that "New Car smell" kill you?

The [Ecology Center](#), an environmental research and advocacy group, has released its [annual study on automotive toxic materials](#). They tested more than 200 model year 2011 and 2012 cars and found that long-term exposure to the chemicals in "New Car Smell" have been linked to major health problems including allergies, birth defects and cancer. On the bright side, they also find more automakers are switching to safer materials. You'll want to read the full report to find where your car ranks, but the 2012 Honda Civic was rated the least toxic while the 2011 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport was rated the worst.

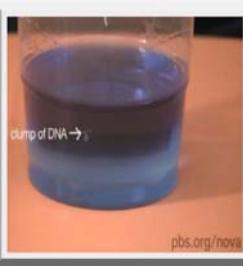
[Treknology is here to stay](#)



Treknology is here to stay

It's time you knew the ugly truth... we have a strong Trekkie contingent here on the *Your Car Matters* staff. When the iPad3 was released in March, the cry around here wasn't "Where can I get one?" but "WE TOLD YOU SO!" Just like Kirk's communicator became the cell phone, the PADDs introduced in *Star Trek-The Next Generation* have come to life as the iPad. There are two articles you might find interesting... the first tells [the story of how and why PADDs were influenced by the needs of television](#), and the second is a link to an [app at iTunes store that will give you the full LCARS interface and turn your lame iPad into a genuine 23rd century PADD](#). Live long and prosper!

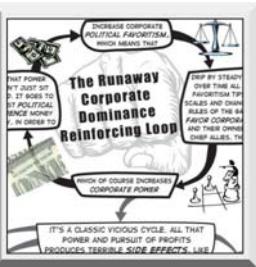
[Extract your own DNA](#)



Extract your own DNA

You know DNA is the cornerstone of life. Microscopic strands of DNA are coiled inside each cell of our bodies, where it lay hidden until Swiss physician Friedrich Miescher isolated it in 1869. Actual study and manipulation of DNA requires the highest tech equipment, but did you know you can extract your own DNA using nothing more complex than water, dish soap, salt, alcohol, and food coloring? This surprisingly short (2:46) [video from PBS Nova](#) shows you how, and you'll be on the road to your own private army of mutant clones before you know it.

[Living Wage Calculator](#)



Corporate Dominance Loop

Corporations might not be people (OK, they aren't people at all) but they do have their own DNA. Just as our own DNA governs every aspect of our lives, so corporations are governed by their founding goals and the laws that constrain them. What changes would be necessary to make corporations function in OUR interests rather than their own? The folks at [Thwink.org](#) have been trying to describe the problems of corporations and find workable solutions. They aren't there yet, but you may find their "thwinking" very interesting.



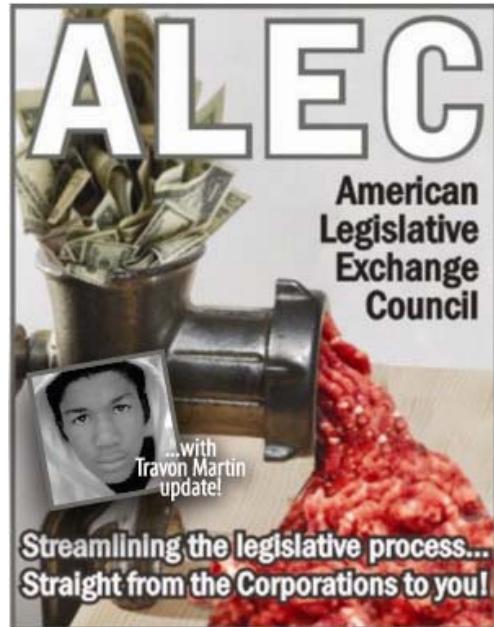
News To Make You Furious

Another Visit With ALEC... with a Travon Martin update!

In August, 2011, we introduced you to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the fine group of corporations working to lift the dirty burden of Democracy from our shoulders. The Travon Martin case shined a spotlight on the ALEC-backed "Stand Your Ground" law, so we thought it might be useful to take another look at this little known and very powerful organization. The original article is below, followed by articles specifically related to the Travon Martin case.

Original ALEC Article (August, 2011)

Most people have heard the "[I'm Just A Bill](#)" song on Schoolhouse Rock on Saturdays. In this somewhat simplified version of the legislative process, we learned that laws originate with citizens who contact their elected representatives to help them solve problems in their daily lives. However, this outdated, cumbersome process is well over 200 years old, and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has a much more modern way. They're aggressively taking us annoying citizens out of the legislative loop by providing a "forum" where representatives of industries and individual corporations write legislation and give it to state legislators for introduction in their states, all without mentioning ALEC. ALEC has quietly built a library of over 800 "model" bills on every conceivable legislative issue, and their alumni include luminaries like Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, House Speaker John Boehner, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, Senate Minority Whip John Kyl, and many more.



In July, 2011, a massive amount of internal ALEC data including model bills, resolutions, personnel, and more were leaked to [the Center for Media and Democracy](#), who built the website [ALECExposed.org](#) to make it available to the public at large. We've included a link to their site, but if you don't want to wade through all that text we've also included links to ALEC reporting from [The Nation](#) magazine, and two radio reports from [NPR](#) that can give you the basics to make you eye-buggingly, teeth-grindingly Furious.

["Shaping State Laws With Little Scrutiny"](#) 7-minute audio-only report by Laura Sullivan for NPR's "[Morning Edition](#)", October 29, 2010

["Who's Really Writing States' Legislation?"](#) 32-minute interview with The Nation's John Nichols by Terry Gross for NPR's "[Fresh Air](#)", July 21, 2011

[ALEC Exposed](#)- Exhaustive ALEC website from Center for Media and Democracy

[ALEC.org](#)- ALEC's own website

This is the [main ALEC article from The Nation](#), and the articles below are sub-articles linked to this main one

- [Business Domination](#)
- [Sabotaging Healthcare](#)
- [The Koch Connection](#)
- [Starving Public Schools](#)
- [Rigging Elections](#)

Travon Martin Update (2012)

As we write this the Travon Martin case is still unfolding, but one of the issues that has come out so far is Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, a little gem written by ALEC with guidance from the NRA. Before "Stand Your Ground" a person had a "duty to retreat", or to get out of a situation if possible without resorting to deadly force. Under "Stand Your Ground" a person does not have a duty to retreat, and can use deadly force if they "reasonably believe" such force is necessary. This is a much lower bar than past standards, making it easier to invoke self-defense as a legal defense in homicides. According to the *St. Petersburg Times*, in the five years before the law the state averaged 34 reported justifiable homicides a year. Two years after the law passed, there were 102, and two years after that, 105. Current reports on the Travon case indicate the lead investigator wanted to arrest Zimmerman on the night of the killing, but one of the reasons they gave for letting him go was that the prosecutor didn't think he could convict under the "Stand Your Ground" standard.

That's about what we can tell you briefly. Here are links to the details that will make you truly Furious...

[Lobbyists, Guns and Money](#), by Paul Krugman in the NY Times Opinion Page, lays out the involvement of ALEC in Florida and beyond.

[Five years since Florida enacted "stand-your-ground" law, justifiable homicides are up](#) by Ben Montgomery and Colleen Jenkins of the Tampa Bay Times describes the increase in "justifiable homicides" and their impact on real Floridians.

[The Law-Abiding Citizen](#) by Brian Morton in the Baltimore CityPaper explains the lower legal threshold of "reasonable belief"

[NRA pushed 'stand your ground' laws across the nation](#) by Susan Ferriss from the Center for Public Integrity describes the NRA's role in the law

[Group That Promotes 'Stand Your Ground' Laws Reportedly Funded by Microsoft, Amazon, Dell, AT&T, Dozens More](#) by Jon Ponder in the Pensito Review goes into detail on the states with "Stand Your Ground" laws and describes the boilerplate language of ALEC proposals.

[Stand Your Ground Was ALEC's Vision, Not the Founding Fathers](#)

By Rmuse on Politicususa describes how the "Castle Doctrine" morphed into "Stand Your Ground"