

YourCarMatters

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services

April 2013 Newsletter

Did You Hear About The Anti-Monsanto Rallies?



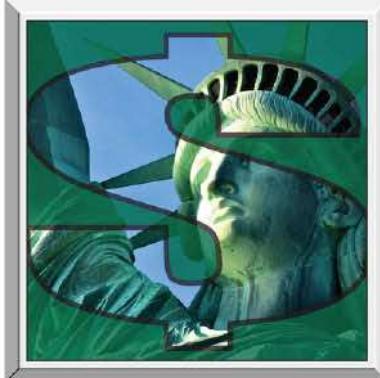
Neither did anyone else.

The Spotlight Falls On PHAME Again



"Bye Bye Birdie" hits the stage on June 22

What ISN'T For Sale?



Are there some things beyond price? Should there be?



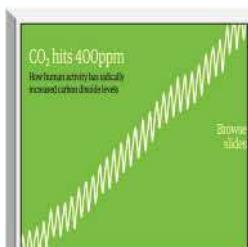
How to take control of your buying choices



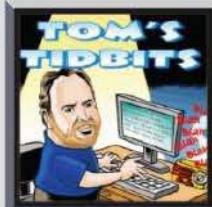
Comparing Presidential civil liberties records



Who knew you could even train penguins?



Understanding the new atmospheric normal



Obama's scandals cripple needed action



See it here first! Our special Tucker Toon!



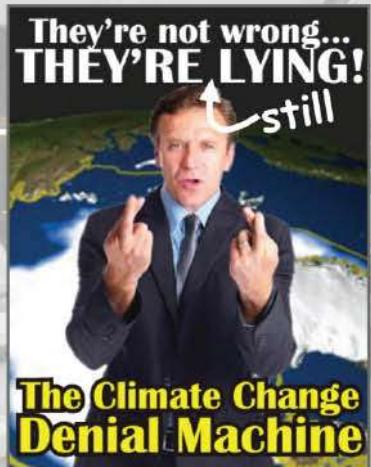
Pork and portobello burgers



Rodent of the month

News To Make You Furious

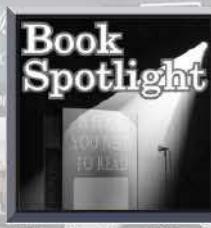
Global warming lies in Rupert Murdoch's Wall Street Journal



To keep you operating at your best



Construction continuing smoothly



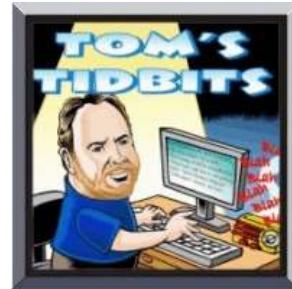
"The Death and Life of American Journalism"



Engineering humor... the ultimate oxymoron

Tom's Tidbits

Obama's scandals cripple needed action



Greetings!

It's been a rough month for the Obama administration as they fight scandals on all fronts. Whether it's because of RepubliCon obstruction and grandstanding or the administration's own ineptitude, the focus on these scandals prevents any action on the real issues facing our nation. And the American people are the ones who will suffer for it.

The attack on the embassy in Benghazi was an attack on our country and a failure of security that rightfully deserves investigation. Just as the NTSB dissects every aspect of a plane crash to prevent it from happening again, we need to learn everything we can about the failures in Benghazi to keep our people safe in the future. But the RepubliCons have turned what could have been an informative inquiry into a witch hunt focused on insignificant details. They've eliminated the possibility of any useful outcome, and our foreign service will pay the price down the line.

If the IRS was being used by the administration as a political cudgel against anyone, that's an abuse that can't be ignored. But despite Darrell Issa's vague assertions, there doesn't seem to be any evidence that Obama was involved. And the whole scandal hinges on the idea that the IRS behaved inappropriately. 501c-4 groups are supposed to be social welfare groups (wink wink), not political action groups. Since the Tea Party is an unashamedly political movement, it might seem logical to look closely before giving them tax exemptions. But, since the question is "who's being targeted" instead of "why do obviously political groups get tax exempt status to begin with", we can't do anything about the flood of anonymous money corrupting whatever remains of our democracy.

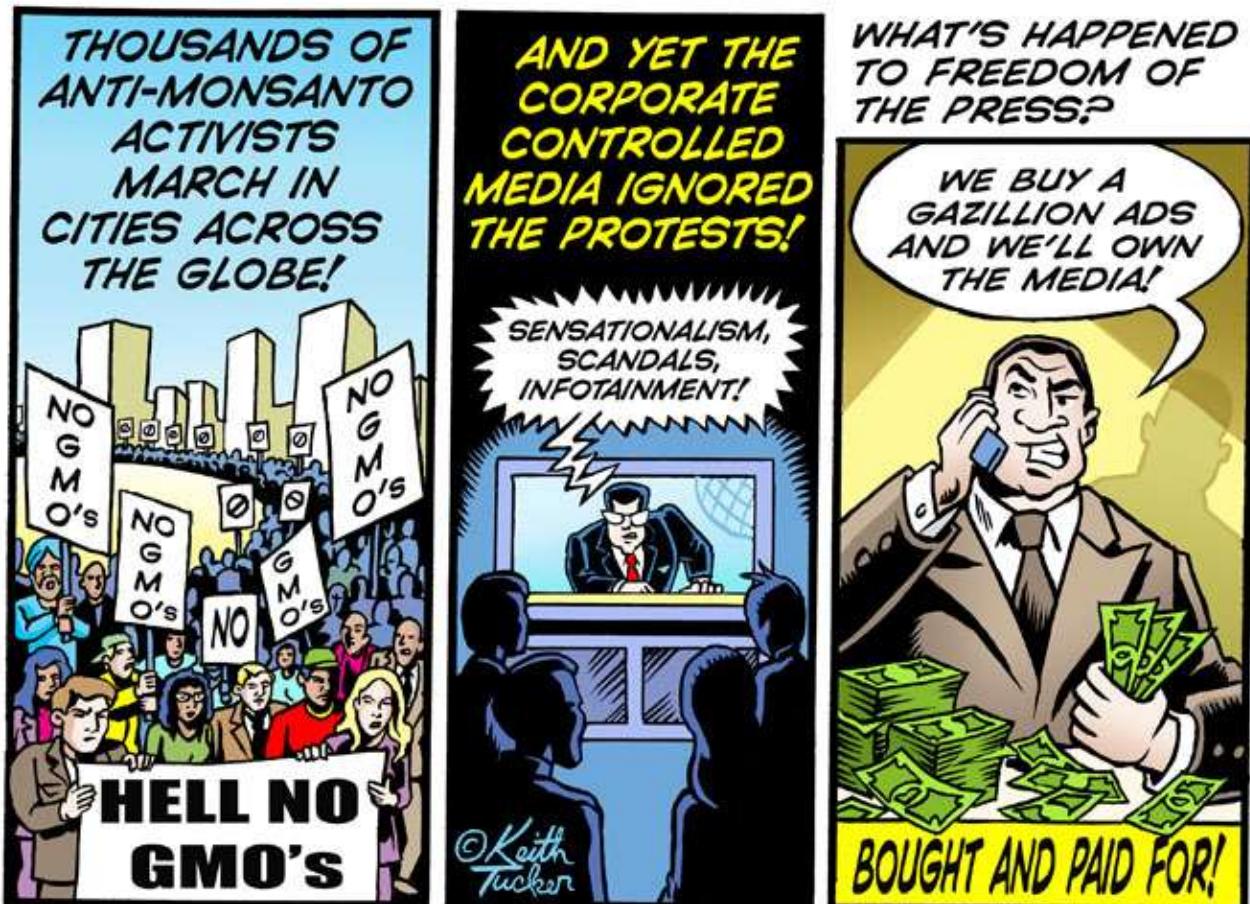
The AP scandal, to me, seems the most valid of the three major scandals hamstringing Obama right now. It highlights the struggle of any remaining shreds of real reporting to remain free. This story, along with Obama's track record on whistleblowers, the travesty of Bradley Manning, and the continuation of the Bush-era wiretap policies, all point to the death of our First Amendment under the pressures of the Security State. But if the other scandals are any guide the emphasis will be on political positioning instead of increasing the governmental transparency and public oversight necessary to stop Big Brother.

Finally, just the existence of these scandals makes it impossible to address any other legitimate issues. Senator Chuck Grassley sang the song perfectly. When asked about Obama's nomination of three Federal judges at once to highlight the GOP's obstruction of judicial nominations, Grassley immediately replied that this was "an effort for the president to direct attention away from Benghazi and IRS and AP reporters being harassed by the Justice Department". It's a depressing refrain that we're likely to hear again and again as the summer wears on, and the action we need remains undone.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

What NOW?!! Toons

See it FIRST in Your Car Matters!



"WHAT NOW?!!"

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Did you hear about the anti-Monsanto rallies?

Neither did anyone else.

On May 25, a coordinated series of “March Against Monsanto” rallies were held in 436 cities in 52 countries around the world, drawing over 2 million participants. Monsanto is a globe-straddling behemoth that has destroyed lives in India, throttled family farms in America, corrupted our justice system, and is trying to force their genetically modified products down the throats of people around the world. You’d think that if millions of people band together to fight them it might draw a little media attention but no, the only sound to be heard from the Fourth Estate was the chirping of genetically modified crickets...

If these rallies are news to you, you’re not alone. If you Google “News for anti-Monsanto rallies” you’ll find 390 groups covered the event worldwide; these were mostly reports from local news outlets where the protests happened. Even our own KOIN local news had a report on the [Portland rally](#) that drew 6000 people. But look at the national news... ABC, NBC, and CBS all ran the same anemic [AP wire report](#) (which was also the bulk of the local coverage). FOX, unsurprisingly, had nothing at all, but the “liberal media” bastions NPR and MSNBC ran with the same AP report the major networks did. Compare this to the wall-to-wall coverage that accompanies every belch of the 67,000-member Tea Party, even [rallies as small as a dozen people](#).

No one can rely on our fractured and corporate-funded media environment to stay informed. It’s up to individuals to seek out information on important issues, and in our opinion the fight against Monsanto is one of the most important issues out there. With that in mind, here are a few links that will help you learn about this powerful force shaping our society. If you agree this is an important issue, they you’ll also appreciate the links to things you can do to get involved. (And really, what does it say about the state of our media that you’re learning about this from your mechanic?)

[We Can't Let Monsanto Win on Genetically Modified Food](#)

Monsanto has been victorious in court, Congress and the White House. Protests will need to grow to stop them. *By Sadhbh Walshe, posted on Common Dreams May 29, 2013*

[Senate rejects GM food labeling amendment to farm bill](#)

Bernie Sanders of Vermont says he will continue to push for declaration on packaging of genetically modified ingredients. *The Guardian, May 23, 2013*

[GMO Food Debate In The National Spotlight](#)

While GM ingredients have only been on the market in America for around 20 years, they’re already sparking national controversy, as people wonder what the potential impacts could be on the environment and our health. *By Rachel Hennessey in Forbes Magazine, 11/3/2012*

[The Monsanto Protection Act](#)

Written anonymously, the Monsanto Protection Act allows corporations to sell genetically-modified seeds even when federal



courts have blocked them from doing so. *Summary and examination from Snopes.com, May 29, 2013*

[Repeal the Monsanto Protection Act](#)

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley proposed an amendment to the Farm Bill that would repeal the Monsanto Protection Act. Sign his petition here to demand a vote in the U.S. Senate that would end this outrageous special interest override of judicial decisions. *Senator Merkley's website*

[The Real Monsanto Protection Act: How The GMO Giant Corrupts Regulators And Consolidates Its Power](#)

The Monsanto Protection Act is merely a drop in the bucket of government-embedded protections the agricultural giant already enjoys. The company has spent decades packing the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency with its own members... *by Aviva Shen on ThinkProgress, April 10, 2013*

[The Organic Consumers Association](#)

This group offers a constant feed on Monsanto, its activities, and ways to take action

The Spotlight Falls On PHAME Again

"Bye Bye Birdie" opens June 22

Not to overstate the matter, but PHAME Academy is everything good about Portland wrapped up into one enthusiastically musical, toe-tapping, inspirational, exuberant package. Founded by Carol Stady in 1984 to offer developmentally disabled people an alternative to Special Olympics, PHAME remains the only program of its kind in the country. It focuses on music, theater, and art, but also offers classes in creative writing, songwriting, yoga, and much more. We're proud to have been associated with PHAME for many years, and very proud to [invite you to their 2013 production of "Bye, Bye, Birdie"](#), opening June 22 at Mount Hood Community College Mainstage Theatre...

Originally titled "Let's Go Steady", "Bye, Bye, Birdie" is a satire on American society set in 1958. It was inspired by Elvis Presley's 1957 draft into the Army. The rock star character's name, "Conrad Birdie," is word play on the name of Conway Twitty, who, although remembered today as a country music star, was one of Presley's rock 'n' roll rivals in the late 50's. The original Broadway production won a Tony Award, and spawned a London production, several major revivals, a sequel, a 1963 film and a 1995 television production.

Of the cast of 41 PHAME student performers, three make their PHAME main stage debut with this production: Cam Childs, Henry Newson and JJ Ross. The production is directed by PHAME Artistic Director Jessica Dart, with musical direction by PHAME Music Director Matthew Gailey, and choreography by Heath Houghton. [Tickets are on sale now!](#)

***** Starring *****

Aaron Hobson as Conrad Birdie
Bethany Ide as Rose Alvarez
Cam Childs as Albert Peterson
Kaitlin Mullins as Mrs. Mae Peterson
Michael Goodling as Mr. MacAfee
Lea Mulligan as Mrs. MacAfee
Anne-Marie Plass as Kim MacAfee
Jason Young as Randolph MacAfee

Kyle Brushwein as Hugo Peabody
Brenda Bargmann as Gloria Rasputin
Chad Bode as Lee
David Hutzler as the Mayor
Jason Marick as Harvey Johnson
Rebekah Dawkins as Ursula Merkle

Josie Newhall as Mrs. Merkle
Abbi Dunham as Deborah Sue
Kate Ehlen as Phyllis
Kim Forrer as Margie
Melissa Halstead as Nancy
Barbie Kragrud as Helen
Nikki Lane as Alice
Debby McKnight as Edna

Parent Chorus:

Brenda Bargmann, Chad Bode, Katie Carlsen, Kate Ehlen, Edward Elder, Rebecca Folk, Pat Hansen, Jerry Hathaway, David Hutzler, Stacy Kane, Lainie Long, Austin Mansfield, Beth Markley, Debby McKnight, Josie Newhall, Stacy Rance, Elena Wilkins

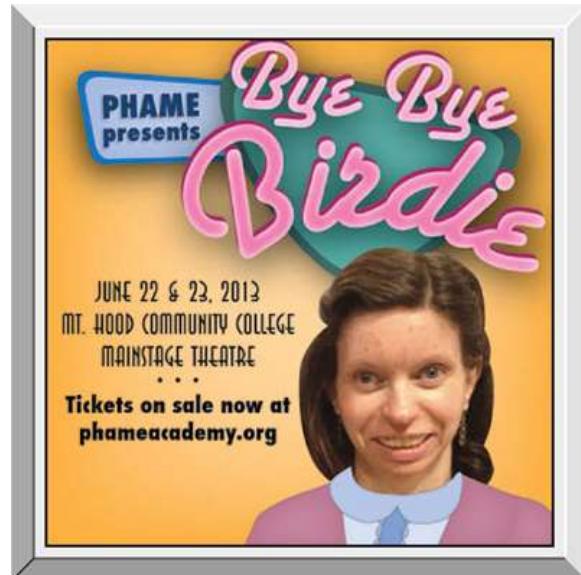
Teen Chorus:

Abbi Dunham, Ross Edwards, Chrystal Figueroa, Kim Forrer, Melissa Halstead, Julie Jones, Estin Kiger, Barbie Kragrud, Nikki Lane, Jason Marick, Henry Newson, Kara Romanaggi, JJ Ross, Jamie Schmer

Bye Bye Birdie is a stage musical with a book by Michael Stewart, lyrics by Lee Adams, and music by Charles Strouse.

SPECIAL SECRET BONUS ARTICLE!!!

[PHAME comes to Hillsboro: Kaitlin Mullins of Hillsboro loves performing with the Portland program for adults with disabilities](#) By JoAnn Boatwright, The Hillsboro Argus, March 16, 2012, updated March 16, 2012 at 2:11 PM



What ISN'T for sale?

Are there some things beyond price? Should there be?

As an independent business, we're big fans of a market-based economic economy, and we know that profit is a heck of a motivator. The better service we provide the more profit we make, so we can grow, prosper, and provide better service for even more people. If we fail on our promises to you, you'll rightly go elsewhere and take our profit with you. It's a self-reinforcing cycle that drives innovation, excellence, and growth. But not everything can (or should) be motivated by profit. If, for example, "freedom isn't free", how can you put a dollar value on it? Can we have freedom if the only motivation to defend it is profit?

The decision (and it IS a decision) about whether something should or should not be profit-motivated doesn't have to be arbitrary; it's possible to set rational rules for where a profit motive makes sense. This month we'd like to bring you an article by Michael J. Sandel, a political philosopher at Harvard, in which he lays out some startling ideas on what things should be profit-driven, which shouldn't, and most importantly, how to tell the difference...



What Isn't for Sale?

Market thinking so permeates our lives that we barely notice it anymore. A leading philosopher sums up the hidden costs of a price-tag society. *By Michael Sandel in the Atlantic, Feb 27, 2012*

THERE ARE SOME THINGS money can't buy—but these days, not many. Almost everything is up for sale. For example:

- *A prison-cell upgrade: \$90 a night.* In Santa Ana, California, and some other cities, nonviolent offenders can pay for a clean, quiet jail cell, without any non-paying prisoners to disturb them.
- *Access to the carpool lane while driving solo: \$8.* Minneapolis, San Diego, Houston, Seattle, and other cities have sought to ease traffic congestion by letting solo drivers pay to drive in carpool lanes, at rates that vary according to traffic.
- *The services of an Indian surrogate mother: \$8,000.* Western couples seeking surrogates increasingly outsource the job to India, and the price is less than one-third the going rate in the United States.

- *The right to shoot an endangered black rhino: \$250,000.* South Africa has begun letting some ranchers sell hunters the right to kill a limited number of rhinos, to give the ranchers an incentive to raise and protect the endangered species.
- *Your doctor's cellphone number: \$1,500 and up per year.* A growing number of "concierge" doctors offer cellphone access and same-day appointments for patients willing to pay annual fees ranging from \$1,500 to \$25,000.
- *The right to emit a metric ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere: \$10.50.* The European Union runs a carbon-dioxide-emissions market that enables companies to buy and sell the right to pollute.
- *The right to immigrate to the United States: \$500,000.* Foreigners who invest \$500,000 and create at least 10 full-time jobs in an area of high

unemployment are eligible for a green card that entitles them to permanent residency.

NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD to buy these things. But today there are lots of new ways to make money. If you need to earn some extra cash, here are some novel possibilities:

- *Sell space on your forehead to display commercial advertising: \$10,000.* A single mother in Utah who needed money for her son's education was paid \$10,000 by an online casino to install a permanent tattoo of the casino's Web address on her forehead. Temporary tattoo ads earn less.
- *Serve as a human guinea pig in a drug-safety trial for a pharmaceutical company: \$7,500.* The pay can be higher or lower, depending on the invasiveness of the procedure used to test the drug's effect and the discomfort involved.
- *Fight in Somalia or Afghanistan for a private military contractor: up to \$1,000 a day.* The pay varies according to qualifications, experience, and nationality.
- *Stand in line overnight on Capitol Hill to hold a place for a lobbyist who wants to attend a congressional hearing: \$15–\$20 an hour.* Lobbyists pay line-standing companies, who hire homeless people and others to queue up.
- *If you are a second-grader in an underachieving Dallas school, read a book: \$2.* To encourage reading, schools pay kids for each book they read.

WE LIVE IN A TIME when almost everything can be bought and sold. Over the past three decades, markets—and market values—have come to govern our lives as never before. We did not arrive at this condition through any deliberate choice. It is almost as if it came upon us.

As the Cold War ended, markets and market thinking enjoyed unrivaled prestige, and understandably so. No other mechanism for organizing the production and distribution of goods had proved as successful at generating affluence and prosperity. And yet even as growing numbers of countries around the world embraced market mechanisms in the operation of their economies, something else was happening. Market values were coming to play a greater and greater role in social life. Economics was becoming an imperial domain.

Today, the logic of buying and selling no longer applies to material goods alone. It increasingly governs the whole of life.

The years leading up to the financial crisis of 2008 were a heady time of market faith and deregulation—an era of market triumphalism. The era began in the early 1980s, when Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher proclaimed their conviction that markets, not government, held the key to prosperity and freedom. And it continued into the 1990s with the market-friendly liberalism of Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, who moderated but consolidated the faith that markets are the primary means for achieving the public good.

Today, that faith is in question. The financial crisis did more than cast doubt on the ability of markets to allocate risk efficiently. It also prompted a widespread sense that markets have become detached from morals, and that we need to somehow reconnect the two. But it's not obvious what this would mean, or how we should go about it.

Some say the moral failing at the heart of market triumphalism was greed, which led to irresponsible risk-taking. The solution, according to this view, is to rein in greed, insist on greater integrity and responsibility among bankers and Wall Street executives, and enact sensible regulations to prevent a similar crisis from happening again.

This is, at best, a partial diagnosis. While it is certainly true that greed played a role in the financial crisis, something bigger was and is at stake. The most fateful change that unfolded during the past three decades was not an increase in greed. It was the reach of markets, and of market values, into spheres of life traditionally governed by nonmarket norms. To contend with this condition, we need to do more than inveigh against greed; we need to have a public debate about where markets belong—and where they don't.

Consider, for example, the proliferation of for-profit schools, hospitals, and prisons, and the outsourcing of war to private military contractors. (In Iraq and Afghanistan, private contractors have actually outnumbered U.S. military troops.) Consider the eclipse of public police forces by private security firms—especially in the U.S. and the U.K., where the number of private guards is almost twice the number of public police officers.

Or consider the pharmaceutical companies' aggressive marketing of prescription drugs directly to consumers, a practice now prevalent in the U.S. but prohibited in most other countries. (If you've ever seen the television commercials on the evening news, you could be forgiven for thinking that the greatest health crisis in the world is not malaria or river blindness or sleeping sickness but an epidemic of erectile dysfunction.)

Consider too the reach of commercial advertising into public schools, from buses to corridors to cafeterias; the sale of "naming rights" to parks and civic spaces; the blurred boundaries, within journalism, between news and advertising, likely to blur further as newspapers and magazines struggle to survive; the marketing of "designer" eggs and sperm for assisted reproduction; the buying and selling, by companies and countries, of the right to pollute; a system of campaign finance in the U.S. that comes close to permitting the buying and selling of elections.

These uses of markets to allocate health, education, public safety, national security, criminal justice, environmental protection, recreation, procreation, and other social goods were for the most part unheard-of 30 years ago. Today, we take them largely for granted.

Why worry that we are moving toward a society in which everything is up for sale?

For two reasons. One is about inequality, the other about corruption. First, consider inequality. In a society where everything is for sale, life is harder for those of modest means. The more money can buy, the more affluence—or the lack of it—matters. If the only advantage of affluence were the ability to afford yachts, sports cars, and fancy vacations, inequalities of income and wealth would matter less than they do today. But as money comes to buy more and more, the distribution of income and wealth looms larger.

The second reason we should hesitate to put everything up for sale is more difficult to describe. It is not about inequality and fairness but about the corrosive tendency of markets. Putting a price on the good things in life can corrupt them. That's because markets don't only allocate goods; they express and promote certain attitudes toward the goods being exchanged. Paying kids to read books might get them to read more, but might also teach

them to regard reading as a chore rather than a source of intrinsic satisfaction. Hiring foreign mercenaries to fight our wars might spare the lives of our citizens, but might also corrupt the meaning of citizenship.

Economists often assume that markets are inert, that they do not affect the goods being exchanged. But this is untrue. Markets leave their mark. Sometimes, market values crowd out nonmarket values worth caring about.

When we decide that certain goods may be bought and sold, we decide, at least implicitly, that it is appropriate to treat them as commodities, as instruments of profit and use. But not all goods are properly valued in this way. The most obvious example is human beings. Slavery was appalling because it treated human beings as a commodity, to be bought and sold at auction. Such treatment fails to value human beings as persons, worthy of dignity and respect; it sees them as instruments of gain and objects of use.

Something similar can be said of other cherished goods and practices. We don't allow children to be bought and sold, no matter how difficult the process of adoption can be or how willing impatient prospective parents might be. Even if the prospective buyers would treat the child responsibly, we worry that a market in children would express and promote the wrong way of valuing them. Children are properly regarded not as consumer goods but as beings worthy of love and care. Or consider the rights and obligations of citizenship. If you are called to jury duty, you can't hire a substitute to take your place. Nor do we allow citizens to sell their votes, even though others might be eager to buy them. Why not? Because we believe that civic duties are not private property but public responsibilities. To outsource them is to demean them, to value them in the wrong way.

These examples illustrate a broader point: some of the good things in life are degraded if turned into commodities. So to decide where the market belongs, and where it should be kept at a distance, we have to decide how to value the goods in question—health, education, family life, nature, art, civic duties, and so on. These are moral and political questions, not merely economic ones. To resolve them, we have to debate, case by case, the moral meaning of these goods, and the proper way of valuing them.

This is a debate we didn't have during the era of market triumphalism. As a result, without quite realizing it—without ever deciding to do so—we drifted from having a market economy to being a market society.

The difference is this: A market economy is a tool—a valuable and effective tool—for organizing productive activity. A market society is a way of life in which market values seep into every aspect of human endeavor. It's a place where social relations are made over in the image of the market.

The great missing debate in contemporary politics is about the role and reach of markets. Do we want a market economy, or a market society? What role should markets play in public life and personal relations? How can we decide which goods should be bought and sold, and which should be governed by nonmarket values? Where should money's writ not run?

Even if you agree that we need to grapple with big questions about the morality of markets, you might doubt that our public discourse is up to the task. It's a legitimate worry. At a time when political argument consists mainly of shouting matches on cable television, partisan vitriol on talk radio, and ideological food fights on the floor of Congress, it's hard to imagine a reasoned public debate about such controversial moral questions as the right way to value procreation, children, education, health, the environment, citizenship, and other goods. I believe such a debate is possible, but only if we are willing to broaden the terms of our public discourse and grapple more explicitly with competing notions of the good life.

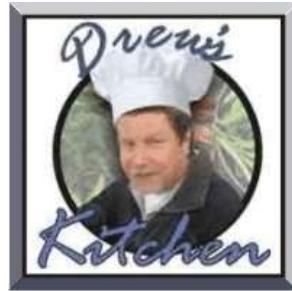
In hopes of avoiding sectarian strife, we often insist that citizens leave their moral and spiritual convictions behind when they enter the public

square. But the reluctance to admit arguments about the good life into politics has had an unanticipated consequence. It has helped prepare the way for market triumphalism, and for the continuing hold of market reasoning.

In its own way, market reasoning also empties public life of moral argument. Part of the appeal of markets is that they don't pass judgment on the preferences they satisfy. They don't ask whether some ways of valuing goods are higher, or worthier, than others. If someone is willing to pay for sex, or a kidney, and a consenting adult is willing to sell, the only question the economist asks is "How much?" Markets don't wag fingers. They don't discriminate between worthy preferences and unworthy ones. Each party to a deal decides for him- or herself what value to place on the things being exchanged.

This nonjudgmental stance toward values lies at the heart of market reasoning, and explains much of its appeal. But our reluctance to engage in moral and spiritual argument, together with our embrace of markets, has exacted a heavy price: it has drained public discourse of moral and civic energy, and contributed to the technocratic, managerial politics afflicting many societies today.

A debate about the moral limits of markets would enable us to decide, as a society, where markets serve the public good and where they do not belong. Thinking through the appropriate place of markets requires that we reason together, in public, about the right way to value the social goods we prize. It would be folly to expect that a more morally robust public discourse, even at its best, would lead to agreement on every contested question. But it would make for a healthier public life. And it would make us more aware of the price we pay for living in a society where everything is up for sale.



Last month Drew brought you a delectable grilled pork chop recipe, and in April it was the Mushroom Extravaganza. This month he brings pork and mushrooms together to create another unique treat that will make your grill the envy of the neighborhood. Perhaps he should call this recipe... "Porkobello" Burgers?

If that bad pun didn't ruin your appetite, then dig right in!

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary, fennel seed, or parsley
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 4 large Portobello mushroom caps, stems removed
- Olive oil
- 4 burger buns
- Any burger fixings you like

Directions

- Prepare a grill; the heat should be medium-high and the rack about 4 inches from the heat.
- Combine the ground pork, garlic, rosemary, and a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Use a spoon to lightly scrape away the gills of the mushrooms and hollow them slightly.
- Drizzle the mushrooms (inside and out) with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Press $\frac{1}{4}$ of the mixture into each of the hollow sides of the mushrooms; you want the meat to spread all the way across the width of the mushrooms. They should look like burgers.
- Grill the burgers, meat side down, until the pork is well browned (4-6 minutes). Flip and cook until the top sides of the mushrooms are browned and the mushrooms are tender, (another 6-8 minutes). If you like, use an instant-read thermometer to check the interior temperature of the pork, which should be a minimum of 145 degrees.
- Serve the burgers on buns (toasted, if you like) with any fixings you like.

Time: 30 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

Shop Talk

Rodent of the month



The spring and summer is our busiest time here at the shop, which presents us with a bit of a dilemma. We love to be busy, but we also know a full schedule can occasionally cause inconvenience when we can't get you an appointment as soon as you'd like. This month it's especially important to remind you to **schedule your vehicle work as far as possible in advance of any big trip you're planning**. This ensures we'll have an appointment for you when you want it, that we'll have time to make any needed repairs, and that you'll be able to test-drive the repairs to make sure they were done correctly.

One more reminder... we're in the middle of **Free Carwash Season!** To make up for the dust in our parking lot during the dry summer months, from May 15 to September 15 each year we offer **free carwash coupons to WashMan**. We can't give one with minor services like oil changes, but for most visits you can have a clean car on us. Make sure you don't get left out!

Rodent of the Month-

If you're a rat, your dream house is something dry, warm, and safe from predators. Unfortunately, that also describes a car's engine. We occasionally find rats, mice, chipmunks, and other little furry creatures that have made a bad choice in real estate and paid for it with their lives. Here's one we pulled out this month that had made its home behind the vehicle's bumper. Not much we can say about this other than it's vaguely interesting, and that that odd smell from your vehicle may not always be something mechanical.



Health Notes

Walk your way to health



Finally, finally, FINALLY it looks like the good weather is back! Come October, are you going to look back on this spring and summer as a wasted opportunity or the time you got out and enjoyed every beautiful day? Camping, sailing, biking, windsurfing and all the rest are wonderful, but you don't have to invest in time, training, or equipment to enjoy the Great Northwest Outdoors. There's an exercise that can get you out today, no matter what shape you're in, and that can bring challenges and benefits for the rest of your life.

One of our favorite authors, Thom Hartman, has a lot to say about the benefits of walking. In his book "[Walking Your Blues Away: How to Heal the Mind and Create Emotional Well Being](#)", Thom says:

"Walking may well be the best single exercise there is for human beings. We're designed to walk. Through most of our history, we walked several miles a day in search of food, water, and firewood- as indigenous people do to this very day. Unlike running, walking rarely causes injuries. Not only are our bodies designed to be able to walk, they *require* walking to work right."

If you want to start walking the healthy road, we'd like to help. First, make sure you get your doctor's advice before beginning any exercise program. As safe as walking is, it's still possible that it could aggravate some pre-existing or hidden condition. Assuming you're good to go, then here are some good resources to get you started...

[The Walking Site](#) has a great primer for starting a walking program. It's got good info for beginners, as well as advice on how to ramp it up when you're ready. [The Mayo Clinic's 12-week walking schedule](#) is good if you're ready to commit rather than just putting your big toe in, and [Wonders of Walking](#) has much more in-depth information as you find yourself becoming addicted.

One of the best things about walking for exercise is the social aspect. It's much more fun exercising with other people, and having someone else committed to your program can help keep you on track when you'd rather be sleeping in. If you can't convince a friend to join you then it's time to get more friends, and [Oregon Walks](#) and the [American Heart Association](#) are two of the many resources that can introduce you to people who care about walking.

It's just that simple to start a walking program, and the benefits will last the rest of your life. As they say in that classic walking song from 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town', "Put one foot in front of the other, and soon you'll be walking out that door!"

Sellwood Bridge Update

Construction continuing smoothly



Last month we took you behind the construction fences to see bridge progress, but this month the most we can tell you is that things are continuing on track. Cranes are popping up around the east end of the bridge, and you can hear their banging throughout the day. The temporary work bridge is growing over the water on the south, and the widening of Tacoma Street cost the Bridge Management Offices a good chunk of their parking lot. Other than that, traffic is flowing smoothly with occasional breaks for flaggers, the old bridge is safer than it's ever been, and the new bridge should be done by 2016.



The heavy gravel on Tacoma is intended to knock mud off the truck tires before they return to the city streets.



The low bridge is the temporary construction bridge. When complete, it will have to hold the weight of the biggest cranes



Work on the east side is to strengthen the bridge abutment before the eventual installation of the main bridge footings.

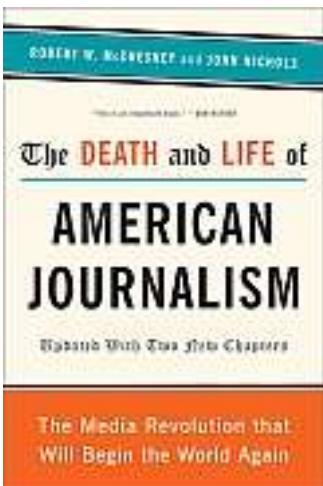
Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. Their two constantly updated live webcams of the bridge cams are available [here](#). If you're looking for something that's not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.

Book Spotlight

“The Death and Life of American Journalism”
by Robert McChesney



We had a couple articles in this month's newsletter that spotlighted particularly egregious flaws in journalism, so we felt it was only appropriate that the Book Spotlight should shed some more light on the subject. We hope you enjoy...



[“The Death and Life of American Journalism: The Media Revolution That Will Begin the World Again”](#) by Robert McChesney

American journalism is collapsing as newspapers and magazines fail and scores of reporters are laid off across the country. Conventional wisdom says the Internet is to blame, but veteran journalists and media critics Robert W. McChesney and John Nichols disagree. The crisis of American journalism predates the Great Recession and digital media boom. What we are witnessing now is the end of the commercial news model and the opportune moment for the creation of a new system of independent journalism, one subsidized by the public and capable of safeguarding our democracy.

Synopsis:

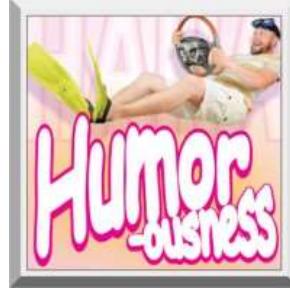
The “Paul Revere and Tom Paine” (according to Bill Moyers) of media reform propose a bold and controversial response to the current crisis of journalism

About the Author

Robert W. McChesney is a Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He hosts *Media Matters* on WILL-AM radio. John Nichols is the Washington, D.C., correspondent for the *Nation* and the associate editor of the *Capital Times*.

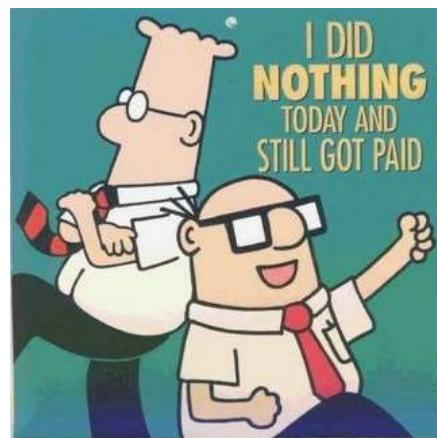
Humorousness

Engineering humor... the ultimate oxymoron



The “Big Bang Theory” has introduced the population at large to the slightly skewed world of geeks. Thanks to this one show it’s cool to laugh at the foibles of Engineer-Americans and their slightly skewed, almost-human view of the world. We here at the Humorousness desk are never ashamed to hop on a hot trend, so this month we bring you some of the best Engineer jokes we could find (courtesy of quora.com). And let us tell you right off the bat... some of these are so authentic, they’re barely even funny!

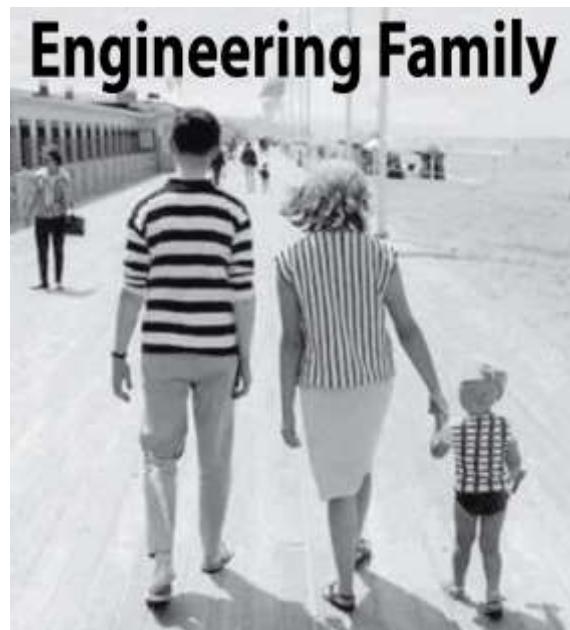
- An engineer was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog and put it in his pocket. The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for one week." The engineer took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the engineer took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket. Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, that I'll stay with you for a week and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The engineer said, "Look I'm an engineer. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog... that's cool."
- What is the difference between Mechanical Engineers and Civil Engineers?
Mechanical Engineers build weapons; Civil Engineers build targets.
- Normal people don't understand this concept; they believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet. - The Dilbert Principle (1996)
- An engineer dies and goes to hell. After a while, the engineer gets dissatisfied with the level of comfort there and starts designing and building improvements. After a while, hell has air conditioning, flushing toilets, water fountains and escalators - making the engineer a pretty popular guy. One day God phones Satan up and asks with a sneer: "Hey buddy, how's it goin' down there?" Satan snickered back, "Things are going great actually. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, escalators and the works. Hell, there's no telling what this engineer guy is gonna come up with next." God replies, "What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent there; send him back up." To which Satan replied, "No way dude. I like having an engineer on staff, I'm keeping him." God retorted, "Send him up here or I'll sue." Satan laughs loudly and answers, "Yeah, right. And just where are you gonna find a lawyer?"
- An engineering student asked his friend, "Where did you get such a great bike?" The second engineer replied, "Well, I was walking along yesterday minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and



said, "Take what you want."

The second engineer nodded approvingly, "Good choice; the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."

- Some people say the glass is half full.
Some people say the glass is half empty.
Engineers say the glass is twice as big as necessary.
- A priest, an ophthalmologist, and an engineer were golfing behind a slow group of golfers.
The engineer fumed, "What's with those guys? We must have been waiting for fifteen minutes!"
The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such inept golf!"
The priest saw the greens keeper coming and asked "What's wrong with that group ahead of us?
They're rather slow, aren't they?"
The greens keeper replied, "Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firemen. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we let them play for free anytime."
The group fell silent for a moment. Then the priest said, "That's so sad. I'll say a special prayer for them."
The ophthalmologist added, "Maybe I could examine them to see if there's anything I can do for them."
They were silent for a moment until the engineer said, "Why can't they play at night?"
- Q. How many software engineers does it take to change a light bulb?
A. None. That's a hardware issue.
- There was a guy who wanted to know how to calculate the volume of a red rubber ball. He first took it to a mathematician, who measured its radius and used the formula $V=4/3\pi r^3$ to find its volume. Next, he went to a physicist, who immersed the ball in a bowl full of water. He then measured the amount of water which overflowed and calculated the volume of the ball. Still not satisfied, our man takes the ball to a mechanical engineer. The engineer says, "Wait a moment, I got this." He gets up and skims through the books laid out on his shelf. "Ah, this should do it.", he says and pulls out a big fat hard bound book titled - "The Mechanical Engineer's Handbook to Red Rubber Balls"
- Two engineering students happen to be very close friends. One day, while sitting in a restaurant and having coffee, one friend asked the other: "how is your relationship with that new girlfriend going?"
Student: I forgot to mention, yesterday she came to my house.
Friend: WOW!!! What happened then? Tell me the full story.
Student: Well, I played her favorite music and we danced.
Friend: Then what happened??
Student: As we were dancing together, we kissed...
Friend: Then what? Keep going!
Student: I picked her up in my arms and sat her on the table next to my new laptop...
Friend: You got a New Laptop? When???
Student: Just last week. My parents gifted me one...
Friend: AWESOME DUDE!!!
- How do you know if an engineer is an introvert or an extrovert?
The introvert looks at his shoes when he talks to you; the extrovert looks at your shoes.



- Engineers know nothing, but only engineers know this!
- Several scientists were all posed the following question: "What is $2 * 2$?"
 The Engineer whips out his slide rule (so it's old) and shuffles it back and forth, and announces "3.99".
 The Physicist consults his technical references, sets up the problem on his computer, and announces "it lies between 3.98 and 4.02".
 The Mathematician cogitates for a while, then announces: "I don't know what the answer is, but I can tell you, an answer exists!".
 The Philosopher smiles: "But what do you mean by $2 * 2$?"
 The Logician replies: "Please define $2 * 2$ more precisely."
 The Sociologist: "I don't know, but it was nice talking about it".
 The Behavioral Ecologist: "A polygamous mating system".
 Medical Student : "4"
 All the others looking astonished, and asked "How did you know?"
 The Medical Student said "I memorized it."
- Question: What did the engineer say to the doctor when the doctor asked him what he did?
 Answer: "I turn food and drink into solid and liquid waste."
- It should be noted that no ethically-trained software engineer would ever consent to write a `DestroyBaghdad` procedure. Basic professional ethics would instead require him to write a `DestroyCity` procedure, to which `Baghdad` could be given as a parameter.
- So an IEEE engineer walks into a bar and orders
`1.000000000100000082740370999090373516082763671875` root beers.
 The bartender says, "I'll have to charge extra; that's a root beer float". And the engineer says, "In that case, make it a double".
- Three engineering students were gathered together discussing the possible designers of the human body. One said, "It was a mechanical engineer. Just look at all the joints."
 Another said, "No, it was an electrical engineer. The nervous system has many thousands of electrical connections."
 The last said, "Actually it was a civil engineer. Who else would run a toxic waste pipeline through a recreational area?"
- There was an engineer, manager and programmer driving down a steep mountain road. The brakes failed and the car careened down the road out of control. Half way down the driver managed to stop the car by running it against the embankment narrowing avoiding going over a cliff. They all got out, shaken by their narrow escape from death, but otherwise unharmed.
 The manager said "To fix this problem we need to organize a committee, have meetings, and through a process of continuous improvement, develop a solution."
 The engineer said "No that would take too long, and besides that method never worked before. I have my trusty pen knife here and will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it."
 The programmer said "We should push the car back up the hill and see if we can reproduce the problem."
- An engineer, a biologist and a mathematician are watching an empty house. Two people go into the house.
 Three people leave the house.
 Engineer: "Looks like we were given bad data to start with."
 Biologist: 'Wow, they must have reproduced!'
 Mathematician: "There are now -1 people in the house."

- An engineer in Revolution-era Paris is convicted of being a royalist. He's sentenced to die and is brought to the guillotine. They lock him in, and the order is given... but nothing happens. The executioners fiddle around with it for a while, but can't seem to get it working, so they delay the execution for a day.

The next day, after having worked on it all night, they lead the engineer up, lock him in, and give the order... but nothing happens. Same mad scramble as yesterday, this time with more urgency. But they still can't get it to work, so the poor engineer gets one more reprieve.

Finally, on the third day, having brought in the top executioner in the city to make sure the guillotine works, they lead the engineer up, lock him in, and give the order... but nothing happens.

Meanwhile, the engineer cranes his head around, looks up at the mechanism, and says "You know guys, I think I see your problem here..."

- An MBA and an Engineer go on a camping trip, set up their tent, and fall asleep. Some hours later, the Engineer wakes his MBA friend. "Look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

The MBA replies, "I see millions of stars."

The Engineer asks "What does that tell you?"

The MBA ponders for a minute. "Astronomically speaking, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, it's evident the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you?"

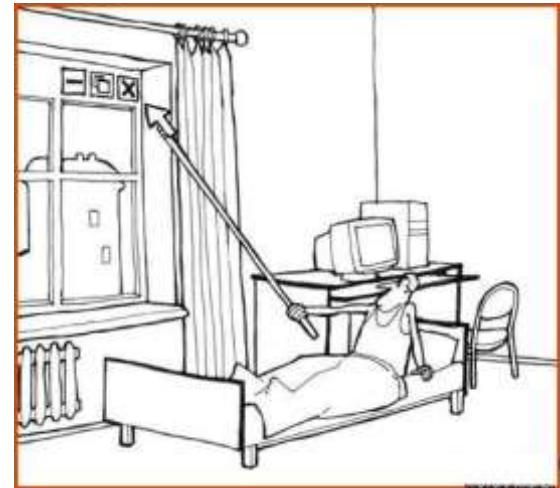
The Engineer friend is silent for a moment, and then speaks. "Practically... Someone has stolen our tent".

- There was an engineer who had an exceptional gift for fixing all things mechanical. After serving his company loyally for over 30 years, he happily retired. Several years later the company contacted him regarding a seemingly impossible problem they were having with one of their multi-million dollar machines. They had tried everything and everyone else to get the machine to work but to no avail.

In desperation, they called on the retired engineer who had solved so many of their problems in the past. The engineer reluctantly took the challenge. He spent a day studying the huge machine. Finally, at the end of the day, he marked a small "x" in chalk on a particular component of the machine and said, "This is where your problem is." The part was replaced and the machine worked perfectly again, but the company balked when they received a bill for \$50,000 from the engineer for his service. They demanded an itemized accounting of his charges.

The engineer responded briefly: One chalk mark \$1; Knowing where to put it \$49,999.

He was paid in full and retired again in peace.



- What is a polar bear?

It's a rectangular bear, after a change of coordinates

- An elephant and a mouse go to a movie, but only have enough for one ticket. So the mouse hides in the elephant's shirt pocket. They go in, and in the middle of the movie an usher shows up asking to see their tickets. The elephant shows his, and the usher asks "what about this one?" The elephant pounds his shirt pocket and says "oh that... that's a picture of a friend of mine"

- How many sound engineers does it take to change a light bulb? None. Sound men don't do lights.

- An architect encounters a group of engineers clustered around a small flagpole, busily tapping at their clipboards and calculators. The architect watches for a few minutes then asks what they're doing. The engineers impatiently reply that they're calculating the exact height of the pole since their tape measure wouldn't reach the top without flopping. So the architect examines the pole, lifts it from its base and sets it on the ground. Asking to borrow their tape measure he stretches it across the pole and reads exactly 15 feet. After he walks away the engineers stand the pole back up again and return to their clipboards and calculators, annoyed and gloating about how they needed the height of the pole, but the dumb architect only gave them the length.

- A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost. She reduced altitude and spotted a man below. She descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am."

The man below replied "You're in a hot air balloon hovering 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist. "I am", replied the man. "How did you know?" "Well, answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip even more."

The man below responded, "You must be in management."

"I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "You don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise which you've no idea how to keep, and it's the fault of the people beneath you when you can't solve your own problems!"

- If advice columns were written by engineers...

"Last week my husband was off duty and I had to drive alone to work. I left my husband with the maid and my baby at home. I drove for just about 2km from home & my car engine started 2 overheat so I had to turn back and get another car. When I got home I found my husband in bed with our maid. I don't know what to do now. Please help!!!"

Helpful Engineering answer...

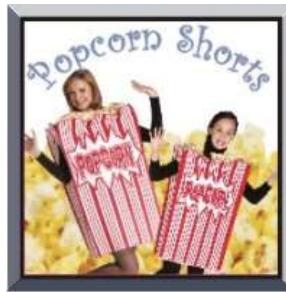
"Overheating of engine after such short distance can be caused by problems associated with the fuel injectors. You need to check your oil and water level in your engine before you start your journey. You must also make sure your car is serviced regularly to avoid problems in future. Hope this helped you."

- There are 10 types of people: Those who understand binary numbers, and those who don't.



Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small 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. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we've posted on [our Facebook page](#). If you're on Facebook, please stop by and "Like" us and we'll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!



[How to take control of your buying choices](#)



We frequently rant about the importance of voting with your dollars, but the factory collapse in Bangladesh illustrates the difficulty in this idea. The products of these shoddy factories change hands many times before they make it to you. How do you know which product to buy? [Buycott](#), a new smartphone app, can shed light on the web of companies behind each product you buy. Just scan a UPC code to get a report on the companies behind your product options and what causes they support or standards they meet. Deciding between the lesser of two evils? That's up to you.

[Comparing Bush's and Obama's wartime civil liberties records](#)



Some say there's no difference between Obama and Bush, but this clear, annotated chart shows their differences on torture, surveillance, and detention. Maybe there is a difference, but there may not be as much difference as a freedom-loving people might want. As one of our Facebook Likers pointed out, on "some issues where they differ, Obama is worse. He got more Americans killed in his first year than Bush did in his worst." Still, it's important to know the specifics for yourself rather than to take other people's word for the generalities.

[Who knew you could even train penguins?](#)



When a Japanese family rescued an injured penguin and nursed it back to health, they had no idea they were getting a roommate for life. But this one isn't like a cat; this one works hard to earn its keep. Every day it walks from the family's home to the corner fish market, where it picks up dinner for the night. That's already over-the-top cute, but here's the clincher... the penguin has a penguin-shaped backpack.

[Understanding the new atmospheric normal](#)



You know that "350" refers to 350 parts per million (ppm), a red-line warning level for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. You may not know that in May, the Earth very, very quietly, passed 400ppm. The last time so much greenhouse gas was in the air was several million years ago, when the Arctic was ice-free, savannah spread across the Sahara desert and sea level was up to 40 meters higher than today. It's a grim milestone, and here are several interactive graphs to help you put it in perspective.

News To Make You Furious

Global Warming Lies in Murdoch's *Wall Street Journal*

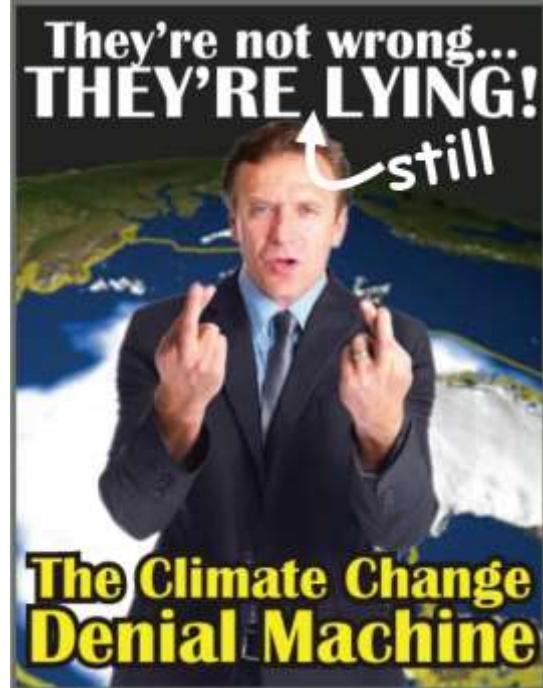


In September of 2001, "News To Make You Furious" took an unbiased look at the global warming debate in an article titled "[They're not wrong, they're lying.](#)" (If that doesn't sound unbiased, think again. It's entirely possible to come to an unbiased conclusion that you're being lied to. Richard Nixon springs to mind.) But these industry-spawned lies have been a constant "rain" on our necks for years... is there anything new to make you Furious? Yes. The pestilent prevarication in the recent *Wall Street Journal* op-ed "[In Defense of Carbon Dioxide](#)" was so brazen that it wasn't just an insult to our intelligence, but an insult to our stupidity. In this month's Furious we'll take apart a couple of their toppers and point you to solid information that destroys the rest. So what will make you Furious? The fact that many people and policymakers won't put forth even this minimal level of thinking on an issue so critical to our planet...

We'll be pointing out a couple individual errors in the article, but you may want to read the whole thing first to make sure we aren't pulling anything out of context.

The [op-ed by Harrison Schmitt and William Happer is titled "In Defense of Carbon Dioxide"](#). It was published

in the May 8 issue of the *Wall Street Journal* with the subtitle "The demonized chemical compound is a boon to plant life and has little correlation with global temperature". Before we pass you on to qualified sources we'll take our crack at the article, restricting ourselves to just the second paragraph. Here's that full paragraph in all its fraudulent glory...

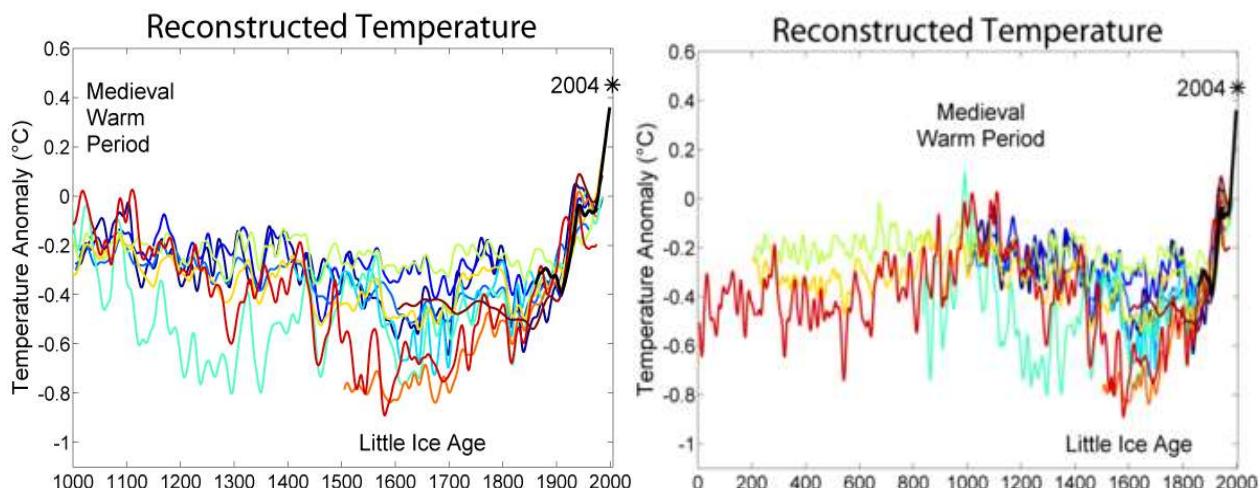
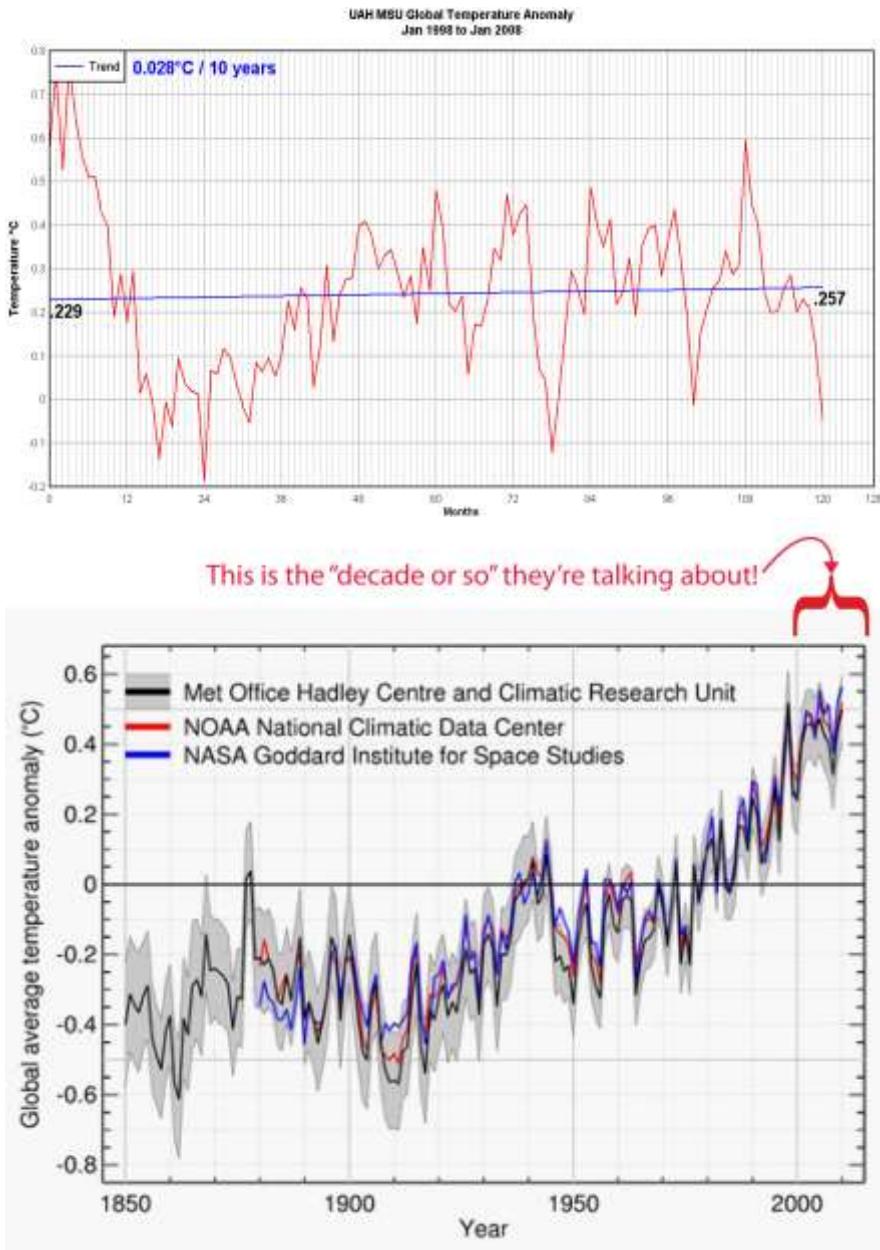


"The cessation of observed global warming for the past decade or so has shown how exaggerated NASA's and most other computer predictions of human-caused warming have been—and how little correlation warming has with concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide. As many scientists have pointed out, variations in global temperature correlate much better with solar activity and with complicated cycles of the oceans and atmosphere. There isn't the slightest evidence that more carbon dioxide has caused more extreme weather."

Let's deal with "The cessation of observed global warming for the past decade or so" first. They toss this out as though it was well-known and true, and this graph of the past 10 years' temperature (not included in the article) would seem to support their position. (Even though the graph does show a $.028^\circ$ rise, we'll let them slide on that.)

Yea! Global warming is solved, and we can all rest easy! But only until we look at a slightly bigger picture. This next graph shows a little longer time range, and includes the part that has actual climate scientists worried. As you can see, the "decade or so" when global warming "ceased" is only a small, non-representative part of a clear trend upward. There are other drops in temperature since the trend started around 1910, most notably around 1940, but these interim drops do not IN ANY WAY indicate a downward trend in temperature.

Lest you think this second graph just "cherry-picks" data to reinforce global warming, let's look at a couple others from longer timescales.

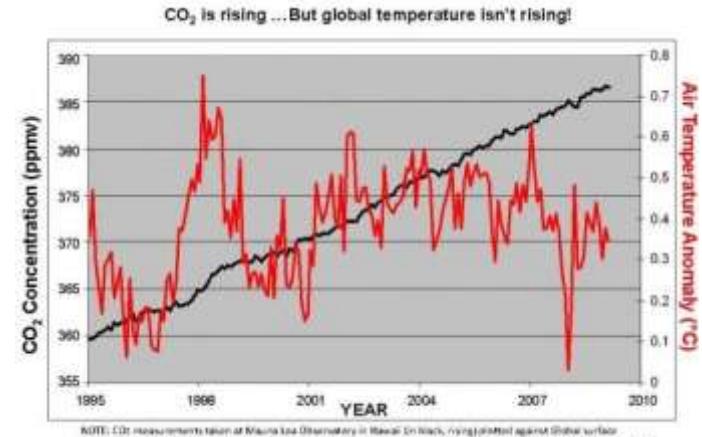
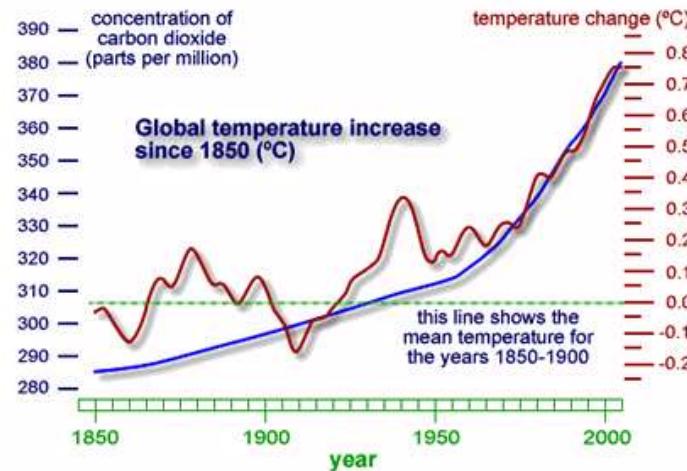
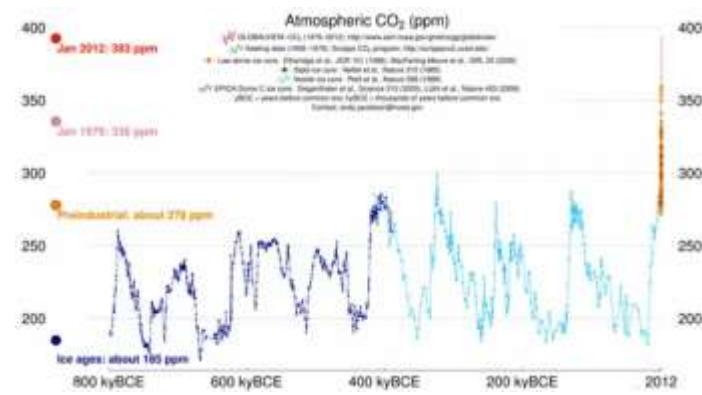


These are “reconstructed” temperatures going back 1000 and 2000 years respectively, rather than the “observed” temperatures of the first two graphs. This means the data are less complete and the trends differ slightly depending on how the temperatures are reconstructed (represented by the different line colors). But you can plainly see in both graphs that, no matter how you cut it, the jump in temperature is a recent and unprecedented phenomenon. And going back even further the pattern still doesn’t change, as this graph going back *800,000 years* shows. (That’s our little slice of history on the far right of the graph.)

So why is this a lie, and not just innocently wrong? Because these filthy quislings KNOW BETTER! Any scientist, even the shills who work for oil-company-funded think tanks like those created by Exxon-Mobil, understands basic statistics. They know that picking a small interval of data may or may not be representative of the larger trend, but they all know enough to check what the larger trend actually is. THEY AREN’T F---ING IDIOTS! They can SEE that the trend doesn’t support their feeble conclusion, but they SAY IT DOES ANYWAY! If you know something’s wrong and present it as true anyway, that’s a lie.

But the fine folks at WSJ didn’t stop there; they squeezed two lies into just that one sentence. The second half, mentioning “...how little correlation warming has with concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide”, deserves a closer look itself. How much correlation IS there between CO₂ and warming? Amazingly, we have a graph; temperatures are in red and CO₂ is in blue...

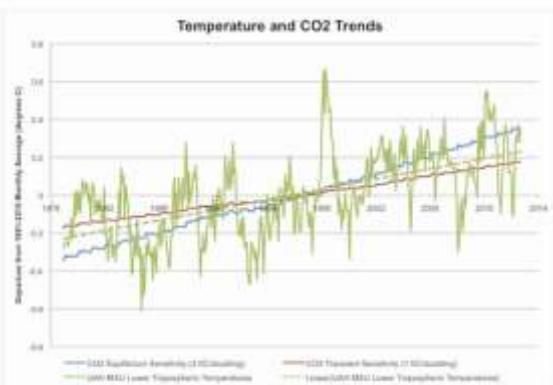
Looks like a pretty strong correlation, and it’s just one of thousands of graphs from thousands of studies showing exactly the same thing. The authors of the WSJ piece obviously know about this research, so the idea that there’s “no correlation” between CO₂ and temperature is a lie on the face of it. It would be easy enough to say “case closed”, but here’s what’s fascinating about this particular graph... it comes from an article in the Houston Chronicle that begins with the graph at right showing there ISN’T a correlation! After showing both graphs the author, John Nielsen-Gammon, continues with this caution:



NOTE: CO₂ measurements taken at Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. Air blocks, rising steadily against global surface temperature since 1995 (in red, steady, and falling) taken from Hadley Centre and Climatic Research Unit of the University of East Anglia. These two sets of statistics are used by the IPCC in Numbers.

"Both presentations are tricking you. Carbon dioxide is not the only factor affecting global climate, nor is carbon dioxide so inert as to have no effect whatsoever. Indeed, it is almost impossible to find a graph such as this that is not trying to trick you in some way."

So is it impossible to fairly show a CO2/temperature correlation? Not at all. In fact, Neilsen-Gammon goes on through a painfully long process of developing an accurate, unbiased graph of temperature and CO2 trends that's not misleading. That final graph, from 1978 to today, is at right. The wild green line is temperature, with the temperature trend as a straight green line. It tracks closely with the two aspects of CO2 content in red and blue, clearly, accurately, and fairly indicating a correlation of CO2 and temperature. Now, we can comfortably say "case closed", at least on this point.



We could go on and on with the lies, distortions, red herrings, and straw men that pollute this WSJ propaganda piece (and God knows we want to!) but we'll hand it over to more qualified debunkers at this point.

Phil Plait at Slate attacked the WSJ article with "[No Need to Worry About Global Warming, Folks: More Carbon Dioxide Will Be Awesome](#)" on May 10, 2013

Media Matters took their shot at it with "[Wall Street Journal's Idiocracy: CO2 Is What Plants Crave](#)" on May 9, 2013

To explain the larger picture of how industry-funded shills put this crap out in the first place, we'll refer you to two sources.

Bill Moyers has an excellent piece on [how industry PR tactics have played out in the lead poisoning issue](#)

[DeSmogBlog](#) is an exhaustive resource specifically on the global warming info war. It includes point by point refutations of individual issues, biographies and backers of the "scientists" denying global warming, and excellent real-science reports on the issue.

For unbiased information on global warming science for people of all educational levels, we're very proud of our 2011 article "[Science and History of Climate Change- Learn the science without the hype... from either side](#)", which is chock-full of links to real information. Two of the best are to [The Discovery of Global Warming](#) (a complete, cross-referenced, and hyperlinked guide to the history of climate change science) and [RealClimate.org](#) (a commentary site on climate science by actual working climate scientists).

And finally, let us leave you with two links to jaw-dropping graphics that make all this science palatable...

[Time history of atmospheric carbon dioxide](#) is a motion graph of atmospheric CO2 where we pulled the "800,000 year graph" in the article above.

This link will take you to a [NASA time-lapse plot of global temperatures](#) plotted on a map from 1937 to today.