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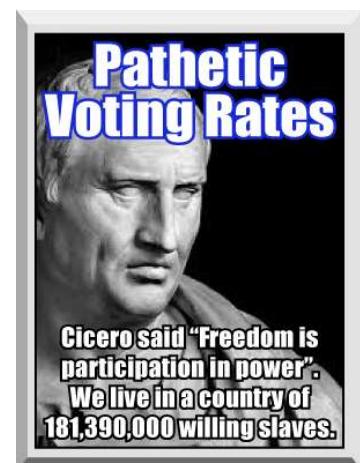
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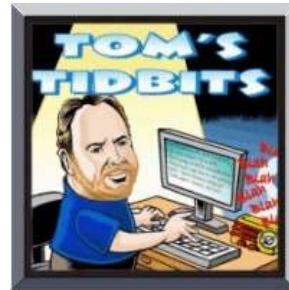
News To Make You Furious

Low voting rates



Tom's Tidbits

The silver lining



Greetings!

As Karl Rove was spinning the 2012 Republican collapse, FOX's Megyn Kelly famously asked "Is this just math that you do as a Republican to make yourself feel better, or is this real?" As the Dems try to spin their own humiliating 2014 rout, I have the same question. Democratic candidates were crushed in races around the country so the Democratic Party has little, if anything, to "feel better" about. But for non-partisan members of the reality-based community, there is a glimmer of hope. When given the opportunity to vote on issues through initiatives, people resoundingly voted for rational policies that could really impact their lives for the better. The question now is will *either* party use these results to shape policy, or will they just remain focused on serving their corporate masters?

Look at the schizophrenic election results... disgust with the direction of the country let the Republicans win by saying "I'm not Obama" without any meaningful policies. Exit polls say more than a third of people who voted for Republican House candidates said they were unhappy with the Republican Congressional leaders, yet they still voted for an even more right-leaning Congress. Oregon, Alaska, and Washington DC legalized pot, and though legalization failed in Florida it still got 57% of the vote. Alaska's minimum-wage passed with 69% of the vote AND they legalized pot, but Democratic Senator Mark Begich still lost. In six states and three cities, minimum wage laws passed. Arkansas raised the minimum wage with 65% of the vote but elected a senator who's against it. Pro-choice Colorado voters elected a senator who supports a "personhood" bill. A majority of voters say they want a way for immigrants to stay in the country even if they're here illegally, the opposite of most of the newly elected senators. Two-thirds of voters said the economy favors the wealthy, yet they overwhelmingly elected candidates who back more tax cuts for the 1%, oppose minimum wage increases, and want to repeal ObamaCare. And the examples go on.

Why did all these traditionally Democratic issues win while the Dems themselves lost? Well, the Republicans ran a brutally efficient campaign and there was a little mid-term political voodoo, but the biggest factor was so few of the Democratic candidates actually *ran* as Democrats. Despite the sustained popularity and interest surrounding Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, Democratic analysts don't credit it because they don't have the courage of their (or anyone else's) convictions. Their 2014 loss won't be blamed on vacuous candidates without the spine to fight for principle; it will be blamed on Democrats being "too liberal". Following the Clinton playbook, Democrats will abandon people and principle for the sweet milk of money from corporate teats, and an increasingly disgusted electorate will again be faced with a choice between Republican and Republican Lite. And the Democrats will wonder, again, why no one likes them.

I care about the issues neither the Democratic or Republican party will risk their corporate masters' money to support. While some 2014 midterms were decided by as few as 20% of the electorate, I believe real, stable majorities can be formed around sane environmental policies, fair taxes on wealth and corporations, investment in our own country, solid primary education and affordable college tuition, retirement security, living-wage jobs, accountability for corporate criminals, empowered workers, realistic trade policies, investment in new energy, and a transparent and responsible government that's not controlled by money. The silver lining? As more people realize how attainable these things actually are, they'll realize the main obstacle has been the pathetic charlatans they've been electing. My hope is that the incongruence of results made obvious by this last election could unmask this fallacious left/right dichotomy, and that one day a political party will actually form around the issues that matter to we, the people.

"Given the choice between a Republican and someone who acts like a Republican, people will vote for the real Republican all the time."

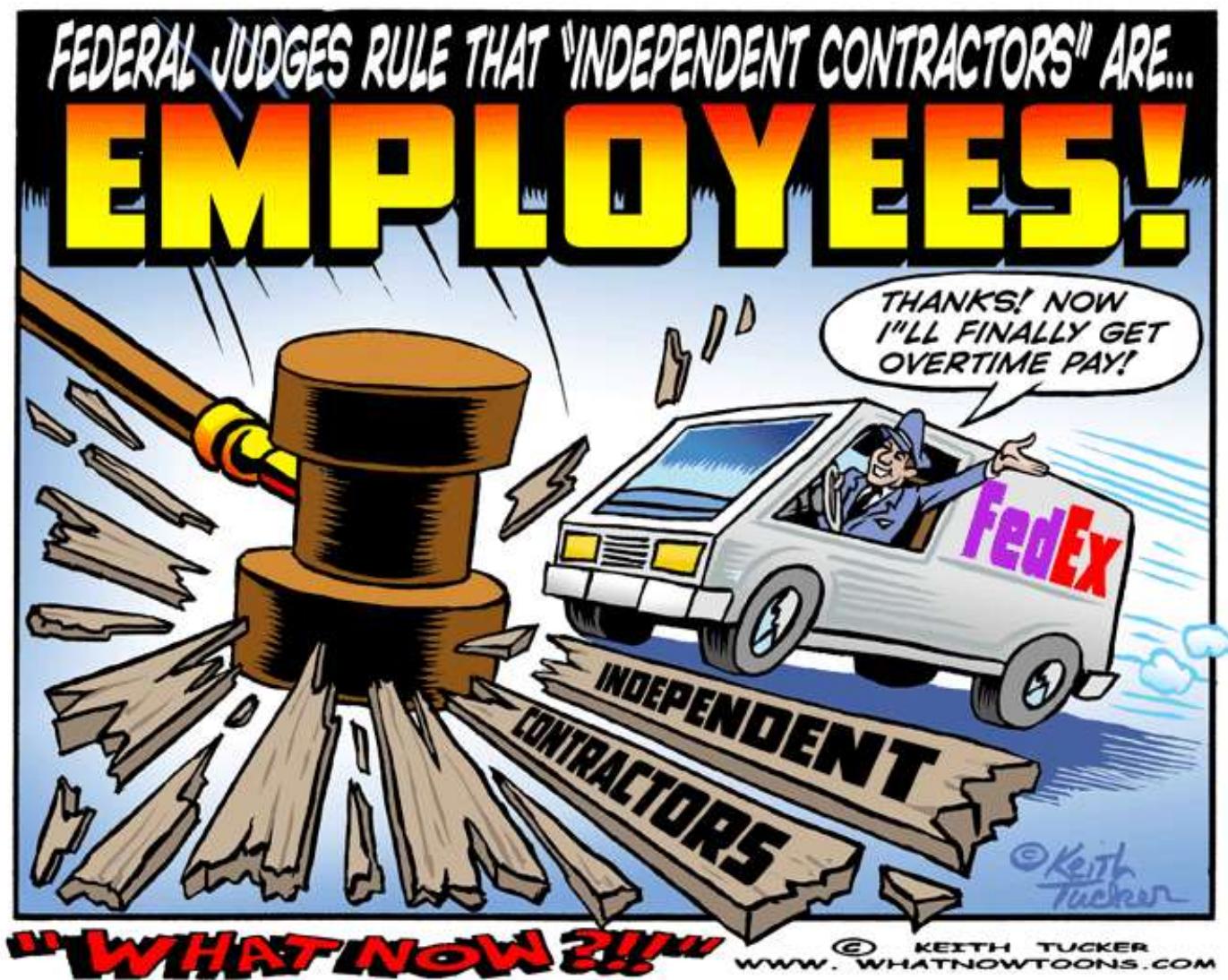
-Harry Truman

Take care and make a great day,



What NOW?!! Toons

Our monthly check in with Keith Tucker



Veterans Day

Where in the world are tomorrow's veterans?



Veterans' Day was Tuesday, the day when we all said "thanks" to the people who have put their lives on the line for our country for 238 years. Day after day, year after year, these men and women do the hard and dangerous work that our country demands of them. Any of us, left, right, or independent, may have occasional quarrels with the people or polices that put these people in harm's way, but no one should quarrel with the gratitude they so richly deserve for going there. In recent years our military has been asked to shoulder a greater burden as our global ambitions have grown. It can be too easy to say "thanks" and then forget about our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers who are stationed far from home. To recognize Veterans Day this year, along with our heartfelt thanks, we'd like to remind everyone where today's soldiers, tomorrow's veterans, are serving...

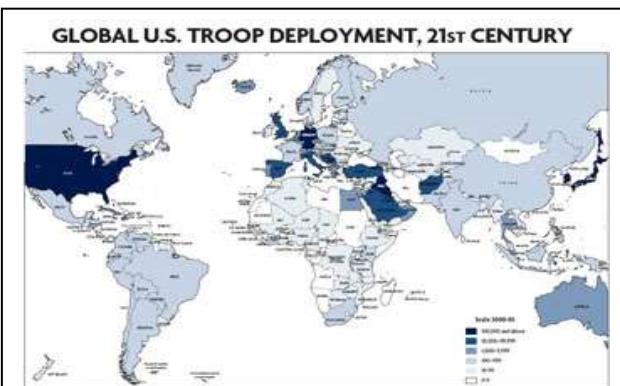
We'll start, as so much research does these days, with a briefing from Wikipedia:

"The [military of the United States](#) is deployed in more than 150 countries around the world, with over 160,000 of its active-duty personnel serving outside the United States and its territories and an additional 110,000 deployed in various contingency operations. US troops are spread across the globe: approximately 68,000 are stationed in [Europe](#); approximately 80,000 in [East Asia](#) and the Pacific region; nearly 4,900 in [North Africa](#), the [Near East](#), and [South Asia](#); over 1,750 in the [Western Hemisphere](#); nearly 400 in Sub-Saharan Africa; and less than 100 in states of the former [Soviet Union](#). Of those in Europe, most of the military personnel are located at installations activated during the [Cold War](#), by which the US government sought to challenge the [Soviet Union](#) in the aftermath of [World War II](#). U.S. personnel are seeing active combat in [Afghanistan](#). Others are deployed as part of several peacekeeping missions, [military attachés](#), or are part of [embassy](#) and [consulate](#) security."

Numbers don't tell the whole story, though, so here are two maps that bring it all home...

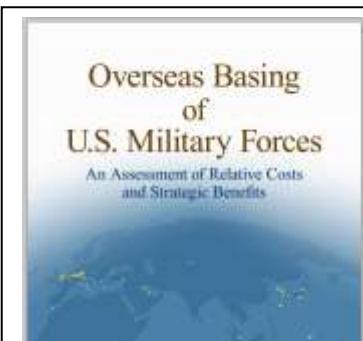


This map from [VetFriends.com](#) is absolutely the best available. It's completely interactive and allows you to see deployments from 1950-2012. You can data for each individual country, along with a graph of our troop levels in each country over time.



We aren't usually very confident of data from the Heritage Foundation, but they do have their strengths. This map only covers 1950-2005, but also has additional details and analysis by region.

Even the most detailed description of overall deployment don't tell the details of the story. Here are three articles that discuss smaller aspects of the big picture...



There's a cost in both blood and treasure to having a worldwide military presence. This report from the Rand Corporation gets into all the bean counting. It's a big stack of beans.



Afghanistan and Iraq get the bulk of the press these days with other middle eastern countries vying for their own place. Here's a report on 5 of the places our soldiers are stationed that you probably don't know about



As a tepid Democrat, Barack Obama theoretically represents a less militarized alternative to the Republicans. Does his use of the military bear that out? This report from The Guardian tells the tale.

Finally, as part of our Veterans Day coverage, we'd like to direct you to two other stories and offer a final, sincere, heartfelt "Thank You" to all our soldiers past, present, and future.



Warren Zinn / Army Times-AP

Medic in famous photo dies after PTSD struggle

Army Times, July 3, 2008

During the first week of the war in Iraq, a Military Times photographer captured the arresting image of Army Spc. Joseph Patrick Dwyer as he raced through a battle zone clutching a tiny Iraqi boy named Ali. The photo was hailed as a portrait of the heart behind the U.S. military machine, and Doc Dwyer's concerned face graced the pages of newspapers across the country.

But rather than going on to enjoy the public affection for his act of heroism, he was consumed by the demons of combat stress he could not exorcise. For the medic who cared for the wounds of his combat buddies as they pushed toward Baghdad, the battle for his own health proved too much to bear...



Thanks is more than a word, it means keeping promises

Tom Dwyer Newsletter, June 1, 2012

Saying "Thank You" is not enough. We, as a country, have made promises to the men and women of our military and we've done a horrible job of keeping those promises. Blue Star Families is a group formed by military spouses to support military families in the challenges of military life. They surveyed their members to find out what their top issues of concern were, and we took a look at how our country is addressing those concerns. It's not pretty.

Legalized It! Now What?

Measure 91 gives a welcome nod to rationality



Looking back, many of our Feature articles seem to lean a little toward the depressing side. We've written about police abuse, endless war, corporatocracy, political malfeasance, corruption, and so much more, and these are all obviously important issues. We could find a lot more to grumble over in the recent mid-term election results, but instead, we're going to choose to be happy for a change. Oregon just gave that chance to all of us with the passage of Measure 91, legalizing marijuana for adult recreational use. It's the long overdue end of a massively destructive policy, and it gives a glimmer of hope that government can (occasionally) give a nod to rationality...

How did marijuana become illegal?

The history of marijuana use and prohibition is a symphony of power, ignorance, and corruption, and we aren't going to attempt to give you a detailed recap here. (If you are interested, though, there are good histories and timelines [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) [Known uses go back before 7000 BC](#), and marijuana (or hemp) has been used for food, incense, medicine, fabric, rope, paper, cosmetics, fuel, and more. The first laws concerning marijuana didn't prohibit it; in fact they [required farmers to grow hemp!](#) Marijuana was effectively made illegal in 1937 with the [Marijuana Tax Act](#), and when the [Tax Act was found unconstitutional in 1969](#), Congress rolled it into 1970's [Controlled Substances Act](#). On a Federal level pot remains an illegal [Schedule 1 drug](#) (classed with heroin and LSD), but on a state level laws range from states like Oklahoma where you can be get a [life sentence for selling a \\$10 bag](#) to the [23 states \(and DC\)](#) that have legalized medical marijuana and the four states that have now legalized it for recreational use. (Pot has been decriminalized in Oregon since 1973, the first state to do so.)

"Penalties against possession of a drug should not be more damaging to an individual than the use of the drug itself; and where they are, they should be changed."

-Jimmy Carter

giggly. When pot was first made illegal it wasn't because of people actually being hurt or going on drug-fueled killing sprees, it was because of an organized propaganda campaign. [Support for criminalization](#) came from people who were unfamiliar with and scared of marijuana's effects, from people who were overtly racist against the groups using it, and from industrial interests who would prosper if hemp were made illegal. As an example, one notable booster was the Dupont Chemical Company, whose recent patent for nylon directly competed with hemp products. In the south and west, marijuana was linked with an influx of Mexican immigrants. In the north and east it was linked with jazz music and black people. This [quote from Harry J. Anslinger](#), one of the driving forces behind marijuana prohibition, sums up the slurs against all the "pot fiends" at the time...

"There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the US, and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos, and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz, and swing, result from marijuana

use. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers, and any others."

What has been the effect of criminalization?

Regardless of why marijuana was initially made illegal, we've lived with the effects ever since. While prohibition laws [did not reduce use](#), they did increase the costs to our society. With pot laws falling around the country, it's easy to forget that there are still people serving [life sentences for possession of marijuana](#). We could detail the [corrupt cops](#), the [clogged courts](#), the [destroyed lives](#), but the the ACLU has done an excellent job for us. In their project on [Marijuana Law Reform](#), they have an excellent series of slides called "[Marijuana Arrests By The Numbers](#)" detailing just how destructive these laws have become. We highly encourage you to visit their site, but graphics from their excellent slideshow on the subject are below. For more detail, they also have information on [marijuana reform around the country](#).



There are several other sources we'd like to direct you to for in-depth information about marijuana prohibition, its history, its effects, and its future. The first is [NORML, The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws](#). Since their founding in 1970, NORML has been the premiere advocate for rational pot policies. The link below will take you to their [report on the 60-year prohibition on pot](#).

As an advocacy group, NORML may well be a little biased. A more journalistic briefing, yet still fair and in-depth, comes from [FRONTLINE](#) and their episode "[Busted- America's War On Marijuana](#)".

There are several common misconceptions about marijuana, and the [Drug Policy Alliance](#) has put together a [page addressing 10 of the most common ones](#). Questions include "Does marijuana use have long term cognitive effects?", "Is marijuana a gateway drug?", and "Does marijuana impair driving the way alcohol does?"



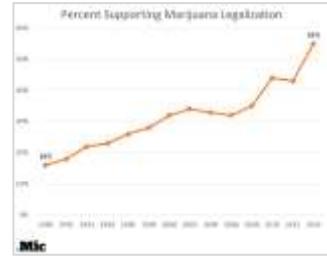
What will be the effects of the new law in Oregon?

The new law has already had some effects as Portland prosecutors begin reviewing their marijuana possession cases. This [Oregonian article](#) goes into much greater detail. The [Marijuana Policy Project](#) has a [point-by-point analysis of the Measure 91](#), but here are some of the high points...

- Removes penalties for adults 21 and older who possess, use, and grow a limited amount of marijuana.
- Possession is limited to 8 oz of pot and growing 4 pot plants *total for the household*. Other limits apply to public possession and gifting.
- The law creates four types of marijuana businesses- Producers, Processors, Wholesalers, and Retailers.
- Possession and home cultivation become legal on July 1, 2015. The OLCC will begin accepting applications for marijuana businesses on January 4, 2016.
- The OLCC will oversee the marijuana industry
- Marijuana flowers will be taxed at \$35/oz., leaves at \$10/oz., and plants at \$5 each, all adjusted for inflation.
- Taxes go to the Common School Fund, Mental Health Alcoholism and Drug Services, the State Police, and to cities and counties for local law enforcement.

What's the future of marijuana legalization?

People around the country are grappling with balancing the harms from drugs with the harms from legalizing them. As the harms becomes clearer, the [traditional balance is changing](#) and it's [beginning to tilt toward legalization](#). According to [Politics Cheat Sheet](#), we are "on the precipice of more states preparing for coming marijuana legalization initiatives, either derived from state legislators or from citizens themselves through the ballots". They say Massachusetts, California, Missouri, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, and Arizona may go green as soon as 2016.



Of course, rational drug policy (or any rational policy) isn't as simple as legalize or don't. Frontline, as part of its marijuana coverage, featured a judge-led "[attempt at a rational discussion of the so-called 'war on drugs'](#)".

"A group of experts with varying political perspectives (law enforcement, treatment practitioners, elected officials, policy analysts, laboratory and clinical researchers) recently proposed 'a third way' to end the drug problem and avoid the current polarization. They hope to spark a rethinking of the country's approach to drug policy. They are proposing not legalization and not a 'war on drugs.' Rather, 5 policies based on science and evaluated by their results rather than their symbolic value. Here is an outline of their fourteen principles for practical drug policies. The group was organized by the Drug Policy Project of the Federation of American Scientists."

What's wrong with your car?

Here's how we find out... for sure.



While we were deeply saddened to learn of Tom Magliozzi's passing, Click and Clack, the Car Talk guys, have done the automotive world a bit of a disservice. They've led people to believe complex automotive problems can be accurately diagnosed in 4 minutes from a vague description and some mimicked noises. Throw in a couple wisecracks and the vehicle is all but repaired! While this sometimes works on a radio show, the real world is much different. The cause of some automotive problems is indeed obvious and the diagnosis straightforward, but other problems are complex, may only appear intermittently or under certain conditions, or may be caused by multiple interacting systems. It's correspondingly harder to track these issues down. When we start looking for the cause of your vehicle's glitches we start with the least invasive, least expensive methods first and move on to the more invasive and time consuming techniques only when necessary (and always, only with your approval). Here's a look at some of our inspection and diagnostic methods so you'll be prepared when it's time to follow this path with your own vehicle...

Before there's a problem... inspect and monitor

Before ever starting down the diagnostic path, it makes sense to monitor your vehicle and prevent as many failures as possible. Whenever possible, we assign your vehicle to the same ASE-Certified Technician so we have someone familiar with the vehicle's history, performance, and quirks. Many of our clients don't know we perform a 40-point inspection and double-check of our work after every vehicle service. Combined with the Technician's notes and evaluations this gives us an on-going overview your vehicle's condition, so if it begins to develop problems we may have a clue to where they're starting.

If your vehicle hasn't been in for service lately, isn't having a specific problem, and you just want to have it generally checked out, we offer a **FREE Basic 90-point Inspection**. (This is would be considered an "in-depth or "multipoint" inspection by many other shops). Our ASE-Certified Technicians check all the major systems of your vehicle that are accessible without taking things apart or using technical tools. It's a good way to catch issues like active leaks or worn or broken parts before they fail, but it's far from an exhaustive inspection or a diagnosis of any but the grossest problems.

Our **Comprehensive Inspection** (also called our "130-point Inspection", "Inspection-For-Repair", or "IFR") is our more thorough inspection. It's a look at major systems on your vehicle, covering details like fluid pH, ignition components, filters, fluids, brake pad thickness, and much more. Your vehicle will be assigned to an ASE-Certified Technician who will evaluate the following areas...

SECRET NEWSLETTER OFFER!

Since you're taking the time to read this article, you deserve a little reward. How about a **FREE COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION?** It's normally a **\$150 value**, but if you **use the password "FREE IFR"** then we'll do it for you absolutely **FREE!** This offer is good until January 1, 2015, but don't wait... come on in today!

- Road Test- 28 points
- Tires- 6 points
- Fluids- 18 points
- Brakes/Axle- 14 points
- Chassis Inspection- 12 points
- Under-hood Inspection- 33 points
- Battery/Starting/Charging- 12 points
- Miscellaneous- 7 points

When we're done, we compile a comprehensive list and prioritize all repair and maintenance recommendations so you'll have a precise mechanical picture of your vehicle and can make informed choices based on your ACTUAL VEHICLE NEEDS. We recommend this inspection to all our New Clients to establish a baseline for their vehicle, but we also recommend it be repeated yearly to catch developing problems before they become serious and expensive.

When something goes wrong... diagnose, prescribe, and repair

The diagnostic process begins when a client has a specific issue that's troubling them. Again, the obvious problems aren't too difficult to diagnose or prescribe repairs for... if flames are coming from your alternator then it's a pretty good bet that replacing it will help. But that may not be the end of the story. What made the alternator go bad? Was it faulty itself, or did some other system cause it to fail? Will the new alternator be compromised by a fault in another system? As you can see, even the obvious problems can have non-obvious aspects, and a good diagnosis will address all these points.

One situation likely to require real diagnostic expertise is when the vehicle develops a problem but is still drivable. An unusual sound, a new grinding, a sudden loss of performance, all could be serious problems without obvious solutions. The more information you can give us the easier it can be to find the source of your problem, but it may still require some time to specifically identify. This is where our Technician's years of experience and our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment come into play. We track down the exact cause of your problem so we can propose an exact solution. We never "throw parts" at a problem; making repairs without a specific diagnosis in the hope that we fix it. That's expensive for you and inefficient for us. Our process is always diagnose, prescribe, repair.

Another common diagnostic scenario is the dreaded "check engine light". This innocuous little light can result in anything from a loose gas cap to a serious malfunction. You probably know that we can "pull the codes" for the light, but there is a world of difference between knowing the fault code and knowing the cause of or solution to the problem. Your vehicle's computer can store fault codes, and most codes can be caused by a single failure or a combinations of failures. The fault codes will give our techs clues, but we'll still need to establish the actual cause of the problem. We'll pull fault codes for free if requested, but we can't move from this information to professional guaranteed repair without diagnosis and repair verification.

The hardest diagnostic tasks come from problems where there are no fault codes, or where the symptoms may be mild or intermittent. These complaints can challenge even the best tools and technicians! Difficult problems on late model computer-controlled vehicles often require more time for diagnostic procedures than the actual repair time needed to correct them. For example, we might invest hours testing vehicle systems to ultimately find that corrosion in some buried wiring connector is creating a malfunction, in order to spend just a few minutes cleaning the guilty connector to resolve the problem. Tracking down these problems can be time-consuming and difficult, but accurate diagnosis of your vehicle's troubles is imperative to provide precise estimates and economical, targeted, lasting repairs.

"All the easy problems have been solved. All that's left are the hard ones." -Anonymous

Why do you charge for diagnostic time?

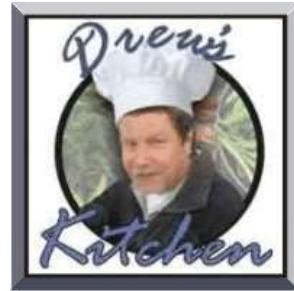
We spend roughly 20% of our total available time on some form of diagnostic evaluation, and the expense of proprietary equipment and experienced personnel represents major overhead. Aside from the labor costs of experienced ASE Certified Technicians, diagnostic equipment and data access are costly. There is a world of difference between a code reader and a manufacturer-specific diagnostic scanner that can access and record multiple live data streams! Even a good generic diagnostic scanner is expensive, but the manufacturer-specific diagnostic tools we require are \$3000 to \$9000 each and require thousands of dollars in yearly updates. The software and databases we must subscribe to for each make of vehicle we service are correspondingly expensive.

Like many shops, we could choose not to do technical work. We could just take profit from basic repairs and maintenance services, and then when presented a real problem say "Oh sorry we can't do that" and send clients to seek help elsewhere. Or, worse yet, we could hire unqualified techs to stumble around and guess at causes, and then replace parts to find out if they're right- all at our client's expense. We could just to do the high-profit easy stuff, but that's not why people use our service.

The time has passed when someone with basic knowledge and a few tools can properly diagnose or repair your vehicle. Today's technical problems require the attention of highly trained and experienced personnel, along with the use of proprietary equipment and data resources. Maintaining this ability to accurately diagnose technical problems is expensive. We understand it is frustrating to hear that we need to charge for time just to determine the cause and correction for your vehicle's problem before we can even give an accurate estimate for repair. But, not billing for diagnostic time would quickly force us to change our professional methods. We prefer to stay well-equipped, well-staffed, and ready to solve your most difficult automotive problems. Honest and accurate billing for our most valuable product- our expertise- is the only way to keep providing the service you've come to expect.

Drew's Kitchen

Pasta with smoked salmon



Thanksgiving, our national celebration of gluttony, is just a few weeks away. What are you going to bring to the family potluck? Mashed potatoes? Jello salad? Nut mix? C'mon, you're from Oregon... bring salmon! Drew's recipe this month makes sure your salmon will be the dish everyone's requesting next year...

Pasta with Smoked Salmon

Ingredients:

- 10 oz smoked salmon
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 cucumber
- 1 small bunch dill
- 1 2/3 cups crème fraiche
- 12 oz fresh tagliatelle
- 1 tbsp peanut oil
- 2 tbsp prepared horseradish
- Salt and black pepper

Preparation:

- Cut the salmon in long thin strips; set aside
- Peel the cucumber, leaving alternating strips of skin on it (running lengthwise) as a garnish; slice cucumber into thin rounds
- Remove the dill from the stems; reserve
- Place the crème fraiche in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Heat until reduced by one-third; set aside
- Cook the pasta with the oil until al dente and drain; mix with crème fraiche and season with salt, pepper, horseradish, and dill
- Mix in the cucumber and stir; correct seasoning and allow mixture to warm over a low flame for 2 to 3 minutes
- Remove from heat; add salmon and mix
- Serves 6 as a rich first course, or serve with salad as a light supper dish
- 10 minutes preparation time, 5 minutes cooking time

Shop Talk

Automotive Amnesty in time for the Holidays!



Save up to \$200 with Automotive Amnesty!



The bridge will be closed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Nov 19-21, 2014. Even with the closures traffic isn't very bad as folks take the Morrison or Oregon City bridges to get to us. Still, we want to give you a special boost to come in during the inconvenience. If you've had repair recommendations on file with us that you know you should take care of, then clear them up during Automotive Amnesty...

Automotive Amnesty!

**Save 20% off labor charges on those stale recommendations
if you have them fixed before December 19!**

Here's the fine print...

- Discount applies to labor charges only, not parts
- Discount is capped at **\$200 maximum**
- Recommendations must have been in your file **before November 13, 2014**
- You must tell us you want this offer **WHEN YOU SCHEDULE YOUR SERVICE!** Offer is **VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE!**
- Service **must be scheduled before December 19, 2014**

It's just that simple. Don't put off repairs critical to your convenience and safety... come in now!

Our Referral Reward program...

Our Referral Reward program continues to be popular with our clients- 8 more groups received checks this month, including our ninth check to the Oregon Humane Society! Before we give you the running total, we have to correct a small bookkeeping error- Last month we told you that 127 clients had made \$4,391 in awards. That was wrong, because we included several clients in that overall count by mistake. The real total, correct as of November 10, is still pretty impressive... **109 people have been responsible for \$4,243.72** going to the groups and charities they care about! These groups will also be eligible for quarterly and yearly awards as well, including our next quarterly award in December. If you haven't taken part, we make it as easy as possible. Every time a new client gives your name as a referral source, we write a check to the non-profit group of your choice (up to \$50). We hope you take this opportunity to share Tom Dwyer Automotive with someone you know, and share a little money with a group that can use it. And please, take a few minutes to look over this months' groups and see if there is one that could use YOUR help!



Here are the groups who benefitted in October...

[Portland Waldorf School](#)
[Wallace Medical Concern](#)
[Multnomah Animal Control \(three total\)](#)
[PHAME Academy](#)

[Oregon Humane Society \(nine total\)](#)
[American Red Cross](#)
[HHH Memorial Fund \(Notes of Hope\)](#)
[SMART \(Start Making A Reader Today\)](#)

Your reviews and referrals matter

We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you've found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!



Latest Automotive Recalls

Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer. The last month's recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.



November 10: 52,738 Nissan vehicles from 2003-2006, Recalled for the air bag inflator which may rupture upon deployment of the air bags.

November 10: Honda vehicles from 2002-2006, Recalled for the air bag inflator which may rupture upon deployment of the air bags.

November 5: 101,938 Audi vehicles from 2013-2015, including Allroad and A3 models, Recalled for the front air bags which may not deploy in the event of a secondary impact.

November 5: 6,562 Infiniti vehicles from 2013-2015, including Q70 and M35 hybrid models, Recalled for a potential software error which may cause unexpected acceleration.

November 5: 135 Pierce emergency vehicles from 2009-2013, including Quantum and Velocity models, Recalled for front lower control arms that may crack and fracture.

November 4: 5,412 Infiniti hybrid vehicles from 2014, including Q50 and Q70 models, Recalled for a software error which may cause the electric motor to stop working.

November 4: 817 Infiniti hybrid vehicles from 2014, including Q50 and Q70 models, Recalled for potentially damaged transmission housings which could crack and disable the vehicle.

October 31: 20,000 Toyota vehicles from 2014-2015, including Toyota Sienna and Lexus RX350 models, Recalled for a potential fuel leak, increasing the risk of a fire.

October 31: 1,848 Infiniti QX56 and QX80 vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for the air bag inflator which may have been manufactured with an incorrect part, causing the inflator to rupture.

October 30: 23,053 Chrysler Ram ProMaster vehicles from 2014, Recalled for the Tire Pressure Monitoring System which may not notify drivers of low tire pressure.

October 29: 314,704 Chrysler vehicles from 2010-2014, including Ram 2500 and 5500 models, Recalled for the electrical connectors of the diesel fuel heater which may overheat, causing a leak in the fuel heater.

October 29: 132,223 Chrysler vehicles from 2014, including Dodge Durango and Jeep Grand Cherokee models, Recalled for an issue with software that may disable the Electronic Stability Control.

October 28: 126,772 Chrysler vehicles from 2014, including Dodge Durango and Jeep Grand Cherokee models, Recalled for a fault in the Occupant Restraint Control that may disable the front airbags, seat belt pre-tensioners, and side airbags.

October 28: 37,145 Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles from 2007-2009, Recalled for the brake light switch which may malfunction, causing the brake lights to not illuminate.

October 24: 202,346 Evenflo Embrace 35 child restraints, Recalled for the harness buckle which may be difficult to unlatch.

October 24: 783 Chevrolet Corvette vehicles from 2015, Recalled for the parking brake which may only be operating

on one rear parking brake drums, causing the vehicle to potentially roll away.

October 24: 89 Chevrolet Corvette vehicles from 2015, Recalled for the driver air bag which could separate from the steering wheel upon deployment.

October 24: 87 RevZilla size large motorcycle helmets, including Roadster PG and Window PG models, Recalled for not being adequately labeled with the correct size information.

October 24: 29 Halcore Horton ambulances from 2014, Recalled for the suspension fluid tank which may separate from the chassis.

October 20: 434,581 Chrysler vehicles from 2011-2014, including Dodge Charger and Durango models, Recalled for the alternator which may fail, causing the engine to stall.

October 20: 313,236 Jeep Wrangler vehicles from 2011-2013, Recalled for a potential electrical short in the heated power mirrors, increasing the risk of a fire.

October 20: 97,540 GM vehicles from 2013-2014, including Chevrolet Impala and Buick Enclave models, Recalled for a potential electrical short, causing the engine to stall.

October 20: 23,073 Suzuki motorcycles from 2009-2014, including GSX-R750 and GSX-R1000 models, Recalled for gears that may miss during shifting, causing damage to the drive chain adjuster and removing power to the rear wheel.

October 20: 423 Mazda Tribute Hybrid vehicles from 2008, Recalled for the coolant pump which may fail, resulting in a stall-like condition.

October 20: 189 Acura TLX AWD vehicles from 2015, Recalled for incorrect labels regarding weight, which could potentially result in tire failure.

October 15: 1,368 Triumph Street Triple R motorcycles from 2012-2013, Recalled for bolts that may loosen and restrict steering.

October 15: 198 Keystone Hideout 308BHDS fifth wheel trailers from 2014-2015, Recalled for an outlet that is not part of a GFCI protected circuit, which could increase the risk of electrical shock.

October 14: 291,703 Chrysler vehicles from 2008, including Dodge Charger and Jeep Grand Cherokee models, Recalled for the ignition key which may stick between positions; sticking between ON and START could cause loss of certain electrical function, and between the OFF or ACCESSORY position, the engine will turn off.

October 14: 114 Jayco Jay Flight travel trailers from 2015, Recalled for inadequate venting for the gas range.

October 14: 72 Starcraft AR-One travel trailers from 2015, Recalled for inadequate venting for the gas range.

October 10: 220,423 Nissan Altima vehicles from 2013, Recalled for the hood latch which may corrode, causing the hood to unexpectedly open while driving.

October 10: 165,923 Mitsubishi vehicles from 2008-2011, including Lancer and Outlander models, Recalled for potential engine stalling.

October 10: 56 Subaru Outback vehicles from 2015 equipped with the trailer hitch assembly, Recalled for mounting nuts that may have been over-tightened, causing them to break.

October 8: 45,524 Omix Ada aftermarket floor mats for use in Chevrolet and GMC full size trucks and SUVs, Recalled for potentially interfering with the floor pedals.

October 7: 18,245 Chrysler Ram C/V Tradesman vehicles from 2013-2015, Recalled for air bags that may inadvertently deploy.

October 7: 7,598 Chevrolet Caprice vehicles from 2011-2013, Recalled for transmissions that may allow the vehicle to shift from "Park" without use of the ignition key or brake pedal.

October 6: 290,241 GM vehicles from 2010-2015, including Cadillac SRX and Saab 9-4X models, Recalled for a potential loose toe adjuster link which could cause loss of vehicle control.

October 6: 89,294 Chevrolet Spark vehicles from 2013-2015, Recalled for the hood latch which may corrode, causing the hood to unexpectedly open while driving.

October 6: 46,873 GM vehicles from 2008-2013, including Chevrolet Caprice and Pontiac G8 models, Recalled for the ignition which may allow the key to be knocked out of the run position.

October 6: 24,497 Dodge Ram ProMaster vehicles from 2014, Recalled for head restraints that may not properly limit an occupant's head movement during a crash.

October 6: 10,005 GM vehicles from 2004-2007, including Cadillac CTS-V and STS-V models, Recalled for a potential leak of fuel.

October 6: 1,787 Toyota FJ Cruiser vehicles from 2014 with the optional "Trail Teams Ultimate Edition" package, Recalled for potential loss of steering control.

October 6: 1,624 Dodge SRT Viper vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for air bags that may not deploy properly.

October 6: 304 Chevrolet Sonic vehicles from 2014, Recalled for air bags that may not fully deploy as intended.

October 6: 301 Ford vehicles from 2014-2015, including Ford Escape and Lincoln MKC models, Recalled for potential stalling.

Health Notes

Our Ebola coverage... relax, it's short



Ebola! Ebola! Ebola! It's everywhere! Except that it's not. The [inflammatory, wide-eyed news-ish coverage](#) of it is everywhere, but in the US there have only been 8 cases and 1 fatality. Yes, you have the same chance of dying of Ebola as you do of [dying from an exploding lava lamp](#). But buried in the hoopla (and actual useful information) is a good question... is our healthcare system prepared to deal with something like Ebola?

As Yves Smith points out in one of the articles below, an Ebola vaccine would sure come in handy about now, if not in the US then certainly in Africa. But we don't have one. The problem isn't scientific; it's economic. Ebola has been known for years, but there hasn't been enough profit in it for the pharmaceutical companies to develop a vaccine. When the first and only Ebola fatality first presented himself for treatment he spent 5 hours in an emergency room, potentially exposing everyone there, before being sent back out into the public with a 103° fever. The reasons for his release are still unclear, but a good guess might be that he didn't have insurance.

Ebola has pointed out one of the basic assumptions about a healthcare system, one that our profit-driven system has ignored... healthcare isn't just for the person who's sick, it protects us all. Or it would, if we could get care to everyone who needs it. So this month's Health Notes isn't about your health, but the question of whether our healthcare delivery system is strong enough to cope with Ebola... or other new diseases we don't even know about yet.

[Can Our Commercialized Health Care System Contain Ebola?](#)

Yves Smith on [Naked Capitalism](#), October, 2014

[How the U.S. Healthcare System Would Handle Ebola](#)

Olga Khazan in [The Atlantic](#), August, 2014

[If Ebola Batters Us, We Are Not Ready](#)

Jeff Donn and Garance Burke, [Associated Press](#), October 2014

[Will There Be an Ebola Outbreak in America?](#)

Dr. Mercola, [Mercola.com](#)

Includes info on Ebola, how it works, criticism of the CDC and government responses, and the little-known possibilities of ozone therapy. All from a natural-health perspective.

[What's more dangerous than Ebola?](#)

If you really want something to really worry about, then these things are really more likely to kill you...

6000/year die from texting while driving (US)
2900/year die from hippos (Africa)
600/year die from autoerotic asphyxiation (US)
450/year die from falling out of bed (US)
100/year die from falling icicles (Russia)
20-40/year die from jellyfish (Philippines)
34/year die from dogs (US)
30/year die from ants (Africa)



[Want all the Ebola facts?](#)

This [primer from CNN](#) has a little bit of everything, with minimal panic.

Sellwood Bridge Update

The whole Bridge construction in 3 minutes



Although there will be a brief bridge closure from November 19-21, 2014, it's all part of the plan. The Sellwood Bridge Project is proceeding slowly, but with no major hitches or delays. Traffic will be flowing on the new bridge next year, and the last guy with a hard hat will leave in 2016. In the meantime, we're all ready for the construction to be over. With that in mind, we bring you this video showing a computer animation (with step-by-step narration) of the entire bridge construction process from start to glorious FINISH! And just as an orientation, we're currently at about 1:42 into the video, getting ready for the installation of the steel arches next year.



Epic Scan | Sellwood Bridge | Bridge Animation

As always, 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. 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.

One brief word while you're here...

The Sellwood Bridge construction is critically important, but it's putting heavy pressure on our business. So far we've made it through without laying anyone off, but things are getting tighter and the bridge is still two years from completion. Please, if you have a friend, family member, or co-worker who hasn't tried our service yet, encourage them to come in. It will be a big help to us and you can take advantage of our [Referral Reward Program](#) to help someone else as well. We also have a generous [First-Time Client offer](#) to make your referral's first visit more affordable. If you like what you have found at Tom Dwyer Automotive, please help us continue providing the level of service and satisfaction you've come to expect. And from all of us here at the shop, thank you for your support over the years and thanks in advance for sharing what you've found with someone you know.

Book Spotlight

“The Tipping Point” by Malcolm Gladwell



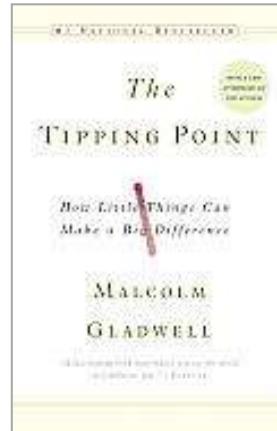
Legalized pot. Gay marriage. Charter schools. Tea Party and Occupy. Iggy Azalea and twerking. Hula hoops, school shootings, ebola... what could they possibly have in common? All these things, for better or worse, have popped out of seeming obscurity to enter the everyday fabric of our lives. But what makes something “catch on”? Malcom Gladwell argues that in order to spread through a population, ideas (or diseases, or fads, or fashion, or really anything that is communicated from one person to another) must reach a certain ‘tipping point’ that divides the failures from the successes. However, the things that create a tipping point are probably the things you’d least expect...

“The Tipping Point- How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference”

by Malcolm Gladwell

Review from [WikiSummaries](#)

The processes and mechanisms by which some trends achieve exponential popularity while others sputter and fade into oblivion have long been thought to be mysterious and resistant to analysis. However, Gladwell’s central argument is that there are actually a number of patterns and factors that are at play in virtually every influential trend, ranging from the spread of communicable diseases to the unprecedented popularity of a particular children’s television show. If you analyze the evolution of any major phenomenon, the author suggests, you will find that the processes involved are strikingly similar.



Based on his in-depth research spanning a number of different fields, industries, and scholarly disciplines, Gladwell identifies three key factors that each play in role in determining whether a particular trend will “tip” into wide-scale popularity. Gladwell’s discussion and illustration of the concepts of the Law of the Few, the Stickiness Factor, and the Power of Context comprise the majority of the book.

The Law of the Few contends that before widespread popularity can be attained, a few key types of people must champion an idea, concept, or product before it can reach the tipping point. Gladwell describes these key types as Connectors, Mavens, and Salesmen. If individuals representing all three of these groups endorse and advocate a new idea, it is much more likely that it will tip into exponential success.

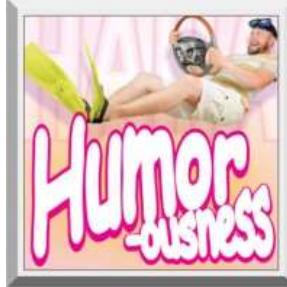
Gladwell defines the Stickiness Factor as the quality that compels people to pay close, sustained attention to a product, concept, or idea. Stickiness is hard to define, and its presence or absence often depends heavily on context. Often, the way that the Stickiness Factor is generated is unconventional, unexpected, and contrary to received wisdom.

The concept that Gladwell terms the Power of Context is enormously important in determining whether a particular phenomenon will tip into widespread popularity. Even minute changes in the environment can play a major factor in the propensity of a given concept attaining the tipping point. Also, Gladwell defines the term context very broadly, discussing the implications of small variations in social groups and minor changes in a neighborhood or community environment as shifts that can cause a new idea to tip.

After identifying and describing these key concepts, Gladwell dedicates the remainder of the book to illustrating them and their interdependency in a series of compelling case studies and examples. An afterword included in the newest edition of the book updates some of Gladwell’s arguments for more pertinent application in an era of widespread Internet connectivity.

Humorousness

The Lighter Side of ISIS. Believe it or not.



ISIS, the so-called “so-called” Islamic State, is not funny. When people grope around for an example of what qualifies as unadulterated evil that would justify war, ISIS is always in the top 10. One of the drawbacks of spreading the truth about ISIS, or even propaganda about ISIS, is that it helps to build a very scary bogeyman. How does a society deal with an organization built on fear without playing into the fear that makes them strong? Humor.

While ISIS isn't fodder for Saturday Night Live here, it is fodder for SNL's Middle Eastern equivalents. To western eyes it's a little strange... kind of like a grim, Islamic Monty Python, but it's a fascinating phenomenon from a culture that too often is portrayed as 1-dimensional and humorless. This month's Humorousness includes sketches from various sources as well as reporting that explains some of the trends and meanings of the satire (for those of us who aren't quite familiar enough with Pakistani politics to get the jokes.)

Anti-ISIS Satire Lampoons Militant Group's Hypocrisy

This audio report from NPR's “All Things Considered” is a great place to start; it's what caught our attention. Although it's audio, it includes narration and explanation of the Al-Falastiniya clip below



Hamas or Isis? From MideastTruth.com



[Muslims Around The World Are Making Parody Videos To Mock ISIS](#)
Counter-Current News



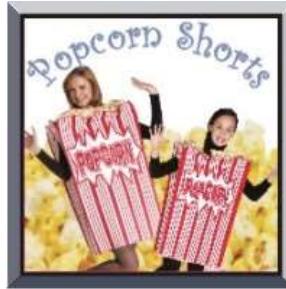
Al Arabiya News



Daily Mail Online

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!



Gardening? Hmmph. Try RAIN gardening!



Portlanders are gardeners. If you drive around the city you'll see yard after yard with green creativity bursting from every crevice. But Portlanders are also always on the leading edge, looking ahead to what's new, so now Portland is moving on to [rain gardens](#). Rain gardens capture part of the 37" of rain we get each year and allow it to soak slowly into the ground. Among other things, rain gardens filter pollutants, provides habitat, and take part of the load from our stormwater reclamation systems. This video from the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services gives the basics of starting your own rain garden. Just add creativity!

\$1 a cube for ice. We're not kidding.



Have you been limping along with regular ice in your elderflower-and-lime martini? Is homemade, cardamom-infused ginger ale not giving your Moscow Mule the kick it needs? Then the latest thing you never knew you needed is here to save the day... [artisanal ice](#). It's created with a special freezing process that freezes the spring-pure water from the bottom up (rather than from the top down as water usually freezes) to eliminate air bubbles. The resulting ice is stored at -2°, sculpted with a Japanese band saw, and... well, to get the whole story either [click this link](#) or call [PDX Ice](#), one of the 20 or so artisanal ice suppliers in the US.

Ten things you need to do after you buy a used car



We have our best advice for buying new and used cars on our website ([just click here](#)), but the folks over at Jalopnik may have one-upped us. One of their recent posts outlined the [Ten Things You Need To Do After You Buy A Used Car](#), and it's well worth reading. While we can quarrel with one of them (They had "Get it inspected by a mechanic" on the list, but we think you should absolutely do that BEFORE buying a used car) the rest of the list was pretty solid. From "Read the Owners Manual" to "Do all the quick fixes" it's a good list to make sure that your major new purchase will deliver major new satisfaction.

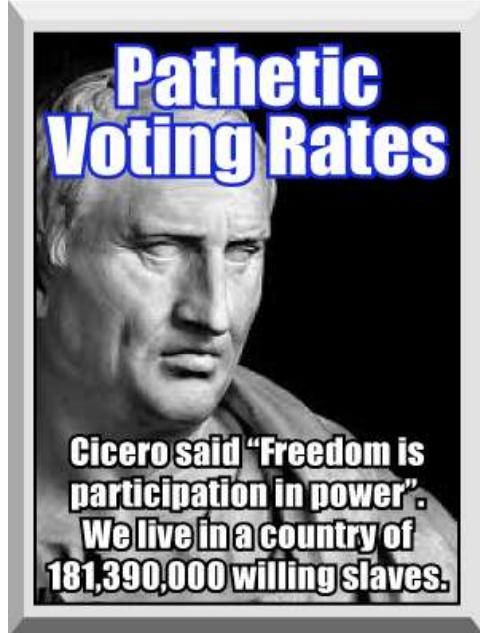
Banks can now disable your car by remote control



What happens if you're late on a car payment? Until recently you'd pay a fee or, if things were really overdue, you'd get a visit from the repo man. Not anymore! Car dealers and automotive lenders are targeting people with poor credit by installing GPS-based starter-interrupt devices on the cars that they sell. Now your friendly bank can just kill your car with the flick of a switch until you get current. Some cars have been shut down when the owners were only a few days behind on their payments, and others were killed while idling at stoplights. One Nevada woman's car was even shut down while she was [driving](#) on the freeway! She could have been killed or injured, but don't worry... the bank DID get paid.

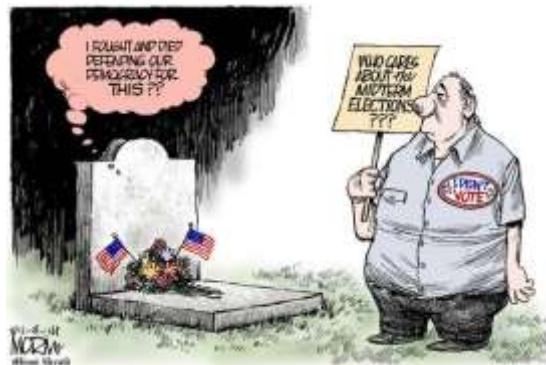
News To Make You Furious

Low Voting Rates



slaves. And that makes us Furious...

Let's play a little game... what do these people have in common? [Lamar Smith](#). [Viola Liuzzo](#). [Crispus Attucks](#). No guesses? Well, they're just three of the people who died for our right to vote. The recently passed Veterans Day reminded us of the over 1.3 million soldiers who've died in various wars since 1775 for the opportunity for us to live as a free people. Lamar, Viola, and Crispus remind us that it's not only our military who die for freedom; they were civilians who died specifically for the right to vote. The Revolutionary War created the country where we could take part in our own government, Women's Suffrage and Black Suffrage came later, but *having* the right to vote is not the same as *using* it. The Roman Senator Cicero said, "Freedom is participation in power", but today only a pathetically small number of people choose to participate. With the right to vote threatened by voter ID laws, with the effectiveness of voting diluted by bizarre gerrymanders, with the price in blood paid by others, a staggering proportion of people still choose not to the simplest, easiest thing to be free... to vote. They *choose* not to participate in power, they *choose* not to be free, they willingly choose to be



What was the voter turnout in the last election?

Let's take a look at the most recent election. (Full disclosure- Depending on which sources we checked, the population and voting percentage numbers below varied a bit. However, they were all in the general ballpark of each other and we think they'll serve for illustrative purposes.)

[Total population of the US](#)- 316,000,000

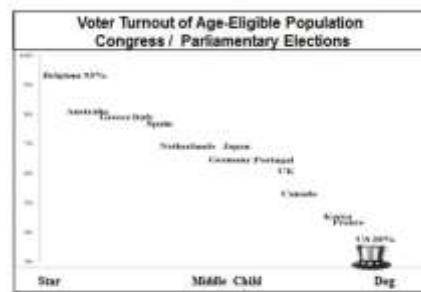
[Population over 18 years](#)- 242,500,000

[Population who are eligible to vote who have registered](#) (70%)- 169,750,000

[Population of registered voters who voted in the last election](#) (36%)- 61,110,000

[Population over 18 who didn't vote](#)- 181,390,000

Look at that! We can't really fault the folks under 18 for not voting, but **75% of the people who could have voted didn't!** That is the [lowest in any election cycle since WWII](#). Compare us to other countries and it's even more embarrassing. Look at this graph of [voting turnout in other wealthy countries](#). Belgium (*Belgium!*) has a 93% turnout rate, and Australia is around 80%. Both of these countries have compulsory voting; Belgium has a use-it-or-lose-it policy on voting, and Australia fines non-voters. However, Malta (not on the graph) has no compulsory voting and rates there [approach 95%](#).



And even worse, if you assume an average candidate won with a margin of 51%, that means the 2014 election, the earth-shaking tsunami, the overwhelming will of the people expressed through the ballot box, was actually the will of 31,166,100 people. **Just 10% of the overall population!**

We in Oregon, political activists that we are, did much better than the national average with [69.5% voter turnout](#), but with almost one in three of us choosing to let other people run our lives it's still nothing to write home about.

What increases voter turnout?

Maybe in one way it's good that our voting rates are so low. After all, the people who vote are the people who care. Who would want millions of people casting uninformed 'throwaway' votes just to keep from being fined, or worse, casting an intentionally bad vote as an expression of frustration with being forced to the polls? But let's make the assumption that higher voting rates are a good thing. How could we increase voter turnout? In each election the political parties go all-out to drive *their* voters to the polls, but they do everything they can to keep the *other* sides' folks at home. What could we do to increase *across the board* voting rates? Here are some suggestions from two sources- [Dr. Mark Franklin](#), author of "Voter Turnout and the Dynamics of Electoral Competition in Established Democracies Since 1945", and [FairVote.org](#), a non-profit, non-partisan group attempting to remove structural barriers to democracy...

- **Proportional representation-** Candidates are elected in proportion to the number of votes their supporting parties receive. Difficult to do under our winner-take-all system.
- **National Popular Vote for President-** The Electoral College means only certain states become battlegrounds and therefore, only certain states receive attention. Voting rates plunge in the ignored states. A popular vote would definitely increase participation in those states, but our pesky Constitution prohibits it.
- **Instant Runoff Voting-** This would work for single-seat offices like mayor and governor, and can be implemented without Constitutional changes.
- **Universal Voter Registration-** Rather than making registration a hurdle in itself, citizens could be registered to vote automatically and opt-out if they didn't want to. This too could be implemented at a state level with no constitutional changes.
- **Salience of an election-** This is a strategy used by both parties to drive their bases. If there is an issue of interest to a particular group, (gay marriage or abortion, for example) then the base will come out to vote for it and possibly vote in other races as well.
- **Relevance-** People who don't care about the issue or don't think their vote counts don't vote. They must reasonably believe that policy will be influenced by their participation. (An increasingly far-fetched assumption.)
- **Easier Voting-** Long lines, inconvenient polling places, complex registration, inability to take time off from work, and other factors reduce turnout. Things like increasing the number of polling places, making voting day a holiday, or universal registration (above) can increase participation without restructuring government.

"If your vote didn't matter, then these rotten sons of bitches wouldn't be working so damned hard to take it away from you."

[Jim Wright](#)
[Americans Against The Tea Party](#)

While Americans might balk at mandatory voting and some of the other suggestions require major changes, the Democratic Party in New York is [attempting to use peer pressure to get more people to vote](#). They've begun sending some fairly Orwellian notices to people about their voting history. Here's an excerpt from the New York letters...

"Who you vote for is your secret, but whether or not you vote is public record. Many organizations monitor turnout in your neighborhood and are disappointed by the inconsistent voting of many of your neighbors." It gives some information on how to vote, but concludes "We will be reviewing official voting records after the upcoming election to determine whether you joined your neighbors who voted in 2014. If you do not vote this year, we will be interested to hear why not."

"[Vote Shaming](#)" letters like these are being sent by various groups, liberal and conservative, around the country. (One of our intrepid *Your Car Matters* reporters even saw one here in Oregon). Heavy-handed and grim, yes, but it seems to effectively raise voting rates. "Researchers from Yale University and the University of Northern Iowa reported that they had sent letters to voters with a variety of messages -- voting is public record, your neighbors will know if you don't vote, etc. -- and what they found is that among people who received the mailers 'substantially higher turnout was observed'. These findings demonstrate the profound importance of social pressure as an inducement to political participation," the researchers wrote. In other words, nobody wants to be embarrassed in front of their neighbors."

How can I help increase voter turnout?

Personally, you can talk to your family, friends, and co-workers about the importance of voting and what it means to you. If you'd like to get involved with a group working towards 100% turnout then there are several to refer you to...



[Project VOTE](#)

Project Vote is a national nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that works to empower, educate, and mobilize low-income, minority, youth, and other marginalized and under-represented voters. Since 1994 Project Vote has developed state-of-the-art voter registration and Get-Out-the-Vote programs, and has helped register more than 5.6 million Americans in low-income and minority communities. Project Vote has also achieved a nationwide presence through long-term relationships with service and advocacy partners, and takes a leadership role in nationwide election administration issues, working through research, legal services, and advocacy to ensure that our constituencies are not prevented from registering and voting.

[US Vote Foundation](#)

U.S. Vote Foundation (US Vote) provides online tools to assist US citizens living anywhere in the world to register to vote and request their absentee ballot using their state's specific voter forms. This includes US citizens living within the US, living abroad or serving in the military.

[Register to vote- USA.gov](#)

Our United States government, thankfully, at least gives a nod to increasing voting. Register To Vote on USA.gov has resources for voters, voter guides, registration information, and more.

[League of Women Voters](#)

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. We do this at all three levels of government, engaging in both broad educational efforts as well as advocacy. Our issues are grounded in our respected history of making democracy work for all citizens.

[RegisterToVote.org](#)

In the United States, voter registration is the responsibility of the people, and only 70 percent of Americans who are eligible to vote have registered. RegisterToVote.org is a nonpartisan organization committed to reaching the remaining 30 percent. We simplify the voter registration process, making it faster and easier for you to get involved and become an active voice in our democracy. Register to vote today and start exercising your right to make a difference!