



## Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for August, 2016

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*America's* priorities?



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Pictures, Car-of-the-Future,  
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#### We're Very Good, And Now We Can Prove It

We're now CERTIFIED for  
hybrid and electric vehicles!

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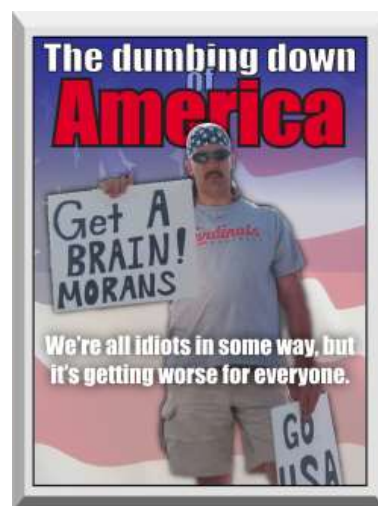
#### Popcorn Shorts

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# Tom's Tidbits

Endless war. Endless squandered opportunity.



Greetings!

America is [currently at war with between 0 and 134 countries](#). Constitutionally-required Declarations Of War may be passé, but our war machine limps along vigorously under endless “authorizations for use of military force”. However, war can only be a temporary measure for any society. It may *sometimes* be necessary but it *always* costs, and no society can bear the expense forever. Put aside the irreplaceable price in blood... what’s the cost in *treasure* of our current state of Endless War, what could we do with that treasure instead, and what can we do to turn things around?

How much do we spend on guns and how much butter could it buy? The military budget itself [was near \\$600 billion in 2015](#) and we’ve [spent over \\$7.6 trillion on war since 2001](#), but that may be misleading. As [Time Magazine noted](#), while Congress *authorized* \$686 billion for Afghanistan activities the true cost rises to \$4-6 trillion when including things like “long-term medical care and disability compensation for service members, veterans and families, military replenishment and social and economic costs”. Sticking with the Middle East, [Financial Times in 2014](#) put the cost of the Afghan war alone at \$1 trillion and the cost of the Iraq war at \$1.7 trillion. The [Watson Project on the Costs of War](#) put the total costs of the wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq at \$4.4 trillion. Not the *whole* military budget... just those three wars.

Let’s give *some* money to guns and take only *part* of it for butter... say \$2 trillion. What could that buy here at home?

- We could write a check for [\\$6,172 for each of the 324 million people in the US](#)
- We could pay off about [10% of our national debt](#) at one swipe.
- We’d could pay [ALL tuition at public universities](#) for about 30 years, OR [ALL post-secondary education across the country](#) for about 20 years, OR [ALL EDUCATION](#) across the country including [Head Start](#) and [pre-school](#) for a year with money left over to buy a LOT of school supplies.
- [More than 500,000 people](#) (a quarter of them children) were homeless in 2015. \$2 trillion would buy EACH of them a \$4 million home.
- \$2 trillion would cover the [total deferred maintenance](#) of our government-owned infrastructure, [10 high-speed rail lines](#) like the one being built in California, the cost of a [Google Fiber network](#), AND upgrading to a nationwide [smart power grid](#).
- That money could put [solar panels on EVERY home in the US](#).

That’s just six options and we couldn’t have them all; we’d have to choose. But that’s the point... if we had all that money, we’d have those choices. We don’t.

Neither our currently elected leadership nor anyone applying for the job looks likely to change the status quo. Why? Eisenhower’s famous [military/industrial complex](#)... in 2012 alone the [top 5 weapons suppliers took home \\$133.9 billion](#). This money didn’t just fund our military, but also an [army of contractors, lawyers, lobbyists](#) to protect the gravy train. In that same 2012, [the defense industry spent \\$136.9 million dollars on lobbyists](#), who in turn [spent it on politicians](#). And the cycle continues.

We face real threats in the world and a legitimate cost to deal with them, but the military/industrial complex doesn’t stop at “legitimate”. It can’t. We pay a high price in mere dollars and an even higher price in the blood of ourselves and our adversaries, but it doesn’t even stop there. When our values are perverted to the greed of the military/industrial complex we stop being a nation of peace at all; we become the engine of war. The people with our bombs raining down on them aren’t be fooled by platitudes... they’ll be the seed of new generations to hate us. Unless “We The People” *stop* the cycle.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

# Digging Deeper

[Are We Safer? Measuring The Costs Of America's Unending Wars](#) by Neta Crawford on wbur.org, Jun 2016.

[Adding Up the Costs of Hillary Clinton's Wars](#) by Conn Hallinan on Foreign Policy in Focus, Feb 2016

[Costs of War](#) project by the Watson Institute at Brown University

[War on Terror: Facts, Costs, Timeline](#) by Kimberly Amadeo on The Balance, Aug 2016

[Study: Iraq War Cost U.S. \\$2.2 Trillion, Claimed Nearly 200,000 Lives](#) by Ben Armbruster on ThinkProgress, Mar 2013

[The War In Afghanistan Has So Far Cost \\$33,000 Per Citizen. And Will Not End Well.](#) by Peter Apps on Reuters, Oct 2015

[The Opportunity Cost Of World Military Spending](#) by Dr. Sam Perlo-Freeman on the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Apr 2016

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[Excerpt from address by President Dwight D. Eisenhower "The Chance for Peace" delivered before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953.](#)

*Though he was speaking about the Cold War and possibility of conflict with the Soviet Union, Eisenhower's words indict us just as strongly today as we walk the road of Endless War.*

"What can the world, or any nation in it, hope for if no turning is found on this dread road?

The worst to be feared and the best to be expected can be simply stated. The worst is atomic war.

The best would be this: a life of perpetual fear and tension; a burden of arms draining the wealth and the labor of all peoples; a wasting of strength that defies the American system or the Soviet system or any system to achieve true abundance and happiness for the peoples of this earth.

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

This world in arms is not spending money alone.

It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities.

It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population.

It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals.

It is some 50 miles of concrete highway.

We pay for a single fighter with a half million bushels of wheat.

We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people.

This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking.

This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

These plain and cruel truths define the peril and point the hope that come with this spring of 1953.

This is one of those times in the affairs of nations when the gravest choices must be made, if there is to be a turning toward a just and lasting peace.

It is a moment that calls upon the governments of the world to speak their intentions with simplicity and with honesty.

It calls upon them to answer the questions that stir the hearts of all sane men: is there no other way the world may live?

# What NOW?!! Toons

Our August check in with Keith Tucker



# Weighing Our Choices

Which candidate best represents *America's* priorities?



America is about to choose either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump as President of the United States. That's a surreal sentence to even write, but it *is* the choice we'll all be faced with come November. In the meantime we'll be treated to spin designed to make us to vote on emotion rather than fact while the Media studiously avoids analyzing any position in favor of their daily dose of mud and venom. Do either of these people, or the coalitions they represent, actually reflect *America's* priorities? That's not a rhetorical question... either of these people (or their parties) might have positions worth consideration, but how do those positions line up with the priorities (right or wrong) of America at large? We think the

best way to know is to get the story straight from the horses' mouths. Not just from the two horses running for President, but from many more horses as well...

This month we bring you the positions of the Presidential candidates and their parties with as little punditry or partisan hackery as possible. For the two major candidates you'll find links to their Party, the Party's official platform, and the nomination acceptance speech of each candidate. If you want to check out some of the other competitors, we also have a little information from the second, third, and fourth tier contenders. But then dig a little deeper... what are *America's* priorities, and how do they differ from those of *any* political party? You'll find several links to what actual Americans want from their government and their representatives.

We seem to be faced with two of the worst possible options in this election cycle, but we can still make the best possible choice. Here's a small slice of the information we need to win the Big Game...

## The Main Contenders

There are, of course, two main players when it comes to political parties, and barring an act of God our next President will come from one of them...

### [Democratic Party](#)

Democratic Party Platform- [Web Link](#) or [PDF](#)  
Hillary Clinton Nomination Acceptance Speech-  
[Transcript](#) or [Video](#)  
Running Mate- [Tim Kaine](#)

### [Republican Party](#)

Republican Party Platform- [Web Link](#) or [PDF](#)  
Donald Trump Nomination Acceptance Speech-  
[Transcript](#) or [Video](#)  
Running Mate- [Mike Pence](#)

## The Scrappy Underdogs

In the spirit of fairness though, there *are* two parties are on the ballot in enough states to theoretically have access to the 270 electoral votes needed to win the Presidency...

### [Green Party](#)

Green Party Platform- [Web Link](#) or [PDF](#)  
Candidate [Jill Stein](#)

### [Libertarian Party](#)

Libertarian Party Platform- [Web Link](#) or [PDF](#)  
Candidate- [Gary Johnson](#)

## The Cinderella Stories

There's another level below that; parties with access to less than the 270 electoral votes needed to win but more than 50 electoral votes total...

[American Delta Party](#)- Rocky De La Fuente

[American Independent Party](#)- Wiley Drake

[Constitution Party](#)- Darrell Castle

[Peace and Freedom Party](#)- Gloria La Riva

[Reform Party of the USA](#)- Ed Chiapowski

[Party for Socialism and Liberation](#)- Gloria La Riva

## The Enthusiastic Amateurs

Finally, there are several [parties with access to fewer than 50 electoral votes](#)...

American Party

America's Party

American Freedom Party

Better for America

Constitution Party

Independent American Party

Nutrition Party

Prohibition Party

Socialist Workers Party

Veterans Party of America

## The Gritty Sports Reporters

The Media has abrogated its duty to inform the public as well as entertain us, so it's up to us to find the unbiased information we need. There are some very good sites out there, but here's one we'd like to recommend to you today...

[Project Vote Smart](#)- "just the facts" on over 40,000 politicians

## The Cheering Crowds

So that's 20 different groups (21, if you count the Media) with their own ideas of where they think the country should go. What do *We The People* think? In a country with 324 million people it may be impossible to get a precise answer, but there can be clues.

For a general look at America's priorities we offer an excellent survey from the Pew Research Center, one of America's most respected polling groups. This is the most recent such survey we found, so it hopefully reflects the most up-to-the-minute thinking of the American citizenry. The American Majority Project Polling aggregates issue polls into one-stop shopping.

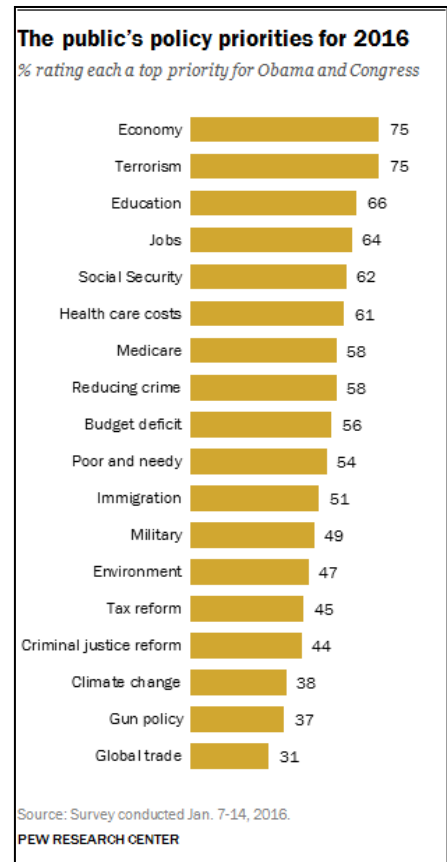
[The Public's Policy Priorities For 2016](#) by the Pew Research Center, Jan 2016

[The American Majority Project Polling](#) on Campaign For America's Future, ongoing additions.

Drilling down on some specific hot-button issues leads to interesting observations...

[Poll: Voters want Social Security expanded, not cut](#), Elias Esquith on Salon, Nov 2013

[Majority Still Support Single-Payer Option, Poll Finds](#) by Sarah Ferris in The Hill, Jan 2015



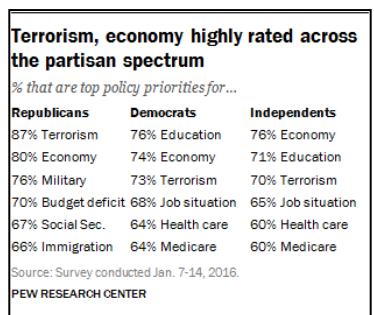
Policy	% Favorable in France	% General Public in France
Government must see that no one is left behind, working or not	43%	68%
Minimum wage high enough so that no family with a full-time worker falls below official poverty line	40%	70%
The government should provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed	33%	50%
The government in Washington ought to see to it that everyone who wants to work can find a job	30%	48%
The federal income tax (or Social Security) should be increased rather than decreased or kept the same	28%	44%
The federal government should provide jobs for overeducated and willing to work who cannot find a job in private employment	20%	33%

SOURCE: Rousseau, J. Edgar, Larry W. Heston, and Jeanne Hershey, "Unemployment and the Public Preference of 'Quality' Unemployment," *Unemployment in France* (Cambridge, 1973), pp. 11-15.

Young People More Likely to Prioritize Scientific Research, Education					
% rating each a top priority for Obama and Congress ...					
	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Yng.-Old Diff
	%	%	%	%	
Scientific research	53	36	43	32	+21
Educational system	74	73	60	56	+18
Environment	58	48	50	48	+10
Global warming	42	41	35	34	+8
Moral breakdown	52	45	50	48	+4
Poor and needy	52	58	56	49	+3
Global trade	32	28	32	29	+3
Nation's economy	73	74	78	73	0
Energy	46	46	47	46	0
Reducing crime	61	54	53	62	-1
Race relations	52	47	46	53	-1
Improving job situation	69	65	66	71	-2
Role of money in politics	43	40	40	48	-5
Reducing budget deficit	58	63	69	64	-6
Reducing health care costs	59	62	67	68	-9
Medicare system	58	58	63	68	-10
Strengthening military	51	46	53	62	-11
Social Security system	57	65	72	69	-12
Tax reform	39	43	58	52	-13
Immigration	43	51	56	57	-14
Roads, bridges and transit	30	45	47	44	-14
Terrorism	69	70	83	84	-15
Influence of lobbyists	28	41	50	56	-28

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. Significant differences in **bold**.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



	%
The economy	86
Education	86
Healthcare policy	77
Social Security and Medicare	73
Terrorism	52
Poverty and homelessness	44
The military and national defense	44
Culture	44
Taxes	43
The distribution of income and wealth	37
Energy policy	36
The environment	35
Gun policy	34
World affairs	32
Immigration	29
Government surveillance of U.S. citizens	25
Abortion	24
Race relations	24
Political/sexual gays and lesbians	22

[According To Polls Most Americans Are Socialists Like Bernie Sanders](#) by Rmuse on PoliticusUSA,  
Jun 2015

[News Flash: Americans in Broad Agreement About Pot, Abortion, Homosexuality](#) by Nick Gillespie  
in Time, Jan 2014

[Democrats, Republicans Agree on Four Top Issues for Campaign](#) by Frank Newport on Gallup.com,  
Feb 2016

But why is there such a discrepancy between what WE want and what THEY want?

**Critics Argued With Our Analysis Of US Political Inequality.**

**Here Are 5 Ways They're Wrong** by Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page in The Washington Post, May 2016

(also, here's a link to [Gilens' and Page's original groundbreaking research](#))

**How Policymakers Ignore The Public's Priorities** by Matt Grossmann in The Washington Post, Mar 2014

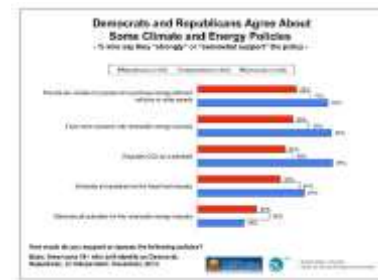
**Public's Policy Priorities Reflect Changing Conditions at Home and Abroad** by the Pew Research Center, Jan 2015

**Stacked Deck- How The Dominance of Politics by the Affluent & Business Undermines Economic Mobility In America** on Demos.org

If it's such a bleak situation out there, is there ANYONE working for America's priorities?

Majorities of middle-class Republicans and Democrats support progressive policies			
	Republicans	Democrats	Total*
National health insurance plan available to all Americans at an affordable cost			
Excellent/good idea	57%	91%	75%
Require employers to provide paid family and medical leave			
Excellent/good idea	63%	84%	71%
Allow individuals who entered the U.S. illegally as children to apply for legal residency if they go to college or serve in the military and have no criminal record			
Excellent/good idea	55%	88%	61%
Allow bankruptcy judges to change mortgage payments to prevent foreclosures			
Excellent/good idea	55%	71%	62%

\* Total includes independents



**National Priorities Project**, website "Fighting for a U.S. federal budget that works for all Americans"

**Working Families Party**, "Fighting for a brighter future for America"

So that's it... if you can't tell the players without a program, you now have the program to know them all. It may be a depressing time to be a citizen but our fellow citizens are counting on us to make the best of a bad situation. Take what you know, keep digging and learning, and try to make the Big Game work to all our benefit. As Thom Hartmann would say, "Democracy is not a spectator sport. Tag... you're it!"

# 2016 Sellwood Concert Wrapup

Pictures, Car-of-the-Future, and our PDX-Carpet WINNER!



We look forward to the Sellwood Park Concerts every year. Really, you can't get any better than relaxing on the lawn while music plays and you enjoy the Oregon sunset. While some of our Dwyer employees do go to enjoy the show, one goes to work. At our Tom Dwyer Booth every year he's there saying "Hi" to our longtime neighbors, introducing us to potential new clients, and running contests for kids and adults alike. This month we wrap up the 2015 Summer Concert season by showing you pictures of what you missed, but also by announcing the WINNERS of all those contests!

Of course the centerpiece of the concerts is the music, and this year's lineup didn't disappoint. Over the 5 weeks of the series we were treated to the sounds of Keegan Smith, Pete Krebs & the Portland Playboys, Edna Vasquez, Karen Lovely, and the last week's headliner Quarterflash.



Karen Lovely



Quarterflash

[\(click here for YouTube video of their Sellwood Park performance of "All I Really Want To Do"\)](#)



Pete Krebs & the Portland Playboys



Keegan Smith (photo by The Bee)



Edna Vasquez

Right behind the music itself in importance is the magnificent environment and activities surrounding the show...



Dancing is one of the most popular activities at the concerts for the young...



...and the young at heart.



2016 was the last year to watch the Sellwood Bridge construction from the Park... it will be complete by next year's show.



It's worth going down to the Riverfront Park dock after the show to watch the sunset over downtown Portland.



Many local businesses and vendors have booths at the show and we do too; in fact, we've had a presence at every show since 2009. We try to be creative with our booth activities beyond giving away pens and brochures, and this year we tried two new things. First, we gave away wildflower seeds that grew edible flowers. Kids were able to fill their seed envelopes from the bulk bag of seed on our table. Though the idea seemed to work well, there was one issue we didn't anticipate... there was quite a bit of seed spillage, and next year there may be a few rings of wildflowers sprouting up where our booth was. Well, at least you'll be able to eat the flowers!



Our second new idea was a straightforward contest, but the prize was a little unusual. We had an office mat made from the old Portland Airport carpet and took entries to win it from each of the 5 Sellwood shows. A lot of people entered and are probably pretty interested in who won it, so without further ado the winner is

### **Simon F. of Sellwood**

Congratulations, Simon, and we hope you enjoy this little piece of Portland history. This giveaway was so popular that we're sure to do it again next year... maybe not for the carpet, but we promise it will be for something cool. Check back when the Sellwood Concerts start again next year!

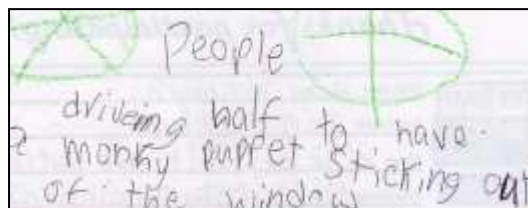
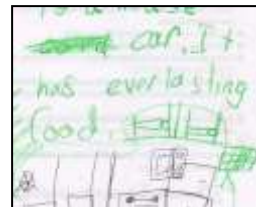


## **CAR OF THE FUTURE** *Coloring Contest*

Our biggest draw for the past several years has been for the kids. In our "Car Of The Future Contest" we ask kids to draw their own versions of the future of transportation. There

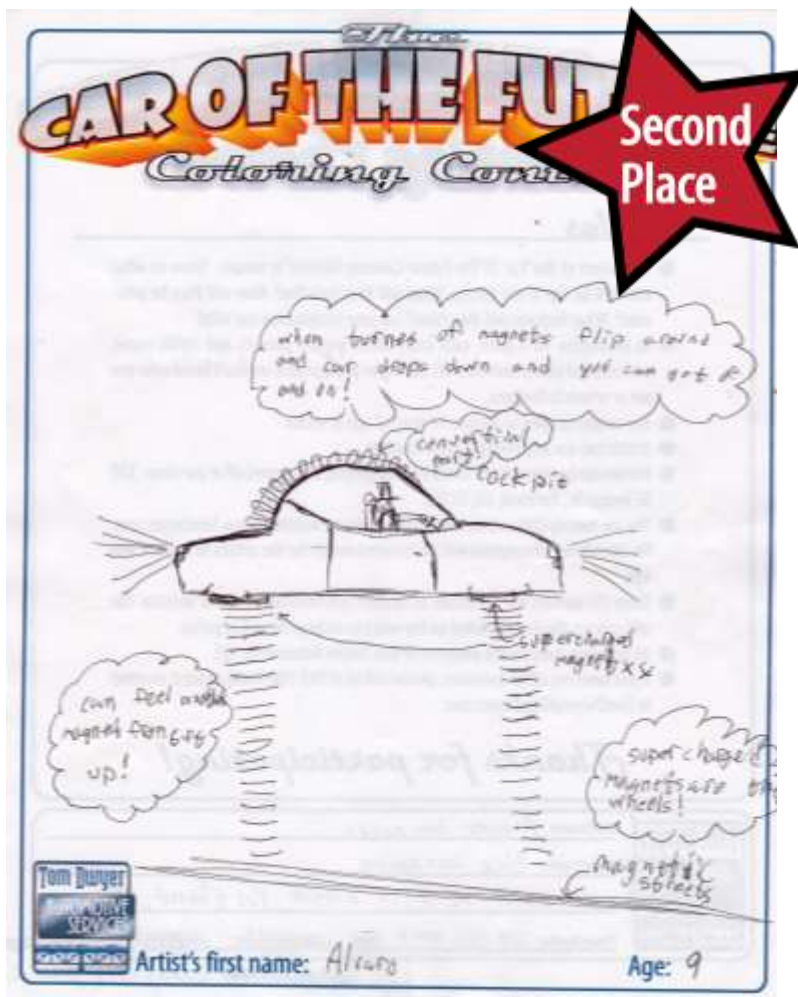
are no rules beyond that, and year after year they continue to surprise us with their creativity. As always the challenge lies in choosing between all the very, very strong competitors! 71 kids entered this year, and we were forced to pick just three. We've attached a gallery of our 20 favorites on our website, and before we announce our winners let us point out 5 Honorable mentions...

- Paisley M.'s idea for a "car that runs on cuteness" was great, but we especially liked the puppy, kitten, and bunny she showed coming out of the exhaust pipe.
- Hannah S. deserves a mention for her flying car with its own unconventional fuel... "toilet power".
- We thought Maddy G.'s feature of "everlasting food" was a good feature in any car.
- Hailey D. came up with a retro-future Jetson's car, complete with its own retro-future trailer.
- And finally, we thought Ruby M. raised some interesting legal questions because the drivers of her car "have to have a monkey puppet sticking out of the window".



But as we said we have to pick just three, so here are the winners of the 2016 Tom Dwyer Car of the Future Contest, and recipients of gift certificates to Wallace Books in Sellwood...

Third place went to Shea B., for her creative attempt to dodge the whole drawing part of the contest by showing us her “invisibility car”.



Second place went to Alvaro G. for his well-thought-out and very well-drawn version of a magnetic car. He got extra bonus points because who doesn't love a magnetic hovering convertible?

First place went to Sophia S., not just for thinking outside the box but for telling us exactly what shape the box would be. She told us what sort of cars we would be driving and what sort we would be avoiding "if we decide to treat our planet well". She cut straight through to the basic problem of every form of future transportation, and we thought her insight was very deserving of her First prize.



Congratulations to all our winners, and we look forward to seeing your new ideas next year!

# We're Very Good, And Now We Can Prove It

We're now CERTIFIED for hybrids and electrics!



Do you own a hybrid or full-electric vehicle? Thinking of buying one? Deciding to upgrade to an electric vehicle is just the first hurdle you'll face. Once you're the proud owner, where will you go for the expert service you need? You might not know that until recently there was *no one in the country* certified as qualified to work on electric or hybrid vehicles! It's not that the Techs weren't capable, but there wasn't any such thing as hybrid/electric *certification* at all. No longer... the first ASE hybrid and electric certification was issued in 2015, and we're proud to say the first Tom Dwyer Technician passed his own test this month. Tom Dwyer Automotive is now not only capable, but *certified* as capable to care for your

high-tech electric vehicles. Here's exactly what that means to you...

## ASE Certification Background

ASE, the [National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence](#), was created in 1972 to test and certify that auto repair shops and Technicians in the US and Canada are competent and qualified. ASE currently offers certifications in Automobile, Collision Repair, Medium-Heavy Truck, School Bus, Transit Bus, and Truck Equipment areas. Each of these areas has several sub-tests within it. For example the [Automobile certification](#), the one carried by all Dwyer Technicians, covers these areas...

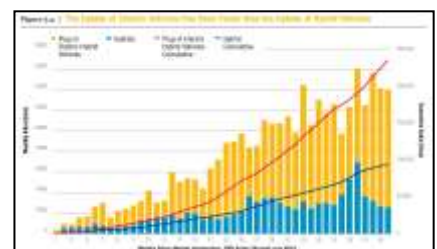
- A1 – Engine Repair
- A2 – Automatic Transmission/Transaxle
- A3 – Manual Drive Train & Axles
- A4 – Suspension & Steering
- A5 – Brakes
- A6 – Electrical/Electronic Systems
- A7 – Heating & Air Conditioning
- A8 – Engine Performance



To be [ASE-Certified](#) a Technician must pass any one of these sections, but to be [ASE-Master-Certified](#) they must pass all eight. In addition, Master Technicians must have at least two years of relevant hands-on work experience and must recertify in each test area every five years. Beyond the Master level, Technicians can pursue the Advanced, or "[L"-Level certifications](#) of L1 (Advanced Engine Performance Specialist), L2 (Electronic Diesel Engine Diagnosis Specialist), and now L3 (Light-Duty Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Specialist). Service Advisors and Auto Shops aren't immune from the piercing gaze of ASE, either. Service Writers have their own [C1 Service Consultant Certification](#), and shops can apply for the stringent [Blue Seal Certification](#).

## The L3 Certification

Now that you know how ASE works, the value to you of the new L3 Certification probably makes sense. The soaring popularity of hybrid and electric vehicles meant a new generation of Technicians has to be trained to repair and maintain the new technology, so ASE created the L3 certification to address the issues specific to hybrid and electric vehicles. The new program was [announced in November of 2014](#), and



the first Technicians only earned their certifications in June of 2015. As with all automotive fields the technology is constantly changing, so as with the other Advanced Level areas the L3 will require recertification every 5 years.

We'd like to offer our congratulations to Chris Waterbury, an ASE-Master-Certified Technician who's been with us since 1999, for being the first of our Technicians to achieve his L3 certification. To emphasize how special Chris' achievement is let us pass along an observation from Dan Baumhardt, a manager at ASE. "Look at the numbers on the [ASE Statistics Page](#). Of the approximately 300,000 ASE-certified technicians, only 1,457 have earned the L3 credential. Chris has joined an elite group of service professionals that have passed a challenging exam covering the diagnosis and repair of the high voltage systems on these high tech vehicles. Passing this advanced level exam is quite an accomplishment."



To put this into perspective, Toyota has about 70% of the hybrid/electric vehicle market share and they have about 1500 dealerships in the US and Canada. That means there's not yet one ASE-certified hybrid/electric Technician for every *Toyota* dealership, much less the other dealers and independent shops around the country. We're very proud of Chris, very proud of our whole Technical staff, and very proud to say we have at least 3 more Tom Dwyer Technicians studying to take their L3 tests soon.

### **"Industry Standards" vs. "Tom Dwyer Standards"**

Not all shops rely on Certified Technicians for all, or even most of their work. It's common for shops to have a crew of untrained, inexperienced, or un-certified people doing the bulk of the work under the supervision of a couple Certified Technicians and maybe one Master Technician, usually the shop manager. To be Blue Seal Certified, 75% of a shop's Technicians must be Certified, and each area of service must be covered by a Technician certified in that area. Very few auto shops even qualify for Blue Seal status.

At Tom Dwyer Automotive we go far beyond the industry standard. [We currently employ ten Technicians](#); two are ASE-Certified, the other eight are ASE-Master-Certified, and most carry advanced certifications outside of ASE. All [four of our Service Advisors](#) are not only non-commissioned, but they're all ASE-Certified as Service Writers. You might not even be surprised to learn that we ourselves are a Blue-Seal Shop, one of only [nine in the Portland area](#).

Before the L3 Certification, we distributed work on hybrid/electric vehicles between our various Master Technicians. Their years, even decades of experience meant they had the background, creativity, and flexibility to deal with the new vehicles flawlessly. Our [24/24 Warranty](#) backed their work and our [99.72% Satisfaction](#) rating seems to indicate they were doing a pretty good job. However, that just meant we knew they were capable and qualified. Now, with the L3 Certification you don't have to take our word for it... *you* can have the same confidence in their work that we do. Electric vehicles are the future, and now you can be *assured* we'll be ready to care for your electric vehicle when you're ready to make the switch.



Easy, healthy, and light... the perfect summer food. Get 'em before Fall gets here!

### **Ingredients:**

- (4) cups shredded cabbage
- (1) carrot, peeled and grated
- ½ cup finely chopped red onion
- ½ cup finely chopped cilantro
- (1) cup sour cream
- (2) tbsp. fresh lime juice
- Salt and pepper
- (8) 6-8" flour tortillas
- 1½ pounds cod fillets
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 tbsp olive oil

### **Preparation:**

- Mix cabbage, carrots, red onion, cilantro, sour cream, lime juice, and salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.
- Cut cod fillets in portions about 2 inches wide. Place flour on a plate. Dredge fish pieces in flour to coat.
- Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook fish in oil until fish flakes easily with a fork. Remove from skillet.
- Wipe out skillet with paper towels and return to medium heat. Working with 1 tortilla at a time, add tortillas to skillet to heat both sides. Fill each tortilla evenly with fish and cabbage mixture, and serve.

**Makes 8 tacos**

**Nutritional information-** 250 calories, 10g fat, 5g saturated fat, 55 mg cholesterol, 550mg sodium, 22g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 17g protein.

# Shop Talk

## Comments from... cats



### Comment of the Month

Our Comment of the Month comes from a cat... well, from the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, who said on Facebook "Need some help with your car? For any new clients who mention an FCCO referral, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services will donate 20% of your first invoice to FCCO. What a deal! Purrs of joy for community partnership!"

*That's one insightful cat at the FCCO! Since our Referral Reward program started in 2013, we've been able to donate to well over 200 organizations in our clients' names, all to say thanks for spreading the good word about Tom Dwyer Automotive. We've had a lot of positive feedback from our clients and the groups they've chosen, but there was a particular reason this post caught our attention...how often does a CAT show gratitude of ANY kind?*



### Referral Reward Program- VOTE our Quarterly Award winner!



Summer is our busiest time of the year, which is great for our Referral Reward Program and great for the groups we're helping. The Referral Reward Program is our way of saying "thanks" for your generous referrals without even the appearance of impropriety... there's no possibility that your referral to your friend could be tainted by a free oil change or discount for yourself! It's absolutely simple... **whenever a new client comes in because of your referral we call you and donate to the non-profit group of your choice.** Donations are based on the new client's initial purchases, and vary from \$10 to \$50. In August we were able to make **13 donations totaling \$544 to these groups** for a total of **225 donations for \$13,095** not including quarterly or yearly donations...

[Garibaldi Maritime Museum](#) by Bob B.

[Providence Cancer Research](#) by Gina F.

[NW Pilot Project](#) by Illona Edens

[Multnomah County Library](#) by Lars F. and Peter G

[ACLU](#) by Na-ama S.

[Project Lemonade](#) by Lauren J.

[Shriners Hospital for Children](#) by Peter Z.

[Planned Parenthood](#) by Sue Ann H.

[Backline](#) by Wendy M.

[Potluck In The Park](#) by Barry L.

[Bicycle Transportation Alliance](#) by Greg L.

[KBOO](#) by Joe D.

That brings us to the important news this month... it's almost time to vote for our next quarterly award winner! We've been picking these winners ourselves up till now, and we've complained that it's the hardest part of the Referral Reward Program. Don't believe us? Next month you'll find out for yourself! We'll give you the full list of three months of winners, and you'll have to vote for one... just one... to receive a check for \$200. Remember, saying "yes" to one means saying "no" to all the others, so what will YOU do? Check back in next month to find out!

## Current Discount Offers



**OFFER EXTENDED-** If we've made several service recommendations that you've been waiting to take action on, then wait no longer...

**Save 20% on Labor Charges on Service Recommendations in your file before 8/10/16. Max value \$200**

*(offer expires Sep 30, 2016)*



It's not bad yet, but the coming heat will soon turn our parking lot into a dust factory. We can't wash all the vehicles we service, so we created Carwash Coupon Season from May through September to make up for it.

**Get a coupon for a FREE WashMan car wash (with minimum purchase)**

CarWash Coupon Season only goes through Sep 15, so act now to get the sparkly vehicle you'll love. Sorry, but we only give coupons for services exceeding \$125 and not for oil changes or other minor services. So why don't we just wash your car here? It's one of the most common questions we get, so click here and we'll let Tom himself tell you why...

*(offer expires Sep 30, 2016)*

## 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.

# Health Notes

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## Stress, emotion, and disease



We turn to an unusual source for our Health Notes this month, an award-winning website called [Brain Pickings](#). Created by Bulgarian writer Maria Popova, Brain Pickings is an eclectic site that deals with literature, philosophy, history, science, health, and much more. In this article, Popova looks at health in her particularly holistic way to point out how integrated our bodies, minds, and emotions are. Focusing on the work of Dr. Esther Sternberg and her book [The Balance Within](#), Popova explains how medicine can now measure the effect of our nervous system and hormones on diseases as diverse as AIDS and Chronic fatigue syndrome, what the feedback mechanism is, and how we can put this basic knowledge to work to make us all healthier.

### [The Science of Stress and How Our Emotions Affect Our Susceptibility to Burnout and Disease](#)

*How your memories impact your immune system, why moving is one of the most stressful life-events, and what your parents have to do with your predisposition to PTSD.*

BY MARIA POPOVA

*From the article...*

"...no researcher has done more to illuminate the invisible threads that weave mind and body together than Dr. Esther Sternberg. Her groundbreaking work on the link between the central nervous system and the immune system, exploring how immune molecules made in the blood can trigger brain function that profoundly affects our emotions, has revolutionized our understanding of the integrated being we call a human self. In the immeasurably revelatory *The Balance Within: The Science Connecting Health and Emotions* (public library), Sternberg examines the interplay of our emotions and our physical health, mediated by that seemingly nebulous yet, it turns out, remarkably concrete experience called stress.

With an eye to modern medicine's advances in cellular and molecular biology, which have made it possible to measure how our nervous system and our hormones affect our susceptibility to diseases as varied as depression, arthritis, AIDS, and chronic fatigue syndrome, Sternberg writes: "By parsing these chemical intermediaries, we can begin to understand the biological underpinnings of how emotions affect diseases..."

The same parts of the brain that control the stress response...play an important role in susceptibility and resistance to inflammatory diseases such as arthritis. And since it is these parts of the brain that also play a role in depression, we can begin to understand why it is that many patients with inflammatory diseases may also experience depression at different times in their lives..."

That's a taste, but you'll just have to read the full and fascinating article for yourself!

# Sellwood Bridge Update

## Counting down to completion



The folks at the Sellwood Bridge Project are on-target for completion in November, so they're checking off the final few things on their to-do list.

As the project nears completion the final bills are coming in. The bad news is that they're over budget, but the good news is it's not by much...

[Sellwood Bridge On Schedule For November Ribbon-Cutting, But Slightly Over Budget](#) by Kristian Foden-Vencil, OPB News, July 2016

Here's some of the major points they still have to go, but remember, all dates are subject to change...

- ~~Bridge closure for deck sealing, permanent lane striping:~~ Aug 19-22
- ~~Left turn from bridge to Hwy. 43 south opens:~~ August 29
- ~~Activate traffic signals at west end of bridge and at SE Tacoma/6th Ave:~~ August 29
- Traffic lanes and sidewalk on north side of east approach open: August 24
- In-water work (remove detour bridge, piles, fenders, work bridges) ends: October 31
- South sidewalk of bridge opens: November 16

Down on our end of the Bridge there's some big changes. The traffic light at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Tacoma is now up and active. There is NO LEFT TURN onto the Bridge from our shop, so you'll now be required to use one of the exit methods we've been recommending for years. It's really not too bad, and we expect things to settle in nicely as folks get used to the new pattern.

Also on our corner is some of the newest public art in Portland... Mikyoung Kim's "Stratum" series of sculptures is being installed now. There's one of our pictures at right, but clicking the link below will give you the full story...

[Sellwood Gets New Gateway, Bridge Art](#) by Lyndsey Hewitt in the Portland Tribune, Aug 2016

As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://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](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org).

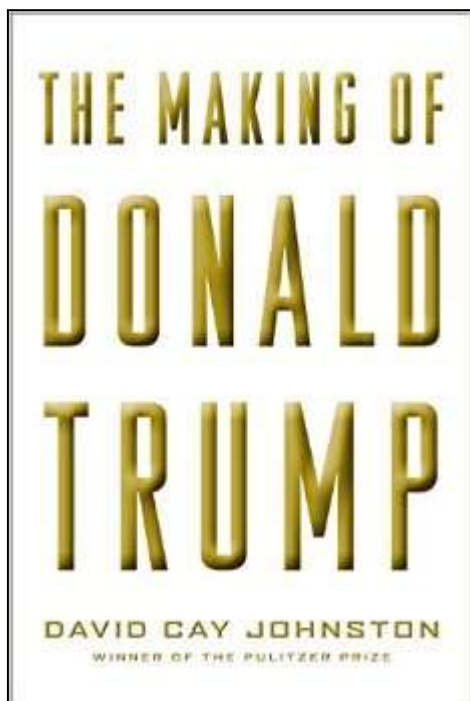


## Book Spotlight

### “The Making of Donald Trump” by David Cay Johnston



Love him or hate him (and rest assured, it's not love radiating over here), no one in recent memory has dominated America's political landscape like Donald J. Trump. There's a slough of Trump books already and more are on the way, but you certainly won't want to read them all. If you have to pick one, and it probably makes sense to read one just to understand the guy, then we recommend this one by Pulitzer Prize winner and author of "Perfectly Legal", David Cay Johnston. Trust us... it's yuge, just extraordinary. As always, click the cover to go to the [Powells.com](http://Powells.com) website for the book!



### [The Making of Donald Trump](#)

by David Cay Johnston

*(from the [Powells.com](http://Powells.com) website)*

Covering the long arc of Trump's career, Johnston tells the full story of how a boy from a quiet section of Queens, NY would become an entirely new, and complex, breed of public figure. Trump is a man of great media savvy, entrepreneurial spirit, and political clout. Yet his career has been plagued by legal troubles and mounting controversy.

From the origins of his family's real estate fortune, to his own too-big-to-fail business empire; from his education and early career, to his whirlwind presidential bid, *The Making of Donald Trump* provides the fullest picture yet of Trump's extraordinary ascendancy. Love him or hate him, Trump's massive influence is undeniable, and figures as diverse as Woody Guthrie (who wrote a scathing song about Trump's

father) and Red Scare prosecutor Roy Cohn, mob bosses and high rollers, as well as the average American voter, have all been pulled into his orbit.

Drawing on decades of interviews, financial records, court documents, and public statements, David Cay Johnston, who has covered Trump more closely than any other journalist working today, gives us the most in-depth look yet at the man who would be president.

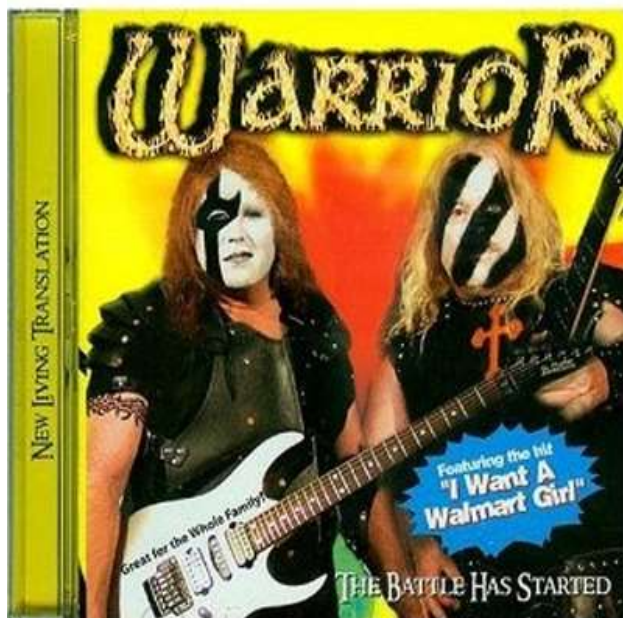
### About the Author

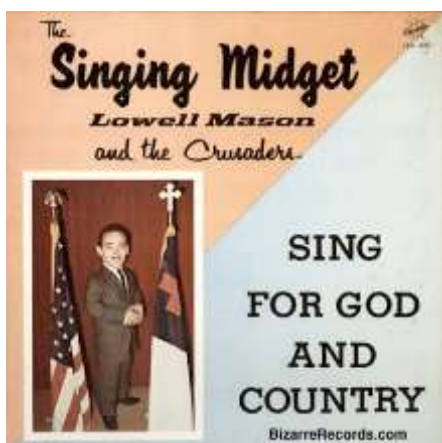
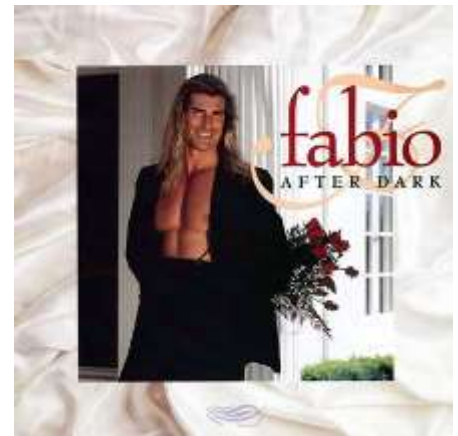
David Cay Johnston is an investigative journalist and winner of a 2001 Pulitzer Prize for journalism. A long-time reporter for the New York Times and the former president of the Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE), he is also the author of several New York Times bestsellers, including *Perfectly Legal* and *Free Lunch*. He has won the IRE Medal and a George Polk Award for his investigative reporting, and is a columnist for the Daily Beast, National Memo, and USA Today. Johnston teaches at Syracuse University College of Law and lives in Rochester, New York.

# Humorousness

## Cringeworthy Album Covers

Do you remember when music came on flat discs, in packages large enough to see the art? As these albums (kids in the audience- look it up!) show, that may have been a mixed blessing. Large art didn't necessarily mean good art, and the era of the album was also the era of polyester, plasticized hair, bad shoes, and apparently a strange fascination with ventriloquism. Feel your skin crawl in empathy as you walk down the musical memory lane of these cringeworthy album covers, and if you like them there are hundreds more at sites like [The Plural of Hyena](#), [Bored Panda](#), and [Sad and Useless](#). Enjoy!





# 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!



## **11 ridiculous future predictions from the 1900 world's fair — and 3 that came true.**



Despite Yogi Berra's observation that "prediction is hard, especially about the future", guessing what's around time's next bend has always been a popular pastime. For the 1900 Paris World's Fair, French artist Jean-Marc Cote was asked to create a [series of cards commemorating the Fair and peeking into the future](#). We haven't seen his flying firemen, underwater whale busses, fully automated bathrooms, or radiation-based fireplaces quite yet, but his robotic floor scrubber and a couple others are with us today in a big way. As you flip through these charming and nostalgic cards remember that these were the outer edge of futurism in Cote's day... what would he have thought if he could see the reality?

## **Portland's Best Urban Parks**



We occasionally offer suggestions on camping, hiking, or swimming spots you might not be aware of. As summer draws to a close and school starts again you might not have as much time to dedicate to camping as you'd like, so here's a quick [list from Willamette Week of places you can enjoy Oregon's outdoor bounty without even leaving our city limits](#). Spoiler alert- Our own Sellwood neighborhood did very well with 4 of the 9 parks listed. We have one addition Willy Week overlooked... the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens on SE 28<sup>th</sup> Ave near Reed College. It's not a park, but it is free after 6p and well worth checking out!

## **Justice Department says it will end use of private prisons**



One of the biggest causes (in our humble opinion) of the breakdown of trust between police and citizens is the change in motivation for our Justice system. Prisons and jails, once seen as a necessary, tax-funded function of government, have mutated to become cash cows for private prison corporations. This is a fundamental conflict of interest that perverts the legitimacy of a justice system, but it may be beginning to change. On August 18, [the Justice Department announced it would end its use of private prisons](#). The move only applies to the 22,000 inmates of the federal Bureau of Prisons, but it's a welcome start!

## **News IQ Quiz: Challenge the Dwyer Guinea Pig**



We hope you check out our News To Make You Furious this month about the Dumbing Down of America and the problems that ignorance, even willing ignorance, are causing for all of us. We don't want to just snipe from the sidelines, though, so we're putting our money where our mouth is. We had our Dwyer Guinea Pig take this [12-question quiz about major events in the news](#). You can compare your score against his 11 out of 12, or better yet compare it with a nationally representative group of 3,147 randomly selected US adults, or even with the "average American" or demographic subgroups. Pop quiz time! Ready, set... GO!

# News To Make You Furious

## The Dumbing Down of America



Where does the word “idiot” come from? It goes back to the inventors of democracy, the Greeks, who coined the term to describe people who didn’t (or couldn’t) participate in public life. Athenian “idiots” lived under laws and rules written by others, whether or not they were in the interest of the idiot in question. Note, though, that idiots didn’t participate in *public* life. They were quite happy, and the public was quite happy, for them to continue to live and work quietly under the rules they didn’t write.

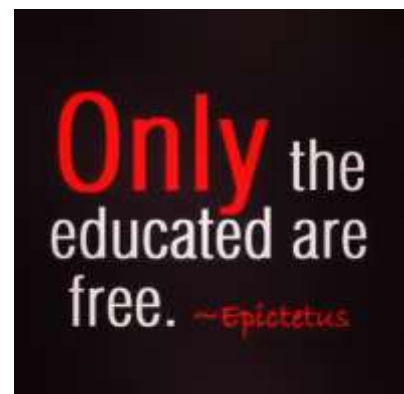
Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of education to democracy- “Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves, therefore, are its only safe depositories. And to render them safe, their minds must be improved to a certain degree.” This idea of an educated citizenry was one of the pillars of our country, both for the ideals of freedom and for our free market economy. The idea that we could (or should) better our lives

through education, that learning had real impact on our daily lives, was implicit. At one time people valued an informed vote, and felt some responsibility to learn about a subject before offering their opinion. But no longer. Now, education is held in suspicion. Stupidity is seen as a virtue, intellectualism as a hindrance. “We need a leader, not a reader” said Herman Cain as he proclaimed information unnecessary for making decisions. The Congressional Committee on Science and Technology is filled with congressmen who deny evolution, global warming, and other science basics. Sarah Palin is considering a run for Senate.

But why? Why are the intellectual achievements glorified by our ancestors denigrated today? Maybe one reason more people are “idiots” is that very few of us are stupid. When you see people around you getting educated but not benefitting, then there’s little reason to pursue formal education yourself. In our current world college means heavy debt with few opportunities for jobs that can repay it. Why push for an education that won’t be useful? And if you aren’t going to push for a real education, there’s little reason to dabble with learning enough to cast an informed vote.

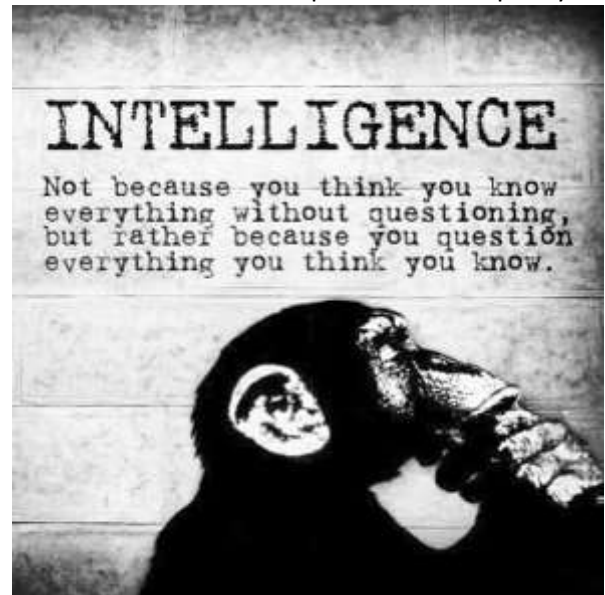
Maybe another reason our education system is failing is that our people are being educated for the wrong goals. In our research for this article, source after source mentioned the goal of educating people to “take their place in our economy”, but none mentioned the goal of making intelligent decisions about public life... In America, education is not for a nation of kings, but a nation of idiots.

We don’t believe it’s an accident that this is happening. Idiots are easily led, both politically and economically. They can be told that something is in their best interests, and if they have no critical thinking skills and an indoctrinated inclination to trust authority, they’ll take the authority’s word for it. Global



warming? Not happening, because Ted Cruz says it isn't. Don't trust the legions of people who spent their lives proving it is true. Don't think about what happens to your cost of living when food can't be produced in America's drought-ridden ex-breadbasket, or what happens when stronger storms and floods threaten your life or property. It just isn't happening. Now shut up and buy something.

Perhaps the worst thing about the dumbing down of America is that it doesn't depend on a conspiracy of evil people to happen. As the Edmund Burke said, "The only thing necessary for evil to prosper is for good men to do nothing." To correct him a little, if evil men like where the situation is going they don't have to help it along, they just have to wait. We used to put a huge value on education, not just for individuals but for *the whole society*. That's where the idea of public education came from. We realized that living in a nation of idiots was a bad thing, even if the idiots weren't our own kids. No longer; now if you can privately educate your child that's enough. To hell with the inner city schools, or the rural schools, or the reservation schools, or anything else. Or you can homeschool your kid, indoctrinate him with your own ridiculous ideas, and never risk that he'll critically examine them. You'll be happier, but your kid's horizons will be smaller. And either way, private school or home school, the people who depend on idiots will be satisfied.



So let's get Furious. If you're one of the few remaining people that isn't content to be an idiot, here are some links that will feed your brain. And, if you're so inclined, pass them on to someone you know who's also hungry for knowledge...

#### [Why The Education System Has Failed to Succeed](#)

Sarah Christina on Hub Pages

#### [The Failure of American Schools](#)

Joel Klein in the Atlantic

#### [What Passes for Education In America Is Often Just Indoctrination](#)

Elliot Sperber on Alternet

#### [The Other Economic Crisis: The Failure of Education and Its Consequences](#)

Michael Albada in the Stanford Progressive

#### [The Real Reason America's Schools Stink](#)

Charles Kenny on Bloomberg Businessweek

#### [Sarah Palin and the Dumbing-Down of America](#)

Bonnie Marcus on Forbes

#### [Dumbing Down of America Exposed in Florida Schools](#)

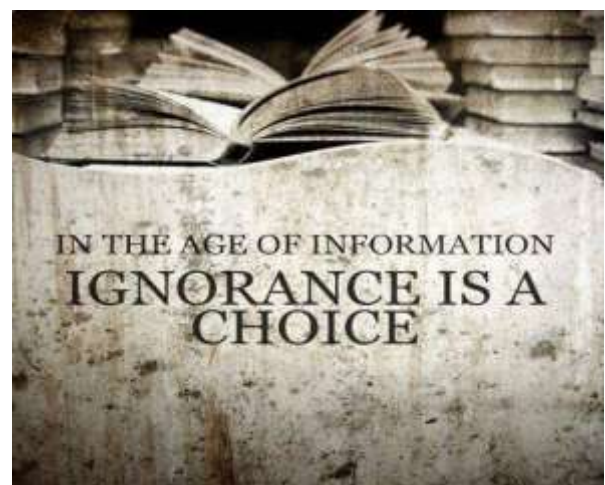
Douglas Gibbs in Canada Free Press

#### [Fighting Back Against the Dumbing Down of America](#)

Nikhil Goyal in Psychology Today

#### [Public Knowledge of Current Affairs Little Changed by News and Information Revolutions](#)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press



[Holding Schools 'Harmless,' State Lowers Bar on FCAT Writing Scores](#)

Kenric Ward in Sunshine State News

[The Nations Report Card](#)

National Assessment of Educational Progress

[Report: Half of U.S. schools fail federal standards](#)

USA Today



[Failure Rate of Schools Overstated, Study Says](#)

Sam Dillon in the New York Times

[Stacks of statistics and reports from the National Center for Education Statistics](#)

Institute of Education Sciences

[SAT scores decline because of No Child Left Behind, critic says](#)

Lee Shearer on OnlineAthens

[The News IQ Quiz- Do you know more about the news than the average American?](#)

[From Classroom to Voting Booth: The Effect of High School Civic Education on Turnout](#)

Jennifer Bachner, Harvard.edu

[Flunking Civics: Why America's Kids Know So Little](#)

Mark Hansen in ABA Journal

[How the Supreme Court ruined your child's civics education](#)

Jimmy Zuma on Smart v. Stupid

[The United States Is Awash in Public Stupidity, and Critical Thought Is Under Assault](#)

Henry Giroux on AlterNet

[How U.S. graduation rates compare with the rest of the world](#)

John Cookson on CNN

[U.S. Students Still Lag Globally in Math and Science, Tests Show](#)

Motoko Rich in the New York Times

[Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling](#)

John Taylor Gatto

[Report: Half of U.S. schools fail federal standards](#)

USA Today

[Global grade: How do U.S. students compare?](#)

Marian Wilde on GreatSchools

[U.S. Education Spending and Performance vs. The World \[INFOGRAPHIC\]](#)

USC Rossier Online staff

[Pew Research Center for the People and the Press](#)

Many in-depth reports on education

- [Public's Knowledge of Science and Technology](#)
- [What the Public Knows – In Pictures, Maps, Graphs and Symbols](#)
- [What the Public Knows about the Political Parties](#)
- [What the Public Knows – In Words and Pictures](#)
- [Well Known: Clinton and Gadhafi; Little Known: Who Controls Congress](#)
- [Public Knows Basic Facts about Politics, Economics, But Struggles with Specifics](#)
- [Test Your News IQ](#)

