



"Your Car Matters"

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for April and May, 2017



We sang the Healthcare Blues... AND LOVED IT!

Report back from the Inner City Blues Festival



Examining Reality Without a License

Oregon agency embarrasses state over traffic light timing



Trump's Election Integrity Investigation

Headed by... wait for it... vote thief KRIS KOBACH!



Tom Dwyer Supports Reality Studies



It's Oregon... You NEED A Wedding Llama



Record Number of Oregonians Run For Office



Six Oregon Hikes To Celebrate Spring

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- Painful lessons from the First 100 Days of Trump

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon for April, 2017

Drew's Kitchen- Ahi Tuna Steaks with Thyme and Shallots

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Health Notes- No one's pretending "vitamin water" is healthy... anymore

Book Spotlight- "Stamped From The Beginning" by Ibram X. Kendi, PLUS- our recommendation for a classic

Humorousness- Stories of OTHER people's idiocy

News To Make You Furious- Why we needed a March For Science in the first place

Tom's Tidbits

The End of the Beginning Raises More Questions



Greetings,

We can't know what's going to happen next from inside the story, but it's possible we're beginning the final chapter of Donald Trump's stranger-than-fiction presidency. As a candidate, Trump proved bigger than any single scandal and even multiple scandals didn't slow him down. He seemed content to continue slogging through the incoherence, incompetence, and corruption as President, while Republicans and Trumpets seemed comfortable slogging with him if it delivered their agenda. Granted, they've seemed *less* comfortable as obstruction of justice, abuse of power, and errors that threatened national security piled up, but still not uncomfortable enough to break with him. The appointment of Robert Mueller as Special Counsel may finally change that but the path ahead is still anything but clear whether his investigation finds criminality or not. There's no index for the Trump story, and we are finding layer upon layer of connections and irregularities that will raise more questions along the way...

Let's concentrate on just "the Russia Investigations" (meaning the FBI, Senate, and House inquiries). US intelligence agencies have been [wrong before](#), but all 17 agree [Russia interfered in the 2016 elections](#). Unless we accept [Trump's assertion they're all wrong again](#), Russian interference is a fact. [How they interfered](#) and [who was involved](#) are just some of the details the Investigations are trying to establish. So far the probes have touched [Manafort, Flynn, Kushner, Page, Sessions](#), and other less-well-known characters in Trump's administration. Trump's attempts to stop the probes led to self-inflicted wounds like the [firing of Director Comey](#) and the [appointment of Special Counsel Mueller](#). Keep in mind that NO investigation has returned ANY findings yet, nor are they expected to for months or years. Politicians, the Media, and We The People have been responding to a drip-drip-drip of revelations with no context or conclusion. But serious breaches have been identified and everything so far points consistently to an Administration compromised on many levels and thrashing dangerously as the compromises become public.

I'm more interested in the possible Russian mob connections and Donald's dirty money laundromat operation but, *any* finding of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia would infect the entire administration [no matter who actively participated](#). So, while removing the orange tumor may *reduce* the damage incurred over the last 120 days, additional therapies would still be needed. With the Manchurian Candidate gone Pence would be advanced to power with his own, slightly less incoherent agendas. A lesson from Watergate could be useful... the hated Agnew resigned and was replaced *before* Nixon resigned, leaving the respected but inoffensive Ford to move up. Nixon's resignation meant his scandal ended with him. A solution along these lines might more completely remove the Trump's stain on the office but would require political will to implement. So far, we've seen [no evidence that such political will](#) exists. And that would still leave a Supreme Court, department heads, laws and orders all affected behind.

Even if we are seeing the end of this slow-motion coup the People at home and abroad will be left to sort through the aftermath. Trump voters had both legitimate and "deplorable" reasoning for supporting him, so what will their reaction be when their standard-bearer is cast to the streets or into prison? Will FAUX news

twist his removal into a conspiracy of the sore-loser Left? Will they continue on the path Trump modelled and believe that prejudice, hate, and jingoism are acceptable, even normal behavior? Other domestic issues like healthcare, taxes, and infrastructure are reaching critical failure points; how will we make up the lost time in dealing with them? For global issues like war, human rights, climate change, environmental policy, foreign and domestic policy, pretty much every important international affair of our country, Trump is responsible for damaging setbacks and lost opportunities that will affect more than just the US population. Whether he and his ilk go or stay, the scars on our country and world will take decades to heal.

It was 2 years, 11 months, and 6 days between the burglary at the Watergate and Nixon's resignation... 1071 days. We're now just about 120 days into the Trump epoch but I think another countdown clock has started. While I'm hoping for a quicker and more positive conclusion, we know already the last chapter will be long and full of surprises. Let's work to see that the sequel is never written.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!



Digging Deeper

[Is The Comey Memo The Beginning Of The End For Trump?](#) By David Remnick in The New Yorker, May 2017

[Who's who in Trump-Russia saga](#), by Sachary Cohen on CNN, Apr 2017

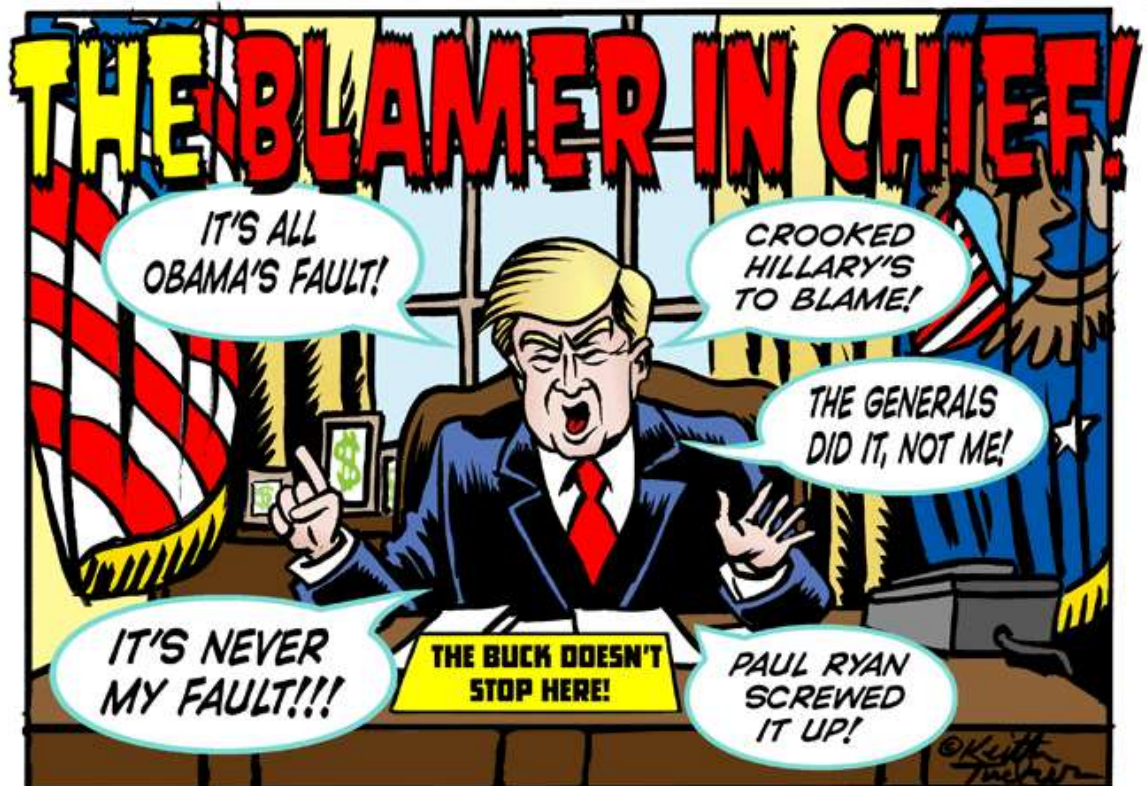
What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toons for April and May, 2017



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We sang the Healthcare Blues... AND LOVED IT!

Report back from the 6th Annual Inner City Blues Fest!



We spent the weekend in an intimate club filled with around 800 of our closest friends, all dressed to kill, listening to the rumbling growl of Norman Sylvester, the glistening fingers of Mary Flower, the trancelike rhythms of the Strangetones, the pulse-pounding beats of Boco Alegria, and so many more. It wasn't just an evening of blistering Blues, but also an evening promoting Single Payer Healthcare in Oregon. It's an event we're proud to sponsor, and it's something we look forward to all year long. Here's a little history on the festival and some pictures of this year's show. We think if you get a taste of what you missed, you'll start making your own plans for next year's show right now!

The Inner City Blues Festival has its roots in the Portland Rainbow Coalition's 1988 "Jam for Jesse" Jackson. While the Jam for Jesse was 20 years too early for the first African American President, the event itself continued in support of social causes and social justice until 1998. Bob Gross, Ken Cropper, Norman Sylvester, and a small group of dedicated activists were responsible for those original festivals, and decided to revive the event as "Healing the Healthcare Blues" in 2011 in support of Single Payer Healthcare in Oregon and beyond. Tom Dwyer Automotive was privileged to support the new Festival, and it's an event we've eagerly looked forward to every year since. The Inner City Blues Festival has grown into a spectacular showcase of some of the premiere Northwest blues stars, bringing together 800+ guests, 150+ businesses and partner organizations, and countless volunteers to increase awareness about universal access to health care through Health Care for All- Oregon.

Blues is an amazing art form but it's typically not a very well-paying one, and most (if not all) of the musicians who'll be playing have very personal horror stories of the health care system. When Rob Shoemaker's wife needed rotator cuff surgery, they were forced to re-finance the house to cover their part of the expenses. "Our old mortgage would have been paid off 3 years ago", he said. "As it is, at age 62, I have 12 years of house payments still ahead of me." Headliner Norman Sylvester is tired of playing benefits for musicians who fell ill or, more tragically, playing for their Celebration of Life... "They didn't



What does someone look like when they're beating breast cancer?

Here's LaRhonda Steele performing at the Healthcare Blues Festival while simultaneously kicking cancer's ass. She ended up owing more than \$6000 for medical expenses that Medicare did not cover. As LaRhonda said, "I don't want a free ride, but I shouldn't have to mortgage the house to survive during cancer treatment. People should not have to balance decisions about whether to buy food or medicine when they are sick." LaRhonda won her battle, and has now been cancer-free for 2 years!

Photo by David Young

have preventative care because of years of not being able to afford healthcare. Health Care is a Human Right!" Linda Hornbuckle summed up both the problem and the solution nicely... "You never know when a health crisis is going to come. With the resources available in this country, healthcare should be available to every citizen!"

The Inner City Blues Festival, "Healing the Healthcare Blues," rolled into the North Portland Eagles Lodge (7611 N. Exeter; at Lombard) on Saturday, April 22nd. Doors opened at 5:00 p.m., and the place absolutely rocked until midnight! This year's lineup featured many of the most dynamic artists from past years including...



The Norman Sylvester Band
Obo Addy Legacy Project "Okropong,"
Mary Flower
Tevis Hodge Jr.
Mic Crenshaw
Shoehorn
Stangetones & Volcano Vixens
Bloco Alegria
Steve Cheseborough
Lloyd "Have Mercy" Jones
Tony Ozier and "Doo Doo Funk"
Mad as Hell Doctors, Nurses, & Interns

and celebrity MCs **Paul Knauls, Renee Mitchell, and Ken Boddie.**

The talent list has grown each year since the Festival was revived, so we expect it to be even more of a powerhouse lineup next year! Ticket prices for the Waterfront Blues Festival (that other little band practice across the river in July) have gone up along with the crowds, but prices for this up-close-and-personal show have stayed very reasonable. This year's tickets were only \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, which is even better when you consider that the proceeds go to benefit [Health Care For All Oregon](http://HealthCareForAllOregon.org), the group promoting Single Payer Health Care in Oregon and beyond.

You can listen to the Blues all year (and we recommend it) and you can support Health Care For All Oregon with your donations any time you want (and please do), but there's only one place you can do both at the same time. You've missed it this year but don't make the same mistake next year! Start making your plans NOW for the 7th Annual Inner City Blues Fest, and just look at these pictures of what you missed this year!



Headliner Norman Sylvester with enthusiastic fans



The Community Tables and Silent Auction are a huge part of the evening every year



Tevis Hodge Jr.



Strange Tones and Volcano Vixens



"Mad as Hell Doctors", a group of doctors promoting single-payer, storm the stage



Rapper Mic Crenshaw throws down on Single Payer



The Boogie Cat and friends



A Mad as Hell Doctor being pretty friendly (despite the name)



Lloyd Jones continues the Struggle



Mary Flowers shows off those glistening fingers



Obo Addy Legacy project- "Okropong"

Examining Reality Without a License

Oregon agency embarrasses state over traffic light timing



On the heels of a worldwide March for Science to raise awareness of science and promote its role in policy making, we ran across a story right here in Oregon that exemplified why the March was so needed. A Beaverton man has long thought the timing of yellow traffic lights was too short. Rather than justify his opinion with “it’s just the way I feel”, Mats Jarlstrom got active, researched signal timing, and offered his ideas for change to the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying. They told him they couldn’t help with traffic lights, but they could be helpful by issuing him a \$500 fine for “practicing engineering without a license”...

Mats Jarlstrom earned his electrical engineering degree in Sweden and was an airplane camera mechanic in the Swedish Air Force before immigrating to the United States in 1992. He’s a Beaverton resident now, and became interested in Oregon’s red light cameras when his wife got a ticket from one in 2013. He challenged the ticket by questioning the timing of the yellow lights at the intersections; they’re based on a traffic formula from 1959 that Jarlstrom thought was too short because it didn’t make allowance for drivers making right turns. He talked with the creator of the original formula, measured intersections and timed lights, organized his findings and recommendations, and submitted it to the logical group to examine it, the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS). They took no action other than dinging him for “practicing engineering without a license”.

There’s a couple issues at play here. First, there’s the [issue of red light cameras themselves](#). While they definitely have a valuable role in traffic safety they also have downsides. Depending on where they’re placed they can actually cause crashes, and there is a huge incentive for cities to use them as revenue generators rather than safety enforcers. This is an issue worthy of deep consideration on its own, but it’s not the issue that brought Mat’s story to our attention.

The issue with Mat is the idea that an agency can tell someone that examining and documenting objective reality, then proposing ideas based on that reality, can be circumscribed in any way. There’s a real civic interest in monitoring unqualified people presenting themselves as engineers... no one wants a bridge “engineered” by someone without a complete and rigorous understanding of structures! But that’s not what Mat was doing. He wasn’t presenting himself as having qualifications he didn’t have; he was using the qualifications he *did* have to make a reasonable inquiry into a real problem. Whether OSBEELS sees value in his recommendations is one thing, whether they decide to act on them is another, but saying he can’t call himself and engineer when he provably is? That’s deeply wrong.

This is a local story that’s getting some traction nationally, and some of it’s really interesting. The “Think Out Loud” interview done by our amazing local OPB is particularly good...

[Think Out Loud- Interview with Mat Jarlstrom](#), Dave Blanchard on Think Out Loud, May 2017 (audio)

[Red Light Cameras May Issue Some Tickets Using the Wrong Formula](#), by Aarian Marshall on Wired, May 2017

[Illegal Math? A state board in Oregon is punishing people for talking about traffic lights and any other “engineering” topics](#), case brief on Institute for Justice, Apr 2017

[After Challenging Red Light Cameras, Oregon Man Fined \\$500 for Practicing Engineering Without a License](#), by Eric Boehm on Hit&Run Blog, Apr 2017

[Lawsuit: State of Oregon doesn’t own word ‘engineer’](#), by Dan Tilkin and KOIN-6 Staff, Apr 2017

[Red light camera critic says state board quashing his free speech](#), by Maxine Bernstein in The Oregonian, Apr 2017

[Not all of Beaverton's yellow lights are created equal \(so what?\)](#) by Joseph Rose in The Oregonian, Feb 2014

[Beaverton man's lawsuit over city's yellow-light timing dismissed by federal judge](#), by Joseph Rose in The Oregonian, Dec 2014

[Jarlstrom’s lawsuit against the Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying](#), PDF

[Red Light Cameras May Issue Some Tickets Using the Wrong Formula](#), by Aarien Marshall in Wired, May 2017

[Why Red Light Cameras are a scam](#), (video) Vox, Jul 2016

[Red-light cameras are producing profits more than protecting drivers](#), by Jeff Zurschmeide on Digital Trends, Mar 2016

[Red Light Camera Tickets Ruled Unconstitutional](#), by Barry Kowitt on UngerAndKowitt.com

[Oregon Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying](#) website

[OSBEELS Newsletter announcement](#) of recent law enforcement cases with sanction, including Mats Jarlstrom’s case

Trump's Election Integrity Investigation

Headed by... wait for it... vote thief KRIS KOBACH!



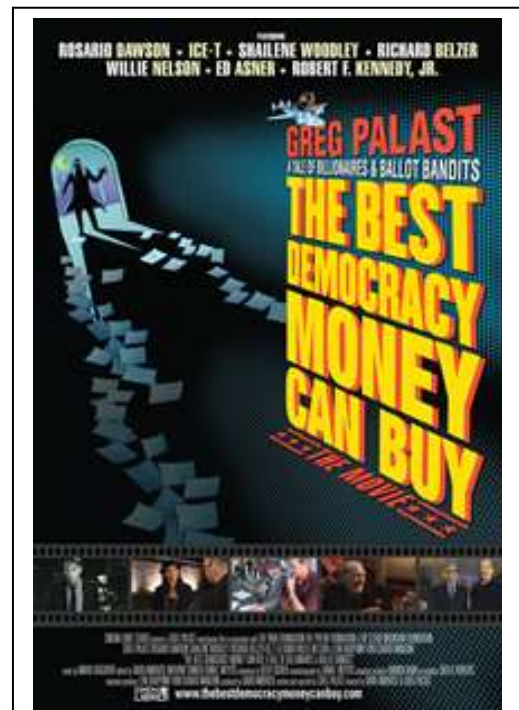
The Bible asks, "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?" We now know the unsurprising answer is Donald Trump. Trump recently announced an investigation into Election Integrity, which may at first sound like a good thing. After all, we should have confidence in our election systems and an occasional audit gives a rational basis for that confidence... "Trust but verify." But here's where the snake bites... the investigation will be headed by Mike Pence and Kris Kobach. If Kobach's name rings a bell concerning elections, it should... he's the architect of Interstate Cross Check, the multi-state system responsible for quietly stealing the votes of millions... that's right, MILLIONS, of Americans...

There are few things more critical to any democracy than the voting systems; the laws, processes, and nuts-and-bolts of the machinery that lets us determine our collective will. Yet there have been criticisms of our election process for years, at every level, from [every point on the political spectrum](#), and ranging from [calm analysis](#) to [slavering paranoia](#). It may seem that recounts of votes and monitoring of voting mechanisms would be standard operating procedure, but when it's all-to-rarely implemented it's seen as the [challenge of a sore loser](#) rather than confirmation of the important.

That said, it seems natural to welcome an unbiased [investigation into Election Integrity](#). Well, it would be, but unfortunately and unsurprisingly, Donald Trump's investigation is not even intended to be an unbiased inquiry and there's a way to know... the two people heading it are Kris Kobach, the architect of one of the biggest election frauds in history, and Mike Pence, one of the two beneficiaries of that fraud.

Let us explain... according to the [Election Integrity Project](#), there are four potential weaknesses in modern elections. They are:

- **Voter Fraud**- This is the kind of thing Trump was talking about when he babbled about "[3 million illegal votes](#)"; individual people casting double votes, or votes in another person's name, or casting votes if they aren't properly registered, stuff like that. Problem is, [IT DOESN'T HAPPEN](#), at least in significant numbers. In elections studied for voter fraud, incident rates were between .0003 and .0025 percent, lower odds than being struck by lightning. But that's going to be the focus of Trump's "investigation".
- **Maladministration**- Covers ineptitude or inability in



We can't give you all the details of Kris Kobach's assault on American values, but Greg Palast can. He's done the legwork and has put it all together in an educational and very entertaining documentary called "[The Best Democracy Money Can Buy](#)". This gives you more nauseating detail on Crosscheck than you could ever possibly want. And we're proud to say that our own in-house political cartoonist, [Keith Tucker](#), played a major role in creating the movie. It's not fun to watch but you may still enjoy it. Highly recommended!

conducting the elections. Includes broken or poorly distributed voting machines, inaccessible polling places, inconvenient voting times. Also includes accidental failures in the nuts-and-bolts of electoral maladministration as well as errors and machine breakdowns in registration and balloting.

- **Cybersecurity**- This covers data failures in modern elections. It covers a person or persons, whether hacker or politician or voting machine owner, who breaks into the system and changes votes electronically. There's [little evidence that it has happened](#), but [much evidence that it could](#).
- **Suppression**- Keeping qualified people from voting by challenging their voting rights. While maladministration applies to a solid, fair election process that goes badly, suppression involves intentional deprivation. It usually covers large swaths of a population rather than individuals. Much voter suppression comes from law, like gerrymandering, but many of the problems of maladministration become tools for suppression... a polling place may have not received enough voting machines because of incompetent election planning, or it may not have enough machines because it leans heavily in an undesirable political direction.

Now let's look at those threats... The Election Integrity panel is being formed to investigate Trump's fictitious allegations of voter fraud, which don't happen in reality. Investigation of maladministration and cybersecurity could be very valuable, but these have been studied for years without solution and the panel isn't planning to look at those anyway. It's the fourth threat that actually DOES happen, but is pointedly NOT being examined, and that's where Kris Kobach comes in. He created the Interstate Cross Check plan, and if you don't know how it works let us tell you:

1. States provide their voter rolls to Cross Check. As of 2013 there were 28 states participating, though Florida and Oregon have since dropped out. So far, Crosscheck has tagged an astonishing 7.2 million suspects.
2. The voter rolls are compared against each other to identify people who are registered to vote in two different states, ie: "potential double voters".
3. The mechanism for identifying duplicates is (intentionally) loose. Crosscheck compares First Name, Last Name, and Date of Birth. It doesn't include middle names or initials, nor does it make allowances for nicknames or shortened names. John Q. Smith, born 1951 in Denver is the same guy as John D. Smith born 1951 in Atlanta.
4. Matches are removed from voter rolls in both states. "Matched" voters are sent a plain postcard which they must return to the Secretary of State. If they don't, they are purged from the voter roll.
5. Purged voters only find out when they go to vote. If they're lucky they'll be given a provisional ballot, but these ballots are rarely (if ever) counted.

So far Crosscheck seems clumsy and overcautious, but here's where it gets insidious. "The U.S. Census data shows that minorities are overrepresented in 85 of 100 of the most common last names. If your name is Washington, there's an 89 percent chance you're African-American. If your last name is Hernandez, there's a 94 percent chance you're Hispanic. If your name is Kim, there's a 95 percent chance you're Asian. This inherent bias results in an astonishing one in six Hispanics, one in seven Asian-Americans and one in nine African-Americans in Crosscheck states landing on the list." The requirement to return a postcard to confirm voter status amplifies the Crosscheck bias; "According to the Census Bureau, white voters are 21 percent more likely than blacks or Hispanics to respond to their official requests; homeowners are 32 percent more likely to respond than renters; and the young are 74 percent less likely than the old to respond. Those on the move – students and the poor, who often shift apartments while hunting for work – will likely not get the mail in the first place." (*quotes from Mark Swedlund, in Rolling Stone's "The GOP's Stealth War Against Voters", Aug 2016*) Whether it's the intended effect or not, Crosscheck massively reduces voting rates among poor and minority, typically Democratic constituencies. Almost all Crosscheck states are Republican-controlled, and whether from intent or apathy, they're willing to let this massively flawed program continue.

Things get worse, but that goes far beyond the scope of this article. If you want a REAL investigation into Election Integrity, watch Greg Palast's "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy" that DOCUMENTS Kobach's

assault on everything it means to be American. And hey, keep an eye out for the results of the Trump Investigation too. Could be interesting!

Digging Deeper...

[The GOP's Stealth War Against Voters](#), by Greg Palast in Rolling Stone, Aug 2016

[Participation in the Interstate CrossCheck system](#), Center for American Progress Action Fund

[Questions & Answers: Interstate Crosscheck Program \("Crosscheck"\) & Electronic Registration Information Center \("ERIC"\) by Advancement on Advancement Project](#), Aug 2015

[Kris Kobach, the 'King of Voter Suppression,' Will Lead Trump's Sham Voter Fraud Commission. Be Afraid, Very Afraid.](#) By Amrit Cheng, on the ACLU Website, May 2017

[The Presidential Advisory Commission on Voter Suppression](#), by Jamelle Bouie on Slate, May 2017
[Why It's Not About Election Fraud, It's Much Worse](#), by Norris, Garnett, and Gromping at The Electoral Integrity Project, Dec 2016

[Both Dems, GOP Have Reason To Support Election Fraud Investigation](#), by John DeMaggio in The Hill, Dec 2016

[BlackBoxVoting.org](#), "Black Box Voting, founded in 2003, is a nonpartisan investigative reporting and public education organization for elections."

[Trump ally defended claims of massive voter fraud on CNN. It did not go well.](#) By Zack Ford on ThinkProgress, Feb 2017

[Smirking Chimp- Election Integrity](#), blog posts through today

[ElectionDefenseAlliance.org](#)- Election Defense Alliance (EDA) is a participatory organization of citizens collaborating at the local, state, and national levels to ensure governments accountable to the people are legitimately elected.

[Why Trump Spreading Fears About the Election Is So Dangerous](#), by Thom Hartmann on AlterNet, Oct 2016

[Trump Launches Commission To Investigate Voter Fraud](#), by Ken Thomas on AP, May 2017

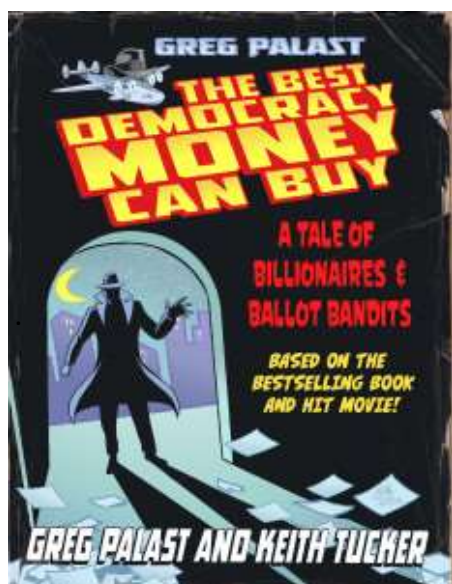
[Debunking the Voter Fraud Myth](#), Brennan Center For Justice, Jan 2017

[How to Hack an Election in 7 Minutes](#), by Ben Wofford in Politico Magazine, Aug 5, 2016

[Want to Know if the Election was Hacked? Look at the Ballots](#), by Alex Halderman on Medium, Nov 2016

[Uncovering Kris Kobach's Anti-Voting History](#), by Lopez and Clark at the Brennan Center for Justice, May 2017

[Trump's "Election Integrity" Commission: Reactions from State Election Officials](#), Brennan Center for Justice, May 2017



Drew's Kitchen

Ahi Tuna Steaks with Thyme and Shallots



There was a 14-minute glimpse of sun in April, which is enough for Drew to declare Grilling Season officially open. Leave the burgers and steaks to the amateurs... YOUR Golden Grill deserves this mouthwatering Tuna recipe...

Ingredients:

- (4) shallots, finely chopped
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- (2) 8-oz ahi tuna steaks
- Vegetable oil

Preparation:

- Preheat grill to medium-high heat (350° to 400°F)
- In a small saucepan combine shallots, wine, water and lemon juice. Place saucepan on grill over indirect heat. Stir in butter, thyme and salt; simmer sauce over indirect heat while cooking tuna.
- Lightly coat tuna with vegetable oil. Place tuna on grill. Grill 4 minutes, turn steaks, and grill 3 minutes more or until an instant-read thermometer registers 145°F.
- Pour warm sauce over tuna and serve

Serves 4

Nutritional information- 295 calories, 17g fat, 10g saturated fat, 95 mg cholesterol, 180mg sodium, 2g carbohydrate, 0g fiber, 30g protein.

Shop Talk

A client offers their thanks in poetry



Comment of the Month



For our Comment of the Month this month, we couldn't resist bringing you this one from clients Patty B. and Lynn A. who decided to wax poetic about us...

Tom Dwyer
Is a prior,
As of old...
And from the mold,
A high-up monk
With lots of spunk.
(To have a business
Could cause some duress.)
Honest as the day is long,
He lifts my spirit like a song.
Thank you Tom!

In reply, we can only offer our humbled thanks and ask this question... if you aren't coming to Tom Dwyer for your vehicle service, what poetry are YOU writing about YOUR mechanic?

Referral Reward Program- Monthly Awards!



Our Referral Reward Program is our way of saying "thanks" for your generous referrals... after all, it's people telling people that keeps our doors open! It's pretty straightforward... **when a new client comes in based on your referral, we make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice.** Donations vary from \$10 to \$50 depending on the new client's initial purchases. Since we started the program in 2014, our clients have made it possible for us to donate over \$17,400 to deserving groups, and that doesn't even include this month's totals! In April and May (so far) we've been able to make **21 donations totaling \$813 to these groups...**

[Oregon Humane Society](#) by Kathleen M., Matt S., Mary W., Mimi H., and Tim S.

[PETA](#) by Trevor M.

[American Rivers](#) by Brad G.

[Llewellyn School](#) by Vanessa M.

[Urban League of Portland](#) by Marisol J.

[BARK](#) by Melissa R.

[Audobon Society](#) by Rob S.

[Community Cycling Center](#) by Erik T.

[KBOO Radio](#) by Cynthia S.

[American Cancer Society](#) by Phil B.

[Rex Foundation](#) by Chris H.

[American Bladder Cancer Society](#) by Sara G.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Margaret R.

[OPB Radio](#) by Casey C.

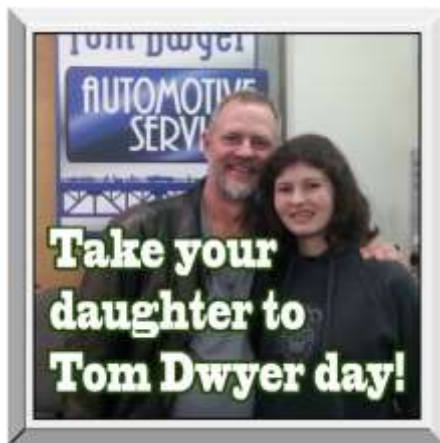
[ACLU of Oregon](#) by Mike S.

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#) by Kim K.

[JOIN PDX](#) by Sarah B.

Take Your Daughter to Tom Dwyer Day!

April 27 was Take Your Child to Work Day. We celebrated by dragging in one of our employee's kids and making her write this article for our newsletter...



by Ivy Letherwood, special embedded reporter at Tom Dwyer

As a 14-year old girl, I may not be qualified to write an article on an automotive repair shop I watched for half a day. No, not even that. I mainly watched the marketing guy, who's my dad, write the company newsletter. Since I am still a student, I am also not quite familiar with automotive terms. With that still in mind, I was tasked with writing a little bit on my experience of 'take your child to work day.' You know, because why not?

While I do joke, I say seriously that Tom's shop is an inviting place for car repair. Although, as I have no past experience with other offices, let alone an automotive shop, in another's eyes I may be wrong. But, from what I could see when employee's answered to

clients they were very kind and helpful. Even outside of talking with customers, everyone was thoughtful and cracked a joke now and then; creating a nice energetic environment.

Even though I have little to no experience with work offices, I have had experience seeing the Tom Dwyer tent down at the riverfront summer concerts. Every year Tom's booth is setup every concert with a fun drawing contest for kids. The contest is whoever can draw the best design for the car of the future wins a prize. With the competition engaging kids, the cool music, and the enthusiastic representative there to help, Tom shows that it's possible to make car repair interesting; well, okay, not boring.

But getting back as to why a middle schooler is writing an article, it's 'take your kid to work day.' For kids, a good reason to get out of a little school and maybe hang out with your folks a bit. For parents, a good reason to bond with your child and to possibly teach them some things they can use when they grow up. 'Take the kid to work day' was never a popular date to begin with, but a few years ago it seemed to be something people participated in more. But now no one seems to remember the date at all. In fact, at my school I was the only one in my grade to partake in the "holiday." For what reason I couldn't say, but my guess would be that it's because the date isn't talked about anymore. So, mark your calendars because in 2018 it's April 26th, and it could make for a good story depending on how it goes.

All in all though, I'd say Tom Dwyer's repair shop is a pretty cool place. Their new waiting room is elegantly decorated with the Portland airport's old carpet pattern, and they have nice employees. Also for you candy lovers, there's a sweets bowl by the front desk. In spite of my lack of knowledge on cars I can safely say the people there know what they're doing; and if you have little knowledge like me then a visit over probably wouldn't hurt.

Current Discount Offers



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



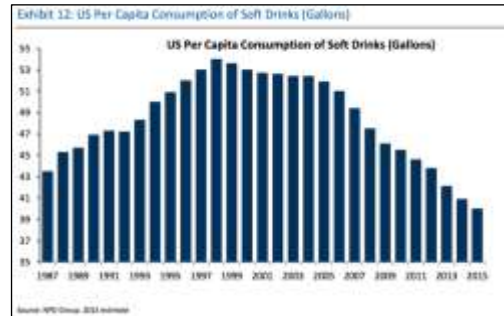
Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The 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

No one's pretending "vitamin water" is healthy...
anymore



The [consumption of sugary soda drinks has collapsed](#) in the US from a high of about 54 gallons per person in the late 90's to about 40 gallons in 2015. This has prompted soda manufacturers to respond, not necessarily by producing healthier beverages, but by at least marketing unhealthy drinks as having health benefits. In 2009 the [Center for Science in the Public Interest](#) sued Coca Cola over its Vitaminwater and the unsubstantiated and exaggerated health claims they made over it. Six years later, the suit settled with Coke promising to make some significant changes. This month we bring you a story of an intersection between Health, Business and Law, and how our society is coping on all fronts...



[The Dark Side of Vitaminwater](#), by John Robbins on HuffPost, Aug 2010

Now here's something you wouldn't expect. Coca-Cola is being sued by a non-profit public interest group, on the grounds that the company's vitaminwater products make unwarranted health claims. No surprise there. But how do you think the company is defending itself?

In a staggering feat of twisted logic, lawyers for Coca-Cola are defending the lawsuit by asserting that "no consumer could reasonably be misled into thinking vitaminwater was a healthy beverage."

Does this mean that you'd have to be an unreasonable person to think that a product named "vitaminwater," a product that has been heavily and aggressively marketed as a healthy beverage, actually had health benefits?

Or does it mean that it's okay for a corporation to lie about its products, as long as they can then turn around and claim that no one actually believes their lies?

In fact, the product is basically sugar-water, to which about a penny's worth of synthetic vitamins have been added. And the amount of sugar is not trivial. A bottle of vitaminwater contains 33 grams of sugar, making it more akin to a soft drink than to a healthy beverage.

Is any harm being done by this marketing ploy? After all, some might say consumers are at least getting some vitamins, and there isn't as much sugar in vitaminwater as there is in regular Coke.

True. But about 35 percent of Americans are now considered medically obese. Two-thirds of Americans are overweight. Health experts tend to disagree about almost everything,

but they all concur that added sugars play a key role in the obesity epidemic, a problem that now leads to more medical costs than smoking.

How many people with weight problems have consumed products like vitaminwater in the mistaken belief that the product was nutritionally positive and carried no caloric consequences? How many have thought that consuming vitaminwater was a smart choice from a weight-loss perspective? The very name "vitaminwater" suggests that the product is simply water with added nutrients, disguising the fact that it's actually full of added sugar.

The truth is that when it comes to weight loss, what you drink may be even more important than what you eat. Americans now get nearly 25 percent of their calories from liquids. In 2009, researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health published a report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, finding that the quickest and most reliable way to lose weight is to cut down on liquid calorie consumption. And the best way to do that is to reduce or eliminate beverages that contain added sugar.

Meanwhile, Coca-Cola has invested billions of dollars in its vitaminwater line, paying basketball stars, including Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, to appear in ads that emphatically state that these products are a healthy way for consumers to hydrate. When LeBron James held his much ballyhooed TV special to announce his decision to join the Miami Heat, many corporations paid millions in an attempt to capitalize on the event. But it was vitaminwater that had the most prominent role throughout the show.

The lawsuit, brought by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, alleges that vitaminwater labels and advertising are filled with “deceptive and unsubstantiated claims.” In his recent 55-page ruling, Federal Judge John Gleeson (U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York), wrote, “At oral arguments, defendants (Coca-Cola) suggested that no consumer could reasonably be misled into thinking vitamin water was a healthy beverage.” Noting that the soft drink giant wasn’t claiming the lawsuit was wrong on factual grounds, the judge wrote that, “Accordingly, I must accept the factual allegations in the complaint as true.”

I still can’t get over the bizarre audacity of Coke’s legal case. Forced to defend themselves in court, they are acknowledging that vitaminwater isn’t a healthy product. But they are arguing that advertising it as such isn’t false advertising, because no one could possibly believe such a ridiculous claim.

I guess that’s why they spend hundreds of millions of dollars advertising the product, saying it will keep you “healthy as a horse,” and will bring about a “healthy state of physical and mental well-being.”

Why do we allow companies like Coca-Cola to tell us that drinking a bottle of sugar water with a few added water-soluble vitamins is a legitimate way to meet our nutritional needs?

Here’s what I suggest: If you’re looking for a healthy and far less expensive way to hydrate, try drinking water. If you want to flavor the water you drink, try adding the juice of a lemon and a small amount of honey or maple syrup to a quart of water. Another alternative is to mix one part lemonade or fruit juice to three or four parts water. Or drink green tea, hot or chilled, adding lemon and a small amount of sweetener if you like. If you want to jazz it up, try one-half fruit juice, one-half carbonated water.

If your tap water tastes bad or you suspect it might contain lead or other contaminants, get a water filter that fits under the sink or attaches to the tap.

And it’s probably not the best idea to rely on a soft drink company for your vitamins and other essential nutrients. A plant-strong diet with lots of vegetables and fruits will provide you with what you need far more reliably, far more consistently — and far more honestly.

Vitaminwater Settlement Approved by Court, by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Apr 2016

A court has given its final approval to a settlement agreement reached in a multi-year legal dispute over the marketing and advertising of Coca-Cola’s Vitaminwater line of beverages.

On behalf of consumers, the nonprofit Center for Science in the Public Interest and two law firms filed a class action lawsuit against Coca-Cola in 2009 to prohibit claims that the drinks, which contain about 32 grams of sugar, could reduce the risk of eye disease, promote healthy joints, induce feelings of relaxation, or otherwise bring about a “healthy state of physical and mental being.”

The agreement approved yesterday by Magistrate Judge Robert M. Levy of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York bars Coca-Cola from making those health claims in connection with Vitaminwater, as well as such statements as “vitamins + water = what’s in your hand,” “vitamins + water = all you need,” and “this combination of zinc and fortifying vitamins can ... keep you healthy as a horse.” The company will also prominently add

the words “with sweeteners” on two places on the label where the brand’s name appears.

“We’re pleased to have a resolution that improves the labeling and marketing of Vitaminwater and will help consumers recognize that the drink contains eight teaspoons of sugar,” said CSPI litigation director Maia Kats.

The order granted yesterday also found that two objections raised to the settlement were without merit.

Besides CSPI, the class was represented by Michael Reese of Reese LLP and Deborah Weintraub of Scott & Scott LLP.

CSPI, independent of the litigation, has campaigned to reduce the prevalence of added sugars in the American diet. The American Heart Association recommends a limit of nine teaspoons of added sugars per day for men and six teaspoons per day for women. Sugar drinks promote diabetes, weight gain, heart disease, tooth decay, and other health problems.

Digging Deeper...

[Coca-Cola just revealed the future of its business is very different from its signature product](#), by Kate Taylor in Business Insider, Nov 2015

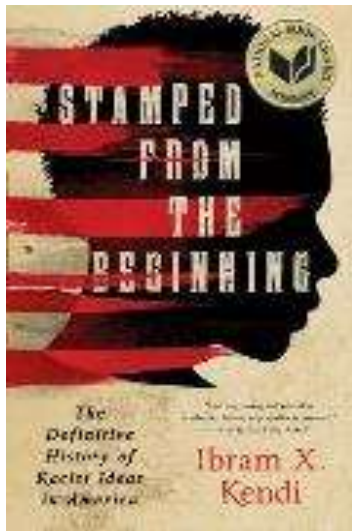
[The epic collapse of American soda consumption in one chart](#), by Elena Holodny in Business Insider, Mar 2016

Book Spotlight

"Stamped From The Beginning" by Ibram X. Kendi PLUS- our recommendation for a classic



This month we bring you two recommendations. The first is essential as we grapple all too clumsily with race in America, the second is essential for understanding the deepest ideas that drive us all. As always, just click the links to go to the Powells.com website for the book.



[Stamped From The Beginning- The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America](#)

By Ibram X. Kendi *FINALIST for the National Book Award 2016*

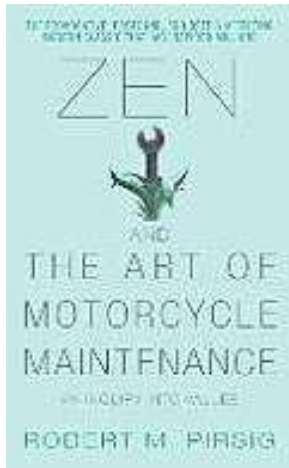
Americans like to insist that we are living in a post-racial, color-blind society. In fact, racist thought is alive and well; it has simply become more sophisticated and more insidious. And as award-winning historian Ibram X. Kendi argues in *Stamped from the Beginning*, racist ideas in this country have a long and lingering history, one in which nearly every great American thinker is complicit.

In this deeply researched and fast-moving narrative, Kendi chronicles the entire story of anti-Black racist ideas and their staggering power over the course of American history. "*Stamped from the Beginning*" uses the lives of five major American intellectuals to offer a window into the contentious debates between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and antiracists. From Puritan minister Cotton Mather to Thomas Jefferson, from fiery abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison to brilliant scholar W. E. B. Du Bois to legendary anti-prison activist Angela Davis, Kendi shows how and why some of our leading proslavery and pro-civil-rights thinkers have challenged or helped cement racist ideas in America.

As Kendi provocatively illustrates, racist thinking did not arise from ignorance or hatred. Racist ideas were created and popularized in an effort to defend deeply entrenched discriminatory policies and to rationalize the nation's racial inequities in everything from wealth to health. While racist ideas are easily produced and easily consumed, they can also be discredited. In shedding much needed light on the murky history of racist ideas, *Stamped from the Beginning* offers us the tools we need to expose them and in the process, gives us reason to hope.

"Both a penetrating treatise and a wonderfully accessible work of intellectual history, *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the heritage of ideas behind the modern dialectic of race-denial and race-obsession. By historicizing our entrenched logic of racial difference, Kendi shows why "I don't see color" and other professions of post-racialism remain inexorable alibis for white supremacy. *Stamped from the Beginning* has done the cause of anti-racism a great service."

Russell Rickford, author of *We Are an African People: Independent Education, Black Power, and the Radical Imagination*



Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

By Robert Pirsig

The passing of Robert Pirsig in April brought an ideal opportunity to re-read his masterpiece, and to recommend it to our Book Spotlight audience...

“One of the most important and influential books written in the past half-century, Robert M. Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* is a powerful, moving, and penetrating examination of how we live . . . and a breathtaking meditation on how to live better. Here is the book that transformed a generation: an unforgettable narration of a summer motorcycle trip across America's Northwest, undertaken by a father and his young son. A story of love and fear -- of growth, discovery, and acceptance -- that becomes a profound personal and philosophical odyssey into life's fundamental questions, this uniquely exhilarating modern classic is both touching and transcendent, resonant with the myriad confusions of existence . . . and the small, essential triumphs that propel us forward.”

Humorousness

Stories of OTHER people's idiocy



Do you ever look around yourself and wonder if you're the only sane person left on the planet? The truth is you are. Humorousness this month is dedicated to (theoretically true) stories to support that conclusion. They come from various sources, but the ones from the Washington, DC source tell us more than we want to know about our political representatives. And we make no promises concerning their "truthiness"...

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a 'large' enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, 'Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower.' I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, 'NO, it's not.' Four is larger than two...' We haven't used Sears repair since.

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, 'you gave me too much money.' I said, 'Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back.' She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said "We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing.' The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the DEER CROSSING sign on our road. The reason: 'Too many deer are being hit by cars out here! I don't think this is a good place for them to be crossing anymore.'

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for 'minimal lettuce.' He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg lettuce.

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage, without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' He smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine. She asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?!' She was a probation officer in Wichita, KS

I was at a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker. She was leaving the company due to 'downsizing.' Our manager commented cheerfully, 'This is fun. We should do this more often.' Not another word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that deer-in-the-headlights stare. This was a lunch at Texas Instruments.

I work with an individual who plugged her power strip back into itself and for the sake of her life, couldn't understand why her system would not turn on. She was a deputy with the Dallas County Sheriffs' office, no less.

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working

feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. 'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!' His reply, 'I know. I already got that side.' This was at the Ford dealership in Canton, Mississippi

A New Hampshire Congresswoman asked for an aisle seat so that her hair wouldn't get messed up by being near the window. (On an jet airplane!)

I got a call from a Kansas Congressman's staffer who wanted to go to Capetown. I started to explain the length of the flight and the passport information, and then he interrupted me with, 'I'm not trying to make you look stupid, but Capetown is in Massachusetts .' Without trying to make him look stupid, I calmly explained, "Cape Cod is in Massachusetts , Capetown is in Africa " his response -- click.

A senior Vermont Congressman called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that's not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, 'don't lie to me, I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state!'

An Illinois Congresswoman called last week. She needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:30 a.m. and still got to Chicago at 8:33 a.m. I explained that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she couldn't understand the concept of time zones. Finally, I told her the plane went fast, and she bought that.

A New York lawmaker called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to whom?" I said, 'No, why do you ask?' He replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said (FAT), and I'm overweight. I think that's very rude!" After putting him on hold for a minute, while I looked into it. (I was dying laughing). I came back and explained the city code for Fresno, Ca. is (FAT - Fresno Air Terminal), and the airline was just putting a destination tag on his luggage.

I just got off the phone with a freshman Congressman from Ala who asked, "How do I know which plane to get on?" I asked him what exactly he meant, to which he replied, "I was told my flight number is 823, but none of these planes have numbers on them."

A Senator called and said, "I need to fly to Pepsi-Cola, Florida. Do I have to get on one of those little computer planes?" I asked if she meant fly to Pensacola, FL on a commuter plane. She said, "Yeah, whatever, smarty!"

One Senator called and had a question about the documents she needed in order to fly to China. After a lengthy discussion about passports, I reminded her that she needed a visa. 'Oh, no I don't. I've been to China many times and never had to have one of those.' I double-checked and sure enough, her stay required a visa. When I told her this she said, "Look, I've been to China four times and every time they have accepted my American Express!"

A New Jersey Congressman called to make reservations, "I want to go from Chicago to Rhino, New York ." I was at a loss for words. Finally, I said, "Are you sure that's the name of the town?" 'Yes, what flights do you have?' replied the man. After some searching, I came back with, "I'm sorry, sir, I've looked up every airport code in the country and can't find a rhino anywhere." "The man retorted, "Oh, don't be silly! Everyone knows where it is. Check your map!" So I scoured a map of the state of New York and finally offered, "You don't mean Buffalo , do you?" The reply? "Whatever! I knew it was a big animal."

(An angry customer approaches me.) Customer: "I purchased a pregnancy test from here, and it doesn't work! I want my money back! I'll never come here again! Stupid thing didn't work!"
Me: "Okay... did you use it properly?"
Customer: "Do I look like an idiot?! I peed on a stick. Anyone can pee on a f***** stick!"
Me: "Did any type of line come up?"
Customer: "No, not a single line. Just a f***** number 30. How can I be 30% pregnant?"
Me: "Well, this is the first I've heard about this. Do you have the box with you so I can check if there have been any problems before?"
(The customer hands me the box. I stare at it and try not to laugh.)
Me: "Uh... you do realize that this is a thermometer, right?"
Customer: *runs out of the store*

A San Francisco man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the branch and wrote a note that said "This iz a stikkup. Put all your munny in this bag." While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, the man began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and that they might call the police before he reached the teller's window. So he left the Bank of America branch and crossed the street to Wells Fargo. After waiting a few minutes in line at the second bank, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the sharpest tool in the shed, told the man that she could not accept his robbery note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and that he would either have to fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America. Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, "Okay" and left. He was arrested a few minutes later, as he was waiting in line back at Bank of America.

Not too long ago, some Boeing employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the company's fleet of 747s. They had no problems getting the raft out of the plane and home. However, when they took the life raft for a pleasure cruise on the river, they were surprised by a Coast Guard helicopter coming straight at them. You see, it turns out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator beacon that activated when the raft was inflated. Here's a shocker... The group is no longer Boeing employees.

"John" was a medical student doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control center of a Nashville, Tennessee hospital. On his first day of work, a woman called the hospital very upset because she caught her young daughter eating ants. John quickly reassured her that the ants were not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. The woman calmed down, and at the end of the conversation she happened to mention that she had given her daughter some ant poison to eat, thinking it would kill the ants. John then told the woman that she better bring her daughter into the Emergency room right away.

A guy walked into a little corner store in Tempe, Arizona with a shotgun and demanded all the cash from the cash drawer. After the cashier put the cash in a bag, the robber saw a bottle of scotch that he wanted behind the counter on the shelf. He then told the cashier to put it in the bag as well. Surprisingly, the cashier refused, saying it was "Because I don't believe you are over 21." Confused, the robber said he was in fact over 21, but the clerk still refused to give the scotch to the man because he didn't believe him. That's when the thief showed his intelligence by taking his driver's license out of his wallet and handing it to the store clerk. The clerk gave the man's license a good look, agreed that the man was in fact over 21, and he put the scotch in the bag with the money. The robber then ran from the store with his loot. The cashier then promptly called the police and gave them the name and address of the robber that he got off the guy's license. The thief was arrested two hours later at his own home.

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!



Tom Dwyer Supports Reality Studies



We live in a world where facts are equivalent to alternative facts, where spin is the same as analysis, where sheer fiction is the only foundation for some policies while established fact is ignored to permit others. We don't think that's a sustainable model for any society so we were very excited about the March for Science, held centrally in Washington DC with satellite marches in over 200 locations around the world. We didn't have a way to sponsor or participate as a company, but we were able to send one of our intrepid Dwyer Investigative Reporters to march and take these photos of a very encouraging day...

It's Oregon... You NEED A Wedding Llama



You may think having a llama at a wedding is a little over-the-top but it's just another day for [Mtn Peaks Therapy Llamas & Alpacas](#). They started off by providing llamas and camelids as therapy and support animals, all of which had to pass DoveLewis' Animal-Assisted Therapy Certification before meeting the public. They've taken off, however, and now are showing up at all sorts of parties, weddings, corporate events, and more. They've completed over 1000 therapeutic and educational showings, and their celebrity llama, Rojo, has been ranked as "The #1 PR Llama In The World" (who knew there was such a thing?) Quirky, offbeat, and useful... totally Oregon, even though they're in Washington!

Record Number Of Oregonians Running For Office



As Cicero said, "Freedom is participation in power", and a record number of Oregonians pulled up a seat at the table this year. From [the Oregonian article](#)... "More Oregonians -- some 1,018 of them -- are running for their local school board than at any time since 2009. A school boards official thinks it might partly be driven by grassroots reaction to President Trump." "Two years ago, Oregon School Boards Association leaders despaired over the lack of interest in running for school boards. A record 80 percent of school board seats were uncontested, 8 percent of them because no one at all chose to run." . Your seat at the table is waiting... choose to be free!

Six Oregon Hikes To Celebrate Spring



The sun is struggling to stay out from behind the clouds and it's getting better at it every day. Willamette Week has some great tips to the parts of Oregon the tourists don't always see, and if you're looking to get out and celebrate the good weather then this is one to check out. No matter your appetite for hiking, you'll find something on the list that fits you. Hikes of 1-7 miles, from easy to hard, and covering Oregon from coast to mountains, are all covered. They also tell you things to look for on the trail... we learned that on one of these hikes you can go through the wreckage of a B-17! Which hike? You'll have to read the article.

News To Make You Furious

Why the March for Science was necessary



Millions worldwide, and tens of thousands in Portland alone, took to the streets recently. Was it an anti-war protest, a tax resistance protest, a “throw the bums out” protest? No. Embarrassingly, these millions were in the streets to support Science. That’s right, basic Reality Studies. While it’s nice to see so many people caring about something so fundamental to civilization, it’s infuriating that they had to at all. While respect for science has been on the rise since about the sixteenth century it’s under fire today. Global warming denialism is perhaps the most glaring example, but there are others like vaccinations and fracking. “Strongly held beliefs” and “alternative facts” are held in the same esteem as provable facts and objective reality. It’s annoying enough when our neighbors think that way but downright dangerous when our political leaders do the same. For those who think Objective Reality can fend for itself, we offer this repast of rancor from past Furious columns to show exactly how science can be

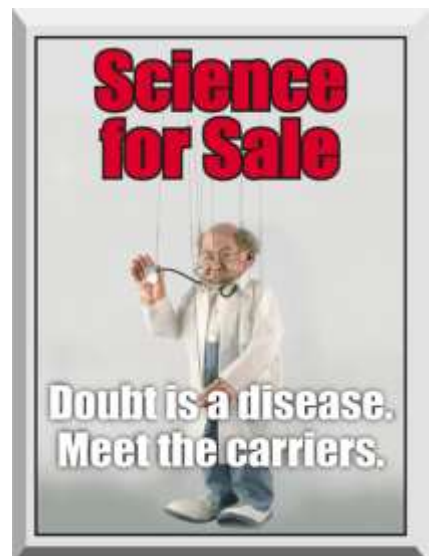
ignored, perverted, or flipped on its head to serve masters other than truth. You’ll be aghast at how bad things have gotten, enraged at how bad they could get, and hopefully energized to stand up for science the next time you see it under threat...

Doubt is a disease. Meet the carriers.

The certainty of Science is paradoxically built around questions and doubt. The most revered theories can always be overthrown by better ones, and some big ones have fallen in the past. No matter how sure we are of today’s science there’s always the possibility we’re wrong and that better explanations might appear. Although they can be proven false, scientific theories can never be proven true. That’s the type of doubt science depends on for its existence.

There’s another kind of doubt, though, a false doubt that perverts this fundamental strength of science and rationality to attack it. This type of doubt doesn’t offer new insights or better explanations of its own, but it says to disbelieve science anyway because it’s not proven. There may be many motivations for this cancerous type of doubt; greed, ideology, ignorance, fear, maybe others. But whatever their motivation these doubtcasters need skills to give their tripe some tenuous connection to reality.

When they do, they turn to a small and reliable stable of carriers ready to transmit their disease. For this month’s News To Make You Furious we introduce you to Scientists for Sale, the intellectual prostitutes (no offense to prostitutes) who spit at the achievements of humanity’s best minds. When you’re suitably apoplectic about their existence you’ll just be getting started... you’ll be incoherent with rage when you find out how little they sell out for!



Dangerous Scientific Incompetence

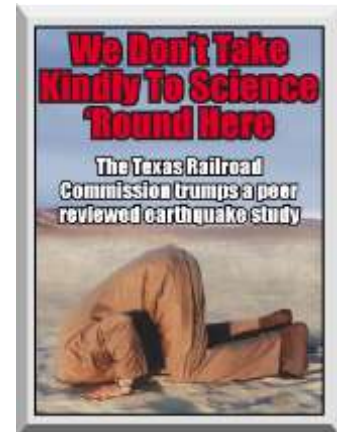
One of the most infuriating phrases you'll hear is "I'm not a scientist, BUT..." This usually precedes some appallingly ill-informed dismissal of a scientific opinion that only people who are scientists would be qualified to make. In a rational world, the only context in which we would ever hear this phrase would be "I'm not a scientist, BUT... here's someone who is a scientist so I'll shut up while they talk." Unfortunately, it seems we don't live in a rational world.



Since global society is built on science and billions would die if that carpet was pulled from under our feet, it's probably a good thing that the US House of Representatives has a permanent committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Who should be in a group tasked with such monumentally important oversight? Apparently, people who don't understand science and think it should be shoehorned into an ideological mold instead of the other way around. When the new Congress starts in 2015 they'll be bringing back the same fine folks who've formed the Science Committee for the last two years, but this time with the Congressional votes to give their flamboyant idiocy some teeth. To get your blood boiling this month we bring you a look at five of the people who decide how our national science budget is spent, their dismal understanding of the subject they'll control, and their already appalling plans for what they'll do. Get ready to get livid... and scared.

We don't take kindly to science 'round here

You don't have to look further than a legislature for hubris, but for truly Texas-sized arrogance you have to go to Texas. The small Texas towns of Azle and Reno sit atop a geological formation called the Barnett Shale, ground zero for fracking in Texas. It's ground zero for a swarm of earthquakes too; earthquakes that started right after fracking did. Since that could just be a coincidence, the Texas Railroad Commission (TRC, the agency in charge of oil and gas regulation in Texas) held a hearing to determine if drilling and fracking were contributing factors in the quakes. You may be relieved to know that they concluded there was NO LINK. Whew! But you'll be less relieved to find out how they kicked aside the peer-reviewed study showing there WAS a link (by Texas scientists, no less), how they fixed testimony in the hearing, and how they bent themselves into pretzels to justify their reasoning.



The Climate Change Denial Machine

Science does not promise truth, and it never has. Science gives the best possible explanation of reality, though that explanation is always subject to revision. On climate change, there is a scientific consensus that it is real, human-caused, and increasing. The consensus does not prove it is true. The consensus arose because the evidence supports it. Basic open-mindedness is necessary for the function of science, but reasonable skepticism doesn't imply doubt about the thrust of a theory. But then there's FOX News, Exxon, the Koch Brothers, and more who'll be glad to tell you about the sliver of scientists who criticize climate change. Is this a case of lonely scientific voices being silenced by a bloated scientific orthodoxy?



No, they're lying. We wanted to be a little open-minded, but it's just that simple... they're not wrong, they're lying. They're lying about one of the most critical issues possible, something that will affect humanity for centuries. They're lying about issues that will leave people dead, starving, ill, homeless, and warring. They're paying billions of dollars to put these lies out day after week after year. And they're lying ONLY because they make money off the lies. Ready to get your blood boiling? Then settle in for this month's News to Make You Furious...

The Dumbing Down of America

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...

