



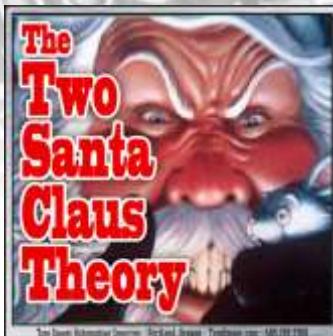
"Your Car Matters"

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for March, 2019



Good Technicians aren't born, they're MADE

And Dwyer Technician Chris Waterbury is helping make them



Two Santa Theory

It's not your imagination and it's not accidental... it's a plan.



MemeFest

Everyone loves memes... here are our best ones



Holiday Inn makes your retirement dreams come true



Amazing Sculptures from Around The World



U.S. Spent \$6T; Killed 500K Since 9/11.



They Polluted. We're Paying.

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- The goose is cooked, but the gander goes free

What NOW?!! Toons Tucker's Toon for March

Drew's Kitchen- Cheeseburger Soup

Shop Talk- BIG change to our Referral Rewards

Health Notes- Your money or your life

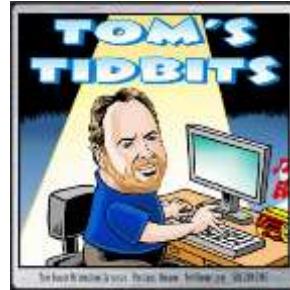
Book Spotlight- "The New Rules Of War" by Sean McFate

Humorousness- Advice that works for toddlers and drunks

News To Make You Furious- "Professional Courtesy"

Tom's Tidbits

The goose is cooked while the gander goes free

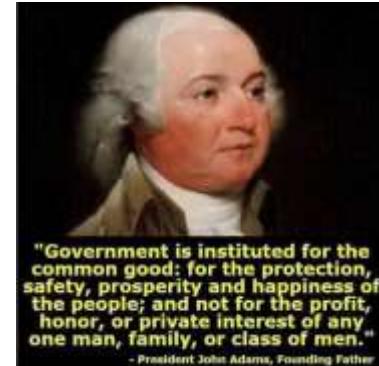


Greetings,

Crime and punishment have dominated the news the past two years, but pick the past two decades, centuries, or millennia... the questions of what crime is, who should be punished, or what 'appropriate punishment' means are as old as humanity. We might aspire to a world where punishment fits the crime and Justice is blind, but we don't live there yet. From the poorest illegal migrant worker to the richest Plymouth-rock corporate raider, we know the eyes of Justice see money, race, sex, and politics all too clearly. Politicians offer platitudes of how lucky we are to live under the Rule Of Law, but laws that don't serve people oppress them. As corruption attacks our Justice system we're quickly sliding from the Rule *OF* Law to the Rule *BY* law, and there's a fundamental difference. In one, the laws serve us while in the other, we serve the laws...

Before laws the strong ruled the weak by whim so as a natural extension, when laws *were* developed, there was one set for rulers and another for the ruled. Sometimes this was explicit, as in the Chinese Qin dynasty where "the ruler is the source of all law and stands above the law... Law is what pleases the ruler". In the West, the "Divine right of Kings" left no doubt the king was to write the law, not obey it. These tiered justice systems, or 'private laws', are at the root of our word 'privilege'. But they're examples of *Rule BY Law*, not *Rule OF Law*... Law used as a tool to bludgeon, not as a tool of Justice. The Magna Carta brought Law to kings, and our Constitutional assumption that "all men are created equal" theoretically underpins all US law, but in our 243 years the Rule *OF* Law has been observed as much in breach as in practice. Ask native Americans, racial minorities, women, homosexuals, religious minorities, political enemies, poor people... equality before the law has stayed aspirational.

But that's the nature of Justice... even as we struggle for it we know we're doomed to failure, but we have no choice but to try. Law is a sterile and mechanical framework applied to messy and imprecise human beings, so we make allowances because we know it can't fit perfectly. We build flexibility into the system with ranges of punishments, we judge the same acts differently if motivated by malice or negligence, we consciously choose to let the guilty go free if there isn't enough proof to punish. These are just some of the many flaws we must accept as unavoidable evils. But what we CAN'T accept, what subverts Law from a blessing to a bludgeon, is privilege... Private Law.



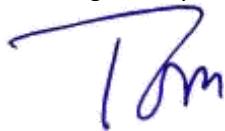
Again, we know we're doomed to failure. We can *try* to apply Justice independently of individuals' political or economic power, but "power" is specifically the ability to tilt the system in one's favor... to corrupt it. Corruption is a bad thing for all of us no matter who does it. While we can't eliminate corruption, we can and must ferret it out. But this fundamental assumption is challenged every day as we're told Justice isn't for all; it's for the winners. We're told corruption is just normal politics and shouldn't be reduced, it should be accepted and we should all just learn to play the game. We're told, bit by bit, to accept Private Law.

Multiple daily abuses of Justice tell us corruption so egregious it can't be accepted should be ignored, but if it can't be ignored then it certainly shouldn't be punished. One need look no further than [Donald and the rest of the Trumps for a buffet of unpunished corruption](#), but let's take a look at some other recent cases anyway. [Paul Manafort just got 8 years for tax and bank fraud worth millions](#), while crimes as petty as [siphoning gas from a truck and possessing stolen wrenches can land people in jail for life](#). In his "otherwise blameless life", Manafort created a new business niche not just by peddling influence to foreign governments, but by choosing to represent dictators, torturers, and strongmen... creating the Torturer's Lobby. Of course, neither the cash lobbying nor supporting torturers were illegal, so maybe that's not corruption. How about [Obama not pursuing](#)

[crimes of torture \(among others\) of the Bush Administration because they “were in the past”,](#) where virtually all crimes occur? That decision imperils our basic American and Human values, but thank god we didn’t embarrass Bush or Cheney. You Righties will remember [Hillary and the emails...](#) while they found no crime, or at least not enough evidence to prosecute, her behavior would have ended the careers of anyone less powerful. Who was shocked to hear about the [college admission scandal](#)? To me, the only shocking thing was that giving millions to fund a building and thousands to bribe an official weren’t the same thing. What about Justice for corporations? Just recently, [PG&E filed for bankruptcy](#) to escape liability in the Camp fire and [Purdue Pharmaceuticals is considering bankruptcy](#) to flee from the opioid crisis they created. [Exxon’s consciously denied Climate Change for 27 years](#), crippling humanity’s ability to reverse it and possibly dooming the planet. Don’t even get me started on [Wells Fargo!](#)

Even in the best conditions, no political, economic, or legal system will ever generate perfect, equitable Justice For All. But In today’s world corruption is the rule rather than the exception; reason for bragging instead of shame. We can’t eliminate all corruption but fighting it is a matter of will, and any civilized society depends on the fight. Corruption is a cancer in every society, and if ignored, cancer is always fatal.

Make a great day,



Digging Deeper...

[Paul Manafort: Ex-Trump Campaign Chief Jailed For Fraud](#), BBC News, Mar 2019

[6 Reasons Paul Manafort Got Off So Lightly](#), Ken White in The Atlantic, Mar 2019

[News To Make You Furious- Wells Fraudo](#), Tom Dwyer Automotive, Sep 2016

[Your Country Is Just Not That Into You](#) by Jimmy Dore, 2014

[PG&E Officially Files for Bankruptcy Under the Financial Strain of California Wildfires](#), Fortune Magazine, Jan 2019

[Exxon Knew Of Climate Change In 1981, Email Says – But It Funded Deniers For 27 More Years](#) by Suzanne Goldenberg, The Guardian, Jul 2015

[The People vs. Donald Trump: Every Major Lawsuit and Investigation the President Faces](#), Glenn Fleishman in Fortune, Dec 2018

[Jeff Sessions Admits There Is Not Enough Evidence For The FBI To Investigate Hillary Clinton](#), Andrew Buncombe in The Independent, Nov 2017

[Purdue Pharma CEO Says Bankruptcy Is ‘An Option’ As Company Faces Opioid Lawsuits](#), Katie Zezima in Washington Post, Mar 2019

[An Oxford Researcher Says There Are Seven Moral Rules That Unite Humanity](#), by Jenny Anderson on Quartz, Mar 2019

[Encyclopedia of Political Theory](#), by Mark Bevir, Mar 2010

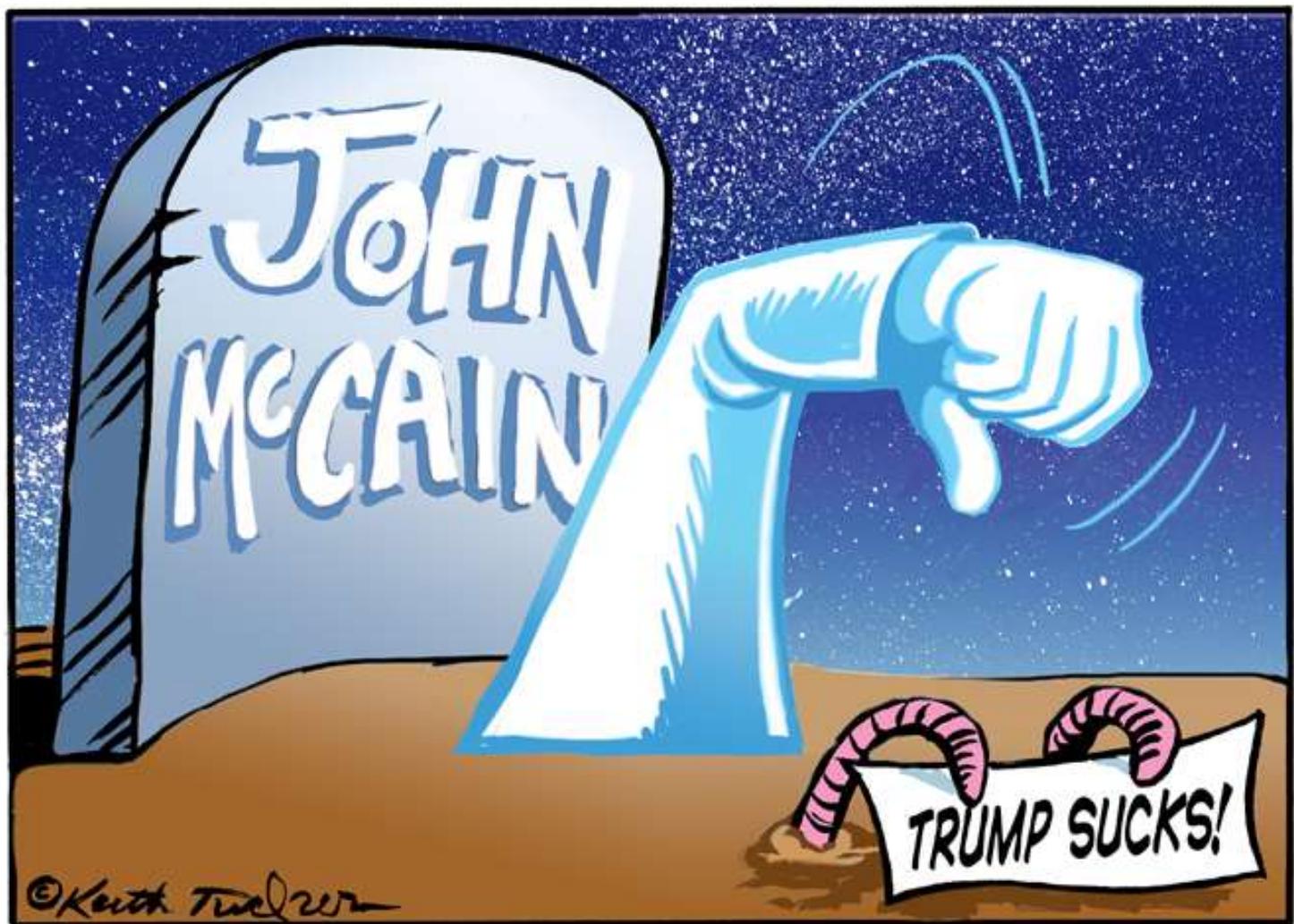
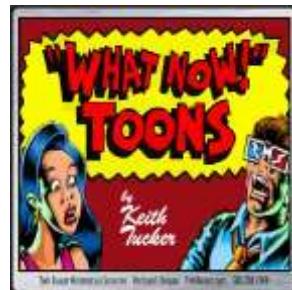
[What is the Rule of Law](#), ABA division for Public Education

[The Rule of Law](#), Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Jun 2016

[23 Petty Crimes That Have Landed People in Prison for Life Without Parole](#), Josh Harkinson in Mother Jones, Nov 2013

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon for March 2019



"WHAT NOW?!!"

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Referral Reward Program

A BIG change to the Program!



How our Referral Reward Program works

Our Referral Reward Program is how we say “thank you” to the clients who recommend our shop to their family and friends. When a new client comes in and gives your name as a Referral Source we’ll make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice, and all selections are eligible for a Yearly award as well. It couldn’t be easier!

March 2019- We've got a big Referral Reward announcement to make this month! As you may know, our clients vote for Quarterly and Yearly awards from the groups who've been picked each month. That was getting a little overwhelming; it seems we were just getting out of one voting period and we were already into the next! So we're simplifying. We are **DROPPING THE QUARTERLY AWARDS** for the program and making a **YEARLY AWARD ONLY**. But to make up for it, we are **INCREASING THE YEARLY AWARD TO \$1,000!** That's a lot of money on the line for any non-profit, and it will be **UP TO YOU TO DETERMINE WHO GETS IT!** We'll start voting in the Fall, and announce the winner in our Jan 2020 newsletter... don't worry, we'll let you know when voting starts!

We've made **9 donations for \$345 since our last count**; a total of **528 donations totaling \$23,143 since the program began!** Here's who our clients chose to help in March...

[CYO Camp Howard](#) by Jim B. [Pixie Project](#) by Kimo S.

[Pongo Fund](#) by Dylan H. [Our House of Portland](#) by Daryl S.

[Center for Biological Diversity](#) by Jay O. [XRAY.FM](#) by Paul D.

[Oregon Humane Society](#) by Ben H. [Write Around Portland](#) by Glenda L.

[Children's Cancer Association](#) by Keaunna B.

Current Special Offers

Take advantage of these special Dwyer offers!



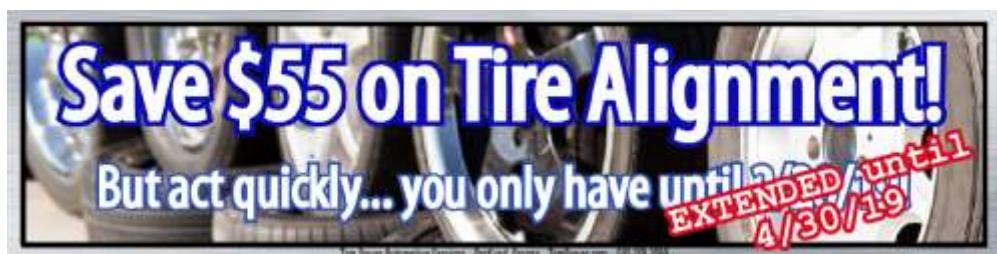
Save 20% on Labor, but act quickly... offer EXPIRES 4/12/19

Our Automotive Amnesty offer helps clear out those old repair recommendations that have been building up in your file. If you've been putting off an expensive, labor-intensive service like a timing belt replacement or heater core repair then this will be especially useful to you! There are some conditions

- Discount applies to labor charges only, not parts
- Discount is capped at \$400 maximum
- Recommendations must have been in your file BEFORE 4/12/19
- You must tell us you want this offer WHEN YOU SCHEDULE YOUR SERVICE!
- Offer is VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE!
- Service must be SCHEDULED before 4/12/19, but can be performed at a later date

It's just that simple. Don't put off the repairs critical to your convenience and safety... come in now, while Amnesty is available!

Maximum value \$400, Offer expires 4/12/19



Save \$55 on Tire Alignment- EXTENDED!

Take 50% Off our Tire Alignment (normally \$110)

Your vehicle's wheels must be precisely aligned with each other to perform properly. If one or more wheels are angled incorrectly you can experience lower tire life, 'drifting' while you drive, or poor braking and steering performance. Normal driving can change your alignment by itself, but the potholes and muck of winter driving can do it much faster! Bring your vehicle in before the end of February and we'll make sure you're driving on the straight and narrow.

Maximum value \$55, Offer expires 4/30/19

Good Technicians are MADE, not born

And Dwyer Technician Chris Waterbury is helping make them



Gone are the days when "mechanic" meant "Goober under a shade tree". For better and worse, today's vehicles are mechanically complex, computer-controlled virtual spacecraft speeding along our roads. Today's "mechanics" are more properly called "Technicians"; consummate professionals who must understand knowledge from mechanical and electrical engineering, chemistry, computers, materials science, and more, and then be able to distill and apply it "on the fly" to thousands of vehicle models from hundreds of manufacturers. Where do

you even *start* to find people who can do all that? You don't *find* them, you *make* them, but if you want to make the *best* you start with Tom Dwyer Automotive Services...

The National Occupational Competency Testing Institute ([NOCTI](#)) creates standardized assessments and test materials for career and technical programs in high school and college. Teachers combine their experience with that of working industry professionals in fields from Agriculture to Health to Computers to Trucking and more. These tests must be continually updated to fit technological advances, then aligned with national academic, business and industry standards.

An educational consultant was recently working with NOCTI to build a team of teachers and professionals to revise its Automotive Technology test, and fortunately he knew [Chris Waterbury](#). Chris is one of our top Technicians, an ASE-Master-Certified Technician who's been with us for almost 20 of his 30 years' automotive experience. In addition to his coveted Master Technician title he also has an L1 Advanced Emissions certification and is one of the few Techs in the country to have earned the [new L3 Hybrid Vehicle certification](#). In short, if you want a Technician's Technician, you want Chris. He was added to a list of about 80 candidates and selected for the final group of 7 who would do the evaluation... the only working auto professional on the panel.

"I was really impressed by the teachers I worked with", Chris said. "They obviously cared deeply about the students they'd be affecting, and wanted to make sure they learned the most useful material. I felt like they were committed to making sure these kids had the strongest shot at a good career."

The Automotive Test covers all aspects of automotive technology with both "paper" and "hands-on" components. The group broke the broad subject matter into smaller chunks like Tires or

Emissions, and Chris found himself on the Lights and Accessories section. The team reviewed the existing test, eliminated out-of-date or non-sensical material, and set the content and questions for the new test.

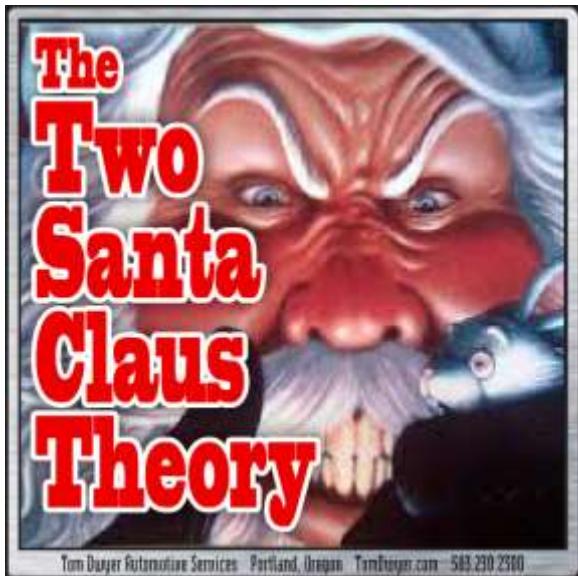
What were some of the things they changed? "Well, a car's battery used to be tested one way but it's given way to different technology and no new Tech will ever need to know about the old one. We killed that question. We also added material on systems like TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems) and advanced driver-assist systems. These are just two of the many new features that are becoming standard, and we need to be sure every new Tech knows all about them."

Asked what he thought of the new crop of potential Techs, Chris was optimistic. "I'm very excited. The ones I've talked to are bright and upbeat, and really seem to know their stuff." More specifically, "the online fluency of younger people is a big help, because the answers to so many problems we face in the shop each day are discussed online in peer-to-peer databases. Our guys are constantly talking to other techs across the country, and that kind of collaborative work is critical for success for any new Tech".

There's a joke about doctors and mechanics... mechanics have to work on thousands of different models of car, but doctors have worked on the same model for thousands of years. That's surely one difference, but there's a real similarity in that education for Doctors and Technicians never ends. It's a constant struggle to keep up with changing technology, and the institutions who train these pros have the same struggle. The schools that are conscious of the changing environment and are conscientious about keeping up with it are the ones who are turning out the quality we'll need, both as an industry and consumers. We're just proud to tell you that one of our Techs, Chris Waterbury, is helping to mold these impressionable new minds... we think they're in good hands.

The Two Santa Theory... No Ho Ho.

It's not your imagination and it's not accidental... it's a plan.



There's never enough money for Health Care, Education, or the Environment, but the latest war in Misunderstan or the critical cash payoff to campaign supporters always seem to find funding. Whatever our personal priorities, the stereotype has always been that the Democrats are the party of spending while the Republicans are the party of fiscal responsibility. But in an era of trillion-dollar deficits, when Republicans glibly declare "deficits don't matter", it's obvious that stereotype no longer applies. That's no accident. It was a conscious decision by a Republican strategist Jude Wanniski to increase their candidates' ballot appeal, and damn the consequences for the country. Conspiracy theory? Hardly. We'll step back and let our favorite

Thom Hartmann explain the theory, then let Wanniski's paper outlining the "Two-Santa Theory" speak for itself...

The Two-Santa Theory Explained

(Ed. Note: This introduction from Thom Hartmann explains the outline of the Two-Santa Theory, but they're only the first part of a much [longer article at Alternet.org](#). Thom's article is followed by our usual "Digging Deeper" links for analysis, and Jude Wanniski's original paper, in its lengthy entirety, is at the end.)

How the GOP Used a Two Santa Clauses Tactic to Con America for Nearly 40 Years

By Thom Hartmann

The Republican Party has been running a long con on America since Reagan's inauguration, and somehow our nation's media has missed it - even though it was announced in The Wall Street Journal in the 1970s and the GOP has clung tenaciously to it ever since.

In fact, Republican strategist Jude Wanniski's 1974 "Two Santa Clauses Theory" has been the main reason why the GOP has succeeded in producing our last two Republican presidents, Bush and Trump (despite losing the popular vote both times). It's also why Reagan's economy seemed to be "good."

"The only thing wrong with the U.S. economy is the failure of the Republican Party to play Santa Claus."

-Jude Wanniski, March 6, 1976

Here's how it works, laid it out in simple summary:

First, when Republicans control the federal government, and particularly the White House, spend money like a drunken sailor and run up the US debt as far and as fast as possible. This produces three results - it stimulates the economy thus making people think that the GOP can produce a good economy, it raises the debt dramatically, and it makes people think that Republicans are the "tax-cut Santa Claus."

Second, when a Democrat is in the White House, scream about the national debt as loudly and frantically as possible, freaking out about how "our children will have to pay for it!" and "we have to cut spending to solve the crisis!" This will force the Democrats in power to cut their own social safety net programs, thus shooting their welfare-of-the-American-people Santa Claus.

Think back to Ronald Reagan, who more than tripled the US debt from a mere \$800 billion to \$2.6 trillion in his 8 years. That spending produced a massive stimulus to the economy, and the biggest non-wartime increase in the debt in history. Nary a peep from Republicans about that 218% increase in our debt; they were just fine with it.

And then along came Bill Clinton. The screams and squeals from the GOP about the "unsustainable debt" of nearly \$3 trillion were loud, constant, and echoed incessantly by media from CBS to NPR. Newt Gingrich rode the wave of "unsustainable debt" hysteria into power, as the GOP took control of the House for the first time lasting more than a term since 1930, even though the increase in our national debt under Clinton was only about 37%...

[Click here for the rest of Thom's article](#)

Digging Deeper...

[Trump broke his promise to fix the debt. He'll blame Congress in 2020.](#), Jonathan Allen on NBC News, Mar 2019

[The federal deficit ballooned at start of new fiscal year, up 77 percent from a year before](#), Damian Paletta in Washington Post, Mar 2019

[How the GOP Used a Two Santa Clauses Tactic to Con America for Nearly 40 Years](#), Thom Hartmann on AlterNet, Feb 2018

[U.S. Budget Deficit Widens 77%](#), Katia Dmitrieva on Bloomberg News, Mar 2019

[Thom Hartmann explains Republican's 2 Santa strategy](#), Video, Aug 2010

[The Two Santa Claus Theory](#), New World Economics, May 2010

[The GOP Is Reviving One of Its Favorite Scams](#), Thom Hartmann on TruthDig, Jan 2019

Point/Counterpoint

[America needs a balanced-budget amendment](#), George Will in Washington Post, Jan 2018

[A balanced-budget amendment is always stupid. Right now, it's a joke](#), Catherine Rampell in Washington Post, Apr 2018

[Jude Wanniski: Taxes and a Two-Santa Theory](#), Bruce Bartlett in Wall Street Pit, May 2010 (source for full Wanniski paper below)

[The Powell Memo](#), Charles Letherwood, Your Car Matters, June 2016

National Observer- March 6, 1976

Taxes and a Two-Santa Theory

By Jude Wanniski

The only thing wrong with the U.S. economy is the failure of the Republican Party to play Santa Claus. The only thing wrong with President Ford is that he is still too much a Hoover Republican when what the country needs is a Coolidge Republican.

These statements, seemingly absurd, follow naturally from the Two-Santa Claus Theory of the political

economy. Simply stated, the Two Santa Claus Theory is this: For the U.S. economy to be healthy and growing, there must be a division of labor between Democrats and Republicans; each must be a different kind of Santa Claus.

The Democrats, the party of income redistribution, are best suited for the role of Spending Santa Claus. The Republicans, traditionally the party

of income growth, should be the Santa Claus of Tax Reduction. It has been the failure of the GOP to stick to this traditional role that has caused much of the nation's economic misery. Only the shrewdness of the Democrats, who have kindly agreed to play both Santa Clauses during critical periods, has saved the nation from even greater misery.

It isn't that Republicans don't enjoy cutting taxes. They love it. But there is something in the Republican chemistry that causes the GOP to become hypnotized by the prospect of an imbalanced budget. Static analysis tells them taxes can't be cut or inflation will result. They either argue for a tax hike to dampen inflation when the economy is in a boom or demand spending cuts to balance the budget when the economy is in recession.

An Earlier Heyday

Either way, of course, they embrace the role of Scrooge, playing into the hands of the Democrats, who know the first rule of successful politics is Never Shoot Santa Claus. The political tension in the market place of ideas must be between tax reduction and spending increases, and as long as Republicans have insisted on balanced budgets, their influence as a party has shriveled, and budgets have been imbalanced.

They were not always so dumb. The GOP's heyday was in the 1920s, when, acting on the advice of Treasury Secretary Andrew Mellon—who served Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover—the Republicans cut tax rates no less than five times. Mellon, the embodiment of the Republican Santa Claus, argued that a cut in tax rates would provide business an incentive to expand, increase prosperity, expand the tax base, and thereby provide more revenues to the Government than would have accrued without a tax cut.

Mellon pointed out that the 65 per cent surtax on excess profits, enacted by the Democrats to finance World War I, had yielded \$2.5 billion in 1918, but, in driving the economy into a recession, brought in only \$335 million in 1921. He asserted that high taxes are self-defeating. Experience proved him exactly correct.

The Roaring Twenties

In 1921, over the screams of congressional liberals, he pushed through a cut in the personal income surtax in the highest brackets, to 50

per cent from the 65 per cent maximum, and an elimination of the excess-profits tax. The economy leaped out of recession, tax revenues poured into the Treasury, and by 1924 Mellon was ready for another cut, this time driving the surtax maximum to 40 per cent and putting a 40 per cent lid on inheritance taxes. The Twenties Roared.

"Any man of energy and initiative in this country can get what he wants out of life," Mellon asserted. "But when that initiative is crippled by legislation or by a tax system which denies him the right to receive a reasonable share of his earnings, then he will no longer exert himself, and the country will be deprived of the energy on which its continued greatness depends."



Michael Grunwald

@MikeGrunwald

R's: Clinton is blowing up deficit!
Clinton eliminates deficit.
Bush wins.
Bush blows up deficit.
Cheney: Deficits don't matter!
Obama wins.
R's: Obama is blowing up deficit!
Obama reduces deficit.
Trump wins.
Trump blows up deficit.
Mulvaney: Nobody cares about deficits!

Mellon didn't fool around. As national productivity galloped ahead, consumer prices fell, employment expanded, and revenue increased. Coolidge staked the 1924 election on Mellon's proposal to cut the surtax to 25 per cent and the inheritance tax to a top of 25 per cent, with an 80 per cent credit against state inheritance levies.

A Coolidge Landslide

The New York Times, which in those days preferred income growth to income distribution, editorialized: "Langid critics may say there is nothing inspiring in humdrum projects to enforce Government economy and lighten the burdens of taxation. But they can say this only if they lack the imagination to perceive what Mr. Mellon actually means. It

would lighten the demands upon millions of purses hard to fill. It would not only do away with oppressive taxes. It would lower the cost of living. It would release capital for productive industry and enterprise of all kinds. This would result in fuller employment of labor, multiplication of goods in common consumption, and probably bring about a period of great and legitimate expansion of industry and commerce never surpassed in the United States."

Coolidge was elected in a landslide, and the Congress that swept in with him had to be restrained by Mellon from cutting tax rates deeper than he had proposed. The next four years were as glorious as the Times had forecast. The low tax rates not only produced an enormous expansion of the economy, with real per capita income increases approaching 4 per cent a year, but they also produced sufficient revenue to pay off almost a third of the national debt, slicing it back to \$17 billion by 1928. In eight years American productivity—output per man-hour—increased by 30 per cent.

During those glorious years, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover had nothing much to do but co-ordinate disaster-relief projects, winning national acclaim for his kind heart and compassion. Hoover and Mellon were not mutual admirers, and after Hoover's 1928 election Mellon stayed on at Treasury only because Hoover could not fire a national Republican hero. But it was broadcast that Treasury Undersecretary Ogden Mills, a Hoover man appointed without consulting Mellon, would call the shots.

Shaky World Economy

Seven months after Hoover took office the stock market crashed, not the result of fiscal policy, but of economic contraction in Europe and a rapid unwinding of most of the stock-market loans that had been built on the excessive monetary policies of the Federal Reserve. Hoover turned away from Mellon, who had advised: "Liquidate labor, liquidate stocks, liquidate the farmers, liquidate real estate,"

meaning the Government should keep hands off and let prices fall to a new equilibrium that would provide a sound foundation for recovery.

"Secretary Mellon was not hard-hearted," Hoover wrote in his memoirs. "In fact he was generous and sympathetic with all suffering. He felt there would be less suffering if his course were pursued. The real trouble with him was that he insisted that this was just an ordinary boom-slump...."

Hoover did everything he could think of to slow liquidation. He got businessmen to pledge to hold on to uneconomic labor and to sustain un economic wage rates. He tried to prop up farm prices. He argued for expansion of Federal Reserve credit. And he signed the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act to protect American labor, thereby causing a further contraction of the world economy."

Balancing the Budget

But these measures only delayed liquidation and were probably offset to a degree by a 1 per cent cut in the corporate tax rate in 1930. By March 1931 the New York Times could suggest that the economy seemed to have gotten over the worst of the recession and recover lay ahead. But through the summer, another outburst of trade wars in Europe caused further global economic contractions, and in September Great Britain went off the gold standard, adding currency warfare to the equation.

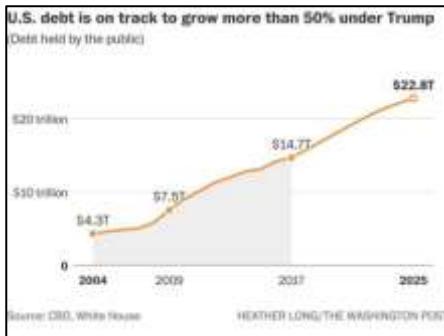
On the heels of Britain's decision, Hoover decided that the \$2 billion in revenues lost during the recession had to be recovered so the budget could be balanced. He boosted taxes on "luxuries and nonessentials," raised the inheritance tax to 45 per cent from 23 per cent, raised the income tax to 45 per cent from 23 per cent, and imposed a 15 per cent corporate tax rate. The Republican Congress enacted these measures in the summer of 1932 going into the teeth of the Presidential elections, banks failing left and right, and the stock market reeling.

Franklin Roosevelt, the prototype of the Democratic Spending Santa

Claus, was elected. But instead of just boosting Federal spending, pump priming as it was called, Roosevelt boosted tax rates too. In four years he pushed the rate beyond where they had been in 1920, putting the highest marginal tax rate to 92 per cent. The Roosevelt prescription was "tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect." The idea, perfectly suited to a Santa Claus who prefers income redistribution to growth, was to tax money away from the well-to-do, because they were not spending it fast enough, and spend it for them.

Congress Cuts Taxes

Not only didn't conditions improve, but the big tax hike of 1936 inspired the recession of 1937, the recession within the Depression, and altogether the Roosevelt policies kept the Depression going for eight



years. The drag of Roosevelt's tax policies became so obvious that in May 1938, over FDR's protests, Republicans and Southern Democrats in Congress forced repeal of the 1936 tax on "undistributed profits" and cut the corporate tax rate. The recession officially bottomed out the following month.

To this day, the two main economic theories that attempt to explain the Great Depression ignore or underestimate the impact of the steady increase in tax rates. The Keynesians either argue that Roosevelt did not tax or spend enough or simply that he did not spend enough. The monetarists, led by Milton Friedman, believe everything would have been wonderful if the Federal Reserve in 1930 and 1931 had printed a lot of money.

Keynesians like to argue that spending. Pure and simple, brought

prosperity during World War II. But the U.S. economy revived first because the European powers liquidated wealth to wage war, spending that wealth on U.S. exports of munitions and materiel. Second, the United States financed its own effort chiefly through bond sales, not steep tax-rate increases. Most important, the "tax" on business through bureaucratic red tape and regulation that also flourished under the New Deal was ended as businessmen came to Washington to run the war-mobilization effort. In addition, industry could write off against taxes all war-related capital expansion; national survival made it necessary for the Government to permit producers to keep a reasonable share of their earnings.

Recovery Under Truman

After V-J Day in 1945, the Democratic liberals made a pitch to keep the high nominal tax rates up to pre-war levels, along with an end to tax write-offs, of course. Liberals warned that unemployment would go to 10 million unless the Government taxed and spent on social desirables. But taxes were cut sharply. President Truman wisely liquidated war contracts on the word of the contractors instead of harassing them with tax audits. And recovery ensued.

As in Mellon's day, the lower tax rates produced expanded revenues, and the Republicans, led by Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, demanded another tax cut. The Keynesian economists, who by this time dominated both the academic community and Washington policy makers, predicted a worsening of inflation if the Taft tax cut of \$5 billion were enacted. It was enacted in 1948, over Truman's veto, and inflation came to a halt. The Keynesians to this day have explanations of why the tax cut should have produced a rampant inflation.

The Korean War upset Republican plans to cut taxes again in 1950, but in the tradition of Herbert Hoover, Dwight Eisenhower shot Santa Claus in January 1953. As in 1931, the GOP forgot Mellon's advice and sought to balance the budget, hoping to end

the deficits of the Korean War years. The Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Daniel Reed, introduced H.R. 1, a general tax-reduction bill, but Eisenhower's economic advisers argued that it would be fiscally irresponsible, and Ike asked Reed to withdraw the bill. In the 1958 recession, Eisenhower again stoically rejected calls for a tax cut by members of his own party.

Economic Role Reversal

As a result, there were eight years of Eisenhower economic stagnation. In 1953, as in 1931, the GOP brain trust insisted the tax cut would mean a deficit. The deficit would have to be financed with Treasury bond sales. And these sales would "crowd out" private borrowers from the capital market. In 1974 Treasury Secretary Simon made the same arguments in inveighing against tax cuts.

Ignoring these kinds of arguments, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson got the economy moving again by slashing taxes \$20 billion between 1962 and 1965, doing the job the GOP Santa Claus should have done.

But as business expanded and the tax base grew, the Democrats spent the increased revenues that poured into the Treasury. The Great Society programs of 1965 through 1968 were financed by these tax cuts. So was the increased spending for the Vietnam War. The Democrats realized that the Republicans would never call for a tax cut unless the Federal budget were in surplus, so they engineered their spending programs in a way that would

guarantee spending would always outrun revenues.

Republicans Play Scrooge

The typical Great Society legislation that passed in 1965 and 1966 called for spending a few dollars the first year, \$1 million or so the second year, and \$1 billion in the third. The Democrats were spending anticipated revenues. Throughout the period, Republicans continued to play Scrooge, carping against increased spending without ever offering the obvious alternative to tax reduction. Even with a Republican back in the White House in 1969, it was the Democrats who pushed tax reduction in the face of continuing deficits. In 1969 and in 1971, tax cuts were put through over Republican budget concerns. After both, the economy expanded and revenue increased.

In learning how to play both Santa Clauses, the Democratic majorities in Congress grow larger and larger. They can alternate between increased spending and occasional tax cuts and take credit at the polls for both. The economy suffers, though, because the Democrats do not fulfill both roles with equal zest. They spend with exuberance and cut tax rates only when in doing so they can redistribute income from the middle and upper incomes to the less affluent. Americans, discouraged by ever-increasing tax rates, work less and invest less, devoting more time to leisure and a higher portion of their income to current consumption. Because middle- and upper-income Americans are the most productive (an engineer produces more than a ditch digger),

taxing them the most has the effect of reducing economic output.

Tax Cuts—Timidity

Until President Ford in January 1975 timidly proposed a tax cut of sorts (three-quarters of his \$16 billion package was a rebate on 1974 taxes, not incentives for new production), the Republicans had gone 22 years without proposing the kind of reduction President Eisenhower rejected in 1953 upon the advice of his Hooverlike advisers.

Both President Ford and Ronald Reagan are inching toward the Mellon approach. Still, they each insist in one way or another that tax reduction be bound to spending cuts. This is an improvement on the straightforward demand that the Spending Santa be shot. But as the Two-Santa Claus Theory holds that the Republicans should concentrate on tax-rate reduction. As they succeed in expanding incentives to produce, they will move the economy back to full employment and thereby reduce social pressures for public spending. Just as an increase in Government spending inevitably means taxes must be raised, a cut in tax rates—by expanding the private sector—will diminish the relative size of the public sector.

All the United States needs now to prosper is a Coolidge in the White House, a Mellon at Treasury, and GOP tax-cutting St. Nick.

—

Jude Wanniski, a former National Observer Staff Writer, is now on The Wall Street Journal.

MemeFest

Everyone loves memes... here are ours

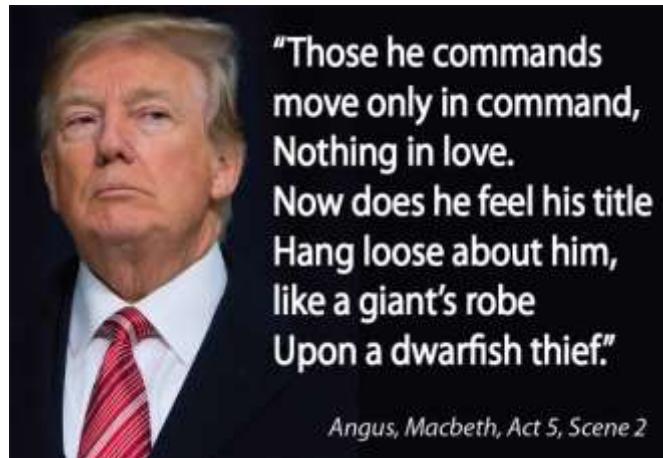


Tom Dwyer Automotive Services - Portland, Oregon TomDwyer.com 503.239.2304

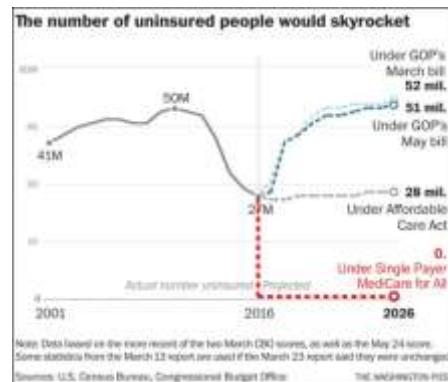
Evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins gave us the word 'meme', but he didn't have kittens, determined toddlers, or frogs (Kermit OR Pepe) in mind. He was describing the transmission of discrete cultural ideas in a society, and his ideas formed the basis of the field of memetics. 'Meme' still is short for a discrete idea transmitted through the culture but today it's an endless parade of creepy characters and adorable animals, superheros and awkward politicians, dancing babies and dramatic chipmunks, all with their own pithy comments. The staff here at "Your Car Matters" would like you to take a look at some of their own recent efforts to create the perfect meme and show you a few we've liked recently from other sources...

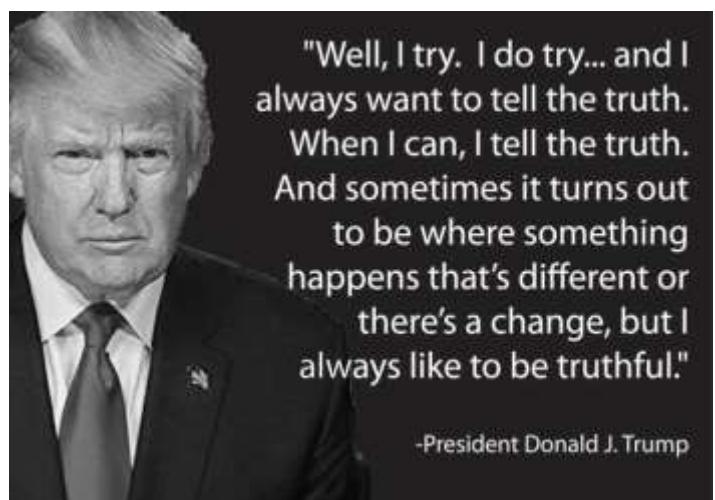
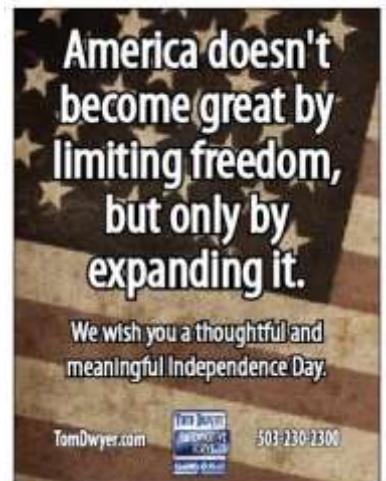
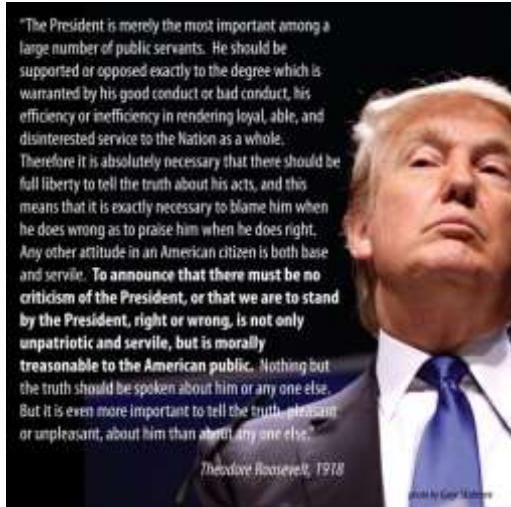
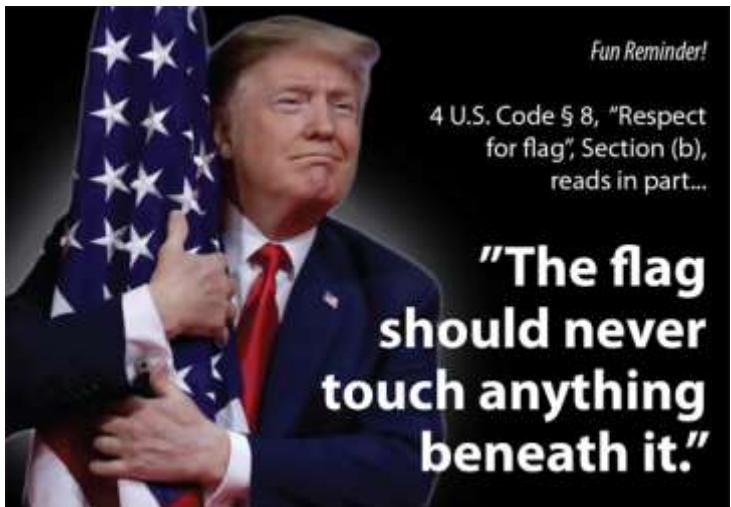
The DWYER meme vault

And here you go... our first efforts at memeing. If he hasn't been anything else, we can at least say that Donald Trump has been inspirational on this front! With a couple exceptions, he's central to every one. Well, times will change and we hope to meme much more on this POTUS, the next, or whatever else crosses our mind. Please remember, whether by Dawkins' definition or the more modern one, a 'meme' is an idea transmitted through society. If you like our memes please SHARE THEM WITH YOUR FRIENDS so (hopefully) good ideas can spread and prosper. MEME ON!

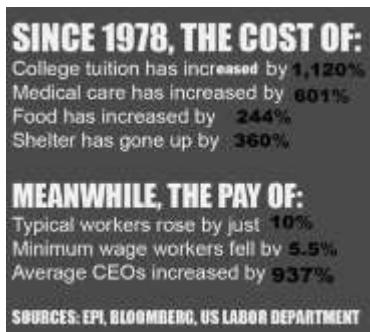


Donald Trump Presidential Address Bingo				
A Lot Of People Are Telling Me	Fake News Tells You	America Must Have Borders	4000 Terrorists	They Don't Respect Us
Crisis (twice in same sentence)	Make America Great Again	Build The Wall	Believe Me	State of Emergency (in Emergency Powers)
Terrorists	Deep State	Any Lie	Criminal, Dirty Immigrants	Millions and Millions and Millions and Millions
Democrat With Hurt	Most Popular Ever	Mexico Will Pay For It	Most Incredible Ever	Total Disaster
America Will Not Be Pushed Around	Freedom Is Slavery	Obstructionist Democrats	Lib'rats	America Winning Again





But apparently there are other people on the Intertubes, so here are some of the ones we've picked up from them...



If you make \$50,000 per year, you pay:

- \$247.75 a year for defense
- \$3.98 a year for natural disaster relief (FEMA)
- \$22.88 a year for unemployment insurance
- \$36.82 a year for SNAP (Food stamps) This passes you off
- \$8.96 a year for welfare
- \$43.78 a year for retirement and disability to government workers (civilian and military) This doesn't
- \$225.81 a year for Medicare This doesn't
- \$4,000 a year in corporate subsidies

Are you sure you're pissed off at the right people?

Trump Battles the FDA Over Carson's Breakthrough Discovery! Says "This WILL NOT Be Banned, The American People Have A Right To Have Access To This"

By Brett Steen, Inside Politics
© Wednesday, December 16, 2015, 05:27 AM A 259,534

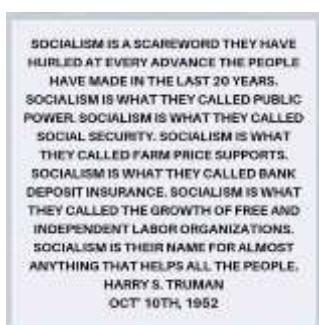
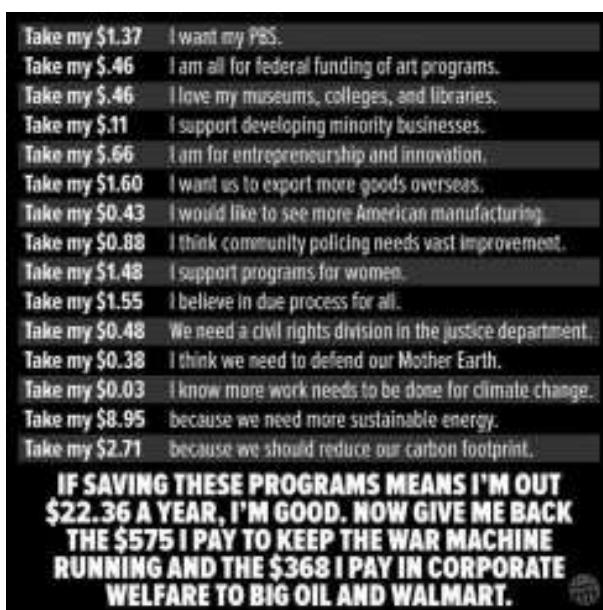
Recently Ben Carson mentioned that he and his wife, Pamela Brown are the ones who have become the biggest advocates for a brain booster that would change history.

Ben Carson credits his ability to function and maintain focus on such a high level to a certain set of "smart drugs" that enhance cognitive brain function and neural connectivity, while strengthening the prefrontal cortex and boosting memory and recall.



"When you did your doctorate in physical chemistry and have been the de facto leader of Europe for 14 years but you have to be polite to a handbag designer who thinks she's your contemporary"





HERE IS AN IDEA

Let's buy Christmas presents from small local businesses and self-employed people, for example, from your neighbour who sells online, a local craftsperson who makes jewelry, the stunning local florist's shop, the local bakers that do homemade cakes, blues and chocolates. The guys that run a cafe or a salon. Let's make sure our money goes to individual people and not multinational companies. This way, more local people will have a better Christmas. SUPPORT real people. Like or share if you think this is an awesome way to show community support.



Rev. Dr. Barber
@RevDrBarber

Republicans are now asking what they should do with Trump. Here's an idea: what would you have done if it were Obama? Do that.

"Public education is a closed system, a closed industry, a closed market. It's a monopoly, a dead end."



No Betsy, just no. That's not how **any** of this works. Public education is **NOT** a monopoly. Public Schools are run by locally elected school boards. They have open meetings and all their financials are accessible to the public. Every public school is a valued asset owned by the taxpayers of the community. Schools are **NOT** an "industry" or "market." They are a place where neighborhood children come together to learn.

IT'S **NOT** A DEAD END.
PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE WHERE FUTURES ARE MADE.



CORPORATE TAKE-OVER

"Union membership in the United States is not declining because workers no longer want or need unions.

Instead, falling **union density** is directly related to employers' near universal and systematic use of legal and illegal tactics to stymie workers' union organizing."

— Report from the University of Illinois, Chicago



In one year, the average American taxpayer making \$50,000 a year pays:

\$36 towards food stamps,
\$6 for other safety net programs,

\$870 for corporate subsidies,
\$1600 to offset corporate tax loopholes,
and \$1231 to offset losses from corporate overseas tax havens.

WE CAN AFFORD TO HELP THE POOR,
NOT CORPORATE WELFARE.

Sources: The Tax Foundation, Citizens for Tax Justice

NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO FILED BANKRUPTCY BECAUSE OF MEDICAL BILLS:

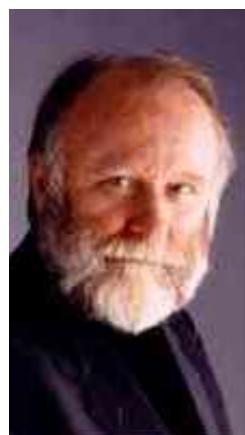
(2012 - 2017)



PATRIOTISM IS NOT OBEDIENCE TO GOVERNMENT.
PATRIOTISM IS OBEDIENCE TO **THE PRINCIPLES** FOR WHICH GOVERNMENT IS **SUPPOSED TO STAND.**

-Howard Zinn

MILLION
REPRESENTATIVES



"All governments suffer a recurring problem: Power attracts pathological personalities. It is not that power corrupts but that it is magnetic to the corruptible."

Frank Herbert

Storm is Coming

“Tweets” aren’t exactly memes, but they are so clear and concise they meme up very well.

 **Sammy Roth**   

I'm trying to imagine a universe where a Democratic president said, "I'm shutting down the government until I get a 100% clean energy bill on my desk."

For one thing, there would be no "takes two sides to tango" narrative.

2:41 PM - 9 Jun 2019

1,802 Retweets 7,974 Likes 

 63  1.8K  8.0K

 **Lee Camp [Redacted]**  

Industries lobbying against legal marijuana -

- * Alcohol *
- * Tobacco *
- * Big pharma *
- * Police unions *
- * Private prisons *
- * Prison guard unions *

It's almost as if the war on drugs is a sham.

4:59 PM - 12/25/18 · TweetDeck

 **erin glass**   

what if public libraries were open late every night and we could engage in public life there instead of having to choose between drinking at the bar and domestic isolation

 **Jeff Tiedrich**   

right now some Deplorable is driving a crappy car on crumbling roads past abandoned storefronts to a low-paying job and working himself into a frothing rage as he listens to some hate-radio screech-monkey tell him all about how Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is going to outlaw cows

 **AmericanReformers**   

Things impacted by the Govt shutdown

- National Parks
- Public Safety
- Food inspections
- Food assistance, WIC & SNAP
- Public services
- Workers pay

Things not impacted

- Salaries of Congress /elected officials
- The war machine
- Commerce
- Oil and gas permitting
- Security state

I'm going to take half of Chloe's candy tonight & give it to some kid who sat at home. It's never to early to teach her about socialism.



 **Rainie Laurent**
Chloe went out and did the legwork getting the candy. You take 80 percent of it and give her back 20 percent of what she gathered because you happen to own the house and that makes you the "boss". The abstract concept of ownership entitles you to 4/5 of the candy her labor secured even though you didn't move a muscle.

There. Now she understands Capitalism, the poor little shit

10:00 PM · 11 Dec 2018 · Like · Reply · 

And here's a little hidden feature to close with... click here and [We'll Tell You What All Those Famous Meme Icons Are Doing Now So You Can Feel Old Just Like Us](#), Rohit Bhattacharya on ScoopWhoop, Aug 2018

Shop Talk

A BIG change to our Referral Rewards Program



Comment of the Month



Kathleen M. said:

"What a great day! Thanks to your amazing skill, attention, and resourcefulness, my bill was \$410 less than my original estimate- THANK YOU! Yet another reason why I love Tom Dwyer Automotive."

Thanks so much Kathleen! We surely appreciate your comments on our skills, but we wanted to point out your savings to other folks. We aren't a 'price' shop so we don't try to tell you we'll have the lowest prices on everything, but we do try to give reasonable and fair estimates and stick to them. We're pretty good at it... our [Post Service Comment Cards show we're On-Estimate 98.88% of the time!](#) And when we can complete the job for less than our estimate, we do it and pass the savings on to you. We hope to give you many more 'great days' to come!

BIG Changes to our Referral Reward Program



We've got a big Referral Reward announcement to make this month! As you may know, our clients vote for Quarterly and Yearly awards from the groups who've been picked each month. That was getting a little overwhelming; it seems we were just getting out of one voting period and we were already into the next! So we're simplifying. We are **DROPPING THE QUARTERLY AWARDS** for the program and making a **YEARLY AWARD ONLY**. But to make up for it, we are **INCREASING THE YEARLY AWARD TO \$1,000!** That's a lot of money on the line for any non-profit, and

it will be **UP TO YOU TO DETERMINE WHO GETS IT!** We'll start voting in the Fall, and announce the winner in our Jan 2020 newsletter... don't worry, we'll let you know when voting starts!



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.

Drew's Kitchen

Cheeseburger Soup



There's nothing better than a good, basic cheeseburger, but there's one problem: you can't eat it with a spoon. Worry not, Drew rides to the rescue with this Cheesburger Soup recipe...

Ingredients:

- ½ pound ground beef
- 4 tbsps butter, divided
- ¾ cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup shredded carrots
- ¾ cup diced celery
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried parsley flakes
- 1-3/4 pounds (abt 4 cups) cubed peeled potatoes
- 3 cups chicken broth
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2-4 cups shredded Velveeta process cheese
- 1½ cups whole milk
- ¾ tsp salt
- ¼ to ½ tsp pepper
- ¼ cup sour cream

Preparation:

1. In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook and crumble beef until no longer pink; drain and set aside. In same saucepan, melt 1 tbsp butter over medium heat. Sauté onion, carrots, celery, basil and parsley until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, ground beef and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 10-12 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt remaining butter. Add flour; cook and stir until bubbly, 3-5 minutes. Add to soup; bring to boil. Cook and stir 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook until cheese melts. Remove from heat; blend in sour cream.

Prep time 0:45, Cook: 10 min, Serves 8

Original recipe from Taste of Home

Health Notes

Your money or your life



The exponentially rising costs of prescription medication (and of course, health care in general) aren't news to anyone, but an article called "[One Third Of Uninsured Can't Afford To Take Drugs As Prescribed](#)" caught our attention this month. It prompted us to take a quick look again at the problem, and even include some places to go for help if the cost of prescriptions is an issue for you...

Here's the problem...

[One-Third Of Uninsured Can't Afford To Take Drugs As Prescribed, Says Government Report](#), Tami Luhby on CNN, Mar 2019

[When Medicines Are Unaffordable, Here's How Patients Cut Costs](#), Megan Thielking on StatNews.com, Mar 2019

[As Prescription Drug Costs Climb, Solutions Remain Evasive](#), Courtney Sherwood in the Lund Report, Nov 2016

[Danger of Unaffordable Drugs](#), Jackie Judd on ABCNews, Mar 2019

[When the Cost of Medications Keeps Patients from Taking Them](#), Timothy Kelley in Managed Care, Jun 2018

[A Bitter Pill: The Human Toll of Unaffordable Medicines](#), Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

[Faced With Unaffordable Drug Prices, Tens Of Millions Buy Medicine Outside U.S.](#), Rachel Bluth in Kaiser Health News, Dec 2016

[Unaffordable Drugs: Simple Greed or a Complex Market?](#)
ConscienHealth.org, Mar 2019
[New Effective Medicines Are Of No Use If They Are Unaffordable](#), John ROther in The Pharmaceutical Journal, Sep 2015

[Even the Insured Often Can't Afford Their Medical Bills](#), Helaine Olen in The Atlantic, Jun 2017

Here's the help...

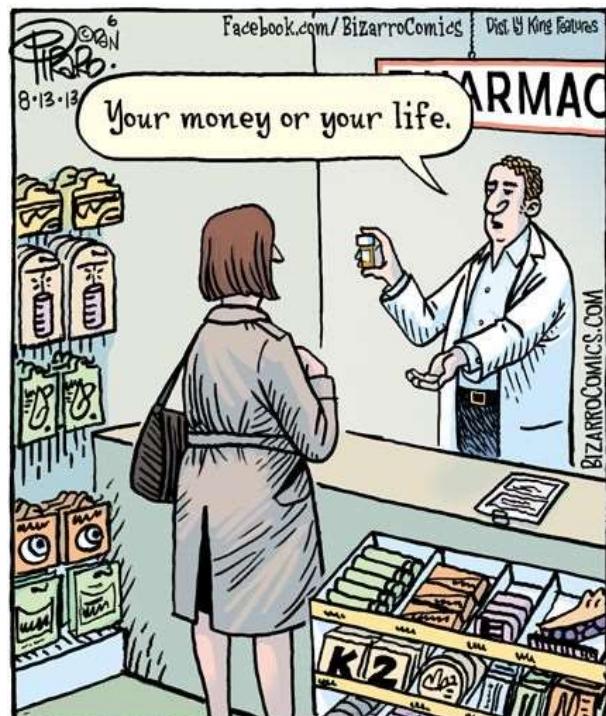
[Oregon Coalition for Affordable Prescriptions \(OCAP\)](#)

[Getting Help Paying For Medications](#), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) website

[Oregon Prescription Drug Program](#), Oregon Health Authority website

[SimpleFill](#)- Help paying for prescription drugs

[Uninsured or Underinsured? Where to Find Help](#), Karen Lee Richards, HealthCentral, Nov 2010



[NeedyMeds](#)- Finding help with the cost of medicine

[Partnership for Prescription Assistance](#)- Get prescription help

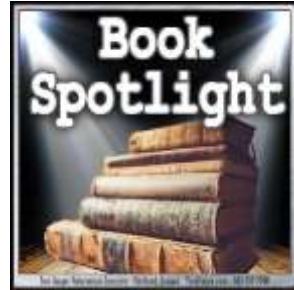
And here's the REAL help...

We all have to make do as best we can under our current 'healthcare system', but these problems will persist until we have **SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE IN THE US!** To help with the push for the healthcare we all need, you can start with [Health Care For All Oregon](#). Call them today, or join us April 27 at the [8th Annual Inner City Blues Festival "Healing the Healthcare Blues"](#) benefit... the most fun you'll ever have with anything to do with health care!

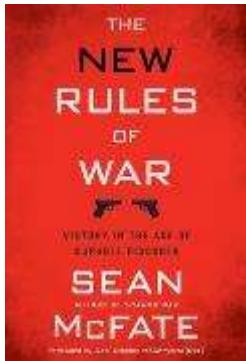


Book Spotlight

"The New Rules Of War" by Sean McFate



WWII cost \$4 trillion dollars and 425,000 Allied and German troops died on D-Day alone, but at least it ended. [Since 9/11, America's worldwide wars have cost 6 TRILLION DOLLARS and cost the lives of half a million people](#), with no end in sight. Is this some failure in our policies or military strategies? Is this the way our military/industrial complex wants it; a goose laying an endless stream of poisonous golden eggs? Do new global alignments or societal threats demand this drip, drip, drip of endless war? Dr. Sean McFate, a professor of War Studies at the National Defense University, says one reason we're failing is we're fighting the last war... wars from 50 years ago or longer, actually. He says the days of grand armies maneuvering for control of large swaths of land are gone, and that Special Ops, plausible deniability, shadow war, and propaganda will characterize the wars of the future...



[The New Rules of War: Victory in the Age of Durable Disorder](#)

by Sean McFate

Synopsis

War is timeless. Some things change--weapons, tactics, technology, leadership, objectives--but the propensity for humans to do battle does not. Today, more than eighty years after World War II and thirty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, we are again living in dangerous times. It is the age of Durable Disorder--a period of unrest created by numerous factors: China's rise, Russia's resurgence, America's retreat, the Middle East aflame, global terrorism, international criminal empires, climate change, dwindling natural resources, and bloody civil wars. The number of armed conflicts being waged has doubled since World War II, and of the approximately 194 countries of the world, nearly half are involved in some form of armed conflict. Millions of have been killed and millions more have become refugees, upending Western democracies.

This devastating turmoil has given rise to difficult questions that hold meaning for us today and in the years to come. What is the future of war? Who and how will people fight? What factors will lead to warfare? How can we survive? If Americans are drawn into major armed conflict, can we win? In this thorough, insightful analysis, Sean McFate--a modern heir to Carl von Clausewitz, author of the classic *On War*--carefully constructs ten rules for the future of military engagement, explaining how to fight and win in an age of entropy and a global system very different from the past: one where corporations, mercenaries, and rogue states have more power and 'nation states' have less. McFate's new rules distill the essence of war, describing what it is in the real world, not what we believe or wish it to be.

Humorousness

Advice that works for toddlers and drunks



[Original from Meredith Masony on HuffPost](#), Feb 2019

Toddlers can be irritable, opinionated, self-righteous creatures. Parenting them often reminds me of taking care of a drunk friend. A drunk friend who lives with you and never leaves. Nonetheless, toddlers and irresponsible friends happen. Here are 30 things you can say to both your toddler and your drunk friend:

1. You can't nap here. You need to go to your bed.
2. We don't eat food from strangers.
3. We never touch our private parts in public.
4. We pee in toilets, not in the street.
5. Chew with your mouth closed.
6. Keep your fingers out of your nose.
7. I am not playing that song again. We have heard it 15 times. Put on your pants.
8. Don't put that in your mouth.
9. It's not nice to stare.
10. Yes, those are boobies, but we don't touch those.
11. I know, couch is a funny word.
12. You have to eat all your food.
13. Stop looking at me like that.
14. I'm going to tell your father.
15. We need to use our "inside" voice.
16. Please keep your hands to yourself.
17. Don't point, it's rude.
18. Please go back and wash your hands.
19. Do you really think whining will get you what you want?
20. Please hold my hand in the parking lot. I don't want you to get hit by a car.
21. I don't have any more money. Please stop asking.
22. I know I said you could have ice cream, but it's too late now.
23. Please don't roll around in the grass, you are going to get your clothes dirty.
24. I am not going to ask you to sit down again. SIT DOWN.
25. Please don't ask me if we're almost there. I will tell you when we get there.
26. Do you need to sit in my lap?
27. I need you to use nice words.
28. We don't hit. Hitting is bad.
29. Why are you holding yourself? Do you need to pee?
30. I told you to sit here. Why did you leave? You have to tell me when you're going somewhere.

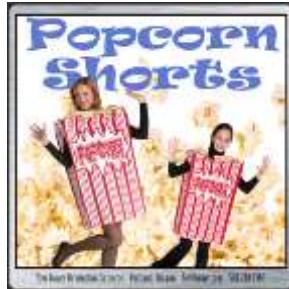
Next time you have the task of taking care of a drunk friend, remember why you love them. Be patient and hold their hand. They probably won't remember in the morning, but just like a toddler, they need your love.

Meredith is a work-from-home mother of three who writes about the inappropriate side of marriage and motherhood on her blog at [That's Inappropriate](#). Follow her on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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!



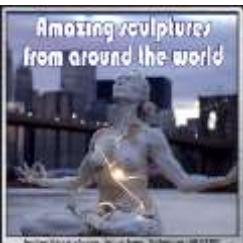
facebook

Holiday Inn makes your retirement dreams come true



"64-year-old Terry Robison is a working-class retiree trying to make his money last throughout the remainder of his life. And Holiday Inn is the clear winner. That's according to a Facebook post from Robison in which he evaluated the per-day cost of staying in a retirement home for seniors and the daily cost of staying at a Holiday Inn. Robison found out that when applying the senior discount he qualifies for, the Holiday Inn would cost less than \$60 per day. The senior home, on the other hand, cost around \$188 per day, making it more than three times more expensive than the hotel chain."

Amazing Sculptures from Around The World



We say "Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them." Nothing fits that mold better than this video of totally mindblowing sculptures from around the world. Enjoy!

U.S. Has Spent Six TRILLION Dollars On Wars; Killed 500,000 People Since 9/11



Brown University's annual "Costs of War" report includes the Pentagon's spending and its Overseas Contingency Operations account, as well as "war-related spending by the Department of State, past and obligated spending for war veterans' care, interest on the debt incurred to pay for the wars, and the prevention of and response to terrorism by the Department of Homeland Security." The final count revealed, "The United States has appropriated and is obligated to spend an estimated \$5.9 trillion (in current dollars) on the war on terror through Fiscal Year 2019, including direct war and war-related spending and obligations for future spending on post 9/11 war veterans."

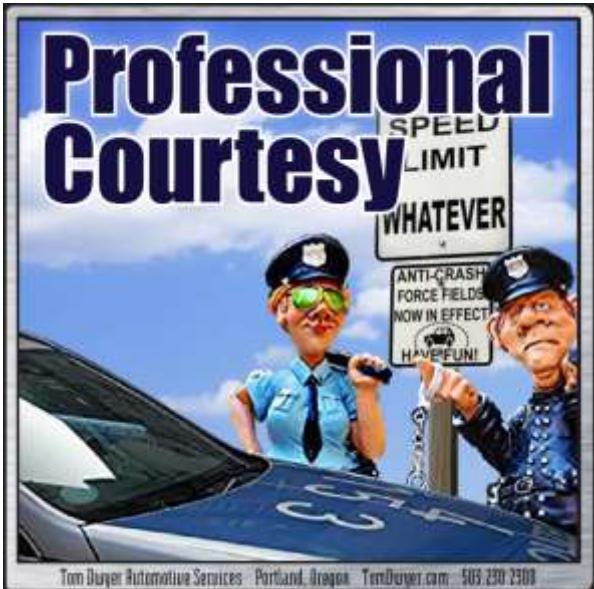
Companies Polluted Western Waters. Taxpayers Are Picking Up The Tab.



"[This] isn't an isolated case. Especially in the drought-prone West, the outdated and opaque regulatory system meant to ensure money is available to restore water and land at gold, copper and other hardrock mines often falls short. Regulators with insufficient funding are tasked with cleaning up a mess left years ago by now-defunct companies. The agencies that required those firms to set aside money underestimated how much it would take, in some cases acquiescing to companies pressing for lower amounts. Pollution seeping from these mines regularly contaminates waterways. There's often no end date to treatment costs, billions of dollars of which have been shouldered by taxpayers..."

News To Make You Furious

“Professional Courtesy”



“Professional Courtesy” tried to do an obviously right thing and paid an obviously wrong price...

“A dangerous lack of civility” is one common diagnosis of what’s ailing our country. We agree, so any story about Courtesy should be celebrated! But if “Professional Courtesy” brings images of a lawyer covering a colleagues’ court appearance or an accountant helping out during tax season, then it’s not the Courtesy we’re talking about. This “Professional Courtesy” is far too common already and we need far less of it. It’s a corrupt and dangerous “good old boys” system that endangers us all when it’s working quietly, but even cops can be threatened and intimidated if they dare challenge it. This month’s peak of pique is the story of Donna Jane Watts, a Florida State Trooper who

News to Make You Furious isn’t always about News! This month’s foundational fury comes to us from 2011, when Florida Patrol Trooper Donna Jane Watts was on patrol and noticed the car that blew by her at 120mph wasn’t just any car, it was a police car. Sure that no cop would be driving that fast with their lights off, Watts flicked on her lights and pursued. After a SEVEN MINUTE chase the driver gave up, and Watts approached the car to find... another cop, who she quickly cuffed and arrested. Turns out the speeding cop, Fausto Lopez, had an excuse for his speeding: he was late for his moonlighting gig. Later investigation of Lopez showed he routinely clocked speeds over 100mph in this same area.

Then the problems began for *Watts*. What?!! WHY?!! “Often in such cases, the officer in charge will extend what police culture has dubbed “professional courtesy” to the offending officer. That is, they’ll let him go. To her credit, Watts didn’t do that.” And she paid. A two-month investigation found she “... ignored orders to back off and didn’t relay all the facts of the traffic stop when initially interviewed.” Miami police posted open threats against Watts on message boards. Watts “...received hundreds of calls to her private phone, some pranks, some threatening. She has had pizzas randomly delivered to her home. Strange cars began parking outside her home. And her career as a police officer may well be over. The Miami New Times reported in 2012 that her “superiors don’t think she’ll ever be able to return to duty on the road, and if she ever got into a situation where she needed backup she does not think she would receive it.”” She filed an invasion of privacy suit against the 88 police officers who used the confidential police driver database uncover and distribute her address and other info, but 83 officers settled for \$5000 and the remaining 5 walked free on appeal. Fausto was later fired.

A bright side to this fiasco is that it resulted in a bright light being shined on “Professional Courtesy”. The Washington Post had several examples...

- Years ago there was even a Web site called “Cops Writing Cops” which provided a forum for police officers to publicly shame fellow cops who had the audacity to ticket them.
- A 2007 Seattle Post-Intelligencer study revealed that off-duty cops put stickers in the windows of their private vehicles to identify themselves to their fellow officers.
- Outfits like “LEO Pro Cards” print up handy, wallet-sized cards that cops and their family members can flash to request professional courtesy from other officers.
- In 2011, 16 NYPD officers — all of them current or former officials in the city’s police union — were indicted for fixing more than 1,600 tickets for fellow officers and their families. At their arraignment, hundreds of fellow officers showed up to support them.

The biggest reporting came from the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, who won a Pulitzer Prize for their series on Speeding Cops. They found

- 800 instances in which cops in southern Florida were caught driving between 90 and 130 mph. Many weren’t on duty, but coming or going to their jobs.
- A broader 13-month investigation found 5,100 “high-speed” incidents, 96 percent of which were cops driving in excess of 90 mph. About half were cops outside their jurisdictions, meaning it’s unlikely they were responding to an emergency call.
- The investigation found 21 incidents in which citizens were left dead or severely disabled after being struck by speeding cops, sometimes driving 120 mph or more. The most severe punishment from any of those cases was 60 days in jail.
- The Sun-Sentinel also found that in 88 percent of cases in which a police officer’s speeding caused an accident, the officer wasn’t even issued a citation. Among regular citizens, 55 percent are issued citations. In one particularly egregious example Broward Sheriff’s Deputy Christopher Thieman, running late for work, slammed into Eric Brody of Sunrise in 1998, leaving the 18-year-old in a coma for six months and impaired for life. Four years earlier, Thieman injured another motorist while driving his patrol car at least 20 mph over the speed limit but wasn’t ticketed, said Block, the lawyer who represents the Brody family.

And even more examples poured in from around the country...

- A 2007 Post-Intelligencer investigation also showed that professional courtesy in Seattle extended even to drunk driving offenses. That too isn’t limited to Seattle.
- In Tennessee was given a DWI pass by his fellow officers. Indianapolis is still dealing with the fallout from a 2010 incident in which IPD Officer David Bisard struck two motorcycles, killing one person. His fellow officers waited more than two hours to test his blood-alcohol content, which even then registered .19. In 2006, Bernardino County, Calif., Dep. Kenneth Holtz faced harassment from colleagues after arresting a fellow deputy on a DWI charge. Holtz was eventually fired for violating policies regarding “respect among members” and “conduct reflecting adversely on the department or employee.” The deputy he arrested was promoted.
- In 2009, a Chicago an off-duty detective with a history of causing accidents smashed into a parked car, killing two people. He was drunk. Despite the fact that two of his prior accidents also involved slamming into other cars, causing injury, he was never given sobriety tests, and he was never even ticketed.

And of course, the stories go on.

It seemed somehow appropriate to cover this issue this month. Tom's Tidbits this month discusses the two-tiered, "Private Law" system that is emerging in our country, and there seemed no better story than this to illustrate how it corrodes respect for the law in all of us. If it's seems just one more example of dismal, chilling failures in the most basic values and systems of our country, then we can point to one area where Professional Courtesy has been a win... we bet it was News that surely Made You Furious.

Digging Deeper...

[Video of chase](#)

[Cop Arrests Cop & That's When Her Troubles Begin...](#) The Young Turks, Feb 2014

[A Plague Of 'Professional Courtesy'](#), Radley Balko in Washington Post, Feb 2014

[When Police Let Officers Skate, Respect For Traffic Law Tanks](#), Michael Dresser in The Baltimore Sun, Feb 2011

[Miami Blows \\$75,000 Defending Cops Who Stalked State Trooper](#), Jerry Iannelli in Miami New Times, Nov 2017

[Miami Cops Who Admitted Searching Female Officer's Private Data Get No Legal Punishment](#), Jerry Iannelli in Miami New Times, Feb 2017

[FHP Trooper Who Pulled Over Miami Cop Fausto Lopez Claims She Was Harassed and Forced to Live Like a Hermit](#), Jerry Iannelli in Miami New Times, Dec 2012

[Fausto Lopez, Infamous Speeding Cop, Fired by Miami Police](#), Jerry Iannelli in Miami New Times, Sep 2012

[Hollywood Settles Suit With FHP Trooper Who Said She Was Harassed](#), Lisa Huriash in South Florida Sun Sentinel, Mar 2016

[Probe: Speeding Miami Cop Should Be Fired, Union Blasts Results](#), CBS4 Miami, Jul 2012

[Speeding Cops- Above the Law](#), by South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Oct 2012

[Report: Trooper Who Cited Speeding Miami Cop Failed To Communicate Facts](#), Staff Writer at PoliceMag.com, Jan 2012