



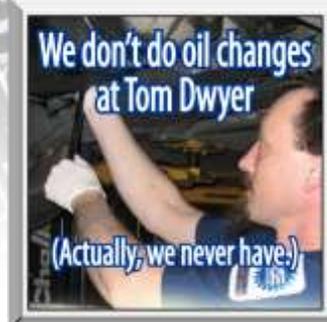
“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for August-September, 2017



A De-Fishing Story

James Magmer's hobby combines fishing, environment, and art...



Why we don't do oil changes

Our Minor Interval Service is NOT THE SAME as an oil change



We just passed 100 REVIEWS ON YELP!



Cassini says Goodbye



Healing from Portland's home fire



Does that used car have flood damage?

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- Trump... why *wouldn't* America vote for him?

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon GUEST ARTIST

Drew's Kitchen- Cucumber and celery salad with tuna

Shop Talk- Certified-Pre-Owned or private inspection?

Health Notes- Man in vegetative state regains consciousness

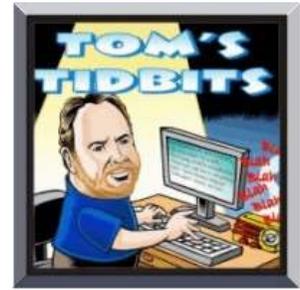
Book Spotlight- "Space and Ocean Exploration: Alternative to the Military Industrial Complex" by Danny Quintana

Humorousness- Recognizing the IgNobelity with our own Quiz (and our Contest results)

News To Make You Furious- Watch out for Trolls, they'll get you... they got us..

Tom's Tidbits

Trump... why *wouldn't* America vote for him?

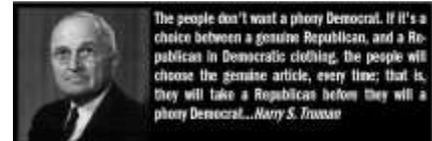


Greetings,

About [60% of Americas aren't tired of winning](#) after eight months of Trump but at least the Democratic Leadership is feeling good. They see big wins on the horizon but without significant changes those wins might never materialize. The Leadership seems oblivious as to why Hillary lost in 2016 and it looks like they plan to use all the lessons they *didn't* learn again in 2018 and 2020. Here's the question they obstinately refuse to answer, the one that will keep them from governing even if they manage to scrape out a few electoral wins... [what does the Democratic Party stand for?](#) Put another way; given the [incompetence](#), [instability](#), [delusion](#), [deceit](#), [narcissism](#), and [corruption](#) of Donald Trump, why *wouldn't* America [vote for him again?](#)

A vacuous Democratic Party isn't news to Americans. A [recent poll](#) showed only 37% think the Democratic Party "currently stands for something" while 52% percent say the party is just "against Trump." In 2016 Donald Trump's answers were tragically wrong, but they *were* answers. Given a choice, most Americans would have eagerly picked any answers *other* than Trump's but the Democrats obstinately refused to offer any answers of their own. They watched each of Trump's world-class mortifications and smugly said "Well, this... THIS is the nail in the coffin!" but they *offered no alternatives*.

In 2016 Americans were screaming for change in the status quo. Trump offered facile solutions for these complex problems but the Democrats meekly insisted the status quo was just fine. Against Trump's cronyism, deceit, and corruption they ran a candidate famous for all three. To counter "drain the swamp" they picked someone who had lived in the swamp for 50 years. Trump was worse than Clinton in almost every possible way, but "not as bad" is not a motivator. People needed something to vote *for*, not just *against*, and the Democrats didn't give it to them.



The Democrats worked hard *not* to learn the obvious lessons from 2016 and it seems they're polishing those non-lessons for 2018. Their latest painful attempt at 'rebranding' is "A Better Deal", a bland and incoherent pastiche of talking points, popular details scraped from larger programs, and vague aspirations without proposals to achieve them. They dropped this muck on the country in July but thankfully no one's heard about it. Why? Take a look at Chuck Schumer's pitch for "A Better Deal", inexplicably shoehorned into an inspirational-looking meme. Feeling inspired? Can you imagine any actual policy being drawn from this tripe? Or check out this [video of Nancy Pelosi](#). She's was so unshakably committed to the soaring principles of "A Better Deal" that she had to read the drivel from a brochure. Obvious apathy of the Leadership is just one clue that even the Democrats don't care about this pap. In our hyper-media environment a black-and-white pamphlet isn't the way to promote anything, but if anyone were actually curious about "A Better Deal" they'd have to go to a [blog post buried on the Senate Democrat's website](#) where they'd find a grand plan for reconstructing America... [on one page](#). "A Better Deal" doesn't even have its own website. Not even a Facebook page.



Democrats may be eager for 2018 and 2020 but there's still the fatal smugness. "Well, now they've seen Trump in action, and we'll be there waiting when they bail!" Unfortunately no one who voted for Trump is surprised by him. Whether they voted for his views or in spite of them, everyone knew basically what his views were. Republicans were rightly shamed for not having a healthcare plan after seven years to work on it, and the Democrats will be rightly eviscerated if they can't find an alternative to Trump after years to work on it themselves. "American Families", sure, "elites and special interests", yep, "work for everyone", blah blah blah. If that's what the Democratic Leadership thinks will win against Trump then we'll soon be seeing 2016 all over again.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

Digging Deeper...

["A Better Deal"](#), Senate Democrat's website, 2017

[We need better than "A Better Deal": Democrats' real problem isn't their messaging — it's their politics](#), by Conor Lynch on Salon.com, Jul 2017

[Democrats Pitch a Kinder, Gentler Populism](#), by Michelle Cottle in The Atlantic, Jul 2017

(video) [Nancy Pelosi Can't Say How "Better Deal" Is Different From What Hillary Clinton Ran On](#), Jul 2017

(video) [DNC Brilliantly Trolled at Politicon by The Yes Men](#), The Humanist Report, Aug 2017

(video) [Democrats Unveil their "Better Deal" health Care Plan at Berryville, Virginia Event](#), Jul 2017

(video) [A Better Deal: Better Jobs, Better Wages, Better Future](#), Jul 2017

(video) [Pelosi, Democrats Attempt Rebranding With New Populist Agenda](#), Jul 2017

[Sanders' Single-Payer Push Splits Democrats](#) by Elana Schor on Politico, Sep 2017

[What Does The Democratic Party Represent?](#), multiple authors on Quora.com

[Democrats Look To Run On More Than Just "Not Trump"](#) by Paul Kane in the Washington Post (posted on The Mercury News), Aug 2017

[Democrats Need A Message, Not A Program](#), by Albert Hunt on Bloomberg View, Aug 2017

(chart) [Democratic Party Favorable Rating](#), Huffpost Pollster, updated

[DNC Hits Another Fundraising Low](#), by Sally Persons in The Washington Times, Jun 2017

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon GUEST ARTIST!

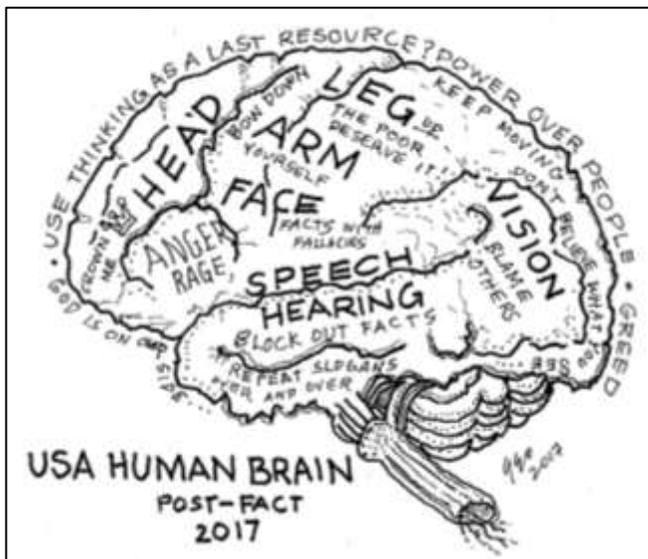


Keith Tucker, our in-house political cartoonist, is on sort of a working vacation this issue. He's on deadline to put the finishing touches on a book documenting his [work on "Jem and the Holograms"](#), a 1980's animated series that had the idea of a "pop singer with a secret identity" long before Hannah Montana. Keith will be debuting his book at JemCon, an entire convention of rabid Jem-ians, in Seattle, October 6-7. [Click here if you'd like to learn more about the book or any of the other parts of Keith's vast body of work.](#) But you're here for Toons and neither we nor Keith want to leave you hanging, so...

If there's a silver lining to the Trump administration it's this... he's inspired a lot of creativity. People have found that mere words aren't enough to express their disgust and have turned to art, music, writing, sculpture, and many more offbeat ways to protest. Geo Kendall is a Dwyer client who's been inspired to wield his own pen in political cartoons, and a little while back he gave us these samples. We've been looking for the right time to show them to you and this just may be it. So without further ado we bring you the cartoon stylings of Geo Kendall, and thanks to Geo for sending these to us!



Click here to hear the Jem and the Holograms mega-hit "[It Depends on the Mood I'm In](#)" and enjoy a little of Keith's *apolitical* artwork



We Don't Do Oil Changes at Tom Dwyer

Actually, we never have...



We know how it is. You're driving when you notice the crusty old window sticker says you're 2000 miles overdue for an oil change. You look around and see a Quick-Lube on the corner. It's right there, calling to you, and it seems so cheap and easy... don't give in! Convenience oil changes are like fast food- they're OK in a pinch, but a steady diet of them isn't healthy. Your vehicle's long-term health depends on this most basic of maintenance services being done regularly, and most importantly, done right. Many things the convenience shops skip over are standard here at Tom Dwyer and they're standard because we don't see much value to changing oil without them. We long ago stopped using the term 'oil change' because it's misleading. Our 'Minor Interval Service'

is NOT THE SAME THING as a convenience oil change, and the difference is critical to your long-term vehicle ownership and satisfaction...

Lubrication Services are Critical

There are few maintenance tasks as important to your vehicle as proper and consistent lubrication. Particularly in today's high-temperature-high-tolerance technology, oil is the lifeblood of your engine. Without enough oil to provide a slippery sheen of protection grit would build up on moving parts, friction would increase heat and wear, and your vehicle's engine could easily suffer major damage. It certainly leads to a shorter usable life for any vehicle!

Since many people either grew up changing their own oil or watching Dad do it they assume it's easy. *Just* changing oil *is* easy, but properly lubricating and caring for your vehicle is not.

Convenience Oil Changes

A typical convenience oil change has three major selling points... it gets oil into your engine, it's cheap, and it's fast. On the downside, the 'technician' may not have any experience at all (*see right*) and is being paid for how fast they change your oil instead of how well they do it. Then there's the "upsell" at the front desk... convenience shops don't make money on oil changes but they *do* make money by selling very expensive additional products and services, needed or not, on a commission basis. For everyone involved the goal is to get you in and out as fast as possible with as much of your money left behind as possible. Quality services, much less detailed vehicle care, don't enter into the picture.

Our Minor Interval Service (MIS)

We require appointments for our Minor Interval Service (MIS) because each one requires us to schedule up to an hour of shop time, supplies, and equipment for a small team of professionals.



ASE Master Certified Technician or an inexperienced lube jockey? Choose wisely!

Before anyone ever touches your oil plug, our Service Advisors will review your vehicle records so the Technician will be aware of any ongoing issues we've noted for monitoring. An ASE-Certified or ASE-Master-Certified Technician will do the actual work using Original Equipment Specification filters, oils, and materials and our state-of-the-art shop equipment. They won't just change your oil; they'll take the time to review the rest of your vehicle beyond the oil pan. Finally your vehicle goes through our Post-Service check of lights, fluids, and tire pressures. Maybe best of all, when you come back to pick up your vehicle our NON-COMMISSIONED Service Advisors will review our services with you and tell you anything you should be on the lookout for WITHOUT a high-pressure sales pitch.

You Get What You Pay For

Our Minor Interval Service is a little more expensive than a generic 'oil change', but not a lot. Our price for a MIS (for most vehicles) is about \$60 with conventional oil and about \$100 with synthetic. As an example, [Jiffy Lube oil changes range](#) from about \$30-\$45 for conventional oil to about \$60-\$110 for synthetic. (BTW, we highly recommend you switch to synthetic oil if you haven't already. There's a detailed article below explaining why.) But value is more than just a low price; it's a low price for what you get. And you get a completely different set of services with our MIS than with a convenience oil change anywhere. We think that difference is worth the price.

Tom Dwyer Minor Interval Service Standards		Most Cars and Small Trucks	AWD/4WD Large Truck	European and Exotics
Technicians	Review client history, mileage and recommendations	●		
	Complete 90-point inspection (by request)	●	X	X
	Limited vehicle road test	●		
	"Off the ground" relaxed suspension and undercarriage evaluation			
	Under-hood inspection			
	Remove guards and skid plates			
	Inspect and document pre-change oil level and condition	●		
	Fill oil to capacity (5 quarts max) and install filter ¹			
	Replace drain plug washer (new drain plug at additional cost if needed)			
	Lube chassis where applicable			
	Check accessible filters			
	Air filter (visual, mileage evaluation and maintenance record check)			
	Fuel filter (mileage evaluation and maintenance record check)			
	Cabin air filter (mileage evaluation and maintenance record check)			
	Check cooling system level			
	If coolant low, pressure test by request	●		
	Check Ph balance and coolant freeze protection condition	●		
	Test accessible batteries			
	Check wipers, replace if necessary (new wipers at additional cost if needed)			
	Reset maintenance-required light (additional charge if scan tool is needed)	●		
Interval Service reminder sticker				
Check all accessible fluid levels and conditions	●			
Note any abnormal fluid loss and top off as necessary				
Check exterior lights, signals, and horn				
Replace bulbs (additional time requires approval)				
Check and set tire pressures to OEM specifications				
Note tire tread depth and condition	●			
Tire repair (additional time requires approval)	●			
Rotate and balance tires (additional time requires approval)	●			
Explain work performed at this service interval				
Prioritize and explain issues that will need future attention				
Update service records and maintenance notes	●			
●	Services not performed at convenience lube shops	Please ask your Service Advisor for pricing details		
X	Available upon request at an additional cost			
1	Additional oil is \$3.50/qt standard, \$8.99/qt synthetic			

If you're in a pinch and have to have oil, the convenience and price of a Quick-lube can help. But, if you have time to plan, then the perceived values of low price and convenience are poor trades for the real value of quality "peace of mind" service done right.

Digging Deeper...



[Real-Life Automotive Horror Stories- NO OIL CHANGES! \(With Pictures!\)](#), Tom Dwyer Automotive Newsletter, Jul 2012



[When Will YOU Switch To Synthetic Oil? It's Better For You, Your Vehicle, And The Planet](#), Tom Dwyer Automotive Newsletter, Jul 2014

A De-Fishing Story

James Magmer's hobby combines fishing, environment, and art



"My Dad always loved the outdoors and just hated seeing the trash left behind by thoughtless people. He taught me to always leave the environment better than I found it. Always." That lesson has stayed with James Magmer, our longest-term Technician, throughout his life. It's made him one of those folks who always comes back from a camping trip with bags of other people's trash. Maybe that's not so unusual in Oregon, but a couple years ago something happened that made James look at trash in a unique way. And his epiphany started with... a duck.

"I was on the river in my kayak when I saw this duck sitting on the water. She didn't move as I paddled up to her and it was easy to see why... she had a fishing hook stuck through her wing and was trailing a bobber, lead weights, and about 30 yards of fishing line." A duck that can't fly faces two possibilities, slow starvation or dinner for another animal, and neither sat well with James. "As slowly as I could I pulled her in by the tangled lines. The poor thing was terrified but when I put her into the kayak she calmed down like she knew what I was going to do." James pulled out his tools and got to work clipping the hook and carefully passing it through the duck's wing. "When I was done, when she was free, she jumped off into the water and swam alongside me for a while as I paddled away. She wasn't scared at all anymore and actually seemed grateful, for a duck. But then I looked at the wad of lines and barbs in my boat and I thought about how common, and how dangerous, trash like this was."

That was almost four years ago, and now collecting "fishing trash" from our rivers is one of James' favorite hobbies (and he has many). "I call it trash fishing. It's a lot of fun, but the best part is being out by myself, on the water, in the quiet, where no one can bother me. It's a great way to get out and get some thinking done." He draws some attention while on the water, though. "People always come up and ask what I'm doing. When I tell them the response is always 'what a great idea!'" Sometimes even the water doesn't offer the solitude he's looking for. "Once I was pulling a lure from a tree while a guy was fishing on the bank. When I paddled onto shore we started talking, and it turned out that he had lost that particular lure himself. He said he never expected to develop a sentimental attachment to a fishing hook, but he'd had that lure for years and was even able to identify the brand. I gave it to him, and he was so pleased he took a video of me with the lure and told everyone on Facebook about the guy in Oregon returning lures!"



James Magmer displays his trashfishing collection



A closeup of some of the beautiful lures

Like any hobby, James started out rough and worked his way up. "When I started I had a 9' bamboo pole with a piece of wire on it that I could use to snag fishing line from trees. I added a scrub pad that made getting fishhooks easy, and then added another 9' to the pole to get the higher stuff." That gets a lot of things out of the brush, but it misses a lot more elsewhere. "I made a special gadget for things wedged around rocks underwater. It's a rope with a plumber's chain at the end that spreads out as it sinks and catches into the line and tackle." James' arsenal for trashfishing now includes 2 kayaks for

different conditions, a dry suit, a 24' pole, grabbers, a butterfly net, and much, much more.

That explains the fishing and environmentalism, but what about the art we mentioned? Well, what would *you* do with piles of old fishing lures? James makes art out of it. "The lead goes in a bucket, the line goes in another bucket, but I use the lures. I started with a crawdad trap I'd found and used it as a base to display them. I just kept adding the treasure from each trip, one by one, to create a mobile. Now it takes up two crawdad traps and weighs about 80 pounds. It makes a beautiful tinkling sound in the wind though, and now my wind chime is bigger than most people's tackle box!" Words don't do this sculpture justice, so here's a couple pictures and a :20 video showing the whole thing...

What's next for the creator of trashfishing? "Pretty much more of the same. Now that the water is a little lower I get bigger hauls so I'm excited about that. I get out about every weekend I can, cold or hot, and I'll keep doing it. People have suggested I get grants, or get the ODFW to pay me somehow, or other ways to do it bigger but I'm not really interested. I just want to get out and relax, and this is a great way to make it happen while I do a little good at the same time."

On behalf of every fisherman who's ever lost a lure, and especially on behalf of that long-ago duck, thanks James!



Don't miss the :20 video of the evolving sculpture on our website



Front view of the sculpture

Shop Talk

Certified Pre-Owned or private inspection?



Comment of the Month



[Quora is a question-and-answer forum we follow.](#) It offers lots of qualified (or at least interested and interesting) people commenting on an amazing variety of topics, and it's a fascinating resource we highly recommend. This month's Comment is actually our reply to a recent Quora Question-

"Would you rather buy Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) car or a used car and get it inspected yourself?"

Our Answer:

"The Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) vehicle is usually the better choice because of the warranty that comes with it. CPO vehicles carry any remaining factory warranty PLUS an additional (usually 1-year) extension from the Dealer.

A private inspection identifies a vehicle's problems but they aren't fixed or warrantied. On a CPO the Dealer inspected for and identified the problems, addressed them, and is standing behind the vehicle's performance. The inspection and warranty are only as strong as the Dealer you buy from, but that's a separate issue.

If you're buying a newer vehicle with low miles from a seller you trust, the CPO wouldn't be a make-or-break but the inspection is still critical.

NEVER BUY A USED VEHICLE WITHOUT (at least) HAVING IT INSPECTED FIRST!"

What are they building across the street?



[Sellwood Bridgehead,](#) being built across the street from us at 8222 SE 6th, will be a 119 unit multi-family housing project with 49 underground parking spots. Though we won't dwell on it in quite as much depth as we did the Sellwood Bridge, it is the top topic for questions here at the shop so we'll bring you a couple shots each month as our newest Sellwood neighbor takes shape. This month, the basement excavation is complete and the crews are starting to pour the building's foundations...



Excavation complete and ready for concrete



The concrete pumper had an unbelievable boom reach

Current Discount Offers



If you've been putting off your celebration of Carwash Coupon season then you've put it off too long. The Season ends Sep 30. Don't worry though, we'll be back next year with more of the most exciting carwash

coupons around. Why don't we just wash your car here? It's one of the most common questions we get, and there's a very good answer. Just [click here and we'll let Tom himself tell you why...](#)

(offer expired Sep 30, 2017)

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!

And we have a little something extra to celebrate this month when it comes to reviews and referrals. We just passed 100 reviews on Yelp a couple weeks ago, and made it to 101 before we could even tell you about it. Thank you so much for your continued support! If you'd like to join the fun, please help us celebrate... your review could be our 102nd on Yelp! (Or 145th on AngiesList, or 35th on Google, or 100th on NextDoor, or...)

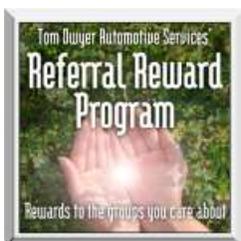


Our End-Of-Summer Postcard Contest



We had two contests going on recently, and both were a little disappointing. In our Humorousness contest we asked you to send us your ideas for new Scout Merit Badges in the Trumpocracy. No one entered. Here in Shop Talk we were running our End-Of-Summer Postcard Contest and did a little better... everyone who entered won! Of course, that's because we had only one entrant, Cathy J. On the other hand the

picture she sent us (we opened up the contest to include pictures this year) pretty well sums up everything there is to love about summer so we think she's a deserving winner of the \$100 cash prize. Let's all congratulate Cathy and learn a lesson from this... our contests frequently don't have much competition, so when we offer one you should jump on it because you have a very good chance to win! And thanks again to Cathy for entering, and winning, this time!



Your reviews and referrals matter

Our Referral Reward Program continues to be popular with our clients, and it's certainly popular with the groups we've given to! Our clients enabled 17 donations for \$664 in August/September, bringing us to a total of 425 donations for \$19,097 since the program began! Who gets helped? Here's who got helped in August and September...

[BARK Mt. Hood](#) by Camille R. [KBOO Radio](#) by Joe D. and Wynter B.
[KHNS Alaska](#) by Brian E. [OPB](#) by Adam C. [ACLU](#) by Bill S.
[Sunstone Montessori School](#) by Connie S. [Habitat for Humanity](#) by Anne W.
[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Melissa W., Phillip C., and Ginny S. [Raphael House](#) by Tina E.
[The Sanders Institute \(Bernie Sanders\)](#) by Mario G. [XRAY.FM](#) by Myron Boyer
[Planned Parenthood](#) by Tom B. and Judith R. [Juvenile Diabetes Research Fndn](#) by Patrick E.

We'd love for you to join us in this giveback to the people making a difference in our world. Just refer a new client to Tom Dwyer, and if they tell us you referred them (don't worry; we'll ask) then we'll call you to find out which deserving group you'd like to help. It's just that easy... start referring today!

[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

Cucumber and celery salad with tuna



When Drew picked this month's recipe, the 100° weather we've seen all Summer was on his mind. He was considering one recipe until he saw the 8-hour cook time for it... "NO! It's just too hot to be cooking!" And that brings us to this tasty twist on tuna salad that has no cooking at all...

Ingredients:

- 2 tsp poppy seeds
- 3 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cucumbers, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/4-" half-moons (6 cups)
- 3 celery stalks, cut into 1/4" pieces, inner leaves reserved
- 2 5-oz cans solid white tuna in water, drained and flaked
- Coarse salt and finely ground black pepper

Preparation:

- In a medium bowl, stir together poppy seeds, vinegar, sugar, and oil.
- Add cucumbers, celery, and tuna; season with salt and pepper. Toss well to coat.
- Sprinkle with celery leaves and serve immediately (or refrigerate, covered, up to 1 day).

Serves 4

Health Notes

Man in vegetative state regains consciousness



You hear headlines like this occasionally... “man regains consciousness after 20 years in a coma”. You hear occasionally, but not very often. Comas are one of the clouds in the silver lining of modern medicine because although our technology is amazing at mitigating or repairing physical damage it still has limits. Those limits become most apparent at the interface of the physical body and consciousness, where science understands the least about what is happening. An amazing story this month shows us those limits are being pushed back yet again...

[Man In Permanent Vegetative State 'Regains Consciousness' After Pioneering Nerve Implant](#), Patient was left completely unaware of world around him after car accident in 2001
by Tom Embury-Dennis in The Independent, Sep 2017

A man in a permanent vegetative state (PVS) for the past 15 years has shown signs of consciousness after pioneering nerve stimulation treatment.

The 35-year-old was left apparently unaware of the world around him following a car accident in 2001, but is now responding to questions a month after having a stimulator placed on a nerve which connects the heart, lungs and digestive tract to the brain.

The treatment is challenging the commonly accepted view that there is little prospect of a recovery if a patient has been in PVS for more than a year.

As well as responding to simple requests such as turning his head, the patient could track objects with his eyes and stay awake while being read a story.

He even attempted to smile when asked and had tears in his eyes when played music by his favourite French singer Jean-Jaques Goldman, reports the New Scientist.

Angela Sirigu, who led the work at the Institut des Sciences Cognitives Marc Jeannerod in Lyon, told the magazine her team were “very happy” when he started to react.

“This patient is like our baby. We are very attached to him. He’ll always remain in our hearts, because he’s our first patient,” she said.

The results show “it is possible to improve a patient's presence in the world,” she added in a statement.

The vagus nerve is linked to two regions in the brain which play key roles in alertness and consciousness. It

also runs down both sides of the neck from the brain stem, across the chest and into the abdomen.

During a 20-minute procedure, a small implant was placed on the nerve in the man’s neck, resulting in what doctors describe as a state of minimal consciousness.

Ms Sirigu and her team now hope to apply the technique more widely to patients with less serious brain injuries, where the gains could be even greater.

The findings offer hope to families of victims in PVS that they could one day re-establish meaningful contact.

Niels Birbaumer, a pioneering brain surgeon at the University of Tübingen, told The Guardian the findings raised new ethical dilemmas.

“Many of these patients may and will have been neglected, and passive euthanasia may happen often in a vegetative state,” he said. “This paper is a warning to all those believing that this state is hopeless after a year.”

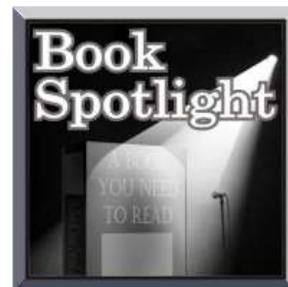
The man is unlikely ever to walk or talk again due to the extensive damage to his brain, which might lead some to question whether patients would want to even be made aware of their condition.

“Personally I think it’s better to be aware, even if it’s a bad state, to be conscious of what’s happening,” Ms Sirigu said. “Then you can have a decision if you want to go on or if you want [euthanasia].”

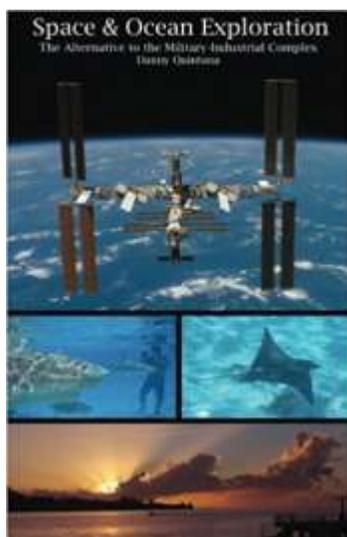
The findings were published in the journal Current Biology.

Book Spotlight

“Space and Ocean Exploration: The Alternative to the Military Industrial Complex” by Danny Quintana



History has proven Eisenhower’s thoughts on the Military/Industrial Complex tragically prophetic, but seeing a dragon isn’t the same as slaying it. The MIC has grown and thrives for real reasons and it won’t go away just because the majority of Americans (and the world) don’t benefit from it. Why did it form, what sustains it now, and what could possibly make it change? Danny Quintana believes the pigs swarmed the trough because it was full, and while starving them won’t work maybe putting their food in a different trough will...



“Space and Ocean Exploration: The Alternative to the Military Industrial Complex”

by Danny Quintana

“The modern defense establishment, popularly known as the Military-Industrial Complex, grew out of the bitter experience of the U.S. entry into World War One when they lacked even basic elements, let alone advanced weapons, to train and field and an effective fighting force in rapid fashion. The U.S. had to buy tanks and planes from France and Great Britain while using out of day supplies for basic needs. In the interwar years a number of starts and stops managed to create a game plan for ramping up operations and a list of viable companies that could retool for weapons and support production.

The central premise of Danny Quintana’s latest book is making the case to divert an ever-increasing slice of the United States Defense Budget to Space and Ocean Exploration. He methodically shows that pursuing such a course would be politically and economically palatable as the industries involved would continue to have a role in the defense establishment and the military would receive additional equipment and mandates.”

While we typically direct you to the Powell’s website for our book recommendations, this month we’ll send you to [Danny’s own website for his book](#). Not just because Powell’s doesn’t have it (though Amazon does) but because all proceeds from the book go to provide wheelchairs for people injured in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, so we want him to have the fullest value from each sale.

[Danny Quintana at Weller Book Works signing](#), YouTube video, Nov 2015

[How the “Global High Seas Marine Preserve” came from Danny Quintana’s book](#), YouTube video, Oct 2016



Click here for Eisenhower’s Military-Industrial Complex speech as well as some analysis from NPR in [“Ike’s Warning Of Military Expansion, 50 Years Later”](#)

Humorousness

Recognizing the IgNobelty with our own Quiz



It's Humorousness time again, and for this slightly odd newsletter that means Science time. In September the Annals of Improbable Research held the [27th First Annual Ig[®] Nobel Prize Ceremony and Lectures](#) to announce its Ig Nobel Prizes, awarded for “ten unusual or trivial achievements in scientific research” and also for “achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think”. What’s unusual or trivial to the Committee? Well, in 2000 the Ig Nobel for Physics went to Andre Geim, Radboud University, Nijmegen, and Michael Berry, University of Bristol, for the “[magnetic levitation of a live frog](#)”. Here’s three samples from this year’s awards. Can guess which option is this year’s winner in each category?

In the Economics category, was the winner...

- A. Never Smile at a Crocodile: Betting on Electronic Gaming Machines is Intensified by Reptile-Induced Arousal
- B. A Correlative Study Of Roulette-Based (Randomized) Stochasticity In Mutual Fund Derivatives
- C. Offsetting Health Care Costs Through The Recycling And Distribution Of Under-Utilized Organs From Single-Payer Advocates

Who ruled the Fluid Dynamics category? Was it...

- A. Dynamics Of Saliva Exchange In Human Cataglottism
- B. Low Energy Techniques For Suction Excision Of Boba Beads
- C. A Study On The Coffee-Spilling Phenomena In The Low Impulse Regime

Which of these studies advanced the field of Medicine for us all? Was it...

- A. Evolutionary Basis of Humanity Disproven by Intelligent Design: What Were We Thinking?
- B. The Neural Bases Of Disgust For Cheese: An fMRI Study
- C. Spinal And Abdominal Generation Of Transient Heebie-Jeebies

Like we said, at Humorousness we provide laughs, but no answers. And questions. Laughs and questions. Questions and laughs, but no answers. Anyway, the point is that for the answers to our little quiz you'll have to go to the [Ig Nobel prize page!](#)

The results of our first ever HUMOROUSNESS CONTEST!

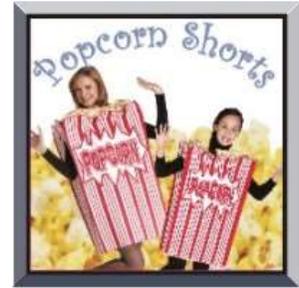
On the heels of Donald Trump’s Speech to the Boy Scouts, we asked for your suggestions for new Boy Scout Merit Badges under the Trumpocracy. We promised you the results in this newsletter, but you know what? It was a bomb. A failure. A lead balloon, a fiasco, a loser. It was a misadventure. It was the Contest-That-Shall-Not-Be-Named. NO ONE ENTERED! AAAUUUGGGHHH! So unfortunately we have no crowd-sourced joy to share with you. We’ll try it again with another subject soon, so stay tuned!



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!



We just passed 100 REVIEWS ON YELP!



We're taking a Popcorn Short to blow our own horn... we just passed [100 reviews on Yelp!](#) Actually, the day after #100 appeared we got another one, so now we're already at 101 with a 4.5-rating. To go into detail, that's (89) 5-stars, (5) 4-stars, (2) 3-stars, (2) 2-stars, and (3) 1-stars. And we don't hide those 1-star reviews either; you can see them all at our article "[Our BAD Reviews](#)". Curious about other platforms? We're A-Rated on AngiesList with 144 reviews, 5-stars on Google with 37 reviews, and 5/5 on Facebook with 14 reviews. Help us celebrate... you could be the next review on any site you choose!

Cassini says Goodbye



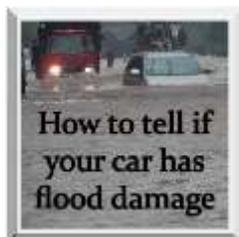
Cassini launched from Florida on October 15, 1997 and died on Saturn on September 15, 2017 after almost exactly 20 years. On it's journey to Saturn it made flybys of Venus, Earth, asteroid Masursky, Jupiter, Titan, and of course Saturn. It's final act was to plunge into Saturn's atmosphere, squeezing the last use from the probe and ensuring no contamination was possible on a planet we've never touched. With the mission over it's time to [look back at the amazing travelogue scientific discoveries it generated](#). Though there's no cash prize for it, we officially award Cassini an Honorable Mention in our [Summer Postcard Contest!](#)

Healing from Portland's home fire



All too often the News is a litany of disasters and devastation brought to us from around the world. Human empathy makes us feel for all the people affected, but it's more than shocking, it's surreal when it happens in your own back yard. That was the feeling we had with the Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia River Gorge recently and we're sure it was shared by the rest of Oregon as we watched one of the most loved parts of our home burn. The fire's not out yet, but Nature's already moving back in. [Willamette Week brings us the first look at the damage to the most popular trails in the Gorge](#).

How to tell if your next used car has flood damage



There are about to be some really screaming deals on used cars but you don't want any part of them. Hurricane Harvey in Houston and Irma in Florida mean tens of thousands of cars were damaged, will be totaled by insurance companies, sold at auto auctions, and offered to unsuspecting people far away from the devastation... like us. Run, do not walk, away from these cars! But how do you know which ones have been damaged once they've been washed and dried by an unscrupulous Dealer? [Our friends at Jalopnik have some suggestions](#), and you can always [get our own Used Car advice here](#). Caveat emptor!

News To Make You Furious

Watch out for the Trolls, they'll get you... they got us.



This month we offer for your outrage an issue that's big enough to be a problem for everyone but also hits very close to home. You're no doubt aware of Internet Trolls, the nasty little cretins that dump scatological insults and barely-literate slurs on comment boards across the Net. Trolls can be nasty when it comes to things like cyberbullying or spreading propaganda, but they're mostly bark-without-bite. You may not know about the breeds of Troll that have both bark *and* bite, sniping at the unsuspecting from law offices instead of basements, and extorting millions from people who have little choice but to pay up. These greasy weasels seemed an ideal subject for News To Make You Furious for a simple reason: we know how Furious it made US when we got bitten by one recently...

The genus "Troll" has several species oozing through the InterTubes. They are universally annoying and some can even be dangerous in the real world, but in this article we aren't talking about the Trolls who are just rude, bigoted, or vulgar. We're talking about Copyright Trolls, the ones who spend their lives enforcing legal rights on intellectual property they don't own and have no intention of ever exploiting. Within this species there are even a few sub-species focusing on different types of intellectual property with slightly different strategies. For example, some companies specialize in suing over patent rights while others pursue movie downloaders on platforms like BitTorrent. Some of those even specialize in particular types of movies... going after porn downloaders carries the additional threat of exposing a person's porn viewing habits to the world. Don't worry; we didn't get bitten by one of those but by a close relative, the Stock Image Troll, which goes after websites with unlicensed pictures on them. No matter the exact species of Troll the basic approach is the same...

How the scam works...

Fundamentally it's not much more sophisticated than the "Nice business you've got there; shame if something happened to it" line of a classic protection racket...

[Copyright Trolls... But For Houses](#)

Brad Heath directs our attention to a ruling in a bizarre case in the 7th circuit appeals court, in which we discover the existence of housing copyright trolls, who drive around looking for houses just a tad too similar to their copyright-covered designs...

- **Find a pool of potential prey.** It can't be targeted individuals because building an evidence-based case against an individual isn't worth the time/money. It has to be a large group that's inexpensive to reach. Movie and music scammers collect IP addresses of

everyone who downloads their materials, while in cases like ours Trolls use software to scan the Net for any website with a copy of their image.

- **Once the Troll finds their pool they blanket it with threats.** For movie downloads they put all the IP addresses of downloaders into a single “John Doe” filing, get a court order forcing the IP to “unmask” the people behind the addresses, then send threatening letters to all the individuals. For people with single offending images the process is even easier because the court order isn’t necessary. The Troll just sends a threatening email to the domain holder of the target website.
- The threat letter includes a demand to remove the image but of course that won’t solve the problem. The letter also **threatens legal action with large monetary penalties**, not to mention the cost of defending the suit itself or paying the opponents’ legal costs if you lose. The Troll offers to put everything aside if the target ‘settles’ for anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.
- The Troll slithers back into his cave, turning about [30% of his letters](#) into gold.

Why it’s wrong...

No one should be Furious about a company defending its intellectual property, but that’s not what this is. Here’s [FightCopyrightTrolls.com](#) to explain exactly why this abuse of legitimate copyright law is so flawed...

“1. Weak evidence. A recorded IP address is not equal to a person. There are many cases (open wireless network, IP spoofing, hacked connections, human error etc.) when innocent people are accused.

2. Perversion of the Law spirit. Mixing innocent people with those who indeed tried to obtain their clients’ works, trolls violate Blackstone’s formulation. Presumption of innocence is also trumped, as accused are required to prove their innocence.

3. Incentive to settle, even if innocent. Given the disproportionality of potential punishment and impeding attorney fees, it is cheaper and less time-consuming to settle than to litigate. In addition, fear to be named in a lawsuit and hence be associated with a porno case, which can ruin families and careers, creates an additional pressure. Consequently, many innocent people indeed opt to settle.

4. Due process violation. Defendants are not properly represented from the beginning. There is a catch-22 situation: in order to fight against a subpoena to ensure that the names won’t be revealed, those who chose to fight must reveal their names: courts do not allow anonymous parties to participate in the process. If an individual decides to fight openly, he becomes a target for selective prosecution by a troll: trolls need it to frighten others and discourage opposition.

5. Using heavy weaponry against unprepared individuals (inequality of arms). Lawyers possess substantial knowledge that they use against general public. Besides inducing fear to coerce settlements, they also engage in deceptive promises: suggesting that a defendant will be spared if he explains his innocence, they provoke self-incriminating statements and never hesitate to use defendant’s words against him.

6. Deceptive practices. In order to increase settlement rate, trolls resort to lies. They conceal important information from the Court. They make unrealistic and unnecessary threats to defendants. They grossly overstate the damages to copyright holders caused by infringement. As mentioned above, they provoke self-incriminating statements from not litigation-savvy defendants.

...and if we could add one item to FightCopyrightTrolls' list we'd add a #7... **they run when confronted**. If a person can put together the money to hire a lawyer and fight, the [Troll will frequently back down](#). They don't usually have a case that would actually prevail in court and they don't want publicity about their cozy little scheme. What if an appeal of a case they were involved in resulted in a precedent that closed them down, or even worse, prompted legislation to restrain them? Can't have that!

People are fighting back...

Well, not actual people, but Lawyers... and that's not a Lawyer joke! We run-of-the-mill people don't have the money or weapons to confront Trolls. As a wise man once said, "We pay our attorneys by the hour. They pay theirs by the year." Individuals would go broke defending themselves against Trolls paid to be in court. Beyond that, non-lawyers don't understand the weapons of the law that the Trolls have sharpened to a fine edge. To win against a Troll you have to have the weapons and strategy for a long fight and Lawyers are positioned to do it. Working with groups like the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) and [FightCopyrightTrolls.com](#) they've been developing strategies, sharing legal tips, and most importantly, filing suit to send Copyright Trolls back to their caves. Judges aren't blind to the Trolls corruption of the Justice System, so they're becoming conscious and creative in the way they decide these cases. For example, [Oregon Judge Stacy Beckerman allowed a Troll to dismiss a copyright case, but with the caveat](#) that the Troll had to pay the defendant's legal fees. From Judge Beckerman's ruling...



We [pulled the image that attracted the Troll](#) and we're in the process of pulling every image from our site that could possibly attract more of them. That will leave little gaps all over our site, so here's what we're filling them with. If you have to spray some Troll Repellent on your own site, feel free to download, use, and share this image as you see fit.

*"Plaintiffs moved to dismiss early in the case, prior to discovery, which is generally favored. However, the timing of Plaintiffs' voluntary dismissal here (just after Sheldon requested far-reaching discovery at the Rule 16 conference) supports Sheldon's argument that **Plaintiffs file these copyright infringement cases only to achieve a quick settlement without any meaningful litigation**. That approach, especially when coupled with a voluntary dismissal when the quick settlement does not materialize, supports an award of costs and fees incurred to defend the action prior to the voluntarily dismissal. **To find otherwise would allow plaintiffs to file hundreds of these copyright infringement actions, force subscribers and alleged infringers to incur defense costs and fees, and then dismiss any actions that do not result in a quick settlement, without any consequences to the plaintiffs.** This Court cannot support that outcome."*

The decision is being appealed, and for good reason... it would be a dangerous, Troll-killing precedent if allowed to stand.

Don't feed the Trolls!

To be clear again, no one has a right to steal. People invest time and money to create intellectual property of all types and they have to be able to enforce their legal rights to that property. They can even hire outside companies to patrol those rights and punish infringement, but there are ways to enforce those rights fairly within the law. Just a suggestion here, but perhaps a property-holder could be required to offer offenders the opportunity to remove an image, or purchase a pirated song or movie at retail price, or some other option to "make good" before the Troll could

implement further action? If it was a good-faith mistake or one-off offense then the problem would be solved; if the offender persisted in using the image without paying or thought they had the rights to free media then that would be an appropriate use of the courts. In the meantime the Trolls who bully our citizens using the courts we provide would be cut off from the money they need to survive.

And you know what happens to Trolls you don't feed? They starve.

Digging Deeper...

These are three of the biggest groups fighting Copyright Trolls. Any one of them will have all the Troll-Fighting information you could ever want.

[DieTrollDie](#)

[FightCopyrightTrolls](#)

[ElectronicFrontierFoundation](#)

But here are the articles that caught our attention for this article...

[Copyright Trolls](#) by Electronic Frontier Foundation

When the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) declared an end to its litigation campaign against music fans who used peer-to-peer technology to share music, many people thought that would be the end of mass copyright litigation—after all, hadn't the RIAA demonstrated that suing customers was no way to improve the bottom line? Apparently not everyone got the memo. Since then, at least three groups have begun to experiment with using mass copyright litigation to extract settlements from individuals. These copyright trolls try to grow businesses out of suing Internet users — their tactics include targeting large groups of anonymous "Doe defendants" to improperly minimize their court costs and exploiting the massive damages in copyright law in order to pressure defendants into settling quickly.

[Stock Image Trolls Beware! Porn Trolls Hit with Class Action Lawsuit](#) on CopyrightTrolls.com

First, Prenda came crashing down, then the Federal Investigation, followed by a rather entertaining indictment, and now the victims

are striking back by filing a Class Action Lawsuit... The days of threats of litigation, extortion, fraud and money laundering, are coming to an end for the copyright trolls. Need I mention Vincent K. Tylor, Poet Linda Ellis, Getty Images, and the dozens of other image copyright trolls??

[A Pattern Of "Brazen Misconduct And Relentless Fraud"](#), by Matthew Sag on MatthewSag.com, Mar 2017

[Who Are Copyright Trolls?](#) By FightCopyrightTrolls.com

[Received a letter from ISP or troll? Take a deep breath and read](#) By FightCopyrightTrolls.com

[When Patents Attack](#), Alex Blumberg and Laura Sydell on This American Life, Jul 2011

[The Rise of Copyright Trolls](#), by Dunner Law, Mar 2017

Unlike the well-known patent trolls, "copyright trolls" have received comparatively less attention in Congress and in the media. A copyright troll is a business

with the principal purpose of enforcing copyrights for which it has only a limited ownership interest. The troll's key motivation is not to make actual use of the work; rather, it is to threaten litigation to extort settlement money. These trolls operate across a wide range of industries – from pornographic films to stock images to publications – impacting thousands of consumers and businesses alike. How did copyright trolls proliferate?

[Defense Against the Dark Arts of Copyright Trolling](#) by Sag and Haskell in the Iowa Law Review, Mar 2017

In this Article, we offer both a legal and a pragmatic framework for defending against copyright trolls.

[Greed And The BT Copyright Troll Settlement Factories](#), DieTrollDie.com, May 2017

[Magistrate Judge To Copyright Troll: You May Cut And Run If You Want, But First Compensate Defendant](#), FightCopyrightTrolls.com, Sep 2017

['Copyright Trolls' Hit With Class Action Lawsuit For Theft by Deception](#), by Ernesto on TorrentFreak.com, Jan 2017

[Greed And The BT Copyright Troll Settlement Factories \(AKA: "Don't Be A Dick"\)](#) on DieTrollDie, May 2017

[Prenda Is Gone, But Copyright Trolling Continues](#), by Matthew Sag, Mar 2017

[Speculative Invoicing And "Pay Up Or Else" Schemes For Copyright Infringement](#), on CitizensAdvice.uk