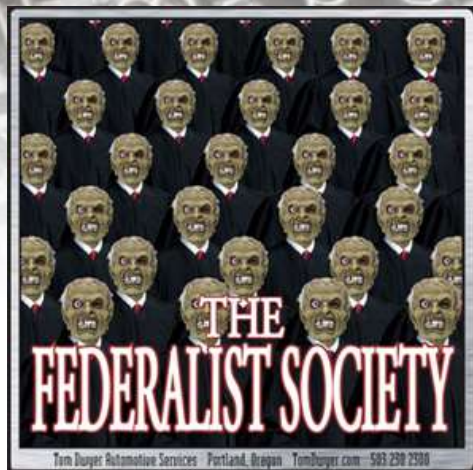




“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for July and February, 2019



The Federalist Society

A zombie army of judges is on the way. Here's where they come from.



Are We Too Expensive?

Depends. How good a deal is a low price on something you don't need?



What's the difference in a Socialist and a Democratic Socialist?



Time's up for the Insects



SNOW DAY at the Oregon Zoo



Life... Over the Edge

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- Who are we? Who do we WANT to be?

Health Notes- Cure for cancer! Hooray! Maybe? Maybe not.

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

Book Spotlight- "The Threat" by Andrew McCabe

Drew's Kitchen- Parmesan Baked Cod

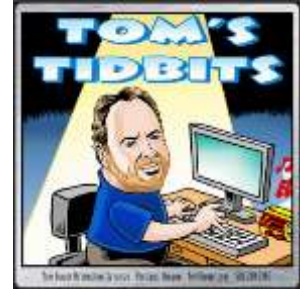
Humorousness- Step up your game for business meetings

Shop Talk- Business or Politics? Us?

News To Make You Furious- Hell's Accountant

Tom's Tidbits

Who are we? Who do we WANT to be?



Greetings,

In 1992, Ross Perot's running mate Admiral James Stockdale became famous for two questions... "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" Stockdale asked as self-deprecating humor, but I wonder if every political campaign shouldn't start with exactly those two questions. People often *think* they have answers to both, but that's frequently because they're not really trying to answer. Deep, considered answers to 'Who are we?' and 'Why are we here?' *as a country* have consequences. The answers immediately beg the question "Who would we *rather* be?" and only after answering that can we ask the fundamental political question... "How do we get there from here?"

Who ARE we? Vapid "patriots" know without ever having had to think about it... we're 'Mericans, dammit, we believe in freedom and capitalism, and all the world is jealous of us. These people look no further than shallow jingoism and empty symbols. Demagogues know this and eagerly spout platitudes and buy flag pins to avoid difficult questions. They're wasting their money, though, because people fooled by flag pins weren't asking the difficult questions in the first place, much less trying to answer them.



Who ARE we? Thinking people aren't satisfied with flag pins. In a powerful [clip from HBO's "The Newsroom"](#), when asked "What makes America the greatest country on Earth?", two panelists jumped up to present the vapid patriot answer... the Lefty replied with "diversity and opportunity", the Righty with "freedom and freedom". A third, after much thought and prodding, made the heretical statement that we are NOT the "greatest country"! But then, after a bleak but realistic assessment of who we ARE, he came to the most important point... "America is NOT the greatest country. But it CAN be."

Who ARE we? We're a paradox. America created a new way of looking at individual rights for the world, yet we were built on slavery and genocide. We created a form of government "of, by, and for the People" yet it has been corrupted by moneyed interests from the start and is now crumbling from the strain. We believe in opportunity and reward for hard work, yet our policies spit millions of cogs into an insecure, insufficient, soul-killing economic machine. We decry interference of countries in one another's affairs, yet we're a world-spanning and very politically assertive empire. We believe in science and technology, yet starve our schools. We believe in peace, yet we're the largest weapons manufacturer in the world. We believe in neighbors helping neighbors, yet balk at universal health care. We're a nation of schizophrenic hypocrites... no wonder we're so tribalized and bitter!

Who ARE we? If the answer is "a paradox", then the next question is who would we RATHER be?

IF we AREN'T living up to our founding principles of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", then we, through our government, can support those goals... 'Life' through uninhibited access to medical care, 'Liberty' through a justice system not compromised by a profit motive, 'Pursuit of Happiness' through access to education to improve ourselves without incurring lifelong debt.

IF we WANT to be a peaceful people, then our policies shouldn't promote war. War *may* sometimes be necessary, but profit from arms sales isn't. If we're 'peaceful', then we could work to reduce our bloated military and rein in private arms sales by slashing and limiting profits on weapons manufacture. We could lead the creation of frameworks to deal with disputes without military action... maybe a UN that works?

IF we BELIEVE democracy is a good idea, then we should try it! We should be doing everything imaginable to enable not just the vote, but effective representation. Default voter registration, voting day holidays, legislative

transparency, no gerrymandering, no voter suppression, limiting corporate 'free speech'... that's just the start. No matter where you are on the political spectrum, the person stealing your vote is your enemy.

IF we ARE a country that believes in the dignity and power of the individual, then we'd help foster both. If we hold each individual accountable for themselves, then there's nothing more cynical than pretending they have the tools to succeed when they don't. Education and training for a living-wage job shouldn't beggar anyone. It may not be on us as a society to give everyone fish, but it IS on us to teach them how to fish.

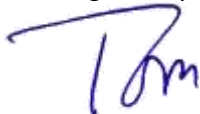
IF we ACTUALLY care about truth and transparency in decision making, we should promote and protect it. Government meetings, panels, discussions, records or any other activities should be transparent and open by default. A Media owned by 6 companies must be broken up to allow different viewpoints to be heard. Basics like releasing tax returns should be required!

IF we ARE people who care about our descendants, then (at a minimum) we should be committed to leaving a usable planet for them. Climate Change and environmental breakdown threaten all we are as not just a nation, but the whole human race. In WWII, America unequivocally decided that we WERE going to protect the world from an existential threat, and worked with the rest of the world to do it. We were proud to lead then... ARE we strong enough to do it again in the face of Climate Change?

The Founders hated the hereditary nobility of England, and the Monarchy most of all. If we BELIEVE in the critical social need for a Middle Class, then we could move to support it. We'd grow the economy from the middle out rather than waiting for scraps to drop from the tables of billionaires. We'd have a tax system that didn't allow any individual (and CERTAINLY NOT a corporation) to become so powerful that they can hamstring government. We'd have a tax plan that discouraged hand-me-down dynastic wealth. We'd tax capital gains, the income of the rich, at (at least!) the same rate we tax wages, the income of the middle and lower class.

Who are we? Why are we here? What will we do? These are the most fundamental questions in life, so it's not surprising they're the most fundamental and divisive questions of politics. But the society we live in is not like the weather. We don't just have to lie back and deal with what comes, we can and do influence the system with every decision we make. We certainly can't control the fine details, we can't legislate some utopia, but we CAN work toward a dynamic and free society rather than a predatory and authoritative one. Decisions WILL be made and laws WILL be written; the question is what direction they'll take us. And it's up to US, each of us, to answer that question.

Make a great day,



Digging Deeper...

[The Distribution of Income Depends on How We Structure the Economy](#), by Janine Jackson on TruthOut, Feb 2019

[What ISN'T for sale? Are there some things beyond price? Should there be?](#) By Michael Sandel in The Atlantic, reprinted in Your Car Matters, June 2013

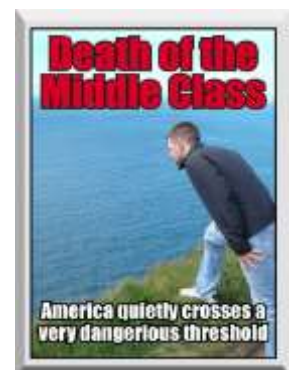
[No, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez doesn't want 70% of your income](#), by Dion Rabouin on Axios, Jan 2019

[What are some strong arguments why government should not be run like businesses?](#) Thread on Quora, 100+ answers

[Capitalism or Democratic Socialism, You Choose](#), video, Jefferson Smith hosts The Thom Hartmann Program, Feb 2019

[What is wrong with America?](#), Thread on Quora.com

[The Very Quiet Death of the Middle Class](#), Tom Dwyer Automotive Newsletter, Dec 2015



What NOW?!! Toons

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



WHAT NOW?!!

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WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

Current Special Offers

Take advantage of these special Dwyer offers!



Save \$55 on Tire Alignment!

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 2/28/19



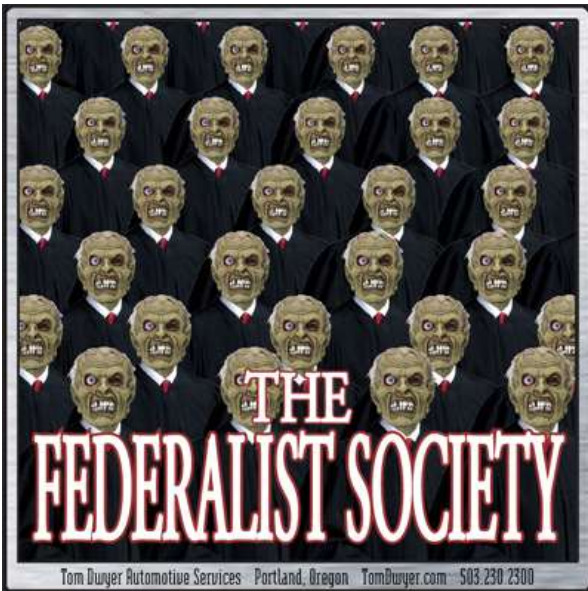
Our Winter A/C Special is worth up to \$200!

Take 25% off Labor charges on any A/C repair

You're not thinking about air-conditioning this time of year? Maybe you should be! Your vehicle's air conditioning is a critical system even in winter. It's linked with your defrosting system to help draw moisture from your vehicles' interior, so thinking about it in the off-season can make you safer and more comfortable in the winter and you'll be ready when the hot weather returns. And it WILL return!!

The Federalist Society

A zombie army of judges is on the way. Here's where they come from.

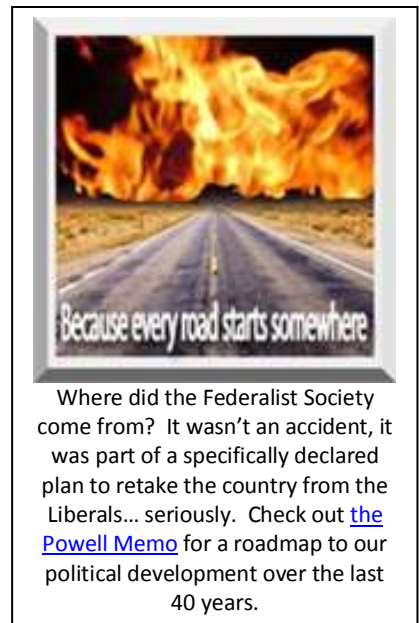


The Republicans waged a scorched-earth battle to put Brett Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court, while the Democrats did the same to keep him off. Why? The only rationale for Kavanaugh's appointment seemed to be he was on a list of 25 nominees given to Trump by The Federalist Society. In an interview before Kavanaugh's confirmation, the executive vice president of the Federalist Society said "The list is really good... You can throw a dart at that list and in my view you would be fine." Kavanaugh wasn't known for any original thinking or groundbreaking legal work, and not even his supporters pretended he was, but the Federalist Society thought he was top notch and that was enough. Since the Federalist Society has been supplying Trump's SCOTUS picks, as well as

candidates for every other court in the land, and has been for years, we thought it might be interesting to take a look at the Federalist Society and what they stand for...

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies was founded in 1982 and is now one of the most influential legal organizations in the country. Their purpose is to move the US justice system to a more conservative/libertarian standpoint, "checking federal power, protecting individual liberty and interpreting the Constitution according to its original meaning". It's a membership organization with student, lawyer, and faculty divisions and chapters at over 200 US law schools and "practice groups" totaling over 70,000 lawyers in 90 cities.

The Federalist Society wields extreme power in nominating judges, and the Republicans have pushed hard and successfully to get their members confirmed. According to the Washington Post, it "has evolved into the de facto gatekeeper for right-of-center lawyers aspiring to government jobs and federal judgeships under Republican presidents." During the Reagan and George W. Bush administrations, "membership in the Federalist Society was a proxy for adherence to conservative ideology", and the Society famously gave Trump his full list of nominees for the SCOTUS. 25 out of 30 of Trump's appeals court nominees were current or former members of the Society, and of the nine current SCOTUS members, Kavanaugh, Gorsuch, Thomas, Roberts and Alito are current or former Federalist Society members.



Where did the Federalist Society come from? It wasn't an accident, it was part of a specifically declared plan to retake the country from the Liberals... seriously. Check out [the Powell Memo](#) for a roadmap to our political development over the last 40 years.

The Federalist Society is one of the most influential groups in our country, yet few people realize their power. If you'd like to learn more about them, here are just a few places to get started...

[The Federalist Society](#) website

[A Conservative Group's Closed-Door 'Training' of Judicial Clerks Draws Concern](#), by Adam Liptak in New York Times, Oct 2018

[What Is The Federalist Society And How Does It Affect Supreme Court Picks?](#) By All Things Considered on NPR, Jun 2018

[The Conservative Pipeline to the Supreme Court](#), by Jeffrey Toobin in The New Yorker, Apr 2017

[Federalist Court- How the Federalist Society became the de facto selector of Republican Supreme Court justices](#), by Lawrence Baum and Neal Devins on Slate, Jan 2017

[Kavanaugh may have made it harder to become a judge, Penn Federalist Society speakers say](#), by Grant Bianco in The Daily Pennsylvanian, Sep 2018

[Conservative Group Runs a Creepy Secret Boot Camp for Law Clerks](#), by Libby Watson in Splinter, Oct 2018

[The Federalist Society's Influence on the Federal Judiciary](#), by Nancy Scherer and Banks Miller, Jun 2009

[The Weekend at Yale That Changed American Politics- What actually happened at the birth of the Federalist Society?](#) By Machael Kruse on Politico.com, Sep 2018

[Who are the Federalist Society? Inside the right-wing group picking Trump's Supreme Court judges](#), by Sophie McBain in New Statesman America, Sep 2018

[Taking Over the Judiciary: The Impact of the Federalist Society](#), by Stephen Rohde in Los Angeles Review of Books, Aug 2013

[The Rise of the Federalist Society](#), video by Thom Hartmann, Jun 2013

[Are Republicans Willing to Lose the House & Senate for Control of the Supreme Court?](#) Video by Thom Hartmann, Oct 2018

[New Conservative Lawyers' Group 'Checks and Balances' Bristles at Trump](#), by Marcia Coyle in National Law Journal, Nov 2018

[Justice Brett Kavanaugh Got A Rousing Standing Ovation At This Year's Federalist Society Convention](#), by Zoe Tillman on BuzzFeedNews, Nov 2018

[GOP plots to confirm Trump nominees more quickly](#), by Marianne Levine and Burgess Everett on Politico, Feb 2019

[Senate confirms dozens of Trump nominees ahead of new Congress](#), by Grace Segers on CBS News, Jan 2019

[The Senate GOP Is Confirming Judges at a Breakneck Pace](#), by Jessica Corbett on Common Dreams, Feb 2019

[Chief Justice Roberts tells right-wing judges to slow their roll](#), by Ian Millhiser on ThinkProgress, Feb 2019

[Judicial adviser Leonard Leo on what Trump is looking for in a Supreme Court nominee](#), CBS This Morning, Jun 2018

[Conquerors of the Courts](#), by David Montgomery in Washington Post Magazine, Jan 2019

[What the Federalist Society Stands For](#), by Michael Fletcher, Washington Post, Jul 2005

[Ideas With Consequences](#), Amanda Hollis Brusky, Jan 2015

Are we too expensive?

How good is a low price on something you don't need?



We've seen a few reviews and comments on the InterTubes lately with a common thread: "Tom Dwyer is expensive, but they're worth it!" That's not a bad comment to get and we're obviously grateful that people see real value in our service, but 'expensive'? Not at all! We don't want to be your cheapest auto care option, but by putting your needs first, prioritizing all needed repairs, doing work right and standing behind it, and most importantly by NOT TRYING TO SELL YOU STUFF YOU DON'T NEED, we may be one of the least expensive alternatives out there...

'Quality' is not the same as 'expensive', and 'cheap' is not the same as 'inexpensive'. 'Value' is the goal in just about any transaction; a fair balance between price and product. Sure,

sometimes buyers get screaming deals and sometimes companies sell high-profit products, but neither of those extremes can dominate very long. Value is a long-term, sustainable balance between price and quality, and value is the goal our company strives for.

Every business has a business model- a plan for the product or service they intend to provide, the costs they'll need to cover, how they'll market and support it, and yes, what profit they'll make. We, too, are a for-profit business and profit is not a dirty word to us. But businesses can either profit appropriately for needed and valuable services, or by cutting corners, reducing value, overcharging, or hard-selling products a customer doesn't need.

How our process saves you money

Every aspect of our company is built to spend your hard-earned money most effectively to keep your vehicle on the road safely and reliably and to keep you coming back as a satisfied client. Our Service Advisors are non-commissioned to eliminate any conflict of interest, our Techs are paid Flat-Rate to ensure the time and focus quality demands, our recommendations are based on the highest quality parts and supplies to reduce mechanical failures, and much more. Here's how our process is designed to save you money, and make the money you DO spend the most effective...

Putting YOUR needs first

Most shops make service recommendations based on mileage based service menus, not physical inspection and records management. These types of recommendations are based more on the shop's gross profit more than a vehicle's needs. We're well-known for telling our clients when NOT to do a repair, or telling them when they can put off a repair until budget allows, or putting the most important repair at the top of a list rather than the most profitable one.

As just one of many examples, a recent client's brakes were showing wear but still had a little life left in them. A brake job in her situation would be prudent advice any shop could make with a clear conscience, but this particular client was planning to sell her car. We recommended she *not* do the brake job because the car was currently safe and the repair wouldn't add sufficient sales value to her vehicle to justify the cost. (We also recommended she tell the buyer about the brakes!) While we lost



the opportunity to make \$1100, our client was happy and we know we'll be seeing her again with her new vehicle.

NOT selling stuff you don't need

This is the probably the single biggest way we save you money! How good is a low price on something you don't need to begin with? Wow, you saved 50% on a fluid flush but your fluids could have gone another 6 months without worry? Was that a deal? Any vehicle owner may worry about whether they can afford the repairs their vehicle needs, but one question OUR clients NEVER worry about is "Do I really need it?" They KNOW that if we recommended it, they need it

Prioritizing all repair recommendations

Your vehicle may have a long list of things that need to be done, but they won't all be the most important. We prioritize all repairs in order of 1) safety concerns 2) breakdown prevention and 3) maintenance needs. For instance, it makes no sense to spend money preventatively servicing your cooling system if your brakes are metal to metal!

Doing work right the first time

While many shops have a crew of less-experienced and less-expensive people led by a Certified Technician, our staff of (currently) 10 Technicians are ALL ASE-Certified, and HALF are ASE-MASTER-Certified. This means they know which repairs to do, when to do them, and how to do them right the first time.

Standing behind our work

Of course, even the best Service Advisor can give bad advice, the best Technician can make mistakes, and even the highest quality parts can fail. It won't happen often, but it WILL happen. When it does, we stand behind our work with a 24-month-24,000-mile nationwide warranty... the best in the business.



Tom Dwyer
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

A low price on things you don't need is not a value.

The lowest price usually isn't the best value for your vehicle. Call us and we'll tell you why!

Trusted to keep your vehicles safe, breakdown-free, and operating at their best.

First Time Clients save up to \$150
New clients with 1998 AND NEWER vehicles only, but servicing our existing client's vehicles of any year. Please SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

www.TomDwyer.com 503-230-2300

Wait, isn't all that still expensive? No.

All those things add value; prioritized needed services, done right the first time, delivered on time and on estimate, backed by the best guarantee in the industry. We offer the highest quality at the lowest price we can, and that's NOT expensive... it's the very definition of value.

Here's the script for one of our radio ads from back in the KPOJ days. It gives a glimpse of Tom's experience starting out in auto repair, and how things can work in shops that concentrate on "cheap" instead of "value"...

Some vehicles ARE beyond repair *Posted on November 10, 2015*

When I started in the auto service industry in the seventies, I was told "no vehicle was ever beyond repair".

Those used up vehicles weren't economically totaled rolling illusions; they were "ROSES"..., which is true... from a repair shop's viewpoint.

I knew these "ROSES" were money pits and while the shop would profit; the owner would lose in the end. A Shop lives to repair; so few cautions are ever issued. Requested repairs will be performed whether they make economic sense for the client or not.

Poorly maintained vehicles tend to gobble the most money right before they die ... it can be a waste trying to squeeze out those last few miles.

Our clients trust us to give solid advice that's in their best long term interest; ... we'll recommend against repairs when we know it's the right advice to maintain loyal clients for years to come.

Vehicles should come and go, but client relationships should endure.



Shop Talk

Business and Politics? Us?



Comment of the Month



"A few years back my wife and I walked in to a local newly-opened BBQ place for the first time to check it out. The person taking our order, I believe the (or one of the) owner made a comment about my wife's t-shirt which proclaimed her support for Obamacare. The joking comment was along the lines of he wasn't sure whether or not he could serve us. We almost walked out. As it was, we weren't impressed with the food and haven't been back, having left a comment on Yelp talking about the food quality and the encounter. We live in a very conservative community, and there are businesses that I won't go to for that reason. Ignoring the fact that I don't need their services, if I did, their overt politics means I'd go elsewhere, traveling over an hour to find an alternative if I had to. If we were in Portland, you'd have my nod for car care."

[Wayne West on Quora.com](#)

An odd "Comment of the Month", since it comes from a person who has never used our services and doesn't even live in Portland! Yet we think it's very relevant. This comment came on a post we wrote for Quora.com, a Q&A forum we participate in and highly recommend. The question was "I work in financial services. Can I legally refuse service to Democrats?", and we'd like to share our full answer to give some context to Wayne's comments. If you've wondered why we talk about politicians and voting almost as much as tires and brakes, we think this will give you some insight...

Tom's Answer: It doesn't make sense to REFUSE service to someone not of your political affiliation, but if you're up front with your own political leanings then they may REFUSE to work with you. This came up in our business recently, and here's the article we wrote in our company newsletter about it. I think it's pretty self explanatory...

When a client recently asked about our "#NotNormal-RESIST!" bumper stickers, we told her they "were in protest of the new administrations irregular behaviour". It didn't sit well. "Politics has no place in Greetings,

Here's a little secret... I was a registered Republican for 20 years before my political awakening. When I started my business 36 years ago I was politically clueless... I didn't even know the difference between the major parties! After a cursory investigation it seemed [Republicans were the party of business](#) and a little business networking seemed to make sense. It was a different time then. I never changed my registration because I was politically inert and was too busy trying to survive in business to care about politics, but around 1998 a co-worker helped direct my available bandwidth to some sources of real news and reporting. That set me on a path to enlightenment and the understanding that my interests would be best served if I woke up.

Reagan understood that people that are ill-educated, poor and over-worked seldom cause political ripples.

your business", she said. "I'm never coming back here again, and I'm telling my friends to do the same". Maybe she was right... keeping politics out of business is basic business advice; after all, why give any person any reason NOT to come to your business? Profit is critical in business but some things are just as important as profit. Staying quiet about those higher priorities can border on criminal, especially in today's world or to protect a dollar. Here's Tom to explain why he puts his company's neck on the political chopping block time and again, and why he's not likely to stop...

He famously stated the reason he opposed free education: "why would I want to pay to educate people who would oppose my policies?" The decline in availability and quality of free public education, the "dumbing down of America" brings with it many slow insidious side effects and has led to the decline of Democracy. Civics and History are critical tools in the fight for political self-determination, but it seems we are no longer citizens and have become just people-that-live-in-America. "Citizens" should not be just passive residents in a society; the role of "citizen" obligates us to participate in creating the society we want.

I'm not a Republican OR a Democrat and I think my beliefs are widely shared by the people of (if not the leadership of) both parties. Both of the major parties have lost their way. The two party system is broken; The Republican leaders have fallen off the right side of the political landscape and the Democrats are no

longer the opposition party. They have become Republican-lite and with very few exceptions mirror the Republicans subservience to the Corporate donors that now rule our failing country.

[We are no longer “#1, #1, #1!” unless you are refering to poverty, hunger, infant mortality, bloated military, crumbling infrastructure or any of the other sad realities that we now lead in.](#) I believe that government should work for the poor, the middle class, and the wealthy alike. I want a society that cares for its members and protects the commons, and I believe in the basic principles of accountability, freedom, and rule of law that people have died for for more than two centuries. I believe that corporations should not have the rights of people and that they have far too much control over our society. I think we do better as a country when everyone plays by the same rules.

With all the years I've put into Tom Dwyer Automotive Services it would have been impossible to keep my views out of the office even if I tried. For example, like every business we're asked to sponsor many worthy causes. We obviously can't support them all, so I choose what I think are important issues like [single-payer health care](#) or [climate change](#). You'd get bored if our [newsletter](#) was about cars month after month so we try to bring you information on topics like [police militarization](#) or the [federal budget](#). When our company chose to advertise [we picked a fledgling Progressive station](#) as an alternative to the Rush Limbaughs of the world, and instead of driving clients away the response was very positive.

Business has always been tied to politics... the titles “Merchant Prince” and “Robber Baron” have a long history. The [British East India Company](#) played quite a role in our country's earliest days, and “What's good for GM” was once assumed to be good for the country. [Standard Oil at home](#), [United Fruit in Central America](#), and [Halliburton in the Middle East](#) are three notorious names in global politics. [Fossil fuel companies lobby for laws](#) to continue profits even as the planet melts down while [ALEC now puts lobbyists in the position of actually writing bills](#). The closely held [religious views of Hobby Lobby and Chick-fil-A](#) influenced recent decisions at the Supreme Court. BIG businesses have never shied away from politics even when they were being quiet about it, but for SMALL business silence has always been the rule.

That's been changing for a while. [Local Chambers of Commerce](#) never go beyond local politica and the [NFBF seems to use small business as a fig leaf](#) to advance big business agendas, but the evisceration of Main Street and the Middle Class have forced small businesses into

politics for self-defense, if nothing else. Groups like the [Main Street Alliance](#) and [National Small Business Association](#) give small companies a way to bind together on issues bigger than their own industry or business district. Increasingly, small businesses aren't waiting to bind together but are taking stands on their own. Individual small business voiced concerns throughout the Obama administration, and Trump's recent [travel ban prompted thousands of small businesses to close in protest](#). More and more businesses are putting up signs, or making donations, or hosting events that resonate with their own ideas of politics.

And customers seem to like it. The sterile, bland, and impersonal service at large companies comes from searching for a common denominator between ever-larger swaths of the population. Smaller companies serve their smaller niches more responsively, and so have more room to add distinct personality to their businesses. This gives their customer an advantage. Rather than patronizing some Big Gray Company with an obscure agenda the customer may not agree with, they know what the company stands for and can choose to support them... or not. Politics in business is a two-way street; a company can speak out but they'll have to stand by it when their customers vote with their dollars.

I think politics does play a role in business but not a primary one. I don't push or preach politics and many clients don't even notice or care, and that's as it should be. No company should offer products, services, or employment based on a political stance. Our shop isn't a political indoctrination facility for our employees or our clients; we don't hire people based on their t-shirts or decide which cars to service based on their bumper stickers. If Rush Limbaugh lived in Portland we'd proudly give his vehicle the same care and attention we gave Thom Hartmann when he lived here.

Yes, politics is important and I don't shy away from it, but I run a business. I will never forget that our most important goal is our core mission statement: To deliver our clients impeccable, professional service beyond the rest of the industry while taking the best possible care of the people that make Tom Dwyer Automotive Services possible. I started working for myself in 1981 after my last-ever employer asked me to perform unnecessary work on a customer's vehicle. After pushing back unsuccessfully the wheels on my tool box went into action and I've never looked back.

Take care and make a great day





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!



Referral Reward Program

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 Quarterly and Yearly awards as well. It couldn't be easier!

We've made 12 donations for \$514 since our last count; a total of 572 donations totaling \$24,919 since the program began!

Here's who our clients chose to help in January and February...

[NW Sarcoma Foundation](#) by Lynn G.

[Dove Lewis Animal Hospital](#) by Kim S.

[ACLU Oregon](#) by Bill S.

[Portland Playhouse](#) by Kimberly H.

[World Wildlife Fund](#) by Amy H.

[Urban Gleaners](#) by Linda C.

[Multnomah County CASA](#) by Elizabeth A.

[Friends of Menucha](#) by Laura M.

[Blanchet House](#) by Liska M.

[Pongo Fund](#) by Twila M.

[Union Gospel Mission](#) by Shannon L. and Mark F.



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

Parmesan Baked Cod



This is one of the simplest recipes Drew's had in quite a while; just five ingredients gives a goof-proof way to keep oven-baked fish moist. Mary Hoppe of Pewaukee, Wisconsin shared the original... "My mom is one of the best cooks in the world, and she shared this recipe with me. It's a favorite!" And you know if the recipe comes from Pewaukee, it's gotta be good!

Ingredients:

- 4 cod fillets (4 oz each)
- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 4 green onions, chopped
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Place cod in an 8-in. square baking dish coated with cooking spray. Mix remaining ingredients; spread over fillets.
2. Bake uncovered until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork, 15-20 minutes.



Prep time 0:20, Total time: 0:40, Serves 4
Original recipe in Taste of Home

Health Notes

Cure for cancer! Hooray! Maybe? Maybe not.



We were surprised with some unequivocally good news recently when Israeli scientists announced a cure for cancer! Clickbait covered the Intertubes as the news got out, but then the other shoe dropped. Other scientists from around the world chimed in with awkward questions like “was their researched published or reviewed?” or “ Were human trials complete?” And these questions were only part of the story... conspiracy theorists were already warning that [Big Cancer would be gearing up to crush ANY cure](#), ESPECIALLY if it was proven effective. Still, when it comes to your Health cancer is a big factor, so this month we bring you a look at the Big Announcement and whether it has merit at all...

[A Cure For Cancer? Israeli Scientists May Have Found One](#), by Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman on Jerusalem Post, Jan 2019

“Our cancer cure will be effective from day one, will last a duration of a few weeks and will have no or minimal side-effects at a much lower cost than most other treatments on the market,” Aridor said.

[7 Recent Israeli Breakthroughs In Cancer Research and Detection](#), by NoCemels Team on NoCamels.com, Apr 2018

Israeli biotech startups too have been on the cutting-edge of innovative solutions for early detection and clinical pathology systems. Although hundreds of projects and trials are ongoing, here are seven recent developments in cancer research and treatment from Israel so far this year.

[New Drug May Lead To Cure For Aggressive Brain Cancer, Israeli Researchers Say](#), by Shoshanna Solomon in The Times of Israel, Dec 2018

10% of animals treated with SIXAC gained ‘extended life’ and the drug ‘actually cured them of the disease,’ Sheba Medical Center reports

[Israeli Cancer Cure: Medical Miracle or Fake News?](#) by Ty Bollinger, TheTruthAboutCancer.com, Feb 2019

But every few years we see another story about a groundbreaking new miracle drug that’s supposed to totally eradicate cancer. And every time these articles come out, they provide false hope to people who deserve better. So, let’s look at the Israeli cancer claim. Let’s look at how and why stories like this keep making their way onto our screens. And let’s find a way to sort through what’s real and what isn’t.

[Experts Decry Israeli Team's Claims That They Have Found The Cure For Cancer](#), Robin Seaton Jefferson on Forbes.com, Jan 2019

Cancer experts and others in the United States and abroad were less than enthusiastic about a team of Israeli scientists’ statements that it would cure cancer in the coming year. In fact, some were outright incensed by the claims. Yet even so, many non-experts refused to give up hope. And the company itself stood up to its claims, telling The Times of Israel today that it simply could not afford to publish papers on its research.

[Cancer Experts React To Claim About Finding A Cure Within A Year](#), by Yaron Steinbuch, New York Post, Jan 2019

Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, said in a blog Tuesday that “it goes without saying, we all share the aspirational hope that they are correct. Unfortunately, we must be aware that this is far from proven as an effective treatment for people with cancer, let alone a cure.”

[Cancer Cure? Israeli Scientists Think They Found One](#), 4WBZ CBS Boston, Jan 2019

“We believe we will offer in a year’s time a complete cure for cancer,” said Dan Aridor, chairman of the board of Accelerated Evolution Biotechnologies Ltd., which is developing the new treatment.

[An Israeli Company Claims That They Will Have A Cure For Cancer In A Year. Don't Believe Them.](#), by Victoria Forster on Forbes.com, Jan 2019

The New York Post and The Jerusalem Post both recently featured articles about Accelerated Evolution Biotechnologies Ltd (AEBI), a company founded in 2000 from the ITEK Weizmann technology incubator. There are a number of very bold claims in both articles, many which are unsubstantiated with no evidence provided by the company. People can largely say whatever they like, after all, but it is just unusual for biotech/pharma companies to do so without significant evidence to back up their claims.

[‘Cancer Cure’ Doubted As Israeli Team Claims It Can’t Afford To Publish Findings](#), by Soshona Solomon in The Times of Israel, Jan 219

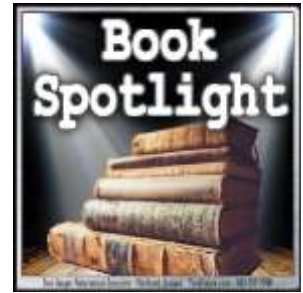
Foreign cancer specialists are criticizing claims by a team of Israeli researchers who say they have developed a concept that will pave the way to a cure for cancer, with one US expert dismissing it as likely “another in a long line of spurious, irresponsible and ultimately cruel false promises for cancer patients.” The CEO of the company behind the research told The Times of Israel on Tuesday that it has not published its research in medical journals, as is the norm, because it “can’t afford” to do so, but that the results of its pre-clinical trials have been “very good.” Several Israeli experts contacted by The Times of Israel declined to comment on the claim, some precisely because they were not familiar with the research.

[‘Highly Irresponsible:’ Israeli Company Claims to Have a Cure for Cancer, but Scientists Say Not So Fast](#), by JTA and Marcy Oster on Haaretz.com, Feb 2019

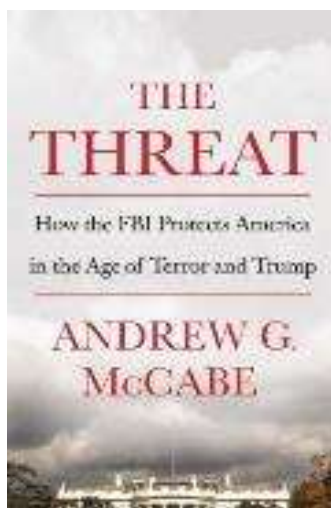
Fellow scientists quickly rejected the claims, calling them “spurious,” “highly irresponsible,” “unsubstantiated” and even “cruel.” The skeptical scientists note that the research group has not published any findings to back up their claims, as is traditional in the science community. Morad told The Times of Israel earlier this week that it has not published its research in medical journals because it “can’t afford” to do so. But reputable scientific journals, that are peer reviewed and highly respected, do not charge to publish serious scientific research, though the process can be rigorous.

Book Spotlight

“The Threat” by Andrew McCabe



The political tell-all book is an art form in itself, giving a grand stage for payback, rumor, gossip, and occasionally, behind-the-scenes insight. No President likes the glaring limelight of these books, but they may be particularly valuable in the time of Trump. Not because they show us hidden information about what’s going on, but because they consistently confirm that the public view we get is just as bad, in reality, as it appears. The latest book to hit the shelves is by the fired-hours-before-he-retired deputy FBI director Andrew McCabe, “The Threat- How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump”, and for the Spotlight this month we’ll turn to the Washington Post’s Greg Miller for his review...



[“The Threat- How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump”](#) by Andrew McCabe

Greg Miller is national security correspondent for The Washington Post, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the author of “The Apprentice: Trump, Russia and the Subversion of American Democracy.”

He didn’t read intelligence reports and mixed up classified material with what he had seen in newspaper clips. He seemed confused about the structure and purpose of organizations and

firing of FBI chief James Comey, the appointment of special counsel Robert S. Mueller, and the ensuing scorched-earth effort by Trump and his Republican allies to discredit the Russia probe and destroy public confidence in the nation’s top law enforcement agency. The work is insightful and occasionally provocative. The subtitle, “How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump,” all but equates the danger posed by al-Qaeda and the Islamic State to that of the current president.

became overwhelmed when meetings covered multiple subjects. He blamed immigrants for nearly every societal problem and uttered racist sentiments with shocking callousness.

But overall, the book isn’t the comprehensive account McCabe was presumably capable of delivering. He seems reluctant to reveal details about his role in conflicts at key moments, rarely shedding meaningful new light on areas of the Trump-Russia-FBI timeline established by Mueller, news organizations and previous authors.

This isn’t how President Trump is depicted in a new book by former deputy FBI director Andrew McCabe. Instead, it’s McCabe’s account of what it was like to work for then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The FBI was better off when “you all only hired Irishmen,” Sessions said in one diatribe about the bureau’s workforce. “They were drunks but they could be trusted. Not like all those new people with nose rings and tattoos — who knows what they’re doing?”

McCabe is a keen observer of detail, particularly when it comes to the president’s pettiness. He describes how Trump arranges Oval Office encounters so that his advisers are forced to sit before him in “little schoolboy chairs” across the Resolute Desk. Prior presidents met with aides on couches in the center of the room, but Trump is always angling to make others feel smaller.

It’s a startling portrait that suggests that the Trump administration’s reputation for baseness and dysfunction has, if anything, been understated and too narrowly attributed to the president.

McCabe was known as a taciturn figure in the bureau, in contrast to the more garrulous Comey. His book reflects that penchant for brevity, with just 264 pages of text. Even so, he documents the president’s attempts to impair the Russia probe and his incessant attacks on the FBI, describing the stakes in sweeping, convincing language.

The description of Sessions is one of the most striking revelations in “The Threat,” a memoir that adds to a rapidly expanding collection of score-settling insider accounts of Trump-era Washington. McCabe’s is an important voice because of his position at the top of the bureau during a critical series of events, including the

“Between the world of chaos and the world of order stands the rule of law,” McCabe writes. “Yet now the rule of law is under attack, including from the president himself.”

Inevitably, the book includes disturbing new detail about Trump’s subservience to Russian President Vladimir Putin. During an Oval Office briefing in July 2017, Trump refused to believe U.S. intelligence reports that North Korea had test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile — a test that Kim Jong Un had called a Fourth of July “gift” to “the arrogant Americans.” Trump dismissed the missile launch as a “hoax,” McCabe writes. “He thought that North Korea did not have the capability to launch such missiles. He said he knew this because Vladimir Putin had told him so.”

McCabe, of course, has some baggage that hurt the reputation he’d built over 22 years at the bureau and raised questions about his credibility. He was accused by the FBI inspector general of making false statements about contacts with the media. McCabe also has ample motivation to lash out at the president. He had been a target of Trump insults and taunts for nearly two years by the time he was fired, mainly because McCabe’s wife, a pediatrician, had run for state office in Virginia with the financial backing of longtime Clinton ally and former governor Terry McAuliffe.

Trump seized on the connection to insinuate that McCabe had stifled the bureau’s probe of Hillary Clinton’s emails — a claim debunked by internal FBI investigations. Trump seems never to have let go of the issue, even as he dangled the FBI director job before McCabe, sneering in one conversation that it “must have been really tough” when McCabe’s wife lost her race. “To lose,” Trump said, driving the dagger further. “To be a loser.”

When McCabe was finally forced out, it was in the most petty fashion possible. He was fired just 26 hours before his own self-declared retirement date. Trump was gleeful. “Andrew McCabe FIRED,” he tweeted. “A great day for the hard working men and women of the FBI.” But for all of the understandable alarm and indignation that McCabe registers, he seems, like other Trump dissidents, never to have found reason or opportunity to stand up to the president. There are paragraphs in “The Threat” that recount in detail McCabe’s inner outrage — but no indication that those thoughts escaped his lips in the presence of Trump.

What is it that makes otherwise proud public servants, Comey included, willing to subject themselves to Trump-inflicted indignities? Deference to the office? A determination to cling to power? A view of oneself as an indispensable institutional savior? At one point, McCabe puts his odds of getting the FBI director’s position at “one-in-ten-million,” but he goes through a job interview with Trump that feels like a charade from the outset.

One of the most frustrating aspects of “The Threat” is that it steers around scenes where McCabe might have provided more detail or insight. He is known to have had a series of tense interactions with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein in the aftermath of Comey’s firing, each suspicious of his counterpart and convinced that the other should recuse himself from the Russia probe.

McCabe was also witness to secret conversations in which Rosenstein raised the possibility that officials should wear a wire in meetings with the president. You won’t learn about any of that in “The Threat.” McCabe skims over the conduct of two of his FBI subordinates, Lisa Page and Peter Strzok, whose text exchanges during an illicit affair included disparaging remarks about Trump and, when they were later revealed, fueled doubts about the organization’s impartiality.

When first confronted with the details of the Page-Strzok texts, McCabe was asked by the inspector general whether he knew that Page — his closest legal adviser — had had interactions with the press. McCabe said he didn’t, though in fact he had authorized those contacts. In the book, he downplays that false testimony as a momentary mental lapse during a confusing conversation — which sounds a lot like the excuses offered by countless defendants who find themselves being prosecuted by the FBI for lying.

McCabe’s disdain for Trump is rivaled only by his contempt for Sessions. He questions the former attorney general’s mental faculties, saying that he had “trouble focusing, particularly when topics of conversation strayed from a small number of issues.” Logs on the electronic tablets used to deliver the President’s Daily Brief to Sessions came back with no indication he had ever punched in the passcode. The attorney general’s views on race and religion are described as reprehensible. Sessions “believed that Islam — inherently — advocated extremism” and ceaselessly sought to draw connections between crime and immigration. “Where’s he from?” was his first question about a suspect. The next: “Where are his parents from?”

McCabe notes that he would like to “say much more” about his firing and questions of his candor toward other bureau officials, but that he is restrained from doing so because he is pursuing a lawsuit. There is one area, however, in which he is considerably more forthcoming than Comey. He acknowledges that the bureau made major miscalculations in its handling of the Clinton probe in 2016 and its decision to discuss it publicly. “As a matter of policy, the FBI does everything possible not to influence elections,” he writes. “In 2016, it seems we did.”

Humorousness

Step up your game for business meetings



The Business world can be a cut throat rumble, a daily no-holds-barred fight for existence... or it can be pretty boring. If you find yourself in an unending business meeting with no way out and no real idea why you're there, then don't waste your time staring at the clock! Waste your time trying to make yourself look like the business guru who's too important to be in the meeting in the first place!

#1 DRAW A VENN DIAGRAM

It doesn't matter if your Venn diagram is wildly inaccurate, in fact, the more inaccurate the better.

Even before you've put that marker down, your colleagues will begin fighting about what exactly the labels should be and how big the circles should be, etc.

At this point, you can stink back to your chair and go back to playing Candy Crush.

#2 TRANSLATE PERCENTAGES INTO FRACTIONS

25% of people clicked on this button.

So, about one in four.

If someone says "About 25% of all users click on this button," quickly chime in with, "So about 1 in 4," and make a note of it.

Everyone will nod their head in agreement, secretly impressed and envious of your quick math skills.

#3 ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO "TAKE A STEP BACK"

Can we take a step back here?

There comes a point in most meetings when everyone is clamoring to accept you. This is a great point to go, "Gee, gee, gee, can we take a step back here?"

Follow it up with a quick, "What problems are we really trying to solve?" and, boom! You've bought yourself another hour of looking smart.

#4 NOD CONTINUOUSLY WHILE PRETENDING TO TAKE NOTES

Always bring a notepad with you. Your reputation of technology will be ruined.

Take notes by simply writing down one word from every sentence that you hear.

Nod continuously while doing so.

#5 REPEAT THE LAST THING THE ENGINEER SAID, BUT VERY VERY SLOWLY

Let me just repeat that...

After the engineer offers his device words, chime in with, "Let me just repeat that," and repeat exactly what he just said, but very, very slowly.

Yes, his brilliance has been transferred to you.

#6 ASK "WILL THIS SCALE?" NO MATTER WHAT IT IS

No one even really knows what that means, but it's a good catch-all question that generally applies and drives engineers nuts.

Will this scale?

#7 PACE AROUND THE ROOM

Whenever someone gets up from the table and walks around, don't you immediately respect them?

I know I do.

Walk around.

Go to the corner and lean against the wall. Take a deep contemplative sigh.

Everyone will be looking at you and wondering what you're thinking.

#8 ASK THE PRESENTER TO GO BACK A SLIDE

Could you go back one slide?

It doesn't matter what the presentation you about this out, it's immediately make you look like you're paying closer attention than everyone else is.

Don't have anything to point out? Just say something like, "I'm not sure what these numbers mean."

#9 STEP OUT FOR A VERY IMPORTANT PHONE CALL

When you step out of a meeting for an "important" phone call, everyone will realize just how busy and important you are.

They'll say, "Wow, this meeting is important, so if he has something even more important than this, well, we better not bother him."

Sorry, I have to take this...

#10 MAKE FUN OF YOURSELF

People love self-deprecating humor.

Say things like, "Maybe we can just use the keychain from my divorce," or "God I wish I was dead."

They'll laugh, value your honesty, consider contacting HR, but most importantly, they'll see you're the someone looking person in the room.

I haven't heard anything you've said for the past hour.

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!



What's the difference between a Socialist and a *Democratic Socialist*?



There's new winds blowing through Washington and across the country. Bernie broke the ban on "Socialism" in 2016, and now the Dems are running on his policies and the Reps have to at least explain why they want metastatic capitalism instead of just assuming the rubes will take it for granted. But the smear is on... Trump's State of the Union dwelt on the unnamed evils of Socialism by conflating it with Communism and Totalitarianism. It's unlikely that the next year's conversation on Socialism will be carried out with balance and good will, but that doesn't mean you have to be ill-informed. Here's just one article to start you out on the REAL issues... the rest is up to you.

Time's up for the insects



Another day, another dismal prediction about the looming environmental apocalypse. There's so many stories like that, all of vital importance, but easy to get lost in the storm. But insects... "Insects are dying so rapidly, they could disappear within 100 years, according to the first global scientific review on their decline. A third of species are endangered and more than 40 percent face the threat of extinction in the next few decades." "It is very rapid. In 10 years you will have a quarter less, in 50 years only half left and in 100 years you will have none." "If insect species losses cannot be halted, this will have catastrophic consequences for both the planet's ecosystems and for the survival of mankind."

SNOW DAY at the Oregon Zoo



Weather reports called for a Portland Snowpocalypse with a foot of snow, layers of ice, and a shutdown of the city, but it was pretty much a bust with only a couple spotty inches in Portland proper. The Oregon Zoo closed, but the animals couldn't just stay home... they had to get out and play! We promise, no one will be able to view this video without one "Awww...", no matter how involuntary.

Life... over the edge



Our Facebook feed has recently included several videos of amazing feats of parkour, bicycling, and outdoor adventure. These aren't our usual content, but they've been some of the most popular vids we've shared and thought to group them here. Check out...

- [Stunning staircase parkour](#)
- [Jaw-dropping building-to-building parkour](#)
- [Mountain biking on a 8" mountain ridge path](#)
- [Surfing a 100' wave in Portugal](#)

News To Make You Furious

Hell's Accountant



The Devil is in the details, and this month we found a detail that will make you truly Furious. You may know that Wage (earned) income, the main type of income for most of the Middle Class, is taxed at 24% while Capital Gains (unearned) income, the main type for the Leisure Class, is taxed at 15%. (Didn't know that? Well then, we've probably already made you Furious!) But it gets worse. To use the clickbait phrasing, here's the "one little trick" that the Wealthy use to avoid even that paltry 15%...

Middle Classers, we people-who-work, pay taxes on earned (wage) income when we earn it but unearned (passive investment) income is different. You can hold an investment as long as you like, but when you sell it you're taxed on the *difference* between the initial and sale value.

So here's the trick... suppose you buy \$1M in stock in ABCinc. You watch it grow to \$10M and chuckle through the years because that \$9M gain is NEVER taxed... you haven't sold! But then you croak. Your \$10M investment is passed down to your avaricious little moppets, who leave the ABC stock alone until it's gained another \$1M. Now they sell it for \$11M and have to think about taxes. They don't have to think too hard though, because they won't be taxed on the \$11M... **they're only taxed on \$1M, the difference between what the stock was worth when they inherited and when they sold it!** The \$9M growth YOU experienced is never touched, and your dynastic wealth is transferred unscathed!

If that's enough to get you on the warpath, then this should push you over the edge... remember that this is just ONE trick the 1% use to protect their wealth. There are thousands of slimy little loopholes like this, all implemented by lobbyists and tracked by accountants the Middle Class can never afford. The most infuriating thing about this and all the other inheritance tricks isn't that they're abuses. The most bile-churning fact is that they're all perfectly, absolutely, say-it-with-a-straight-face legal.

Digging Deeper...

[If It Weren't For The Estate Tax, The Majority Of The Superwealthy's Money Would Never Be Taxed](#), by Matt O'Brien in Washington Post, Feb 2019

[Inside the Secretive World of Tax-Avoidance Experts](#), by Brooke Harrington in The Atlantic, Oct 2015

[6 Asset Protection Strategies To Shield Your Wealth](#), by Robert Pagliarini in Forbes, Oct 2013

[Earned Income Is Taxed Differently Than Unearned Income](#), by Dana Anspach on The Balance, Dec 2018

[The 3 Types of Income and How They're Taxed](#), by Matthew Frankel on The Motley Fool, Sep 2018



Share some knowledge with your friends! Or, at least with random strangers stuck behind you in traffic. Check out our new Custom Tom Dwyer Bumper Stickers in our Lobby Library on your next visit. And as always, they're FREE to clients!

[Fact Sheet: Taxing Wealthy Americans](#), by Americans for Tax Fairness

[Here's Where The Super Rich Keep Their Money](#), by Emmie Martin on CNBC.com, Feb 2018

[The Distribution of Major Tax Expenditures in the Individual Income Tax System](#), Congressional Budget Office, May 2013

[Why American Workers Pay Twice as Much in Taxes as Wealthy Investors](#), by Ben Steverman on Bloomberg News, Sep 2017