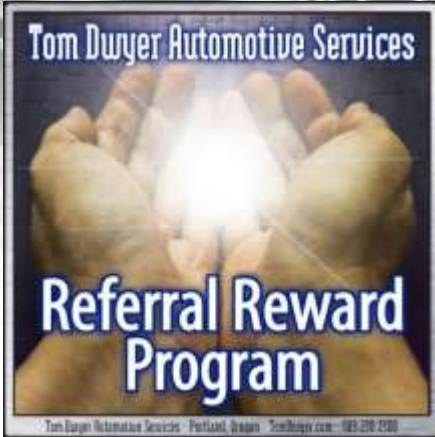




“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for July, 2020



Please let us donate to your favorite charity

We've already given over \$28,000 in our Referral Reward Program!



Greetings from OCCUPIED PORTLAND

A report from the front row seats to history.



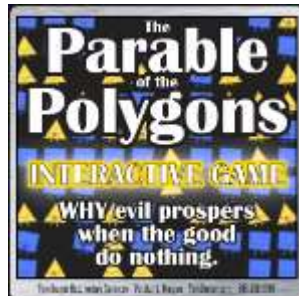
Knock, knock, who's there? The Funny Page!

Toons, puzzles, memes and more

Our Popcorn Shorts



World championship marble racing... a new world of sports



This interactive game explains WHY evil prospers when the good do nothing



This is Mars. Go there now.



Strange Oregon vacation getaways.

Our Monthly Columns



Tom's Tidbits- Close to home. Too close.

Shop Talk- Do you follow us on Facebook? Here's the deal with Lee



Drew's Kitchen- 3-cheese Slow Cooker Lasagna

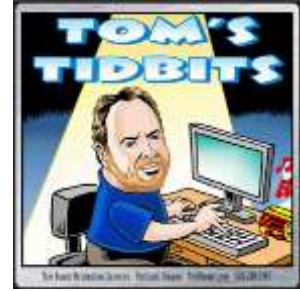
News To Make You Furious-

Don't like paying for other folks pollution? Frack you.



Tom's Tidbits

The Fed's Occupation hits close to home. Too close.



Greetings,

Fury. Absolute, blinding fury. That's the only word I can find to describe my feelings that my home of Portland is currently occupied by [illegal, unidentified, paramilitary pseudocops](#). In the short time they've been here, these mercenaries have [picked up American citizens off the streets of an American city without justification or authority](#), have [shot unarmed and non-violent protesters in the face](#), have [beaten non-resisting protesters with clubs](#), and teargassed children, adults, vets and the elderly. Even our Mayor has sampled the hospitality gasses of an ongoing assault on Portland, and [the President promises we're just the first, and it's going to get worse](#).

[We'll have much more to say about the specifics of our Portland protests in our Feature article this month](#), but right now I'd like to address an ugly truth they've uncovered. I'm furious because *my City, my rights, my freedoms* are threatened by faceless, unaccountable thugs. I've spoken out about many injustices over the years, yet it's somehow different this time. ... maybe it's different this time because it's *my ox* being gored.

The Black Life Matters movement attempts to peacefully highlight major injustices. Everyone's aware of a myriad of injustices faced by others. We may get angry enough to hope justice prevails or even work for change, but humans get angriest when we face *personal* threats. Societal problems aren't 'real' problems until they affect 'us', and 'White America' hasn't been concerned with the pain of 'Black America' because *it hasn't been a personal threat to White people*. Black neighborhoods and cities have been systematically occupied and oppressed by police and government since slavery ended, so for them the threats have always been very personal and very real. Each daily affront was another personal threat, another day of dismissal, another year of ignored pleas, another decade of stifling outrage, until Derek Chauvin crushed it all like the larynx of a defenseless man.

A 'return to law and order' isn't possible because *there is no law and order to return to*. Street beatings are not order, especially when the beaten have no appeal to the law. *There was no justice before, so there is no peace now*. We must realize and internalize the truth that the problems of 'Black Americans' aren't separate from, but part of the problems of ALL Americans. If we want 'law and order' *it's up to us to create it*, not go back to when we *pretended* it existed.

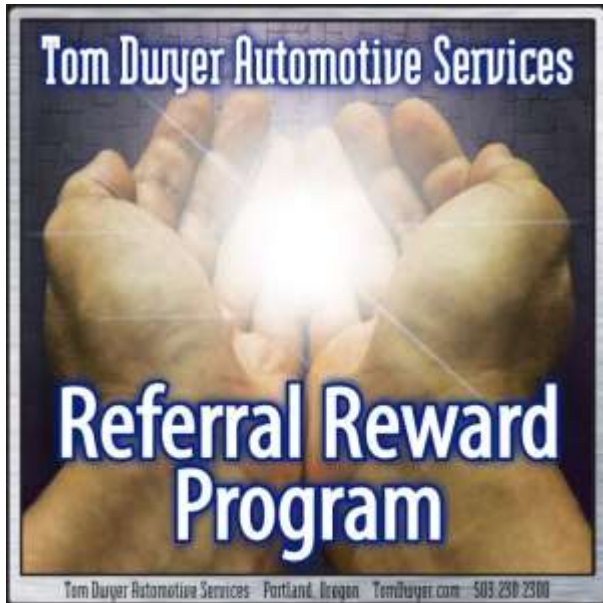
The Black Lives Matter protests have shown an ugly truth, and it's not that radical leftist mayors are trying to destroy the suburbs. The truth is that 'Black problems' ARE 'White problems', and white America is only now waking up to accept it. I'm ashamed that, angry as I have been, I haven't been angrier about the systemic persecution of Black people. Any division that makes Black oppression "their" problem is a lie... when any American is threatened, it's a *personal* threat to us all.

Yes, I'm furious that we've been invaded. The only bright side is that Trump has unified the interests of 'Black America' with 'America'. They were never separate, but now the illusion can never be restored. Let's try justice instead.

Make a great day,

Digging Deeper...

Anyone could spend several lifetimes digging into the issues around the Portland protests and Black Lives Matter. We have hundreds of links we'd like to share, but we've included them all in this month's Feature Article "Greetings from OCCUPIED PORTLAND".



Let us donate to YOUR favorite charity

We've already given over \$28,000 in our Referral Reward Program!

We're very proud that most *new* clients of Tom Dwyer Automotive Services find us through our *existing* clients... people telling their friends and family what they've found with us. We used to say 'thank you' for your Referrals with certificates for our Minor Interval Service, but in 2014 Tom started thinking... if a client has a self-interest in

making a referral, doesn't that 'taint' it a little? Even unconsciously? That was the start of our Referral Reward program and now we say 'thank you' by making a donation to any charity (or other non-profit group) you choose. It's a win-win-win... we still get to show you how valuable your word-of-mouth is, a deserving charity gets a little boost, and you can recommend us with absolutely no conflict of interest! This month we thought we'd share the details of the Referral Reward Program with any new clients, introduce you to some of the groups who've benefitted so far, and explain why you may not have gotten a Referral Reward call from us even if you've referred someone...

The Takeaway...

Before we dig deep, we want to focus on one basic idea...

Since the Referral Reward Program started in 2014, we've donated \$28,233 to hundreds of organizations large and small. (as of 7/21/2020)

and

It's easy for YOU to participate!

Referral Reward Program details

- For each new client you refer to us we'll **donate 20% (up to \$50) of the qualifying purchases from their first invoice** to the non-profit group of your choice.
- We'll be thankful for everyone you send us, but **oil changes, tires, and batteries won't count** toward their qualifying purchases.
- At the end of the year our clients vote on a **Yearly Winner** from all the groups we donated to through the year. We make an **additional donation of \$1,000.00** to that cause.

- The person you refer **must have a 15-years-old-or-newer vehicle of a type we service**. Sorry, but our 15-years-old-or-newer policy still has to apply, and we can't help with their Lamborghinis or semi-trucks. (We should remind you that the "15-years-old-or-newer" restriction applies **ONLY TO NEW CLIENTS**. If you're an existing client and we've been servicing YOUR older vehicle, we'll gladly continue to do so!)
- **Referrals don't have to come singly**; you can coordinate your group to come in as a whole. In fact, we have a [sample letter](#) you might want to use to tell them about the program.
- **You can pick any group or organization**, preferably with a 501c3 designation, but that's not required. They can be political, social justice, environmental, recreational, religious, educational, or any other purpose YOU care about.
- **We prefer (but don't require) donations to smaller groups**. Big groups like the Red Cross, Mercy Corps, or Oregon Food Bank do amazing work. Many of our clients choose these groups and we gladly give to them, but our donations aren't huge (max \$50) and may get lost in the noise of their bigger donations. Smaller, usually local, groups don't have the operating budgets or ability to go fund hunting, and \$50 to these groups can be a huge boost.

Are there groups you WON'T donate to?

We reserve the right to say 'no' to any group for any reason, but we've only rarely had to do it. Our Referral Reward program is designed to thank YOU, so we do our best to donate to any group YOU care about. If for ANY reason we decide not to accept them we'll have you pick another; in the UNIMAGINABLE situation that we couldn't find ANY group you wanted to give to then we'd turn your Referral Reward into an in-shop credit for future services. Like we said though, our goal is to give to the people YOU think need it most.

- **We won't donate to a group that won't ACCEPT our donation**. For example, several clients wanted us to donate to Bernie Sanders but the Bernie campaign isn't allowed to accept corporate donations (and Tom Dwyer Automotive is a corporation). We found a 'support Bernie' group instead, [BerniePDX](#), which worked out even better... one client is now an active member of the group!
- **We won't donate to a group if we CAN'T FIND them**. One client wanted to donate to a small relief group in Nigeria (which sounds like a scam, but turned out not to be). After several attempts over about two months we finally gave up and donated to Mercy Corps instead. International donations can be tricky; we'll try if you want but we'll recommend a US-based (or at least large and well-known international) charity instead.
- No one's ever asked and we don't expect our clients ever would, but **we won't donate to hate groups**. No KKK, Proud Boys, Nazis, or suchlike. If you want to pick one of these groups then you can go pound sand. We'll give you a coupon for an oil change at a Quick Lube (because we're still grateful for your referral) but you'll never hear from us again.

Why haven't I gotten a Referral Reward? I've referred lots of people!

First, we'd like to apologize... your word-of-mouth keeps our doors open, and we would love to be able to thank EACH person individually! Unfortunately, we don't always know who's doing the Referring. The only way we know how a new client found out about us is to ask them on their first visit, and we use their answer as their Referral source. Even if you sent someone to us they may not give your name as the Referrer. While they may have first heard about us through you, they may have later checked us out on Yelp or finally decided to come in just because we were convenient. When we ask, they may tell us "Web search" or "convenient location" instead of your name, and then we don't know there's a Reward to issue. We can't guarantee all your Referrals will give your name as a source, but if you want the charity you care about to get your Reward then it's up to you. Make sure your friend knows to "tell 'em I sent you!"

What groups HAVE you donated to?

We've tried to round up a complete list of everyone we've given to over the past 6 years (below), and though it's pretty thorough we apologize if we missed someone. Every group name is a link to the groups' website, so please click and get to know them. They can ALL tell you exactly why your money would be so well invested with them!

Here are the recipients of our Quarterly and Yearly Referral Rewards...

2014- The Program was just starting, and we didn't have Quarterly Awards yet.

2014 Yearly Award - [Oregon Food Bank](#)

2015 Quarterly Awards - [Artichoke Music](#), [Janus Youth Services](#), [Madison High School](#), [RoseHaven](#)

2015 Yearly Award – [HealthCare for All Oregon \(HCAO\)](#)

2016 Quarterly Awards – [Medical Teams International](#), [Randall Children's Hospital](#), [Friends of the Columbia River Gorge](#)

2016 Yearly Award – [Planned Parenthood of Columbia/Willamette](#)

2017 Quarterly Awards – [Dougy Center](#), [ACLU of Oregon](#), no 3rd award

2017 Yearly Award- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

2018 Quarterly Awards- [Pear](#), [Multnomah County CASA](#), no 3rd award

2018 Yearly Winner- [Immigration and Refugee Community Organization](#)

2018 Quarterly Awards- We ended quarterly awards, and increased the Yearly award to \$1000

2019 Yearly- [Pongo Fund](#)

And here are the recipients of our monthly Individual awards...

[ACLU Foundation of Oregon](#) (seven) [Act Blue](#) [Alex Rovello Memorial Fund](#)
[All Classical Public Media, Inc.](#) [American Diabetes Association](#) [American Heart Association](#)
[American Red Cross](#) (two) [Amnesty International](#) [Animal Rescue Care Fund](#) [App Camp For Girls](#)
[Aris D. Bishop Memorial Scholarship Fund](#) [Artichoke Community Music](#) (four)
[Audobon Society](#) [Autism Service Dogs of America](#) [Bark](#) (two)
[Basic Rights Oregon](#) [Bernie Sanders 2016](#) [Blanchet House](#)

[Best Friends Animal Society](#) (two) [Bicycle Transportation Alliance](#) (two)
[Bonneville Environmental Foundation](#) [Boys and Girls Aid Society](#) [Bravo Oregon](#)
[Breast Cancer Society, Inc.](#) [Camp Tamarack](#) [CASA](#) [Cat Adoption Team](#)
[Cancer Society of Oregon](#) [Catholic Charities](#) [Center for Appropriate Transport](#)
[Central City Concern](#) (two) [Center for Biological Diversity](#)
[Children's Book Bank](#) [Childrens' Cancer Association](#) (three)
[Clackamas County Children's Commission Head Start](#) [Clackamas Women's Services](#) (two)
[Clay Street Table](#) [Clear Fund \(Givewell\)](#) (two) [Cleveland High School Foundation](#)
[Community Music Center](#) [CYO Camp Howard](#) [Doctors Without Borders](#) (two)
[Dove Lewis Animal Hospital](#) (two) [Doernbecher Childrens Hospital](#) (two) [Dougy Center](#)
[Dzogchen Shri Singha of Portland](#) [Equine Outreach](#) (two) [Esther's Pantry Food Bank](#)
[Eugene Waldorf School](#) [FACT Oregon](#) [Family Dogs New Life](#) (four)
[Fences For Fido](#) [Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon](#)
[First Book](#) [Friends of Columbia River Gorge](#) (two) [Friends of Menucha](#)
[Friends of Trees](#) (two) [Friends of Tryon Creek](#) (two) [Fund for Portland Public Schools](#)
[Future Educational Films](#) [Generation Serve](#)
[Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington](#) [GreenPeace](#)
[Greater Portland Bible Church](#) [Grout Elementary School](#)
[GROW Healthy Kids and Communities](#) [Growing Gardens](#) (two)
[Habitat For Humanity](#) (two) [HHH Memorial Foundation, Notes Of Hope](#)
[Help Holley fight Leukemia GoFundMe](#) [Hygiene 4 All](#)
[Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization](#) (two) [Junior League Portland](#)
[It Gets Better](#) [Janus Youth Programs](#) (two) [JOIN PDX](#) (two)
[KBOO Radio](#) (five) [KMHD Radio](#) [Lake Oswego School Foundation](#)
[Leukemia and Lymphoma Society](#) [Lewis Elementary PTA](#) (two) [Lifewater International](#)
[Little Sisters of the Poor](#) [Living Stages](#) [Llewellyn Elementary School](#)
[Madison High School](#) [Make-A-Wish Oregon](#) [Matunda Orphans Community Center](#)
[Meals on Wheels](#) (two) [Medical Teams International](#) [Menucha Retreat and Conference Center](#)
[Mercy Corps](#) (four) [Moms Demand Action](#) [MoveOn.org Civic Action](#)
[Multnomah Animal Control](#) (two) [Multnomah County Animal Shelter](#) [Multnomah County Library](#)
[Multnomah County CASA](#) [Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland](#)
[Multiple Sclerosis Yoga Program](#) [Native American Youth Association](#)
[Natural Resources Defense Council](#) (three) [Nature Conservancy](#) (two) [New Avenues for Youth](#)
[Northwest Pilot Project](#) [NW Sarcoma Foundation](#) [Northstar Civic Foundation](#)
[National End-of-Life Doula Alliance](#) [OHSU and Doernbecher Foundations](#)
[OHSU Partnership Project](#) [Operation Nightwatch](#) [Open Adoption & Family Services](#)
[Oregon Buddhist Temple](#) [Oregon Cultural Trust](#)
[Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) [Oregon Food Bank](#) (thirty)
[Oregon Humane Society](#) (twenty-two) [Oregon League of Conservation Voters](#) (two)
[Oregon Outdoor School](#) [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (seven) [Oregon Tradeswomen](#)
[Oregon Wild](#) (two) [Oregon Zoo](#) [OSPIRG](#) [Our House of Portland](#) [Outside In](#)
[Paying It Forward Store](#) [Peninsula Children's Learning Center](#) [PETA](#) [p:ear](#) [PetPartners.org](#)
[PHAME Academy](#) (two) [PFLAG](#) [PKD Foundation](#) [Planned Parenthood](#) (seventeen)
[Pongo Fund Pet Food Bank](#) (four) [Portland Animal Welfare Team](#) (two)
[Portland Community College Foundation](#) [Portland Playhouse](#)
[Portland Rescue Mission](#) (three) [Portland Waldorf School](#) (three) [Portland Women's Crisis Line](#)
[Project Lemonade](#) [Pixie Project](#) (three) [Protect Our Winters](#) (two)
[Q Center](#) [RAINN.org](#) [Randall Children's Hospital](#) (two) [Raphael House of Portland](#) (four)

[REAP, Inc.](#) [Red Cross of Portland](#) (two) [Ride Connections](#) [Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation](#)
[RoseHaven](#) (two) [Rotary Club Foundation](#) [Sam Day Foundation](#)
[Salvation Army](#) (two) [Shadow Project](#) [Self Enhancement Inc.](#) [Shriners Hospital](#) (two)
[Sisters of the Road Café](#) (four) [SMART](#) [SOLV Oregon](#) (two) [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)
[Special Olympics Oregon](#) [St. Andrew's Nativity School](#) [St. Jude Children's Hospital](#)
[St. Mary's Academy](#) [Susan G. Komen Foundation](#) [Street Roots](#)
[Surfrider Foundation](#) [Tucker-Maxon Oral School](#) [TVW Inc.](#)
[Underdog Railroad Rescue](#) (two) [Union Gospel Mission](#) (four)
[Urban Excursions' IndieGoGo program](#) [Urban Gleaners](#) [Volunteers of America](#)
[Wallace Medical Concern](#) [Well Arts Institute](#) [Wendy Davis for Governor](#)
[Write Around Portland](#) [Wild Salmon Center](#) [Willamette Riverkeeper](#)
[Wireless Education Action](#) (two)
[Work For Art](#) [World Wildlife Fund](#) [Wounded Warrior Project](#)
[XRAY-FM](#) (four) [Zenger Farm](#)

We'd like to thank all our clients who have been making referrals for so many years and congratulate all the groups we've been able to donate to so far. We hope YOU and YOUR group are the next participants in our Referral Reward Program!



Greetings from **OCCUPIED PORTLAND**

Reporting to you from our front row seats to history

Well, it's certainly been an interesting couple weeks here in the Rose City! In June, we were just one city of thousands around the world convulsed by the reaction to George Floyd's murder, but in July we took on an unpleasant new role. As the riots began to give way to protests an American president sent unmarked, unidentified Federal pseudocops in to

'dominate' our streets. Hilarity has ensued for about a month now.

History almost exclusively happens elsewhere because no matter where 'local' is to you, events that might be interesting to the larger world are rare. It's amazing to watch pivotal historical events happening in real time, in our front yard. Almost everyone in Portland has either participated or knows someone who has participated in the protests and even the riots. We see the confusion, wonder at the rumors, fear for the future, all first hand. We smell the tear gas. The tension is palpable.

And this is obviously an ongoing, developing story. In just the last couple days, the news has come down that the Feds will be withdrawing. Like every other aspect of this situation, it's covered by confusion and the fog of war. When? How? Why? Will it last? Is it real? Well, we'll find out here first.

We have very little to actually add to the amazing reporting that's come from this. Perhaps our value, if any, is as a witness. In our report from Occupied (and hopefully soon Un-Occupied) Portland we'll show you much of the reporting we've been following, broken into several sections we thought were interesting. The story will evolve, as will our City. When the dust settles, maybe this article will be a type of time capsule for what people were thinking while we waited for the new reality to take shape.

Good luck to us all, in Portland and beyond. Ich bin ein Portlanders!

What's the latest?

[Protests live updates: Federal agents prepare to pull back in Portland as protests continue](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020



OK, we did find a couple things to say. [Check out Tom's opinion of the Occupation in this month's Tom's Tidbits.](#)

[What Have Six Weeks of Portland Protests Wrought? These nightly marches and confrontations with police have upended certainties about what can be accomplished in Oregon politics through protests.](#), Willamette Week, Jul 2020

[For Some Arrested At Portland Protests, Release Is Conditional On Not Attending More](#), NPR, Jul 2020

[Federal agents show stronger force at Portland protests despite order to withdraw](#), The Guardian, Jul 2020

[Fact Check: How Violent Are the Portland Protests?](#), NYTimes, Jul 2020

[Federal agents tear-gas Portland protesters again despite plan for the agents to leave town](#), CBSNews, Jul 2020

[The Portland Protests Are a War Zone—but Only on the Internet...What's happening in the streets isn't what you're seeing in the tweets](#). Wired, Jul 2020

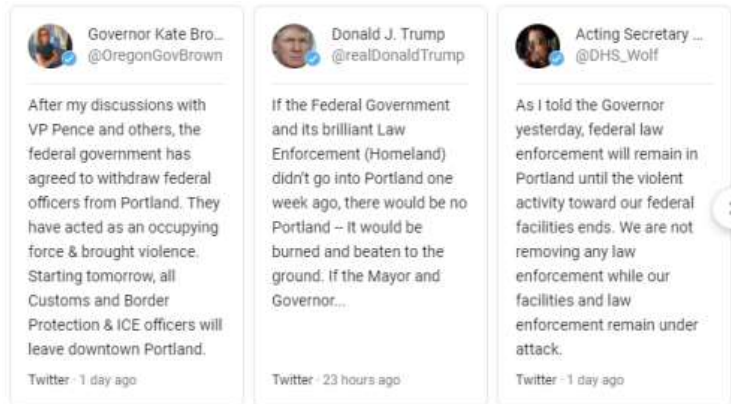
[Detained Portland demonstrators are required to stay away from future protests to get out of jail](#), CNN, Jul 2020

[A photojournalist who was shot in the eye says it's not just violent rioters being targeted in Portland](#), CNN, Jul 2020

[Portland protests: Federal forces ready for phased pullout](#), BBCNews, Jul 2020

[Federal court to decide whether Portland 'protest bans' are legal](#), KATU2, Jul 2020

[Tear gas in the air, officers hit the streets on Day 63 of Portland protests](#), KGW8, Jul 2020



Growth of the protests

[Thousands protest in downtown Portland Monday; federal officers again respond with force](#), Oregonian, Jul 20, 2020

[A timeline of the George Floyd and anti-police brutality protests](#), AlJazeera, Jun 11 2020

[President Trump Has Reenergized Portland's Protests](#), Willamette Week, Jul 20, 2020

[Portland Protests Grow Despite Violent Crackdown from Militarized Federal Agents & Local Police](#), Democracy NOW!, Jul 21, 2020

[Portland Protests Grow Despite Violent Crackdown from Militarized Federal Agents & Local Police](#) Democracy NOW!, Jul 21, 2020

[Facing federal agents, Portland protests find new momentum](#), AP, Jul 21, 2020

[Federal Officers Tear Gas Moms and Dads: A Digest of the 54th Night of Portland Protests](#), Portland Mercury, Jul 21, 2020

[Neither side is backing down as federal agents and protesters clash in Portland](#), CNN, Jul 21, 2020

[Portland protests: Fresh violence as demonstrators clash with federal officers](#), BBCNews, Jul 21, 2020

[Chaotic Scenes in Portland as Backlash to Federal Deployment Grows](#), NYTimes, Jul 21, 2020

[Portland protests: Federal officers unleash tear gas on Mayor Ted Wheeler, demonstrators](#), Oregonian, Jul 22, 2020

[Black Lives Matter protests across America continue nearly 2 months after George Floyd's death](#), CNN, Jul 23, 2020

[US government sending up to 150 more agents to Portland: Reports](#), AlJazeera, Jul 27, 2020

[More federal agents dispatched to Portland as protests rise in other cities](#), Washington Post, Jul 27, 2020

[A weekend of urban anarchy](#), Wall Street Journal, Jul 27, 2020

[Tear Gas Fired On Protesters Again During Overnight Protests In Portland](#), NPR, Jul 27, 2020

Unmarked, unidentified pseudocops

[US attorney requests DHS investigation after video shows masked, camouflaged federal authorities arresting protesters in Portland](#), CNN, Jul 2020

[‘It was like being preyed upon’: Portland protesters say federal officers in unmarked vans are detaining them](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Anonymous security forcing citizens into cars is mark of dictatorship](#), CNN, Jul 2020

[NYPD Disappeared Black Lives Matter Protesters Into Detention For Days At A Time. Lawmakers Want To End The Practice.](#), The Intercept, Jul 2020

[U.S. Homeland Security confirms three units sent paramilitary officers to Portland](#), Reuters, Jul 2020

[Federal Officers Appear to Use Rental Cars From Enterprise to Snatch Portland Protesters](#), Willamette Week, Jul 2020



Violence overboard

[Videos Show How Federal Officers Escalated Violence in Portland](#), NY Times, Jul 2020

[Police shoot Portland protester in head with impact weapon, causing severe injuries](#),
OregonLive, Jul 2020

[Shocking video reveals yet another instance of violence by federal agents in Portland](#),
DailyKOS, Jul 2020

[Navy Vet Beaten by Federal Agents at Portland Protests in Viral Video: 'They Came Out to Fight'](#), Time Magazine, Jul 2020

[Portland protester seen in viral confrontation with federal officers is Navy veteran](#), The Hill, Jul 2020

[Navy veteran beaten at protest says he was enraged to see federal officers in Portland](#),
KATU2, Jul 2020

[WATCH: Navy Vet Stands Up To Trump's Thugs In Portland](#), Crooks&Liars, Jul 2020

[A Navy vet asked federal officers in Portland to remember their oaths. Then they broke his hand.](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

Lay back and enjoy it

[Trump law enforcement officials brush off pleas to butt out of Portland](#), Politico, Jul 2020

[DHS Chief Looks to 'Restore Order' in Portland Whether Mayor Likes It or Not](#),
Newsweek, Jul 2020

[Federal officials dismiss Portland leaders' calls to leave city as clashes with protesters continue](#),
Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Acting DHS secretary hits back at Portland mayor's 'completely irresponsible' claim that feds are 'escalating' unrest](#),
FOXNews, Jul 2020

[Chad Wolf: 'I Don't Need An Invitation' To Force Federal Secret Police On Cities](#),
Crooks&Liars, Jul 2020

Fighting back instead

['This is not a dictatorship': Portland protesters push back harder against Trump, federal agents](#), USA Today, Jul 2020

[Resistance for Real: The Moment Has Come](#), Moyers on Democracy, Jul 2020

[In Further Sign of Tension, Portland Fire & Rescue Bans Federal Agents—and Portland Cops—From Using Its Stations](#),
Willamette Week, Jul 2020

[Mayor of Portland to Trump: Get your troops out of the city](#), AP, Jul 2020

[5 ways everyday citizens can start holding police departments accountable](#), ProPublica,
Jul 2020

[Oregon asks for restraining order against federal agents in Portland](#), Politico, Jul 2020

[More than a dozen mayors join Portland in asking Trump administration to withdraw federal forces](#), CNN, Jul 2020

[Portland protest groups sue U.S. over tear gas, rubber bullets](#), Politico, Jul 2020

Portland.... wonderful, wonderful Portland

[To Battle a Militarized Foe, Portland Protesters Use Umbrellas, Pool Noodles and Fire](#), NY Times, Jul 2020

[In Portland, A 'Wall Of Moms' And Leaf Blowers Against Tear Gas](#), NPR, Jul 2020

[Video: 'Naked Athena' Faces Down Federal Cops at Portland Protest — and They Back Down](#), Medialte, Jul 2020

['Naked Athena': The story behind the surreal photos of Portland protester](#), Oregonian, Jul 2020

[Portland Protesters Use Leaf Blowers to Clear Federal Tear Gas From Parks](#), Willamette Week, Jul 2020

['Wall of moms' at Portland protest formed to protect demonstrators](#), USAToday, Jul 2020

[What choice do we have?': Portland's 'Wall of Moms' faces off with federal officers at tense protests](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Moms, Dads, Vets, Patriots Respond to Trump Gestapo Surge: Right Back Atcha](#), Common Dreams, Jul 2020

[Portland's Wall of Moms Joined by Dads With Leaf Blowers Against Trump's Police](#), Truthout, Jul 2020

[Leaf-blower wars: How Portland protesters are fighting back against tear gas and forming 'walls' of veterans, lawyers, nurses](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Wall of Moms video on Twitter](#)

[Moms form human shield to protect protesters: 'Feds stay clear, moms are here!'](#), UpWorthy, Jul 2020

['Wall of Veterans' Arrives in Portland to Protect Black Lives Matter Protesters from Trump's DHS Troops](#), MSN Law&Crime, Jul 2020



It's illegal. Don't try to pretend.

[Nothing Can Justify the Attack on Portland](#), The Atlantic, Jul 2020

[Portland Federal Agents 'Proactive' Arrests Compared to 'Minority Report'](#), Newsweek, Jul 2020

[Judge rules to protect journalists in Portland, as Barr DOJ makes another ludicrous claim](#), DailyKOS, Jul 2020

[Border Patrol chief receives brutal fact-check on Portland from Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter](#), Raw Story, Jul 2020

[Trump's Use of Federal Agents in Portland May Go Beyond What Is Lawful. Here's How We Can Get Answers About What's Going On](#), Time Magazine, Jul 2020

[Trump admin defends use of federal agents in Portland protest crackdown](#), ABCNews, Jul 2020

[“Camouflaged Goon Squads”: Outrage, Legal Challenges in Portland as Federal Agents Snatch Protesters](#), Democracy NOW!, Jul 2020

[DOJ Inspector General Investigating Federal Agents' Actions In Portland And D.C.](#), NPR, Jul 2020

[Justice Department watchdog to investigate federal use of force in Portland and Washington](#), CNN, Jul 2020

[Trump’s agents are sweeping peaceful citizens off the streets. This is not America.](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Trump consults Bush torture lawyer on how to skirt law and rule by decree](#), The Guardian, Jul 2020

[Two DHS Officials Apparently Just Admitted Their Troops Have Been Violating the Constitution](#), Law&Crime, Jul 2020

[The federal crackdown in Portland is ‘legal.’ That’s the problem with it.](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Esper concerned over federal agents dressed like military troops in U.S. cities](#), Politico, Jul 2020

[Can the Military Be Used As Law Enforcement](#), MilitaryBenefits,

[What the Law Says About Deploying Troops on U.S. Soil](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[For 200 years, the Insurrection Act has given presidents the power to deploy the military to quell unrest](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

Even some Righties get it

[Trump ‘mismanaged’ America and now we’re being ‘stretched to the breaking point’: Ex-Republican Rick Wilson](#), RawStory, Jul 2020

[Rand Paul denounces use of federal force in Portland](#), Axios, Jul 2020

[Napolitano: Trump's Portland Thugs Are Unconstitutional](#), Crooks&Liars, Jul 2020

[Former Gov./DHS boss Ridge: ‘It’d be a cold day in hell’ before he’d let ‘uninvited’ federal agents into Pa.](#), Pennsylvania Capital-Star, Jul 2020

[Philadelphia’s Top Prosecutor Is Prepared to Arrest Federal Agents](#), Bloomberg, Jul 2020

Just getting started

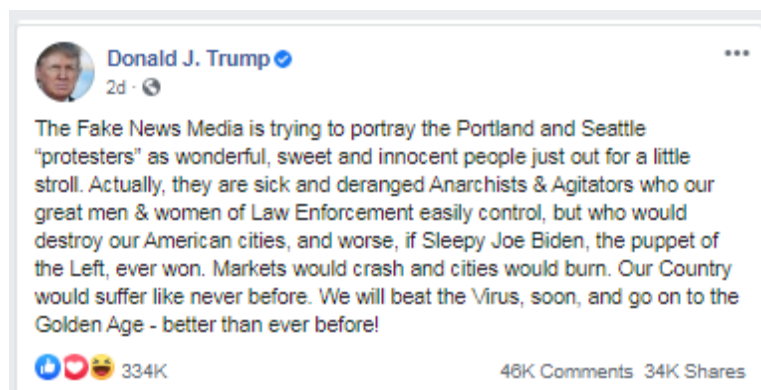
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[Chicago won't see 'Portland-style deployment' of federal agents, Mayor Lori Lightfoot says](#), USA Today, Jul 2020
['Things could get very ugly': Experts fear post-election crisis as Trump sets the stage to dispute the results in November](#), CNN, Jul 2020
[As Trump's secret police prepare to move on more cities, DHS engages in spying on domestic targets](#), Daily KOS, Jul 2020
[Trump official says federal troops may be deployed to other Democrat-run cities this week](#), The Independent, Jul 2020
[Trump's Occupation of American Cities Has Begun](#), NY Times, Jul 2020
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[The Role of Federal Military Forces in Domestic Disorders](#), Army Center for Military History, 2012
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[Here are 7 disturbing revelations from a National Guard officer about Trump's Lafayette Square disaster](#), AlterNet, Jul 2020

Trump propaganda

[Violent protest clashes turned Portland into a 'right-wing boogeyman.' Here's how it happened.](#), Washington Post, Jul 2020

[Why did Trump pick Portland? He's following the lead of far-right groups, and the city's history](#), Salon, Jul 2020
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[Sen. Ron Wyden Trump sent federal agents to Portland to help with his political agenda — not the protests](#), NBC Think, Jul 2020

[AP Reporter Describes Being Inside Portland's Besieged Courthouse With US Marshals While 4,000 Rioters Attack](#), Red State, Jul 2020

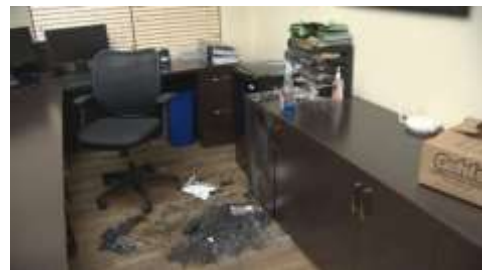
Portland Police

[Portland Police Union Burns, Officers Assault Crowds During July 18 Protests](#), Portland Mercury, Jul 2020

[Portland Police Union Leader Worries Protests Can Be Overshadowed By Violent Acts](#), NPR, Jul 2020

[Portland Police Association, neighbors speak out about fire set at PPA building](#), FOX12 Oregon, Jul 2020

[Portland Police Union Echoes Feds' Call to Quell Protests](#), Portland Mercury, Jul 2020



Poor, poor government

[DHS employees worry that Portland will hurt agency's image.](#)

DailyKos, Jul 2020

["Disturbing And Demoralizing": DHS Employees Are Worried The Portland Protest Response Is Destroying Their Agency's Reputation](#), BussFeed News, Jul 2020

What's it like on the ground

In closing, the following is from a person named Jason Booth. We don't know him, but [he posted it on his Facebook page](#) and this is the best description we've read anywhere of what it's like in Portland right now...

"Soooo, I've been seeing a lot of posts lately about my fair city of #Portland and I thought it might be time to help you all out with a bit of a primer.

First off, for those of you who have texted to check on us, you're very sweet. We're fine. Honestly. The whole city is quite alright. Portland is not, as it so happens, a war zone ripped from a dystopian YA novel. Rather, it's full of summer weather in the 90's, flower blossoms, breweries with big patios open until 10, and lots of social distancing and mask solidarity. Our Anthropologie is open and most of our restaurants are figuring out their strategies. We're in phase 1 but it looks like phase 2 might be just around the corner.

At night, over a four block downtown radius, our city is also protesting still. A lot of cities have already stopped because, ya know, we saved Black people. Good job everyone! Enjoy your summer! The protests in Portland actually had been dying down some, and then the prez decided that federal troops in unmarked cars

might be a good idea. And that is the dumbest thing you can do in a city that is full of people that are so ready to tear apart this joke of a system brick by brick. Protests that had hundreds of people quickly climbed back into the thousands. The feds are vastly outnumbered here again. I've heard people describing the violence and the clashes and the fringe craziness. I've heard my city described in so many inaccurate ways.

You see, my city is still fighting. Because Breonna Taylor's killers are still free and because police violence here has a storied history and because our municipal leaders haven't really done enough yet. The police budget has barely been touched. The mental health complex is still entirely underfunded in a country that is going to desperately need that kind of support over the next few years.

My city is a wall of moms and a Navy veteran unflinching while he's beaten by batons and pepper sprayed at point blank range. My city is Black community leaders and white allies and state leaders that are trying to figure out what comes next. My city is a mystery yoga Athena, daring border troops to rubber bullet her naked body.

My city is still showing up to fight fascism, even as the Proud Boys from nearby Washington have arrived with their lovely mullets and AR-15's in tow. And look, this is not a gun post, but we've been patiently waiting to see if those wise fb libertarians will show up soon—you know—those true Jeffersonian's who have been warning us about just such government overreach for years. I'm sure they're stuck in traffic. Maybe they got stuck behind a truck full of clever memes.

My city is not entirely peaceful. That's true too. We're burning with anger the way some mom's who have buried their sons are still burning with despair. I don't agree with every result of every rally. Rage spills out in many ways when justice is denied. I'm not supporting my side entirely either. I think there is certainly blame to go around. But while one side fights for systemic change, the other takes orders and uses weapons of war to protect buildings. It's a false equivalency that pushes everyone further to the edge.

But in a country where many white people have already returned to whatever their semi-normal is, my city is still valiantly standing up as the front lines against a fascist regime that is currently using methods that we've seen employed by some of history's worst.

I'm not great at speaking up as much as I should. I tell dumb internet jokes and spend my days raising a toddler. That's my vibe. My wife has been far more vocal about these things and I struggle from feeling like I'm preaching to the choir.

But if you think Portland is some sort of lawless badlands...naw...we're just waiting for the rest of you. We're also the testing ground for Trump to see how much he can get away with. And when he does a Fox interview and talks about not accepting the election results, everything starts to become a bit more clear.

You see, he looks at how Putin has installed himself permanently (and you know how much he envies that type of power), and he dips a few more toes into the deep end of using military power to remain installed where he is. Because all this civil unrest could very well be the precursor to something much bigger.

This is what a righteous populace looks like. So when you look at us and think...man..stuff there is crazy. It's not. It's the bellwether of a movement. And we gladly welcome all of you back to the fray whenever you'd like.

We are not done. There are dragons yet to slay.

I am proud of my adopted city.

Digging Even Deeper...

You've just seen hundreds of links to stories about the turmoil in one city that rose, not just from the killing of George Floyd, but from the systematically racist systems than enabled it. It's quite understandable if it's a depressing list, but

the anger can be turned to action. If facing federal thugs in armor isn't your thing, maybe supporting one of these Black-Lives-Matter related groups is the first step to turning things around. ...

[**Black Lives Matter PDX**](#)- Leading, coordinating, and directing people to local protest actions, increasing awareness of racial injustice, and holding city and state officials accountable.

[**The Portland NAACP**](#)- Ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and eliminating racial hatred and discrimination.

[**Urban League of Portland**](#)- Empowering Black communities through housing, workforce development, community health, and social reform.

[**ACLU Oregon**](#)- Defending and advancing civil liberties and civil rights through work in the courts, in the legislature, and in communities.

[**Showing up for Racial Justice**](#)- Organizes white people to do anti-racist advocacy

[**CNBSeen**](#)- Change burned-out vehicle lights for free in neighborhoods with a high number of police stops to reduce opportunities for tragic killings.

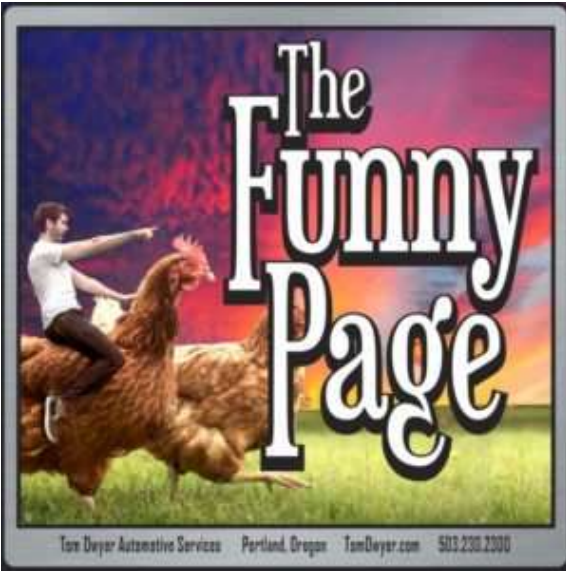
[**Don't Shoot PDX**](#)- Specializes in education workshops and outreach programs focused on changing police policy and ending systemic discrimination.

[**Black United Fund of Oregon**](#)- Channeling charitable funds to low-income areas in North and Northeast Portland to combat inequality in our City.

[**Campaign Zero**](#)- A national organization dedicated to police reform at all levels and creating policy changes and legislation aimed at holding police accountable for their violent actions.

[**The Equal Justice Initiative**](#)- Dedicated to ending mass incarceration and economic and racial injustice, and protecting America's most vulnerable.

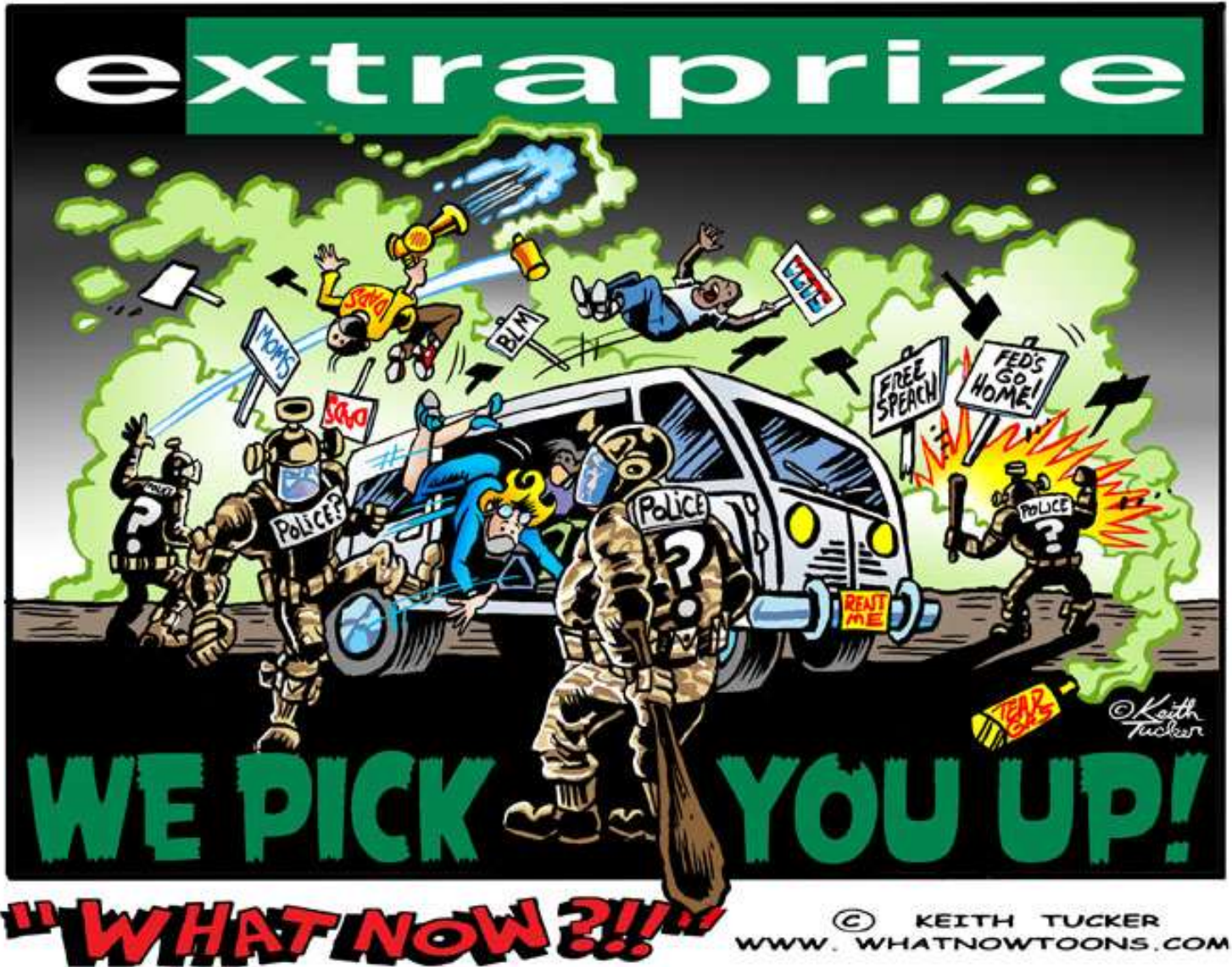
We picked these groups because most are Portland and Oregon locals, but many are affiliated with larger national organizations. all these groups, and all the people they serve, can use your help every day.



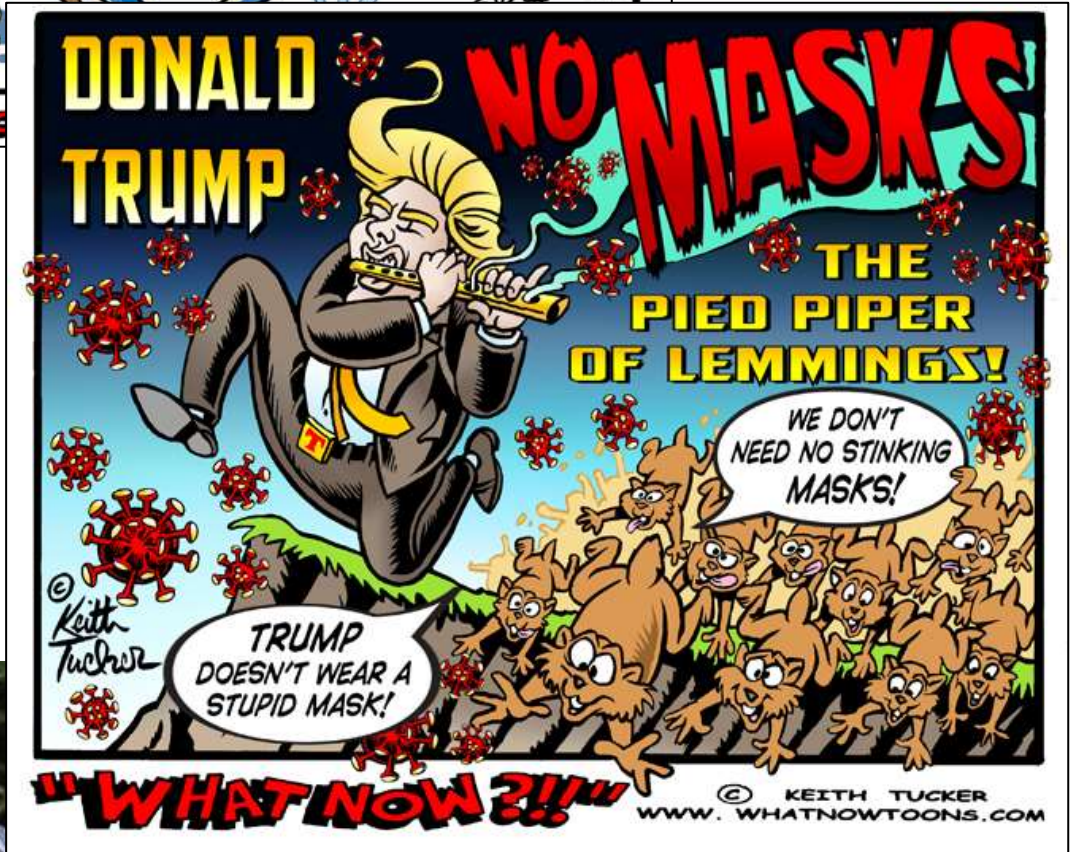
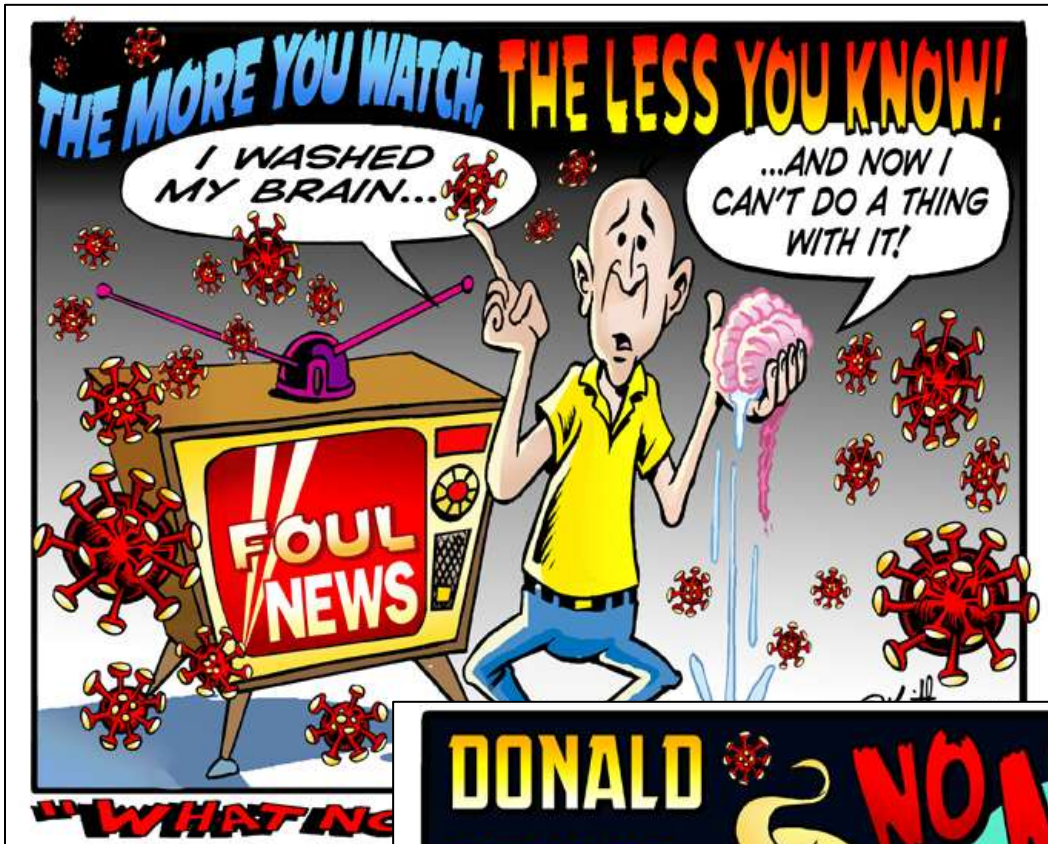
The Funny Page

Knock knock, who's there? The Funny Page!

Just like Covid, the Funny Page isn't going away, in fact, it may even be getting stronger! Dig in to our monthly contributions from Keith Tucker, Jen Rombach, the InterTubes, and even a couple in-house originals. Have fun!




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More or Less

A play-with-words puzzle!
by Jen Rombach



THEME:
CONTAINERS

THEME LETTERS (+/-)

C
O
N
T
A
I
N
E
R
S

THEME WORDS:

START LIST:

ASK	POND
BANG	SCANS
CARTOON	SASHED
EWEL	TOTE
PAL	TRY

CAPTION:

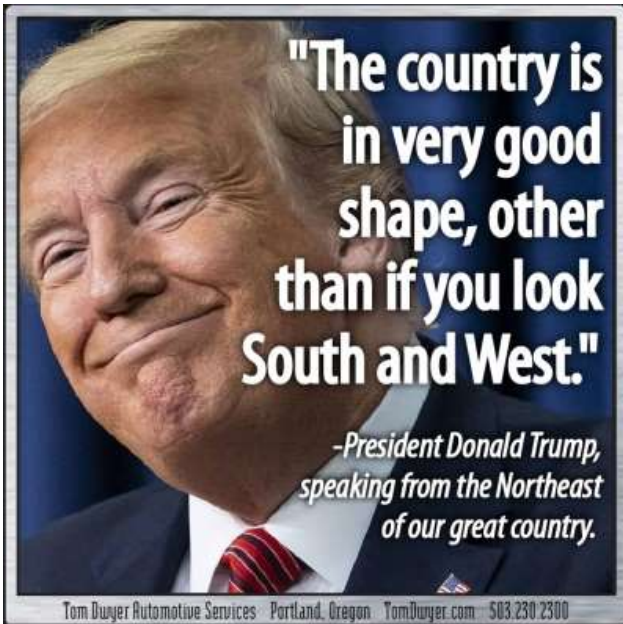
DIRECTIONS: Solve for the new **THEME WORDS** by either adding (+/-) each letter from the column of **THEME LETTERS** to a word from the **START LIST**.

- Answers will fit the **THEME** and go next to the letter used.
- **THEME LETTERS (+/-)** may go anywhere in the word (beginning / middle / end) to form the new **THEME WORD**.
- Each **THEME LETTER** and each word from the **START LIST** will only be used once. * (multiples of a same letter within the **THEME LETTERS** each have their own word and only one place in the puzzle.)
- Anagram the boxed letters of the solved **THEME WORDS** to find the related caption that will match up the picture to the **THEME**more or less!

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Jen Rombach's "More Or Less" for July






"The country is in very good shape, other than if you look South and West."

-President Donald Trump, speaking from the Northeast of our great country.

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services - Portland, Oregon - TomDwyer.com - 503.230.2300




"Well, you know that we have one of the lowest mortality rates anywhere. If you know Biden and Obama stopped their testing-- they just stopped it. You probably know that. I'm sure you don't want to report it.

But they stopped testing. Right in the middle, they just want, no more testing, and on a much lesser problem than the problem that we have, obviously, with respect to-- this is the worst thing that's happened since probably 1917. This is a very bad-- all over the world. It's 188 countries right now."

-American President Donald Trump (inexplicably not under psychiatric care)

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services - Portland, Oregon - TomDwyer.com - 503.230.2300

"Everybody says I've done a tremendous job with COVID. My leadership has been extraordinary, best in history. My quick actions have all but wiped out the virus, saving millions of lives, and I've got the economy ready to roar back to better than ever before. I think a little gratitude would be nice. Maybe a big 'thank you Mr. President' is called for."



*-President Donald Trump
Remember to say "Thanks" in November!*


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"I actually took a cognitive test very recently when the radical left was saying 'Is he all there? Is he all there?' I proved I was all there cause I aced it, I aced the test. I took it at Walter Reed, a medical center, in front of doctors, and they were very surprised."

-President Donald Trump

DARE TO DREAM!

#MAGA!



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**8645
11320**

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More-Or-Less Solution

More or Less
A play-with-words puzzle!
by Jen Rombach

SOLUTION

THEME LETTERS (+/-)

C	C	A	S	K			
O	C	A	R	T	O	N	
N	P	O	D				
T	S	T	A	S	H	E	D
A	T	R	A	Y			
I	P	A	I	L			
N	B	A	G				
E	T	O	T	E			
R	E	W	E	R			
S	C	A	N	S			

THEME CONTAINERS

THEME WORDS:

DESK DRAWER

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Shop Talk

Do you follow us on Facebook? Here's the deal with Lee



Comment of the Month



Do you follow us on Facebook? Just like this newsletter, we try to bring you something that's occasionally mechanically useful, but we also post things on politics, the environment, politics, humor, politics, science, politics, Portland, politics, Sellwood, politics, and much more. For those of you who don't follow us, [we encourage you to do so here](#), but for those of you who are already followers you're probably familiar with... @LeeHill.

Lee's not quite a troll, but he's a familiar Commenter on many of our posts. No matter the issue, Lee is there with a reply marinated in the dank stench of the Righty thought gutter. Sometimes he's intelligent, others not, sometimes he's even surprising on the positions he takes, but a question we often get is "Why the hell is this guy obsessed with Tom Dwyer?"

That question, in a way, was asked on our recent post about the Trump administration's Federal Occupation of Portland. A spirited debate had sprung up, and Linda G. had replied to one of Lee's comments, which prompted one of our own. That's why this month's Comment of the Month is a reply to a reply to a comment on a post on our Facebook page... here's our response to Linda G. explaining exactly what the deal is with Lee...

Linda G.'s reply to LeeHill's comment...

"He's not from here. He's a Republican running for office in another state. Comments from other states are popping up in local news comments too. Crazy Republican operation I'm thinking."

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services reply to Linda G...

Yes and no. Let me step out from behind the curtain for a sec... I'm Charles, and I'm Tom Dwyer's marketing director. I'm usually the one you're talking to when you're on FB. Lee IS from Alabama and WAS a Republican candidate, but that's not his connection to us.

Believe it or not, I've been friends for 30 years with him. In college, we would often debate political issues with me taking the Left and Lee the Right. He does believe some jaw-dropping things, but on the other hand (thought he'd never admit it) he often takes an exaggerated Right side for the point of argument. Several benefits to that... if we accidentally post wrong or distorted info there's someone there to catch it. We have to make strong arguments bcs Lee will pounce if we're sloppy. And, despite evidence, he's smart... if there's a best case to be made for a Righty policy, he at least knows what it is. When he's reduced to pushing the drivle he's been on Secret Police in Portland or Kiddie Prisons at the Border (just to name two), you know you've beaten the best the Right has to offer. I know that's damning with faint praise, but there it is.

Another thing about Lee is the issues we all face in our daily lives... how to deal with 'good' people with 'bad' views? Some people are just toxic on every level and we're better off running far away. But, we all know people who are generally wonderful yet have some twisted beliefs mixed in. (Don't forget; you (and we) are that person to other people in our own lives!) Maybe it's a different time now; maybe overlooking the bigotry, cowardice, and greed in ourselves and others was always wrong and we have to come to terms with that. But we're still left with living with these people (and they with us) in families, communities, and countries. How do we reach them? I know Lee to be a person of deep integrity, honor, and service, and when I argue with him it's by appealing to these better qualities. I don't understand at all how these can co-exist with the qualities he prefers to display, and yet they do. I am boggled. Yet he's reachable (I stubbornly think) and as people of nominally good will we have a duty to reach out to our fellow citizens rather than shoot them (which I all too often feel like doing to Lee). It's an ugly compromise, but that's civilization,

We waffle back and forth about whether Lee adds or detracts from our FB feed, but since we don't want to 'thought police' our FB we haven't blocked him. On the bright side, we'll all support you in any abuse you want to heap on him."

Current Special Offers



Thanks to the incredible support of our clients, Tom Dwyer Automotive Services has stabilized somewhat during this Covid Crisis but we are still far from confident. To reflect the progress so far yet still realizing the long road ahead, we're slightly reducing our biggest-ever discount. **We'll continue offering "30% Off Labor" through the end of June.** This is still an amazing offer we normally couldn't afford to make, but right now it will help stretch your money while keeping our company healthy for the long term. Act now for your greatest savings, because as the economy (hopefully!) improves we'll continue to slowly reduce the discount back to sustainable levels.

Offer expires 6/30/20

\$200 minimum purchase required

You must tell us you want this offer **WHEN YOU SCHEDULE YOUR SERVICE!**
Offer is **VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE!**

SPECIAL CNP MEMBERSHIP OFFER!

We're building a 100% Carbon Neutral Vehicle Fleet, so we want YOU to sign up right now!

This isn't some cynical ploy to use Climate Change to benefit our company. WE DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY FROM THIS PROJECT; ALL YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE GOES TO BONNEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION TO PURCHASE YOUR CARBON OFFSETS. In fact, though we're very glad to do it, we lose money on each membership... that 10%-discount-on-Labor-Charges comes straight out of our pocket for the whole year of your membership! So come on, hurt us but help the planet... join our CNP TODAY!

Sippers (hybrids, electrics, etc)- Normally \$30- **NOW \$20**

Drinkers (most types of cars)- Normally \$50- **NOW \$40**

Guzzlers (SUVs, land yachts, etc)- Normally \$90- **NOW \$60**



We also have some ongoing offers you might find valuable...



Carbon Neutral Program- Our company's commitment to the environment led us to partner with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to create our Carbon Neutral Program in 2007. **Client members offset the carbon production of their vehicles for one year AND save 10% on Labor Charges here at the shop!** It's a win for you AND our environment and it's been very successful... since we instituted the program our members have prevented over 1.9 MILLION POUNDS of carbon from being dumped into our air!



Referral Reward Program- Year after year, referrals from our existing clients are our greatest source of new clients, so we've tried hard to think of some way to appropriately reward people for their referrals. Our solution is our Referral Reward

Program, where **we make donations to the non-profit group of your choice to say 'thanks' for your generous referrals.** Here's how it works...



Your reviews and referrals matter

We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you've found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!



Latest Automotive Recalls

Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a [constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer](#). The last month's recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.

Drew's Kitchen

Slow Cooker Three Cheese Chicken Lasagna



Nothing beats lasagna... except lasagna done in a slow cooker.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups diced or shredded cooked chicken
- 2 ½ cups alfredo sauce (homemade or storebought)
- 9 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 1 15-oz container ricotta cheese (whole or part skim)
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1 cup shredded parmesan cheese, divided

Preparation:

1. Stir together chicken, ricotta cheese, cream cheese, ½ cup parmesan cheese, and Italian seasoning.
2. Lightly grease your slow cooker. Spread ½ cup alfredo sauce in the bottom. Top with three lasagna noodles (break as needed to fit into the slow cooker). Spread half of chicken mixture over the noodles, then layer with three more lasagna noodles. Pour half of the remaining sauce over the chicken mixture. Top with three more noodles (breaking as needed), then remaining chicken mixture, and remaining noodles.
3. Spread remaining sauce over the noodles and sprinkle with the last of the parmesan cheese. Cover and cook on low 3-4 hours. Sprinkle with chopped parsley if desired just before serving.

Prep time: 20 min Cook time: 4 hours Total Time: 4hr 20min

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 necessarily 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!



[This interactive game explains WHY evil prospers when the good do nothing](#)



Your task is simple... you'll be God, in control of the 'shapist' attitudes of a population of cute squares and triangles. You won't be presiding over a shape-war hell though, because while these polygons do 'notice shape' they aren't bigots. Each polygon wants their neighborhood to be integrated. They'll welcome different shapes into their neighborhood, up to a point, but they'll get angry and move to a new neighborhood if they become the minority. Is that enough to desegregate their neighborhood? What happens when they become more- or less- accepting? What happens if they won't move to a segregated neighborhood? What happens if you remove all bias? What happens if there never was any bias at all?

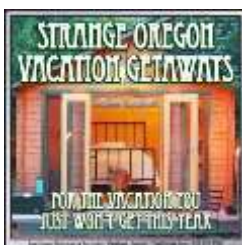
No matter what your preconceptions, we bet this game won't play out like you think. We'll give you a spoiler... it IS possible to achieve a stable, non-segregated equilibrium (assuming that's your goal), but it's not as straightforward as you might think. And here's another spoiler... achieving that (or virtually any) goal depends on people not sitting quietly and hoping it happens, but actually pushing for the change they want to see!

[This is Mars. Go there now.](#)



[From the Independent, UK](#)- "Pictures taken from the surface of Mars by Nasa's rovers have been remastered into 4K resolution, giving an even clearer look at the surface of the Red Planet. British YouTubers ElderFox Documentaries took stills sent from Nasa's Curiosity, Spirit, and Opportunity rovers and 'upscaled' them, splicing them together into a video. They have described it as 'the most lifelike experience of being on Mars'. Among the images are captures of the Meridiani Planum, a plain near Mars' equator, where tracks from the Opportunity rover can be seen..."

[Strange Oregon vacation getaways... for the vacation you just won't get this year.](#)



OregonLive.com- "You might not be able to take a vacation now, but you can dream of one and even make plans. To inspire you, we've selected a list of the best of Oregon's oddball vacation getaways, from treehouses and a fire lookout tower to sleek Airstreams and colorful camper vans. Before you go, check [govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19](#) for the most current travel recommendations and best practices to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Also read 10 things to consider before going back outside during the coronavirus pandemic in Oregon.

[World championship marble racing... a new world of sports](#)



from Wikipedia- "[Jelle's Marble Runs](#) is a YouTube channel based in the Netherlands, run by Jelle and Dion Bakker. It is based around marbles, marble runs, and marble races. Content on the channel includes spoofing the Olympic Games, Formula One, and other sporting events... These videos treat the cast of marbles as though they were athletes. Acting as though the inanimate marbles use actual tactics, training,

and psychology to compete... The *Marble League* "Games", have a choreographed Opening and Closing Ceremony, often created using stop motion. Many of the sports are designed to resemble Olympic sports... As of 24 July 2020, the current channel has over 1.2 million subscribers with more than 90.7 million views, a number that has steadily increased, likely as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sports.”

News To Make You Furious



Don't want to pay to clean up other people's greed? Frack YOU!



[From Eoin Higgins at Common Dreams](#)

"A devastating new report from the New York Times details how as fracking companies are going out of business they are leaving behind unsecured wells spewing methane and other gases into the atmosphere and paying out the same executives that drove them into bankruptcy huge bonuses—drawing condemnation from activists and climate advocates.

"Frackers don't clean up after themselves," tweeted 350.org founder Bill McKibben.

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, the U.S. fracking industry was struggling amid debt obligations, the rise of renewable energy sources, and a price war with overseas oil producers. Since the pandemic hit, critics have been warning against using public relief funds to bail out the polluting industry they argue should be banned because of its impact on local health and the climate.

As the companies filed for bankruptcy, the Times reported, they made sure to pay out executives:

Whiting Petroleum, a major shale driller in North Dakota that sought bankruptcy protection in April, approved almost \$15 million in cash bonuses for its top executives six days before its bankruptcy filing. Chesapeake Energy, a shale pioneer, declared bankruptcy last month, just weeks after it paid \$25 million in bonuses to a group of executives. And Diamond Offshore Drilling secured a \$9.7 million tax refund under the Covid-19 stimulus bill Congress passed in March, before filing to reorganize in bankruptcy court the next month. Then it won approval from a bankruptcy judge to pay its executives the same amount, as cash incentives.

"The few profit, the rest of us pay," British Green Party politician Natalie Bennett said on Twitter.

But while the businesses had millions to pay out to top executives, they have chosen not to spend capital to properly close wells that are emitting methane and other gases into the atmosphere. Capping wells would cost tens of millions of dollars, the Times reports, a cost the companies apparently aren't willing to bear.

"Hard to overstate what a climate catastrophe it is to just leave a methane spigot on and leave," tweeted The Intercept's Ryan Grim.

There are an estimated two million such unplugged wells in the U.S., according to the Times.

"They're sitting there and they're leaking," North America at Carbon Tracker executive director Robert Schuwerk told the Times. "And they're much leakier than a well that's still in production and being monitored, although those leak, too."

Emissions could result in cancers and other diseases in surrounding communities. Patricia Garcia Nelson of Greeley, Colorado told the Times that with high levels of cancer-causing chemicals in the air monitored at

her seven-year-old son's school, just 700 feet away from an Extraction Oil & Gas fracking site, she fears the company's bankruptcy will leave the well open and uncapped.

"Are we going to be responsible for the mess that these companies leave behind?" asked Nelson. "Are we going to be okay if something happens?"

The cost of the cleanup, noted journalist Jake Bernstein, is prohibitive—and companies don't appear to be taking it seriously.

"Chesapeake Energy, which declared bankruptcy last month after paying out executive bonuses, has potential cleanup costs of \$1.4 billion," said Bernstein. "Chesapeake's filings show that it has set aside only \$41 million in bonds to cover the cleanup of its 6,800 wells."

Our president isn't elected by a vote of the people (Popular Vote) but by a vote of the states (Electoral College). Given candidates' limited campaign resources, it makes sense to ignore the states where they're too strong to lose or too weak to win and concentrate on the states actually in play. This is a reasonable conclusion, and 'both sides' quite sensibly follow this strategy.

Digging Deeper...

[Will the Public End up Paying to Clean up the Fracking Boom?](#) Justin Mikulka on Desmog Blog, Oct 2019

[Who pays the cost of fracking?](#) Dutzik, Davis, and Van Heeke, Environment Colorado and Frontier Group, 2013

[As Fracking Companies Face Bankruptcy, U.S. Regulators Enable Firms to Duck Cleanup Costs,](#) EcoWatch, Dec 24, 2019

[Fracking Firms Fail, Rewarding Executives and Raising Climate Fears,](#) Hiroko Tabuchi in NYTimes, July 2020

[Taxpayers to pay for fracking pollution if companies go bust,](#) Adam Vaughn in The Guardian, Dec 2013