



“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for August, 2020



Painting Class at the Wildlife Refuge

Chad’s tips on protecting your vehicle from mice



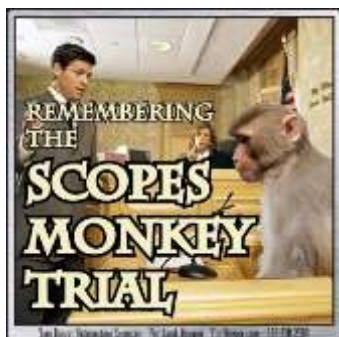
Planning Ahead Protects Your Summer

Don’t wait for the last minute to have your vehicle checked



The new IPCC Report

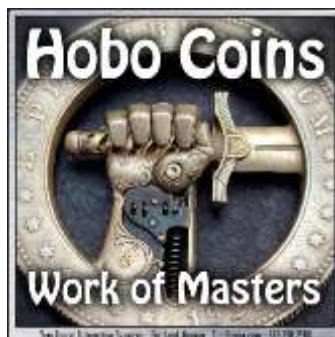
And a look at how past predictions have played out



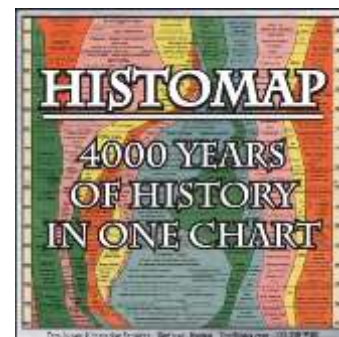
Remembering the Scopes Monkey Trial



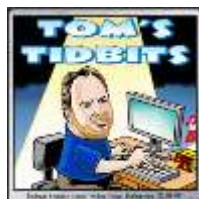
Tomatoes... the poison you can eat!



Hobo Coins- The work of Masters



HISTOMAP- 4000 years of history in one chart



Whose buck is it anyway?



Car Wash Coupon Season!



Your source for cartoons, puzzles, memes, jokes, and more



Quantum leaps, illegal monkeys, and Borgs are real



How your body deals with heat... until it doesn't



“The Life Changing Science of Detecting Bullshit”



Cucumber and Peach Salad with Herbs



Tom's Tidbits

Whose buck is it anyway?

Greetings,

As the Afghan government crumbled and bloody catastrophe swept the country, a somber Joe Biden stepped to the podium. "I am president of the United States of America," he said, "and the buck stops with me." That was a refreshing change from a President slinking away from "[any responsibility at all](#)", but it didn't seem to faze the Taliban and Monday-morning quarterbacking will probably be the only sanction. If the buck stops with Biden, what does that even mean? Does it imply responsibility, blame, or accountability? If the buck isn't his, whose should it be instead?

I honestly thought "The buck stops here" had something to do with money (bucks) until I did some research. [Harry Truman didn't coin the phrase](#), but a reporter saw a plaque with it on Truman's desk and made it famous. It's a callback to frontier poker games where players passed a 'buck' (a marker like a buckhorn knife) to indicate the dealer, a beautiful metaphor for passing responsibility among people who would rather avoid it. (Interesting that there's no term like 'passing the buck' for good things!) Biden now sits in the lonely place where bucks stop so in some ways he deserves the blame he'll get for ending the war. Is he *responsible*?

Joe Biden's fingerprints are on Afghanistan from the beginning when [he helped create and voted for the flawed AUMF](#) authorizing force in Afghanistan and Iraq, but every member of Congress has fingerprints on it as well. (Except for Barbara Lee, the [sole vote against the AUMF](#) and the only person in government who can say 'I told you so' 20 years later). The Afghan invasion was George W. Bush's answer to the Taliban so it's rightly his responsibility, but if it's easy to see his responsibility for starting things it's harder to meaningfully blame him for the situation 20 years later. Obama and Trump both had opportunities to find workable solutions or bring our people home, but both abdicated their responsibilities and passed the problem to their successors. Which brings us full-circle to Biden, who ended the bloodshed for OUR people while the death and misery unleashed on Afghans is only getting started. On his watch.

FAUX News and their allies will gleefully blame Biden the every misstep and blunder, and every politician who sees any benefit at all will join in piling on. Biden should obviously be held accountable for real failures, but blame isn't responsibility and Biden isn't responsible for everything he'll be stained with. If he's not, though, who is?

Maybe I was right thinking "the buck stops here" is about money. To use another political maxim, maybe we should "follow the money" to where the bucks start instead of where they stop. We'll find they all lead back to Eisenhower's Military-Industrial Complex, which has chugged along happily through every Afghani up and down. 10 years ago, the [Commission on Wartime Contracting reported](#) the federal government had already lost \$31 to \$60 billion to contractor fraud and waste since the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq started. [Stocks for the top 5 defense contractors rose between 331% and 1,236%](#) during the war. The [US dumped about \\$2 TRILLION into Afghanistan](#), \$100 billion every year for 20 years, and most of this money went into a [pig trough lined with defense contractors and politicians](#). Only a small part went to the Afghan people. The [defense industry spends roughly \\$200 million per year](#) in lobbying for their seats at the trough. The Afghanistan war was a disaster in blood and treasure for the US, but for our patriotic defense contractors it was a 20-year Christmas. They benefit from every conflict the US is involved in, as well as the ones to come

We blame presidents, we blame politicians, but 'We', the United States, are directly responsible for Afghanistan's latest 20 years of hell. Now both sides have the opportunity to rebuild but the Taliban there and the Military-Industrial Complex here make it very unlikely, at least for now. When we wonder who's responsible for this tragedy I hope we look past the blame of where the buck stops. By avoiding blame and properly fixing responsibility, perhaps one day... one day... we can move on to accountability as well.

Make a great day,

Digging Deeper...

[The Afghanistan Papers- A Secret History Of The War](#), Whitlock, Shapiro, and Emamdjomeh in the Washington Post, Dec 2019

[The All-Time 10 Worst Military Contracting Boondoggles](#), Adam Weinstein in Mother Jones, Sep 2011

[The military signed contracts for Afghanistan well into 2023. That's their problem. According a new report private companies could sue if the U.S. pulled troops out May 1.](#), Kelley Beaucar Vlahos in Responsible Statecraft, Mar 2021

[If Liz Cheney's Assigning Blame for an "Epic Failure" in Afghanistan, She Can Start With Her Father](#), John Nichols in The Nation, Aug 2021

[Afghanistan War Went Wrong For These 7 Reasons, U.S. Watchdog Says](#), Joe Walsh in Forbes, Aug 2021

[Why no American president followed through on promises to end the Afghanistan war — until now](#), Amber Phillips in Washington Post, Aug 2021

[Capitalizing on conflict: How defense contractors and foreign nations lobby for arms sales](#), Dan Auble on OpenSecrets, Feb 2021

[Joe Biden's Vote for War](#), Katie Glueck and Thomas Kaplan in NY Times, Jan 2020

["The Buck Stops Here"](#), US National Archives

[Congresswoman Barbara Lee Observes the 18 Years Since Her No Vote on Blank Check for War Authorization](#), Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Sep 2019

[Biden Tried to Absolve Himself for Afghanistan Aftermath — But He Voted for War](#), William Rivers Pitt in TruthOut, July 2021

[The Taliban Surrendered in 2001](#), Richard Behan in Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[These 6 Words Explain Everything You Need to Know About Why President Trump Is a Toxic Leader](#), Jason Aten in Inc., Jan 2021

[Afghanistan's Rare Earth Element Bonanza](#), Alan Dowd at Fraser Institute, Aug 2021

[Cashing In on the Decision to Keep U.S. Troops in Afghanistan- Why Obama dropping his promise to end America's longest war is going to give contractors billions of dollars.](#) Kate Brannen in ForeignPolicy, Oct 2015

[We Can't Let Pro-War Generals Who Lied About the Afghanistan War Define Its Legacy](#), Sarah Lazare in Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[Afghanistan's military collapse: Illicit deals and mass desertions](#), Susannah George in Washington Post, Aug 2021

[The Military-Industrial Complex Will Be Just Fine Without Afghanistan](#), Fred Kaplan in Slate, Aug 2021

[Consumed By Corruption](#), Craig Whitlock in Washington Post, Dec 2019

[Afghanistan: It's About Oil](#), Gar Smith in Earth Island Journal, Spring 2002

[The All-Time 10 Worst Military Contracting Boondoggles](#), Adam Weinstein in Mother Jones, Sep 2011

[Biden says the 'buck stops with me' — while pinning blame on Trump and many Afghans](#), Aaron Blake in Washington Post, Aug 2021

[Afghanistan's military collapse: Illicit deals and mass desertions](#), Susannah George in Washington Post, Aug 2021

["Nobody Is Above the Law"—Except the Biggest Corporate and Government Criminals](#), Ralph Nader on Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[Halliburton's Iraq, Afghanistan Contracts at \\$600 Million and Growing](#), AP on FOX News, May 2003, updated Jan 2015

[Windfalls of war- Which American companies won the biggest contracts in postwar Iraq and Afghanistan?](#) ICIJ investigation, Sep 2012

[Halliburton contracts balloon- Despite being under an investigative cloud, company gets \\$4.3 billion in 2003.](#), Verloy et al in International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, Mar 2012

[Who Won The War In Afghanistan? The Taliban And Defense Contractors](#), Jaisal Noor on TheRealNews.com, Aug 2021

[When Will We Stop Letting Our Presidents Lie America Into Wars?](#) Thom Hartmann in Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[It's Time to Cut the Bloated Pentagon Budget to Fund People, Not Military Contractors](#), Public Citizen, July 2020

[RNC quietly deletes webpage touting Trump's call for U.S. troops to withdraw from Afghanistan](#), Zachary Petrizzo in Salon, Aug 2021

[Vietnam and Afghanistan: Different wars, similar endings?](#) Jon Greenberg and Louis Jacobson on Politifact, Aug 2021

[\\$10,000 Invested In Defense Stocks When Afghanistan War Began Now Worth Almost \\$100,000. Was the Afghanistan War a failure? Not for the top five defense contractors and their shareholders.](#) Jon Schwarz in The Intercept, Aug 2021

[How much did the US spend in Afghanistan?](#) William Gittins on AS, Aug 2021

[Military contractors and the profits of war](#), Nancy Marshall-Genzer on Marketplace, Aug 2021

[Billions spent on Afghan army ultimately benefited Taliban](#), Robert Burns on AP, Aug 2021

[Here Are the 5 Companies Making a Killing Off Wars Around the World](#), Vince Calio and Alexander Hess in Time, Mar 2014





Painting the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

An art group was enjoying the day so we stopped to say hi....

The Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge in the center of Sellwood is just one of the things that makes our neighborhood so special. Passing through recently, along with the usual eagles, ospreys, and scenic views, we saw a small group of people successfully condensing all that beauty onto scraps of

cloth. We thought that deserved at least a little conversation...

Our encounter with the painters began on the east end of the refuge where we met Karen Swallow. A beginning painter, she was just blocking out her painting as we talked to her. Karen explained the group was a class on 'pleinair' painting; not just painting from life, but painting outside, 'in the open air'. It was a practice much favored by Impressionists like Monet and Manet. Karen's very involved in the community beyond painting, spending quite a bit of time volunteering at Leach Botanical Gardens, which the plein air class painted earlier this year.

Just a little farther down the path was Katherine Taylor, who was happily painting away even though she'd forgotten her white paint. It slow her down at all. "Without white, you can't vary the of the color", she said, "so I've worked without it, and today I'm new style with vivid, bolder

Karen and Katherine were well from the main body of artists, gathered under the trees at the of the overlook with Jef Gunn, teaching the class. He's a Seattle who has been in Portland for decades, exhibiting his [work throughout the region](#) and teaching [classes on a stunning array of subjects](#) from beginning painting to wood cut printing to the Dao of seeing painting.



Karen Swallow begins work on her Oaks Bottom landscape

didn't the intensity just trying a colors".

away who had west end the artist native

Jef began [teaching plein air painting](#) in 2003 in response to a student's suggestion while he was teaching at PNCA. Though he's long since left PNCA, the class itself has thrived. 11 people showed up today to paint at the refuge but the whole class is 15 people, which Jef said was about the biggest it could be. They're currently about halfway through the term, and so far this year they've painted at Sauvie's Island, Rooster Rock, and Leach Botanical Gardens. Though plein air is mostly about nature and landscapes, they've also done a little urban painting this year at spots around Jef's neighborhood.



Katherine Taylor, finding that necessity is the mother of creativity

We wanted to talk to some of the painters in the big group, but Jef asked us not to. "I'd hate for them to be disturbed," he said. "They're balancing light, shape, and color, trying to squeeze all of THIS," Jef gestured expansively, "onto a little flat rectangle. It's a difficult task, and they need to concentrate completely." And seeing the painters, each lost in their own tiny worlds of canvas and paint, it was obvious he was right.



Many students set up just behind the guardrail on the caution curve by the park... if you're a Sellwoodian, you know the spot!

But we realized that knowing what those other painters were thinking wouldn't be helpful. If you'd like to know what Money felt while painting in Paris, the only way is to get YOUR paints and canvas and dive into the plein air beauty all around us. There's no better place to start than the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, and no better guide to ask for than Jef Gunn.



Jef Gunn's painting class under the trees of Sellwood Park in the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge



Planning Ahead Protects Your Summer

Don't wait for the last minute to check out your vehicle!

Updated 8/18/2021

If you're still planning a road trip this summer then this article is for you! It may be impossible to avoid bad weather, annoying family, or expensive tourist traps, but there is one thing you can do RIGHT NOW to insure safe, fun, and smooth summer driving. Whether you're planning to drive in the city, around the state, or across the country, you should have your vehicle

checked for safety and reliability before you go. Bring it in for service and checkout well BEFORE you plan on heading out, because NOTHING ruins a road trip faster and more completely than a vehicle that dies on the road. Sometimes people put off this all-important vehicle check until the day before they leave, but here are some reasons this practice can put your trip in jeopardy...

ALWAYS get your vehicle checked out before a long trip!

A consistently maintained should be ready for travel but you should still have it checked. There might be some developing issue that hasn't shown symptoms yet, and it's much better to catch it now than when it leaves you stranded. Even if nothing major is about to fail, a check of fluids, brakes, tire treads and pressures, lights, and other critical systems gives you extra confidence.

If for some reason you just weren't able to get your vehicle in to us for a checkup and it starts doing something that makes you nervous right before you hit the road, PLEASE still call us! We always take breakdowns and emergencies without appointment, and we'll do our absolute best to get you going in time for your trip. Even if there's not enough time to fix your issue we may be able to give advice to keep you from actually breaking down, or there may still be time to get you into a rental car instead.

But DON'T wait till the last minute to do it.

In the busiest parts of the summer our "next available appointment" may be several days from the day you call, which can cause real problems if you have a short window of availability or an impending departure date. For example, last year a client called on Wednesday to schedule service on Thursday for a trip on Friday, but we were already full for the week and there was absolutely no way to get him in. We try not to ever say "no" to our clients, but if we don't have availability then we just don't have a choice.

Another reason to schedule with as much leeway as possible is that short repair timelines leave no margin for error if something unexpected pops up. For instance, some engine leaks can take two days to repair. We can't fix it, much less fix it right, if you drop it on a Friday and need to leave Saturday. Or, suppose your vehicle's problem would be a quick and easy fix but the only part to do it comes from a supplier in Orlando? Little glitches like this are all the more frustrating because they're completely avoidable with a little advance planning, so please, PLEASE call us with enough time to give you the quality service you expect and deserve!

You should even allow a few days AFTER your service before your trip.

The only way to be sure repairs were successful is to drive long enough to make sure they hold up in the real world, so always leave a couple days for a shakedown period before you head out of town. Repairs can fail for many reasons- parts may be faulty, the Technician may have made a mistake, the original diagnosis may have been wrong, problems can develop in related systems after the first repair, or the original

problem may have masked another problem no one knew about. If you leave enough time, we can still get things fixed properly before you leave.

Rely on us if you DO run in to problems on the road.

If you're our client then we will help you any way we can, anywhere you are. We can't send our Courtesy Shuttle to Minnesota to pick you up, but we can give you advice over the phone that might be helpful. If you find yourself broken down and have to use a local shop we can still be useful by sending the shop complete repair records, or by offering a second opinion if you're not sure they're giving you good advice. Also, all our work carries a 24-month-24-thousand-mile nationwide warranty that can be extremely useful. If you are out-of-town and have a problem, or if you can't reach our shop at 503-230-2300, call 877-252-4609 and explain what's happening. They'll refer you to a local shop that will take care of you.

Give us a call if you have ANY questions.

Don't wait until things actually break down to call us... many questions can be solved with a quick call to 503-230-2300 or email to tomdwyer@tomdwyer.com. Our salaried Service Advisors will be glad to discuss any vehicle concerns you might have. If you're in doubt about anything, a quick call could save a lot of vacation headaches!



Catastrophic new predictions are out

Have they been right so far?

The IPCC just released its 6th Assessment Report on Climate Change. They drop these reports every 6-7 years and it's easy to become inured to their bleak predictions. This year though, they seem to have stopped sugar-coating things. They're very loud and clear that things won't just get bad eventually, that they're catastrophic NOW and will get worse before they get better, if they ever do at all. How seriously should we take these scientific predictions? To

answer that it might be useful to know how accurate they've been in the past. Fortunately, someone's been checking. Their results will give you confidence in the predictions, if not in the future of civilization...

The 2021 IPCC Report

The full report, along with supporting materials, is available here

[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)
Sixth Assessment Report 2021](#)

The IPCC released their report on a website with documentation, resources, links and more, but it's still a lot to dig in to. If you scroll down we've added several links to good sources that summarize the report and its implications, and we hope you find them interesting and useful.

Testing Past Predictions

But before you scroll, here's links on Gaya Herrington and her work with past climate predictions. She analyzed a 1972 MIT study predicting "rapid economic growth would lead to societal collapse in the mid 21st century", and came to a depressing conclusion... science is real.

[Update on Limits to Growth: Comparing the World3 Model with Empirical Data,](#)

Gaya Branderhorst on Harvard.edu, Mar 2020

[Yep, it's bleak, says expert who tested 1970s end-of-the-world prediction,](#) Edward

Helmore in The Guardian, Jul 2021

[MIT Predicted in 1972 That Society Will Collapse This Century. New Research Shows](#)

[We're on Schedule,](#) Nafeez Ahmed on Vice.com, Jul 2021

And now more on the IPCC Report, plus even a few ways to take action if you think it's appropriate...

IPCC, the Report and the 2026 Conference

[What is the IPCC and what does it do?](#) Ajit Niranjana and Stuart Braun on DW.com, Jul 2021

[What is the IPCC and why is its new climate report different from others?](#) Fiona Harvey in The Guardian, Aug 2021

[What Is A Cop?](#) COP26, the 2021 United Nations climate change conference
[Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC)

Understanding the IPCC Report

[3 Things To Know About What Scientists Say About Our Future Climate](#), Lauren Sommer and Ruth Talbot on NPR/OPB, Aug 2021

[The IPCC report and what it means](#), InThisTogether, Aug 2021

[IPCC: We've Already Warmed the Planet to Catastrophic Effect, but the Level of That Catastrophe Is Up to Us](#), Jeff Turrentine at National Resource Defense Council, Aug 2021

[Code Red: Our Human-Caused Climate Emergency Demands Immediate Action](#), Amy Goodman and Denis Moynihan on Democracy NOW!, Aug 2021

['Code red for humanity': UN report gives stark warning on climate change, says wild weather events will worsen](#), Doyle Rice in USA Today, Aug 2021

[The U.N.'s Ominous Climate Report Confirms We Are Out of Time](#), Eugene Robinson on Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[Our Not-So-Slow-Motion Apocalypse](#), Tom Engelhardt on Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[It's now or never: Scientists warn time of reckoning has come for the planet](#), Robin McKie in The Guardian, Aug 2021

[Irreversible Climate Devastation Unavoidable, World Has Little Time to Make Drastic Change](#), Democracy NOW!, Aug 2021

[Humans have pushed the climate into 'unprecedented' territory, landmark U.N. report finds.](#) Brady Dennis and Sarah Kaplan in the Washington Post, Aug 2021

[News Roundup: Climate change is here; world focus must now shift to preventing worst-case crises](#), Hunter in Daily Kos, Aug 2021

[The ocean is about to flip a switch that could permanently disrupt life on Earth](#), Matthew Rozsa on Salon, Aug 2021

Taking Action

[We Can't Fight the Climate Crisis Without Fighting the Military-Industrial Complex](#), Ariel Gold in Jacobin Magazine, Aug 2021

[We Have Reached Our Climate Tipping Point: It's Up to Us to Tip It Back](#), Kendra Pierre-Louis, Aug 2021

[The "Impossible" Rebellion](#), Simon Whalley on Common Dreams, Aug 2021

[350.org](#)

[Extinction Rebellion](#)

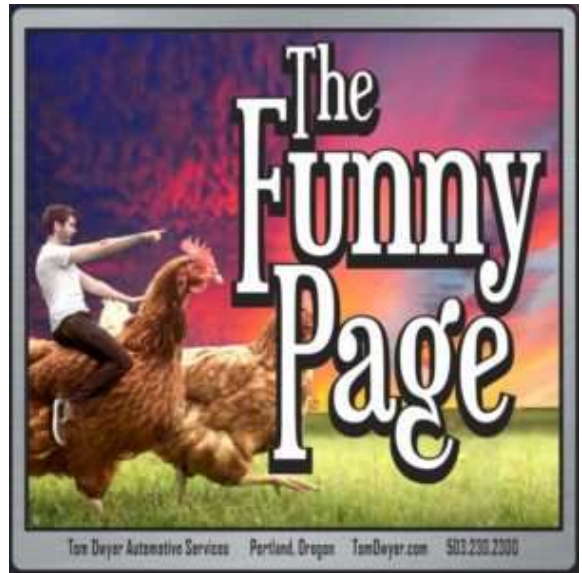
[Extinction Rebellion PDX](#)

[36 Organizations Helping Solve the Climate Crisis](#), Allison Reser on FoodTank.com, Oct 2020

The Funny Page

These are the jokes, folks! Now all in one place.

If you never read our monthly Humorousness column, you see the problem... no one else ever read it either. That's a shame, too, because there was some pretty funny stuff on it. Once in a while. Well, once. But Tom's sole directive is to "make this newsletter worth your time", and if you weren't reading the Humorousness column our writing staff wasn't doing their jobs. We used Coronavirus as an excuse to fire them all and we brought in a whole new crew of edgy Millennials who'd work for just a sliver of the bloated salary we gave our past writers. We're pretty pleased with what the new, more motivated staff has come up with, and we think you'll like it too...



"What NOW?!!" Toons by Keith Tucker



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

© KEITH TUCKER
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

Jen Rombach's "More Or Less" puzzle for August

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

THEME:
OF THE KITCHEN

THEME LETTERS (+/-)

O
F
T
H
E
K
I
T
C
H
E
N

THEME WORDS :

--- _
--- _
--- _
--- _
--- _
--- _
--- _
--- _
--- _

START LIST:

ABLE	PAIN
BARD	POET
COVEN	RIDGE
FOR	SHALT
GREATER	STINK
NICE	THONGS

CAPTION:

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

- Answers will fit the **THEME** and go in the spaces 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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The funniest thing we've seen all month...



This month's 'Funniest Thing' is us... Oregonians. Insufferable liberals aren't just your neighbors, they can be FUNNY! Tune in here for lots of ways to Laugh At An Oregonian!...

Laughs from around the InterTubes

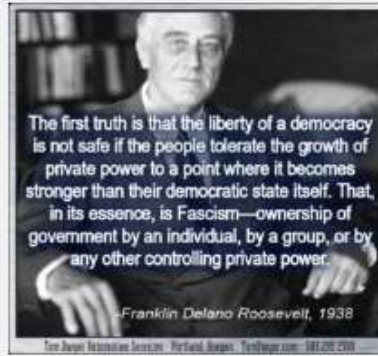


Memos from your Mechanic

§2384. SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

If two or more persons in any State or Territory, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, conspire to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States, or to levy war against them, or to oppose by force the authority thereof, or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States, or by force to seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

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In vain, they seek to hide behind the flag and the Constitution. In their blindness they forget what the flag and the Constitution stand for. Now, as always, they stand for democracy, not tyranny; for freedom, not subjection; and against a dictatorship by mob rule and the over-privileged alike.

-Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1936

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"A person engages in domestic terrorism if they do an act "dangerous to human life" that is a violation of the criminal laws of a state or the United States, if the act appears to be intended to: (i) Intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping."

Section 2385 of the 185A Patriot Act (Pub. L. No. 107-52)

They were many things, but NONE OF THEM WERE PATRIOTS.

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"More Or Less" Solution for May

THEME LETTERS (+/-)

WHAT'S IN COURT

THEME WORDS

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

SOLUTION

LAWYER
CASE
FAIR
PLEA
BAIL
CLAIM
BAR
LAW
OPINION
BOND
GAVEL
SUE

DISCOVERY

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Shop Talk

Car Wash Coupon Season



Comment of the Month



We heard good and bad from client Alys A. in a Comment Card. She started out well; to the question 'Why do you choose our service?' she replied **"Careful, honest, you explain without treating me like I'm beneath you"**, and had **"no idea"** what we could do to improve. But on 'What else would you like to tell us?', she replied **"I hate these cards! I always feel bad when I don't send them in, which is almost always!"**

But as to putting Alys' (and everyone else's) mind at ease, don't feel bad if you don't return EVERY one! That's a hassle we don't expect you to deal with. Just know they're there, know that they're important, and take advantage of them when you feel like it. Good or bad!

Carwash Coupon Season



Have you taken advantage of Carwash Coupon Season yet? Summer in Portland doesn't just mean the beautiful weather, it also means Free Car Wash Season at Tom Dwyer Automotive! The summer heat turns our parking lot into a dust factory so we offer free car washes to make up for it. Free Carwash Season usually runs until September 15, but with the blistering heat and no rain, we'll extend this year's Season until Oct 1. Sorry, but we only give out coupons for services exceeding \$100 and not for oil changes or other minor services.

So why don't we just wash your car here? It's one of the most common questions we get, so we'll let Tom himself tell you why...

"Because we're so close to the river, we (and the city) closely monitor our discharges. If we washed more than 7 cars a week we'd have to install capture systems for every drop or risk damaging the environment. We offer free coupons for WashMan because they've already made the investment to do the cleaning right without environmental damage. Even just vacuuming cars presents problems. Although we used to vacuum, we stopped out of respect for our client's privacy. You wouldn't believe the things people leave in their cars, from fragile breakables to money to weapons. There are also liability and damage issues that outweigh the benefits of a clean carpet."

So that's the story. You can forget about washing your car for the summer, but only if you stop by to take advantage of our yearly blowout... FREE CARWASH SEASON!

We always have 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.

Kyle's Kitchen

Cucumber and Peach Salad with Herbs



As the heat continues, Kyle brings us a salad recipe that will send it packing. He was especially excited about this one because he's made it so recently... he and his wife tried it for the first time just last week, paired with a pork roast, and they expect to enjoy it many, many more times this summer. He also liked it for the flexibility. "Any white, crumbly cheese will work, in fact we used a Mexican queso fresco instead of feta for our first try." You can also experiment with different varieties of store-bought or heirloom cucumbers or peaches. So get out there and get creative!

Ingredients:

- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- Kosher salt
- 1 lemon
- 2 Tbsp white wine vinegar
- 2 lb. mixed heirloom cucumbers sliced into 1/4"-thick wedges and rounds
- 1 cucumber, halved lengthwise, sliced crosswise
- 2 lb. yellow peaches, sliced into 3/4"-thick wedges
- 4 oz. mild feta, crumbled
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Handful of basil leaves, torn if large
- Handful of mint leaves, torn if large
- 1 lemon, halved

Preparation:

Vinaigrette:

- Place shallot in a small bowl and season with a big pinch of salt. Finely grate zest from lemon into bowl; cut lemon in half and squeeze in juice. Add vinegar and toss to combine. Let sit 10 minutes.

Salad and assembly:

- Place cucumbers in a medium bowl and season with salt. Spoon half of vinaigrette over and toss gently to coat.
- Place peaches in a serving bowl or on a platter and season with salt. Spoon remaining vinaigrette over and toss gently with your hands to coat.
- Add cucumbers to peaches; toss gently again just to combine. Add feta; season with salt and pepper. Top salad with basil and mint and squeeze lemon over.



Original recipe by Kelly Mariani at Scribe Winery, on Bon Appetit

6 servings

Health Notes

How your body deals with heat... until it doesn't



When it's hot, we sweat. That's not news. But it may be news that it's not the sweat itself that cools us; it's not like diving into a cold pool. LOSING the sweat through evaporation is what does it. It's easier for things to evaporate when the air is dry (the evaporating liquid has somewhere to go) or moving (a slight breeze moves humid air and replaces it with dry), but global warming is making that harder. As heat rises around the world there are some places that will become unsurvivable because the heat and humidity make it impossible to cool the human body through sweat. "In the future, parts of the world will become so hot and humid that healthy adults sitting in the shade will die within a matter of hours. It's hard to imagine, and yet that's where Earth's climate is headed, perhaps sooner than expected. New research, published Wednesday in Science Advances, found that 75 percent of the population of South Asia will experience extremely dangerous heat waves by 2100 if no action is taken to fight climate change. Four percent will experience unsurvivable heat — that's 69 million people at today's population level. The choice becomes leave or die."

For your Health this month, let's start with a great article from Washington Post that describes, in detail with wonderful explanatory graphics, how your body deals with heat

[Beyond human endurance- How climate change is making parts of the world too hot and humid to survive](#), Ruby Mellen and William Neff in Washington Post, July 2021

Then, knowing that, we'll direct you to the parts of the world that will be facing this problem directly in a very few years.

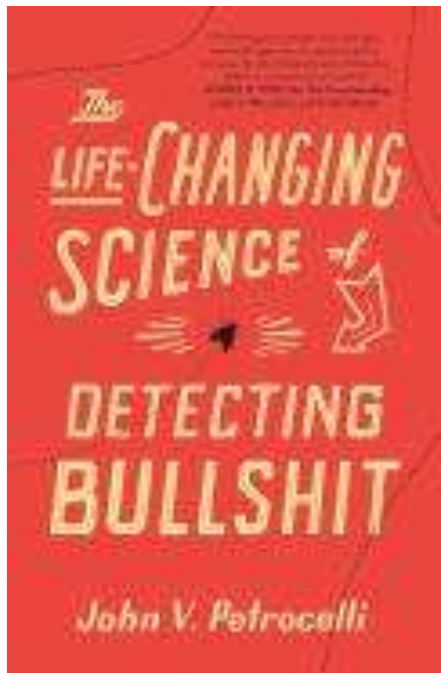
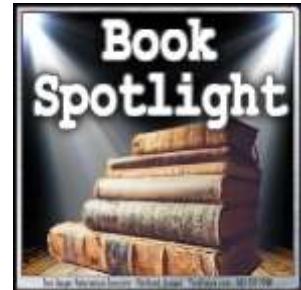
[People In These Regions Will Face 'Unsurvivable' Heat By 2100](#), Jaqueline Ronson in Inverse, Aug 2017

[Humidity and heat extremes are on the verge of exceeding limits of human survivability, study finds](#), Andrew Freedman and Jason Samenow in Washington Post, May 2020

[First recorded unsurvivable heat and humidity episodes](#), Phil Rosenberg in YourWeather.UK, May 2020

Book Spotlight

“The Life Changing Science of Detecting BS” by
John V. Petrocelli



[“The Life Changing Science of Detecting Bullshit”](#)

by John V. Petrocelli

Expanding upon his viral TEDx Talk, psychology professor and social scientist John V. Petrocelli reveals the critical thinking habits you can develop to recognize and combat pervasive false information that harms society in [The Life-Changing Science of Detecting Bullshit](#).

Bullshit is the foundation of contaminated thinking and bad decisions leading to health consequences, financial losses, legal consequences, broken relationships, and wasted time and resources.

No matter how smart we believe ourselves to be, we're all susceptible to bullshit--and we all engage in it. While we may brush it off as harmless marketing sales speak or as humorous,

embellished claims, it's actually much more dangerous and insidious. It's how Bernie Madoff successfully swindled billions of dollars from even the most experienced financial experts with his Ponzi scheme. It's how the protocols of Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward resulted in the deaths of 36 million people from starvation. Presented as truths by authority figures and credentialed experts, bullshit appears legitimate, and we accept their words as gospel. If we don't question the information we receive from bullshit artists to prove their thoughts and theories, we allow these falsehoods to take root in our memories and beliefs. This faulty data affects our decision making capabilities, sometimes resulting in regrettable life choices.

But with a little dose of skepticism and a commitment to truth seeking, you can build your critical thinking and scientific reasoning skills to evaluate information, separate fact from fiction, and see through bullshitter spin. In *The Life-Changing Science of Detecting Bullshit*, experimental social psychologist John V. Petrocelli provides invaluable strategies not only to recognize and protect yourself from everyday bullshit, but to accept your own lack of knowledge about subjects and avoid in engaging in bullshit just for societal conformity.

With real world examples from people versed in bullshit who work in the used car, real estate, wine, and diamond industries, Petrocelli exposes the red-flag warning signs found in the anecdotal stories, emotional language, and buzzwords used by bullshitters that persuade our decisions. By using his critical thinking defensive tactics against those motivated by profit, we will also learn how to stop the toxic misinformation spread from the social media influencers, fake news, and op-eds that permeate our culture and call out bullshit whenever we see it.

[Catch Petrocelli's TEDx Talk here!](#)

Department of Reality Studies

Quantum leaps, illegal monkeys, and Borgs are real



“My ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.” Do you believe that? We don’t.

Basic science, even basic consensual reality, seems under attack these days. Science and education are increasingly something for the ‘elite’; something to be distrusted by honest folk. Scientists aren’t trusted on public health, environmental science, or even cosmology, not because they’ve been proven wrong but because they’ve been proven so ruthlessly right. Objective reality is inconvenient for those who would like their whims to create reality instead. RestOfNewsletter But society has always and only existed in the real world and modern society isn’t possible without science. Pretending otherwise can, and will, get us all killed.

The way to promote understanding and appreciation of science isn’t to tell people they should care... it’s to show them why it’s so exciting. From the unimaginable expanse of the multiverse to the tiniest living beings and the quarks and leptons they’re made of, science is an adventure. The “Department of Reality Studies” may do little to affect the appreciation of science for many people one way or another, but we’ll enjoy sharing our own excitement with you so we hope you’ll check back frequently to see some glimpses of Reality that may not have made your radar. Let’s go!

[“Missing Puzzle Piece” Discovered: Critical Advance in Quantum Computer Design](#), University of New South Wales, Aug 2021

Quantum engineers from UNSW Sydney have removed a major obstacle that has stood in the way of quantum computers becoming a reality: they discovered a new technique they say will be capable of controlling millions of spin qubits – the basic units of information in a silicon quantum processor. Until now, quantum computer engineers and scientists have worked with a proof-of-concept model of quantum processors by demonstrating the control of only a handful of qubits. But with their latest research, published today (August 13, 2021) in *Science Advances*, the team have found what they consider ‘the missing jigsaw piece’ in the quantum computer architecture that should enable the control of the millions of qubits needed for extraordinarily complex calculations.

[Remembering the Scopes Monkey Trial](#), Noah Adams on NPR’s All Things Considered, Jul 2005

Eighty years ago, in July 1925, the mixture of religion, science and the public schools caught fire in Dayton, Tenn. The Scopes trial — or “Monkey Trial,” as it was called — dominated headlines across the country. The trial lasted just a week, but the questions it raised are as divisive now as they were back then. NPR looks back at the Scopes trial, the events that led up to it and its aftermath:

[Mysterious DNA sequences, known as ‘Borgs,’ recovered from California mud](#), Elizabeth Pennisi on ScienceMag.org, Jul 2021

In the TV series *Star Trek*, the Borg are cybernetic aliens that assimilate humans and other creatures as a means of achieving perfection. So when Jill Banfield, a geomicrobiologist at the University of California, Berkeley, sifted through DNA in the mud of her backyard and discovered a strange linear chromosome that included genes from a variety of microbes, her Trekkie son proposed naming it after the sci-fi aliens. The new type of genetic material was a mystery. Maybe it was part of a viral genome. Maybe it was a strange bacterium. Or maybe it was just an independent piece of DNA existing outside of cells. Whatever it is, it’s “pretty exciting,” says W. Ford Doolittle, an evolutionary biologist at Dalhousie University who was not involved with the work.

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!



Tomatoes: Poison you can eat!



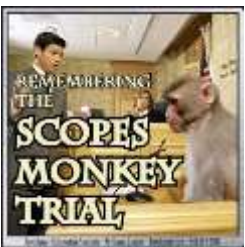
This crunchy bit of Popcorn comes to us from Tom Dwyer himself, who ran across some interesting history of the tomato while doing research for his own garden. If you're a tomato fan, like virtually everyone else on the planet, then you'll enjoy learning where tomatoes came from, how they spread, why people thought they were poisonous for so long (it was a pretty good reason!), and the answer to the ultimate question: is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? We have two links for you; first is the link that Tom sent us to [Tomato History on Veggie Care](#), and Smithsonian Magazine gets even saucier (sorry!) by explaining ["Why the Tomato was feared in Europe for more than 200 years."](#)

Hobo Coins: Work of Masters



"Hobo nickels" (or hobo coins) are named after the people who first made them, wandering "hobos" who carved their own designs into coins during their ample downtime. We first saw hobo coins through [the work of Roman Booteen](#) (more of his work [here](#)), a Russian artist who seems to be the most prominent coin-carver today. His coins aren't just incredibly detailed, they MOVE! You'll be hypnotized by his beating human heart, flapping insect wings, or moving golden trap. If you're hooked you'll want to learn about the [history of hobo nickels](#), but then you'll also want to check out the work of other people creating these masterpieces [here](#) and [here](#).

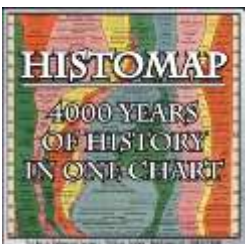
Remembering the Scopes Monkey Trial



(from NPR)- "Eighty years ago, in July 1925, the mixture of religion, science and the public schools caught fire in Dayton, Tenn. The Scopes trial — or "Monkey Trial," as it was called — dominated headlines across the country. The trial lasted just a week, but the questions it raised are as divisive now as they were back then. NPR looks back at the Scopes trial, the events that led up to it and its aftermath."

(from Tom Dwyer)- If you clicked here for Scopes, then we have more for you. The same anti-science feelings walk the world today. Check out NOVA's ["Judgement Day: Intelligent Design On Trial"](#), as creationists go to court to fight evolution again... in 2004.

HISTOMAP- 4000 Years Of History In One Chart



(from VisualCapitalist)- Imagine creating a timeline of your country's whole history stretching back to its inception. It would be no small task, and simply weighing the relative importance of so many great people, technological achievements, and pivotal events would be a tiny miracle in itself. While that seems like a challenge, imagine going a few steps further. Instead of a timeline for just one country, what about creating a graphical timeline showing the history of the entire world over a 4,000 year time period, all while having no access to computers or the internet? Today's infographic, created all the way back in 1931 by a man named John B. Sparks, maps the ebb and flow of global power going all the way

back to 2,000 B.C. on one coherent timeline.