

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND ARGUMENTS FOR THE WACKY WARRANT WORKSHOP (Fall 2017)

Note: some of these stories are made up—make sure that you know which ones are!

From *The Onion* (a parody news site)

How U.S. Schools Can Improve Math Education¹

With U.S. students regularly placing behind 20 to 25 other nations in mathematics test scores, many education experts are wondering what the sources of the problem are and how we can take steps to fix them. Here's a look at how American schools can improve their math curricula and help struggling students:

- Gradually reduce the amount of numbers overcrowding the curriculum
- Design problems using relatable real-world scenarios, like subtracting specific amounts of funding from an education budget
- Plead with teacher's union to make exception in order to get rid of Mr. Donovan
- Fix smudge on projector transparency sheet on isosceles triangles
- Institute and fund a sweeping foreign exchange program that offers American children unique opportunity to visit high-achieving Singaporean schools and cheat off their students
- Decorate classrooms with photos of famous mathletes from throughout history
- Get students more engaged by having them act out a theorem or conjecture
- Buddy up Alabama with Massachusetts
- Allow students to take a few integers home with them after school

Weak-Willed Coward Changes Opinion After Learning He Was Wrong²

DULUTH, MN—In a shocking display of utter spinelessness, 33-year-old coward Benjamin Dyer gave in and changed his opinion just like that Monday after learning he was wrong. “You know, I think I’ve come around to your way of seeing things,” the weakling said, reportedly reassessing his viewpoint to accommodate new information like an unbelievable pansy instead of doubling down on his previously held belief like a real man. “No one likes to be corrected, but you really set me straight on a lot of stuff. Thank you.” At press time, the whimpering little puppy said he’d welcome the opportunity to continue the conversation further since he’d benefited so much the first time.

¹ *The Onion*, October 16, 2015; <http://www.theonion.com/graphic/how-us-schools-can-improve-math-education-51282>

² *The Onion*, November 7, 2017

REPORT CONFIRMS POOREST HALF OF WORLD PROBABLY NOT EVEN TRYING³

OXFORD, U.K. (SatireWire.com) — A new report claims just 62 individuals control as much wealth as half the world’s population, leading economists to speculate that the bottom half must not be trying very hard.

“It’s shocking that the 62 richest people on Earth had wealth (\$1.76 trillion) equivalent to the poorest 3.6 billion people,” said Marcus Scott, an economist at Xyrp Asset Management. “You have to ask yourself, ‘Combined, all those folks can’t even earn as much as just *five-dozen people*? Honestly, it’s like they’re not even trying. No wonder they’re poor.’”

The Oxfam study, released this week,⁴ suggests several steps that can close the income gap, such as, “pay workers a living wage,” “promote women’s economic equality,” and “crack down on international tax havens.” But to Fox Business analyst Tracey Neidermeir, the unaffluent should start by making better decisions.

“The poor spend their days buying cheap food and discount socks and paying rent on horrible little apartments, which is a diversified portfolio, granted, but in the wrong sectors,” Neidermeir said. “Instead of food, clothing, and shelter, right now people should be thinking treasury bonds, healthcare stocks, and Iranian energy infrastructure.”

Critics of the wealth gap argue the poor don’t have the financial power to invest like the wealthy do, a situation economist Alex Feinstrobe said is easily overcome.

“If you don’t have the finances to do those things – and admittedly a lot of people don’t – there are other steps that don’t involve large amounts of money,” Feinstrobe said. “For instance, networking can pay huge dividends. So play golf with a Federal Reserve Board member, or go to a house party in the Hamptons, or have lunch with a fellow Harvard Business School graduate.

“I think that’s the difference,” Feinstrobe said. “Did those other 3.6 billion people think to do *even one* of those things? *Even one*? That’s rhetorical. The answer is ‘Of course not.’”

Meanwhile, in a detailed review of the Oxfam report, *Forbes* magazine calculated the average wealth of the top 62 individuals at \$28 billion, while the average person in the lower 3.6 billion was worth \$488. (See graph above) As a result, *Forbes* concluded the rich are 56 million times better people, an improvement from 2010, when they were only 45 million times better.

³ Jan 19, 2016 © 2016 SatireWire.com <http://www.satirewire.com/content1/?p=6102>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2016/jan/18/richest-62-billionaires-wealthy-half-world-population-combined>

From *San Antonio Express-News* (a serious newspaper)

Time to Dump the Penny

By Express-News Editorial Board; Sunday, July 26, 2015

Now that we are going to have a woman on the \$10 bill, bringing some welcome diversity to our cash, perhaps we can turn our attention to another pressing currency matter.

It's time to dump the penny from circulation.

Before you send off that outraged letter to the editor defending the penny, ask yourself if it's worth it.

Is it worth \$53 million a year to mint the penny just so you can dump it in a jar or a bowl when you get home? Because that's how much we lose a year making pennies. It cost 1.7 cents to produce a penny in fiscal 2014.

Sure, \$53 million a year is a drop in the bucket for our federal budget, but every penny counts — no pun intended. And some coins, like the dime, turn a profit. It only costs 3.9 cents to make a dime.

It wasn't always this way. There was a time when a penny cost a penny (or less) to make.

Pennies (and nickels) didn't start costing taxpayers until 2006 when the price of metals — copper, zinc and nickel — rose.

But beyond the numbers, it is a well-established fact pennies are bothersome and irksome at checkout lines and in pockets.

When they scatter across the floor or, say, a parking lot, they are rarely worth the effort to bend over and pick up.

And when you have finally collected a serviceable amount of pennies, which might take years, more often than not you have to take them to a Coinstar kiosk, which charges an outrageous 10.9 cents to sort them.

It's only common sense. Dump the penny.⁵

Ditch dollar bill (a letter to the editor)⁶

Re: "It's common sense: Ditch the penny," editorial, July 27:

Ditch the penny? Not only that but also quit printing dollar bills. Dollar coins constitute a substantial savings to the Treasury. A dollar coin costs more to mint than a dollar bill costs to print, but it lasts 30 years or so while the bill must be replaced after about a year.

Hartmut Lau

Hang onto George (another letter to the editor)⁷

Re: "Ditch dollar bill," Your Turn, Aug. 15:

Obviously, the letter writer has never spent a week in England, walking around with a pound of coins wearing a hole in his pocket due to the lack of paper money in small denominations. While you are searching through a handful of coins trying to reduce your amount, the merchants are impatiently trying to get you out of their pay line. Some merchants even have the audacity to reach over and pluck your hand and give you more coins as change.

⁵ <http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/editorials/article/Time-to-dump-the-penny-6404265.php>

⁶ http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/article/Your-Turn-August-15-6445110.php

⁷ http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/article/Your-Turn-Oct-28-6594134.php

Our government has tried before to ram dollar coins down our throats. It did not work then, and it will not work now, regardless of the savings. Neither customers nor merchants want a dollar coin and its inconvenience.

Keep George Washington on paper!

Robert D. Schafroth

Guns safe; act now⁸

Another shooting, and the NRA says we need more guns so the good guys can shoot the former good guys gone bad. The NRA scares Americans with threats that our guns will be taken away.

The right to bear arms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the Constitution, and no presidential order or act of Congress can take that away; only an amendment repealing the Second Amendment can do that, and it would have to be ratified by three-fourths of the states. It's not going to happen, and it shouldn't happen.

The Second Amendment is one of the reasons our democracy has survived for almost 250 years, but ask yourself, why do ordinary Americans need multi-ammo magazines? Because a hunter may be gored by a deer while reloading? Because a target shooter may have a target fall on his head while reloading? Or because a shooter killing fellow Americans may be subdued while reloading?

We need to act!

Greg Castillo

Trump haters⁹

After reading the Express-News and other media outlets, I have learned progressives, such as Hillary Clinton, hate President Trump; socialists, such as Bernie Sanders, hate President Trump; dictatorships around the world hate President Trump; and many university students hate both free speech and President Trump.

It is evident this hate is driven by Trump's interference with former President Obama's agenda to "fundamentally transform America" into a socialist-globalist-borderless state. To these people, defending America's borders and defending the Constitution are crimes worthy of impeachment. And as we observe, such people will spread any lie, do any act to advance their socialist-globalist agenda. All this adds up to reasons why every patriotic American should support President Trump's "Make America great again" agenda — an agenda that open borders and socialism can never accomplish!

Raymond M. Johnson

⁸ San Antonio Express News, Letter to the editor, Nov. 21, 2017.

⁹ San Antonio Express News, Letter to the editor, Nov. 14, 2017.