

TUESDAY MORNING: TRASH DAY

It's trash day in my neighborhood. Time to take the garbage to the curb. I aim for as little trash as possible, which means buying and consuming less processed/more fresh foods. I use paper/glass/ceramic/stainless steel for storage, avoiding plastics as much as possible. Every lick of plastic means oil – either the plastic has been created wholly from oil, or fossil fuels have been used in its manufacture. Can say the same about the manufacturing of paper/glass/ceramic/stainless steel, but paper can be composted/recycled/renewed, and the rest can be used for lifetimes if cared for. I use ceramic bowls that belonged to my great-grandmother, and stainless pots and bowls once belonging to my mother, and I expect to hand them down some day.

Which makes me all judgy when I'm walking through the neighborhood, side-eyeing the garbage cans at the curb. Can't believe how much waste is created every week, and how willing we are to pay tax dollars to stick it in the ground as landfill. How can Family X not bother to recycle at all? How can Family Y live on so much processed, chemical-laden garbage? It's all right there at the end of their driveway, their addiction to fossil fuel consumption spelled out in trash.

What small change can you make in your lifestyle so Judgy McJudgyPants here doesn't side-eye your trash cans?

Speaking of trash...

Piling on the wonks, Part 3: United Healthcare exiting Obamacare in Michigan

Disclosure: UHC is my health insurer, which I am fortunate enough to afford. But I couldn't stay with them if I had to go on Obamacare. UHC says it's losing too much money in Michigan to remain in the program – not certain how given the

double-digit underwriting increase it posted for this past year. UHC will leave other states which may not fare as well as Michigan, and even Michigan will suffer from decreasing competition. Do tell us, though, wonks, how great Obamacare is. I'm sure I will feel better should I ever have to shop Obamacare plans for pricey coverage with a dwindling number of providers. And if you missed the previous discussions on inept Obamacare wonkery, see Part 1 by Marcy and Part 2 by Ed Walker.

Tech Tiews

- Don't let anybody say Apple isn't cooperating with law enforcement (Phys.org) – Apple has, to the tune of 30,000 times from Jul-Dec 2015 alone, according to a report released late Monday.
- BlackBerry CEO says telecom companies should 'comply with reasonable lawful access requests' to assist law enforcement (Reuters) – Nice bit of footwork from a company which passed their encryption key to Canadian law enforcement as far back as 2010.
- If you missed the 60 Minutes segment about the security threat posted by Signalling System Number 7 protocol (SS7), you should read up. (The Guardian) – Also wouldn't hurt to look into end-to-end encryption for your communications. Wonder

what role SS7 played in NSA's and GCHQ's 'treasure mapping' Germany's Telekom and other global networks, and if this explains why SS7 is still not secure?

- [Presence of drugs in car] plus [pics of cash on phone] = suspicious (Ars Technica)
 - Wait, isn't the presence of illegal drugs in one's car enough to make one a suspect?
- New technology for chip-embedded smart cards will speed checkout times, says VISA (Phys.org) – What the hell are we being forced to switch to so-called smart cards for if they don't actually improve checkout process already? We'll piss away any savings from increased security standing in line waiting.

Time to fetch the emptied trash can. See you tomorrow!