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INBOX

MAN SUES OREGON LOTTERY

I hate lotteries. They are designed (as WW's graphics show) as taxes on the working class and poor—no matter the education ["Man vs. Machine," WW, March 4, 2015]. Everyone thinks they can outguess/outsmart the lottery.

That being said, Justin Curzi has a right to pursue this: Using the auto-hold feature in video poker is deceptive—even in the context of playing a lottery game—and players do have a right to a fair shot.

—*"Edith Spencer"*

All Oregonians are partially to blame here, if only because voters allowed the lottery to function in lieu of citizens actually paying taxes to pay for the government we demand.

Shifting those costs to games of "chance" was a model for rigging the system. Congrats to Curzi for exposing the ruse the lottery puts over on the poor and ill-informed, but really, Oregon, what did you expect when we decided that gambling was a good way to fund state services?

—*"OregonBoy"*

The lottery commission has a duty to inform, and the odds should be explicitly clear to anyone who sits down at a video poker terminal. If they weren't readily apparent to a smart, attentive guy like Curzi, the commission has failed in its duty to inform.

—*"Seems2Me"*

COSTS FOR SMALL BREWERS

A business is forced to follow regulations that were put in place to measure environmental

impact. The business does not want to follow regulations ["Mead It and Weep," WW, March 4, 2015].

Sorry, no sympathy here. These regulations were put in place to protect the environment, and therefore benefit everyone. A business should not be allowed to circumvent these regulations just because they don't want to.

I am excited to try this mead, though. It should be a great addition to Portland's fine collection of breweries and cideries.

—*"Adam Herstein"*

This ruling has been made out of ignorance. If they would just educate themselves about the process, they might sing a different tune. (I say might because they are, after all, bureaucrats.)

—*"Michael Bennett"*

TIMBERS FANS SOUND OFF

As someone who sits in the front of section 108, you can fuck right off ["Timers Fans, Mapped," WW, March 4, 2015]. I've never gone Black Friday shopping. I'd tear into you more, but I'm in line for the Timbers and need to conserve my battery life.

—*"Kris Carpenter"*

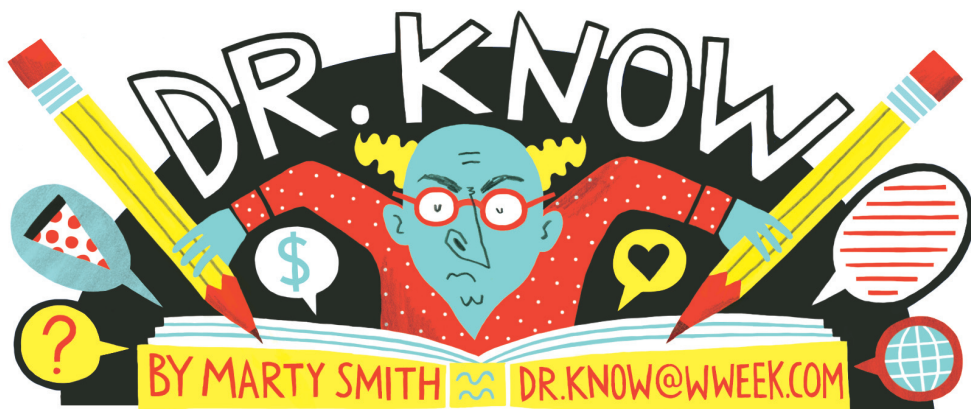
This is far more amusing than I expected it to be. Polite applause for you, WW.

—*"Joshua Noble"*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include the author's street address and phone number for verification.

Letters must be 250 or fewer words.

Submit to: 2220 NW Quimby St., Portland, OR 97210. Fax: (503) 243-1115. Email: mzusman@wwweek.com.



Do perching pigeons have motion detectors? Every time I walk under one, its bowels promptly explode on my bald spot or exquisitely manufactured hat. The west side of the Broadway Bridge is like a gauntlet of milky fecal rain. Fuck these pigeons.
—*Not Your Statue*

"Fuck these pigeons" is not, strictly speaking, a question, Statue, but I'll let it slide in deference to your obvious emotional distress.

If it's any consolation, the pigeons are not exactly defecating on your head. Pigeons make no distinction between Nos. 1 and 2—their digestive and urinary tracts disgorge their products into a single chamber, called the cloaca (Latin for "cesspool").

Pigeons carry this slurry of already-excreted urine and feces around for a while because everything birds do, except flying, is completely disgusting. The addition of urine to the mix helps explain how birds can drop so many bombs in a day.

Moreover, they'll drop the vast majority of those bombs from the stationary, roosting position you've noted. Unlike seagulls, who seem to delight in dive-bombing freshly waxed Miatas, pigeons don't like to crap while flying—apparently, it's difficult for them to do without soiling their own feet.

There's an urban legend that it's literally impossible for a pigeon to drop a midair deuce, but cooler heads suggest the truth is more nuanced. After all, when push comes to shove, you or I could take a shit while driving (don't ask me how I know this)—but it's definitely something we'd try to avoid if at all possible.

Given the difficulty of shedding payload in flight, it makes sense for birds to clear the decks anytime they might have to make a quick getaway—like, say, when a large and terrifying human is passing directly below.

In short, the pigeons shit on anyone they feel threatened by. In this respect, if no other, they are indeed true Americans.

QUESTIONS? Send them to dr.know@wwweek.com