**Waste**

**As much as 40 percent of America's food supply gets thrown away every day. The total annual food-waste bill for consumers is $162 billion. American families waste between $1,300 and $2,300 of food annually. *(Slate.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 17, 2015)***

**A wealthy man lay critically ill. “There’s only one thing that will save you,” the doctor said. “A brain transplant. It’s experimental and very expensive.” “Money is no object,” the man said. “Can you get a brain?” “There are three available. The first was from a college professor, but it’ll cost $10,000.” “Don’t worry, I can pay. What about the second?” “It was from a rocket scientist. It’ll cost you $100,000.” “I have the money. And I’d be a lot smarter too. But what about the third?” “The third was from a Washington bureaucrat. It will set you back half a million dollars.” “Why so much for the bureaucrat’s brain?” the patient asked. “Never been used.” (*Herman Toran, in Reader’s Digest)***

**The U.S. government has spent more than $24 million over the past six years flying a plane over Cuba, that beams American-sponsored TV programming that Havana blocks with a signal jamming. Congressmen representing Cuban exile communities in Florida have insisted that the blocked telecasts continue. *(ForeignPolicy.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 9, 2013)***

**Americans throw out about 27 percent of the 350 million pounds of food they buy every year. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 30, 2008)***

**The food discarded daily in the United States could feed 240,000 people for a year. *(The Other Side, as it appeared in Catholic Digest, January, 2008)***

**Forty percent of all food in the U.S. ends up in the trash, according to a new report by the Natural Resources Defense Council. The average family of four wastes $2,275 in food each year, or 20 pounds per person per month*. (Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 7, 2012)***

**What toy are people least likely to use after they buy it? Could be the kite. The International Kite Fliers Association reported that the kites sold outnumbered the kites flown by about 40 to 1. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**As it prepares to withdraw from Afghanistan, the U.S. military is destroying $7 billion worth of equipment that is too expensive to ship home. Thousands of heavily armored vehicles and other equipment are being reduced to scrap, and sold to Afghans for pennies per pound. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 5-12, 2013)***

**Oil producers in North Dakota's Bakken oil fields are "flaring," or burning off into the air, about a third of the natural gas they drill -- a waste of $100 million worth of gas every month. The state lacks sufficient pipelines and processing to service its booming number of fracking wells. *(Reuters.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 9, 2013)***

**The greatest waste of natural resources is . . . that most (men) go to their graves with their best song still in them. *(Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.)***

**A company called Accountemps in New York just completed a study concluding that U.S. businesses waste $2.6 billion annually on unnecessary photocopies. It estimates 350 billion photocopies are made every year and that, of those, one-third will end up in the wastebasket. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**In many developing countries, poor hygiene and sanitation can be a death sentence. That fact led sales exec Shawn Seipler to quit his job seven years ago to launch Clean the World, a charity dedicated to collecting and recycling leftover hotel soap for those in need. His company has since partnered with Global Soap, and together the two groups have delivered more than 25 million bars to 99 countries. "One of the most effective ways to prevent many deaths is actually just hand washing with soap," said Global Soap director Sam Stephens. "We're hoping to make a difference." *(The Week magazine, April 24, 2015)***

**Volunteers in the Texas Yam Jam fanned across the state's farm fields during the weekend to pick up sweet potatoes missed by mechanical harvesters. They are part of a national network to feed the poor with food that might otherwise go to waste. The work is overseen by the Big Island, Virginia-based Society of St. Andrew, an ecumenical organization with strong United Methodist ties. 461.5 million pounds of food: The estimated amount that volunteers have gleaned over the past quarter-century that would have been dumped, plowed under or left to rot. 1.4 billion: The servings of food donated to the hungry that would have been wasted if not for the volunteers' efforts. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, October 25, 2004)***

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