**Waste-Related**

**The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life. *(Muhammad Ali)***

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**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)***

**Americans spend an unnecessary $265.6 billion every year on "administrative complexity" in the health-care industry, and $75.7 billion to $101.2 billion on over-treatment or low-value care, according to a new study. A quarter of the U.S. health-care costs -- adding up to $760 billion to $935 billion -- come from waste. *(JAMA: the Journal of the American Medical Association, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 18, 2019)***

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**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)***

**Between 2000 and 2015, global clothing production doubled, while the average number of times that a garment was worn before disposal declined by 36 percent. In China, it declined by 70 percent. *(Bloomberg.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 2, 2018)***

**The Air Force has spent $326,785 since 2016 to keep replacing special coffee mugs that can reheat fluids on planes in flight. The mugs, which cost $1,280 each, break easily when dropped. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 16, 2018)***

**More than 82 million Covid vaccines -- over 11 percent of the total distributed throughout the U.S. – were discarded between December 2020 through mid-May 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last February, the CDC reported that 65 million doses were thrown away. The doses are being discarded mostly because of lack of demand, inefficiencies, and expiration. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2022)***

**Thirty-one percent of credit card holders say they've never redeemed any of the rewards they've earned, like cash back or discounts on airline tickets. Credit card companies, which depend on customers not taking full advantage of the perks offered, typically plan for about 20 percent of rewards to go unused. *(BusinessInsider.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 5, 2017)***

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**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)***

**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)***

**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)***

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**Greetings from "Garbage Island": Lying between New Zealand and Chile in the South Pacific, uninhabited Henderson Island boasts white sandy beaches, 57 species of flowering plant -- and 38 million pieces of plastic garbage, the highest density of trash ever recorded. Researchers made the startling discovery during a routine survey of the 14.4-square-mile coral atoll, which is so remote and inaccessible that in 1988 UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Site with a "near-pristine island ecosystem." Now Henderson is littered with 18 tons of fishing nets, toothbrushes, razors, lighters, water bottles, helmets, toy soldiers, and other refuse, the Washington Post reports. Markings suggest the debris came from China, Japan, South America, Europe, the U.S., Russia, and elsewhere around the world. Why did it end up on Henderson? The island sits on the western edge of the South Pacific gyre -- a circular ocean current that acts like a conveyer belt, dumping floating objects ashore. During a three-month stay on Henderson, the researchers found that about 3,500 pieces of plastic waste washed onto the island's beaches daily. All told, some 9 million tons of plastic ends up in oceans each year; it traps marine mammals and fish, gets swallowed by seabirds, never degrades, and can float around for decades. "When we dispose of plastic, we think it goes away," says study co-author Alex Bond. "But there is no "away.'" *(The Week magazine, June 2, 2017)***

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**The U.S. gift-card market was $95.7 billion last year. Researchers estimate that between $2 billion and $4 billion will be left unused on gift cards this year. *(TheAtlantic.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 6/September 13, 2019)***

**Some 56 percent of shoppers said they plan to give at least one gift card this year, according to the National Retail Federation, putting cards second only to clothing. A gift card might not elicit the same squeals of delight that come with giving the perfect present, but hey, it's the thought that counts, right? Alas, it turns out we "aren't even getting the right cards." Close to $1 billion loaded onto gift cards went unredeemed last year, according to CEBTowerGroup, a corporate insight and tech company. *(The Week magazine, December 23 / December 30, 2016)***

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**I have so much that I want to do. I hate wasting time. *(Stephen Hawking)***

**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.)***

**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)***

**Nine out of 10 Americans throw away perfectly edible, unspoiled food purely because the "sell by" or "best before" date has expired. The average home throws away $450 of edible food a year because of a misunderstanding of those labels. *(Los Angeles Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 4, 2013)***

**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)***

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**Of the roughly 8,300 million metric tons of plastic that have been produced to date, about 60 percent is believed to be floating in the oceans or stuffed in landfills. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 21, 2018)***

**Our plastic-clogged planet: The world is filling up with plastic. In the first comprehensive assessment of global plastic production, researchers have calculated that humans have created an astonishing 9 billion tons of the synthetic polymer since 1950 -- and 7 billion tons of it have been thrown away. Of the discarded plastic, just 9 percent has been recycled and 12 percent incinerated; the remaining 79 percent is either clogging up landfills, littering landscapes, or floating in the ocean. The problem is only getting worse: Half of all global plastic production has taken place in the past 13 years. The researchers estimate that by 2050, there will be more than 13 billion tons of discarded plastic worldwide. "The danger is permanent global contamination with plastics," lead author Roland Gayer of the University of California, Santa Barbara, tells The Washington Post. "It's just going to be everywhere in the soil, in the ocean, in the sediment of the ocean floor." Even the beaches of Hawaii now have plastic bits mixed in with the sand. A team of oceanographers recently discovered off the coast of Chile a plastic garbage patch bigger than the state of Texas, similar to the vortex of floating plastic debris in the North Pacific. Most plastic products, such as food packages, are designed to be used once and then discarded. Recycling rates remain low, especially in the U.S.: Europeans recycle 30 percent of their plastic and the Chinese 25 percent, versus just 9 percent here. *(The Week magazine, August 11, 2017)***

**Twenty companies were responsible for producing 55 percent of the 130 million tons of single-use plastic waste in the world in 2019. ExxonMobil led all global plastic-waste polluters with 5.9 million tons; Dow Chemical (5.5 million) and China's Sinopec (5.3 million) were just behind. *(TheGuardian.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 28, 2021)***

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**Americans are wasting $2 billion a year buying premium gasoline they don't need, according to the American Automobile Association. "The "grade gap" in many parts of the country between premium and regular is now 50 to 60 cents per gallon. *(CNBC.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 27, 2020)***

**The universe is a pretty big place. If it's just us, seems like an awful waste of space. *(Carl Sagan, cosmologist)***

**About 47 percent of all edible seafood in the U.S. went to waste between 2009 and 2013, largely because consumers and restaurants don't cook it before it spoils. The 2.3 billion pounds of seafood thrown in the trash each year would provide enough protein for 10 million people for a year. *(WashingtonPost.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 9, 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)***

**It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into. *(Jonathan Swift)***

**More than half of U.S. workers left some vacation time unused in 2015, depriving the nation's economy of $223 billion in lost spending on restaurants, home-improvement projects, and travel, according to a study backed by the travel industry. Workers used 16.2 vacation days on average last year, compared with the long-term average of 20.3 days from 1976 to 2000. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 24, 2016)***

**Wealth gives you the power to be wasteful – but not the right. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

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**If average, you devote about a year of your lifetime to searching for things you've misplaced. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**People waste years of their lives not being willing to waste hours of their lives. *(Michael Lewis, author)***

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**It is better to waste one’s youth than do nothing with it at all. *(Georges Courteline, writer)***

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