

The Public Insight Network

Powering a new journalism of collaboration

MIT Communications Forum

March 18, 2010

Principles behind Public Insight Journalism

- **Many people have expertise to share, not just a few**
- **People know and want to share what matters to them**
- **Listening makes coverage more credible and relevant**
- **Relevance builds trust and audience**

Increased Knowledge

- **Draws upon** insight, first-hand knowledge and experience

Increased Civic Engagement

- **Influences** news coverage, civic action and journalistic relevance



Public Dialogue

- **Facilitates engagement** through interviews, live events and serious games

SEARCH Advanced search...

SUPPORT KUOW

SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW

Public Insight Network[®]



Photo by erasmusa.

Your knowledge is news.

Be part of a network of people who help KUOW tell the stories of Puget Sound. Sign up and we'll contact you about once a month about a story we're covering. Tell us what you know!



Sign up and share:

- Local knowledge
- Experience
- Expertise

12.14.09

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 7:00 p.m. BBC The World Today
- 8:00 p.m. KUOW Specials
- 9:00 p.m. KUOW Presents
- 10:00 p.m. Living on Earth
- 11:00 p.m. As It Happens

SCHEDULES

DAILY / WEEKLY

RESOURCES

- 2008 Annual Report (pdf)
- Affiliates
- About KUOW
- Awards
- Board of Directors
- Contact Us
- HD Radio
- Online Listening FAQ's
- KUOW2
- KUOW Studio Rentals
- Press
- Program Submission Guidelines



KUOWpblcinsight

Follow
 Lists

What are you hearing from your contacts in Iran? Click to answer: <http://tinyurl.com/mez8rd>

12:39 PM Jun 24th from web

What will you remember about the Alaskan Way Viaduct after it's gone? Click to answer KUOW: <http://tinyurl.com/lqtw6o>

12:57 PM Jun 17th from web

Asking whether you're trying to get a better deal on real estate. Click to answer: <http://tinyurl.com/qgqr58>

12:11 PM Jun 3rd from web

On my 40th attempt to load a pic into Twitter. Why is "That's a nice picture" code for "you have no picture"?

1:09 PM Jun 1st from web

Name KUOW Public Insight
Location Seattle, WA
Web <http://www.kuow.org>
Bio Looking for people from the Puget Sound region to be news and background sources for KUOW. Share your knowledge.

319 following 500 followers 28 listed

Tweets 25

Favorites

Actions

[block KUOWpblcinsight](#)
[report for spam](#)

Following



View all



\$3.3 TRILLION

CONFIDENTIAL

TOP SECRET

"IF YOU EVER WANTED TO CONTROL
WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO, HERE'S
YOUR CHANCE TO DECIDE."

GET BRIEFED

SKIP BRIEFING



Commentary

With pilots reduced to monitors, boredom is the enemy

October 28, 2009

By Hemant Bhana

I clearly remember my first trip in the [Boeing 727](#) as a new pilot for United Airlines, back in the summer of 2000. With all the dials, switches, levers and knobs, the airplane looked like the lunar module of NASA's heady Apollo days. First flown in 1963, the airplane lacked flight management computers. It required three pilots who relied on skill and experience to get it to its destination.

I remember settling into my seat, trying to hide my nervousness from the instructor pilot assigned to complete my training. Somehow, we made it from Denver to San Jose that afternoon. We even made it back to Denver afterward.

I loved flying the 727. It was loud, smoky, obnoxious, grimy, gas guzzling and bullet-proof. Nothing put a bigger smile on my face than knowing we were setting off car alarms in the parking lots adjacent to the airport on each take-off.

Perhaps the greatest accolade about the venerable tri-jet was that it truly was a pilot's airplane. Navigating required considerable mental math and pilot skills. Moreover, because the autopilot was so basic, flying required constant attention. If the pilot wanted to initiate a descent, he or she manually adjusted the aircraft and the throttles. The airplane required its pilots to be engaged in the flight. All of us who flew the airplane loved it.

Fast forward to the spring of 2007, when I began to fly the [Airbus 320](#), the type of aircraft whose distracted pilots flew beyond the Twin Cities last week. The A320, nicknamed "Fi-Fi" because of its French lineage, is an exceptionally sophisticated aircraft with enough computers to make Bill Gates smile.



Hemant Bhana, Vancouver, WA, currently works as a contractor for the FAA in the Western Flight Procedures Office. Prior to this, he was an airline pilot for over 10 years. His graduate degree is from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. (Image courtesy of Hemant Bhana)

- ✉️ E-mail this page
- 🖨️ Print this page
- 📌 Save to Delicious
- 👍 Submit to Digg
- 🔗 Share this



SPONSOR

One of America's
best hospitals.
12 years in a row.

Hennepin County Medical Center

Every Life Matters.™

SPONSOR

Medtronic Presents

Science Matters!

A hands-on science guide for the entire family

A FREE FAMILY SCIENCE GUIDE

medtronicfoundation.org

BECOME A SPONSOR ▶



Memories of Sputnik from Jim Garland

I was a teenager in Kansas City when Sputnik was launched, and it felt like a stab in the heart. Like many kids my age, I knew all the differences between the (vastly superior) American F-86 Sabre Jet, and the (vastly inferior) Russian MIG-15. I devoured science fiction, designed an atom-powered rocket ship for a school project (it had a gas tank that was filled with atoms, instead of gasoline), and dreamed about aliens from other planets. I saw every B-sci fi movie ever made. To think that the Russians were moving ahead of us Americans was a bitter pill.

I was a teenage ham radio operator when Sputnik was launched, and I stayed up nights waiting for it to pass overhead so I could pick up its radio signal. It transmitted a simple "beep, beep, beep," which I can still hear in my head. I think it was transmitting on 20MHz (or thereabouts). The signal was weak, and there was interference from other stations on the frequency, but when I finally heard it I felt like I was a participant in an important part of history. I could not have been more excited. To me, personally, Sputnik was a more significant event than the moon landing.

In this photo Jim Garland sits in front of his Ham Radio Station in 1957.

0:07 0:10

Telemetry

Mouse over

0:05 0:10

Telemetry from Sputnik I as it passed overhead.

>>

Wednesday, September 17th 2008

UPCOMING SHOWS:

- Rx: Personal Values
- As We Are: People Over 90
- Northwest Passages: Shaindel Beers
- Northwest Passages: Naseem Rakha

RECENT SHOWS:

- Stimulus Money
- Handmade Musical Instruments
- Northwest Passages: Virginia Euwer Wolff

TAGS:

As We Are: Abortion Stories



What's behind the decision to terminate a pregnancy?

We are all faced with private decisions in our lives, but few reverberate in the political climate like the decision to terminate a pregnancy. Women who have abortions do so for a variety of reasons ranging from economic challenges to medical problems. Women terminated 11,663 pregnancies in Oregon last year, according to [state health statistics](#). Though abortion is an issue that is often under the media microscope, we rarely hear the stories of individual women who have been through the experience of terminating a pregnancy. On the next installment of our *As We Are* series, we're inviting women into the studio to talk about what it was like for them to have an abortion.

Have you ever been faced with the option of terminating a pregnancy? What made you consider this course of action? How did it turn out? If you had it to do over again, would you choose differently?

LATEST COMMENTS

- Congratulations on your new born child. However, instead of aborting ... - *Jakeac*
- We are NOT trying to shove anti-abortionism down your throat ... - *Jakeac*
- NO!!! Kristian! It means that we need to trust that ... - *Jakeac*

COMMENTS: (9 total)

[newest first](#) | [oldest first](#)

IMO, this is your best show so far.

I heartily encourage all (on both sides of the debate and even those who wonder why we get so serious about the topic) to listen to this rebroadcast. Food for thought for all.

tpohara — Tue Dec. 30th 1:13a.m.

[Login to reply](#)

I'm on the edge of tears listening to this program. I struggle with infertility and would give my left arm to get pregnant. However I can see where these ladies are coming from, and I cannot judge them. But it is still almost physically painful to hear this as someone who is incapable of conception.

HerOdyssey — Tue Dec. 30th 12:37p.m.

[Login to reply](#)

My husband and I tried to have a baby for over a year. I was 11 weeks pregnant when I had an ultra sound that indicated my child was missing an X chromosome. She was diagnosed with Turner Syndrome and we had an abortion at 16 weeks. This was 2 1/2 weeks ago and the healing process is a painful journey. I loved that baby more then I can explain, but we decided that the best use of our information was to terminate the pregnancy, the pregnancy we had worked so hard to achieve. With the legalization of this procedure I was able to safely change the future lives of my entire family. As hard as this decision was, going to full term would have been so much harder for the rest of all our lives.

carolineleanne — Tue Dec. 30th 12:44p.m.

[Login to reply](#)

SEARCH Advanced search...

▶ **PLEDGE NOW**

KUOW NEWS

Mobile Home Owners Seek Stability

10/14/2009

The Snohomish County Council is scheduled to decide today whether to block owners of mobile home parks from evicting homeowners and redeveloping the land. Steve Terry admits the mobile home park where he used to live in Marysville was attractive to a land developer. He says all of them are. "First of all, it's partially developed," says Terry, "they're almost always built on fairly level ground where it's easy to redevelop. And it's usually a good-sized chunk of land."

It was called Eagle Point. Steve Terry moved there in 1989. When Marysville was a lot smaller.

Terry: "I'd wanted to live in a town that was small enough that the feed store was the main local feature. Unfortunately, that was also the year they put in the Fred Meyer's, which should have told me something."

Marysville was about to grow. Eagle Point Mobile Home Park had growing pains soon after Steve Terry moved in. Problems with crime



Steve Terry looks over stakes and weeds in his old neighborhood: the former Eagle Point Mobile Home Park. Photo by Phyllis Fletcher.

LISTEN TO KUOW NEWS

REALAUDIO

MP3 HI

DOWNLOAD ?

KUOW NEWS ON-DEMAND

POD RSS

11.12.09

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- 10:00 a.m. Weekday
- 11:00 a.m. To the Point
- 12:00 p.m. The Conversation
- 1:00 p.m. BBC News Hour
- 2:00 p.m. KUOW Presents

SCHEDULES

DAILY / WEEKLY

NEWS PODCASTS

- KUOW News
- KUOW Specials

KUOW SPECIALS

Select a Special

Funding available for special projects by the Program Venture Fund.

NEWS

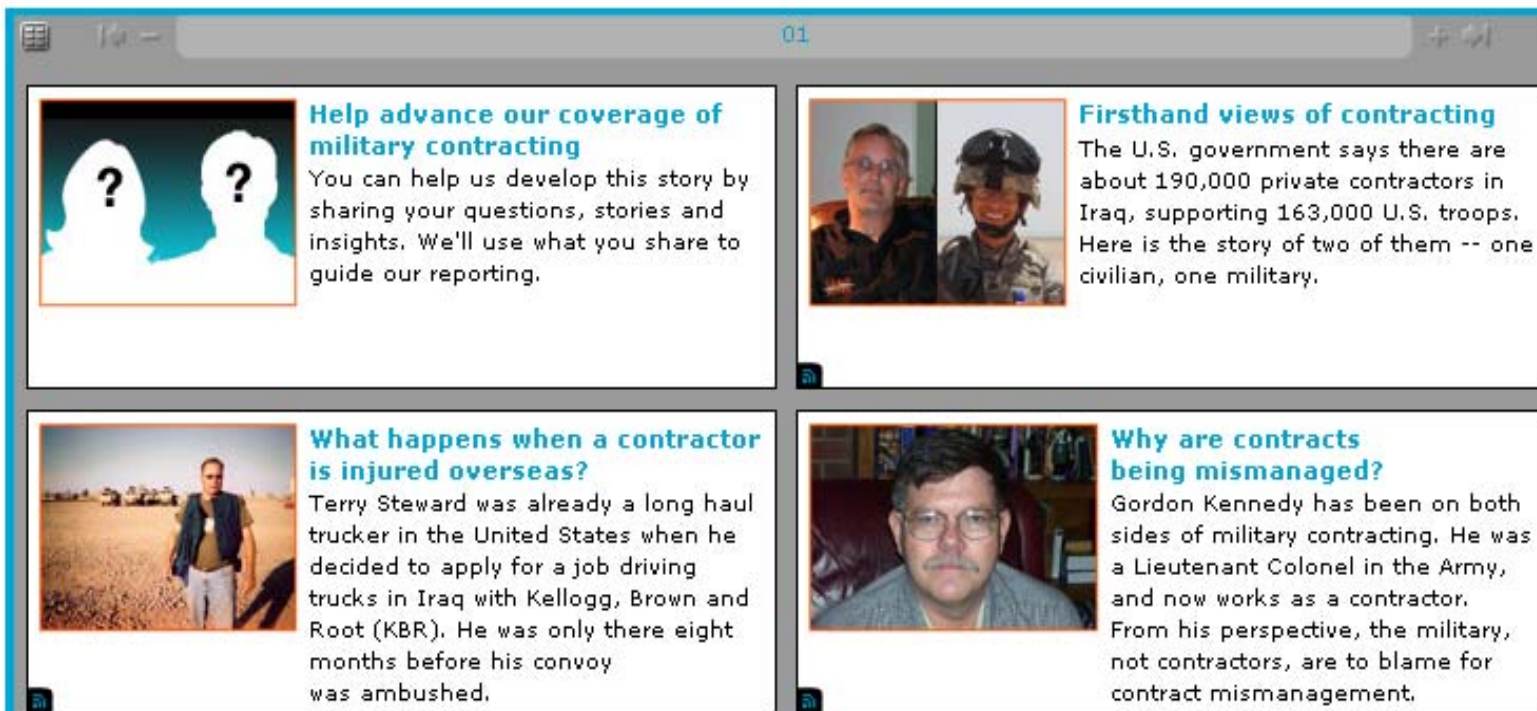
- KUOW Regional News
- NPR Top Stories
- BBC World News
- NW News Network

GROUND TRUTH: THE BUSINESS OF WAR

FACTS ABOUT CONTRACTORS | SHARE WHAT YOU KNOW | MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT CONTRACTING?

On October 2, 2007, the head of the private security firm Blackwater was called in to Congress explain his company's role in the killings of Iraqi civilians. Blackwater is one of many of military contractors that have become integral to the war in Iraq. House Oversight Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) called the heavy reliance on private contractors a "remarkably unprecedented experiment."

All in all, more than 190,000 private security and service contractors are supporting the U.S. in Iraq, compared to 163,000 troops. Ground Truth: The Business of War explores the often complicated and problematic realities of military contracting through the stories and insights of those with firsthand knowledge.



The screenshot shows a web browser interface with a blue header bar containing navigation icons and the number '01'. Below the header are four story cards arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each card has a title, a small image, and a short paragraph of text.

- Top Left Card:** Title: "Help advance our coverage of military contracting". Image: Two white silhouettes of heads with question marks. Text: "You can help us develop this story by sharing your questions, stories and insights. We'll use what you share to guide our reporting."
- Top Right Card:** Title: "Firsthand views of contracting". Image: Two side-by-side photos of men, one in civilian clothes and one in military uniform. Text: "The U.S. government says there are about 190,000 private contractors in Iraq, supporting 163,000 U.S. troops. Here is the story of two of them -- one civilian, one military."
- Bottom Left Card:** Title: "What happens when a contractor is injured overseas?". Image: A man standing in a desert field. Text: "Terry Steward was already a long haul trucker in the United States when he decided to apply for a job driving trucks in Iraq with Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR). He was only there eight months before his convoy was ambushed."
- Bottom Right Card:** Title: "Why are contracts being mismanaged?". Image: A man with glasses and a mustache. Text: "Gordon Kennedy has been on both sides of military contracting. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, and now works as a contractor. From his perspective, the military, not contractors, are to blame for contract mismanagement."

TOWN MEETING 2008

Map | About the project | Help

Granite Staters will soon be voting and attending town meetings to decide on key issues in their communities. This interactive map is a new way to look at town meetings in state.

Click a marker to find a link where you can see the issues on the ballot and share your views on the merits of individual items. Click here if your town isn't listed.

The image shows a Google Maps interface of New Hampshire. The map is covered with numerous red location pins. To the right of the map is a vertical list titled "Map Locations [-]" containing the following town names: Alexandria, Allenstown, Amherst, Andover, Auburn, Barrington, Belmont, Bennington, Bradford, Bristol, Brookline, Campton, Canaan, Carroll, Charlestown, and Chesterfield. The map interface includes navigation controls like zoom in/out, pan, and map style selection (Map, Satellite, Hybrid).

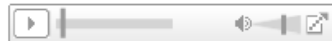
Thanks to the [New Hampshire Local Government Center](#)

SEARCH [→](#)

Jobs offering health care are harder to find in Minnesota

by Michael Caputo, Minnesota Public Radio
September 23, 2009

LISTEN



EMBED | HELP

St. Paul, Minn. — Congress continues to fight over health care reform, and leading proposals still rely on employers providing health coverage even though fewer Americans get health insurance through their jobs.

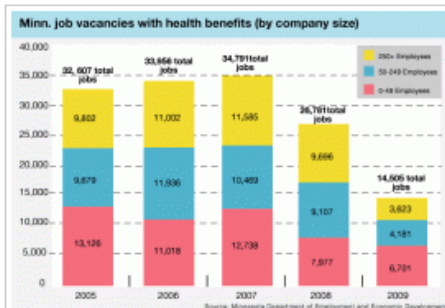
In Minnesota, it's getting harder to find a job offering health coverage. A state survey shows that the number of job openings with those coveted health benefits has shrunk considerably.

Karen Amit of Eagan teaches English as a second language. She wants a job with health care benefits, but is having a hard time finding one. So she works without benefits, and that means her husband must keep on working so they can keep the health care coverage he gets through work.

Amit feels it's unfair to her husband because he's old enough to retire.

"He's earned his reward," Amit said. "He's earned his R and R time, so I'm feeling major guilt here."

For people like Karen Amit who are looking for health care benefits, the Minnesota labor market has become worse. The state's Department of Employment and Economic Development found a clear pattern in the results of a recent job vacancy survey.



(Click to enlarge) This chart shows Minn. job vacancies with health benefits (by company size) from 2005 to 2009. (MPR Graphic/Steve Mullis)

[View full slideshow](#) (2 total images)

AUDIO

[Jobs offering health care are harder to find in Minnesota](#) (feature audio)

- [E-mail this page](#)
- [Print this page](#)
- [Save to Delicious](#)
- [Submit to Digg](#)
- [Share this](#)



SPONSOR

Become a fan.
MPR NewsQ is on Facebook.
[ADD IT TO YOUR PROFILE](#)
MPR newsQ

SPONSOR

[BECOME A SPONSOR](#)

MOST SHARED

1. [Builder hoping cordwood home design catches on](#)
2. [Doctors' view of counseling at the end of life](#)
3. [Red Wing home to unique violin repair program](#)
4. [The Winds of Hell](#)
5. [Decision nears on Prairie Island power](#)

Health Care Reform Primer: How Might the Changes Affect You

Posted: 2009-09-08T13:19:41-05:00

by [Olga Pierce](#), ProPublica -



Much of the coverage of the health care reform process has left consumers -- and many of us here at ProPublica -- struggling to understand just how the various proposals in play would affect them.

To begin to tackle that, we partnered with American Public Media's **Public Insight Network** team, asking readers and listeners to complete a **health care questionnaire**. Hundreds of you responded, leaving us with a much clearer picture of what people across the country are actually coping with, and what people want to know. (Take a look at the Public Insight Network's **interactive map of survey responses**.)

responses)

Over the next few weeks, we will be profiling survey respondents, looking at how the proposed reforms will affect their situations.

Based on the responses to our questionnaire, here are the health care concerns we have decided to focus on:

- The uninsured and underinsured, or those who worry they may be:** What will the reforms being considered do to help people like Steve Eisenberg in Bigfork, Mont., who pays \$4,000 per year for family coverage, but still struggles to pay for health care because his policy has a \$10,000 deductible?
- The burden on business and the economy:** Many who answered our questions expressed concern about the effect that high health care costs are having on businesses and the economy. We'll talk to small-business owners who responded to our survey, and find out how the reforms being discussed will attempt to reduce the pressure of health care costs.
- Covered but squeezed:** Many people who wrote us just can't believe how much their health insurance premium goes up every year. Can reforms tame the rise in their health care costs?
- Health care and the government:** Many people we heard from said they are worried that the cost of health care is bankrupting government. Others were relying on government programs to get necessary care. Can the proposals in Congress find a way to reconcile helping those who need it and keeping spending in check?
- Happy with what they have:** Or maybe you're like Ralph Amadio, of Downey, Calif., who says, "I have had serious back surgery, neck surgery, and prostate cancer, all paid by either my employer or insurer. The system has worked well for me." Will health care reform make people worse off?

Public Insight Network®

[What is Public Insight Network?](#) | [Frequently Asked Questions](#) | [Join the Public Insight Network](#) | [Update your information](#)

What's your most pressing health care need?

American Public Media's **Public Insight Network** team partnered with nonprofit investigative reporting outlet ProPublica to find out how the health care system is affecting the people who rely on it. We sent a **query** to people across the country asking them to tell us about their most pressing health care need. More than 500 Americans responded. Their stories, many of which are mapped below, provide a compelling picture of how people are coping with the failures of this country's patchwork health care system.

Share your concerns by completing our survey. Then read on to learn how your voices will help shape news coverage of health reform. [More about the responses >>](#)

[Map view](#) | [List view](#)

Click on the tabs to read the responses or change to the "List view." Share your experience with the health care system.



Monday Jan. 11th | Home






AP Photo/Reed Saxon

Chino prison inmates complain of being incarcerated outdoors

Listen:  12:37 a.m. | [Steven Cuevas](#) | KPCC | 0 comments

Rumors of violence swirled for days before the riot exploded inside the Chino prison's Reception Center West.

-  [After the Chino prison riot special report](#)
-  [Chino prison letters video montage](#)
-  [What do you know of prison life? Tell KPCC.](#)





Margaret Wolf Freivogel,
Editor, St. Louis Beacon

“The Public Insight Network has become central to the Beacon's operations, helping us achieve a new kind of relationship with our community. On countless occasions, Network sources have amazed us with their thoughtful responses to queries. More than that, they've sent us in different directions than we originally intended to go.

We've learned to listen better...People have shared important experiences, and that is opening the door to a fresh look at the topic. As a new kind of news organization, we're very grateful for this innovative means of doing good journalism.”

