



Tom's Tidbits

Inversion, diversion... it's EVASION!

Our Feature Articles



Physician, heal thy friends

Tom's advice to a friend with a vehicle problem



Sellwood Bridge Tour

Behind the scenes as the project passes 50%



Welcome to the Future

Our Car-of-the-Future coloring contest winners

Our Monthly Columns

"What NOW?!!" Toons

Keith Tucker's Toon for August

Drew's Kitchen

Scott Peacock's Pulled Pork

Shop Talk

Our new produce department

Health Notes-

Nothing keeps you healthy

Sellwood Bridge Update

The Update's gone fishin'

Book Spotlight

"Camp Free in the Mt Hood National Forest" by Don Reichert

Humorousness

Crazy funny politics

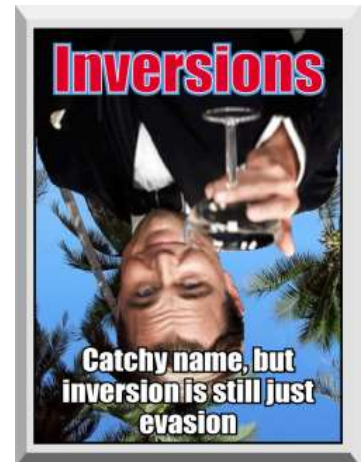
Popcorn Shorts

Cool and important stuff that's too short for a big article

- Who are you really? HA! WRONG!
- Are you accidentally abusing your dog?
- Benghazi... the little scandal that couldn't
- Where in the world are you? HA! WRONG AGAIN!

News To Make You Furious

Tax Evasion By Any Other Name



Tom's Tidbits for September

Inversion, diversion... it's EVASION!



Greetings!

I've been hearing a new term bouncing around the media lately. Washington's most recent faux outrage involves "inversion". Inversion is a process by which a corporation purchases an overseas competitor or partner, transfers its mailing address to the new country, and then magically becomes a "foreign" company for tax purposes. Nothing else changes; not production, personnel, or management, but the corporation's tax bill drops radically anyway. These Tax Inversions are a new legal loophole promoting Corporate Tax Evasion.

Understandably, no one likes to pay taxes. We all try to keep our bills to a minimum, but most of us also realize we owe something to the society we live in. As Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society", so we all have to balance our self-interest with our societal obligation. We may grind our teeth about paying taxes, but we understand their necessity and live with their benefits every day. For US *human* people, "...the rules for filing income, estate and gift tax returns and for paying estimated tax are generally the same whether you are living in the U.S. or abroad. [Your worldwide income is subject to U.S. income tax, regardless of where you reside.](#)" For our *corporate* brethren the rules are different, and they're different for a reason. These corporate citizens have the ~~money~~ freedom of speech to ~~buy~~ persuade politicians so it's no surprise that laws are written in their favor.

Corporations benefit every day from the things taxes provide... the courts that enforce their contracts, the military that protects their trade routes, the police protecting their facilities, the teachers training their workers, and so much more. All this comes with a cost and if the corporations aren't paying it then we are. In 1934, individuals and corporations paid roughly the same percentage of Federal revenues through their taxes. In 2011 the share had changed to 47.3% for individuals and 7.8% for corporations. In an era when [18 US firms hold 36% of all US wealth](#) but [US wages have been stagnant for over a decade](#), the tax burden is falling increasingly on the humans least able to pay it.

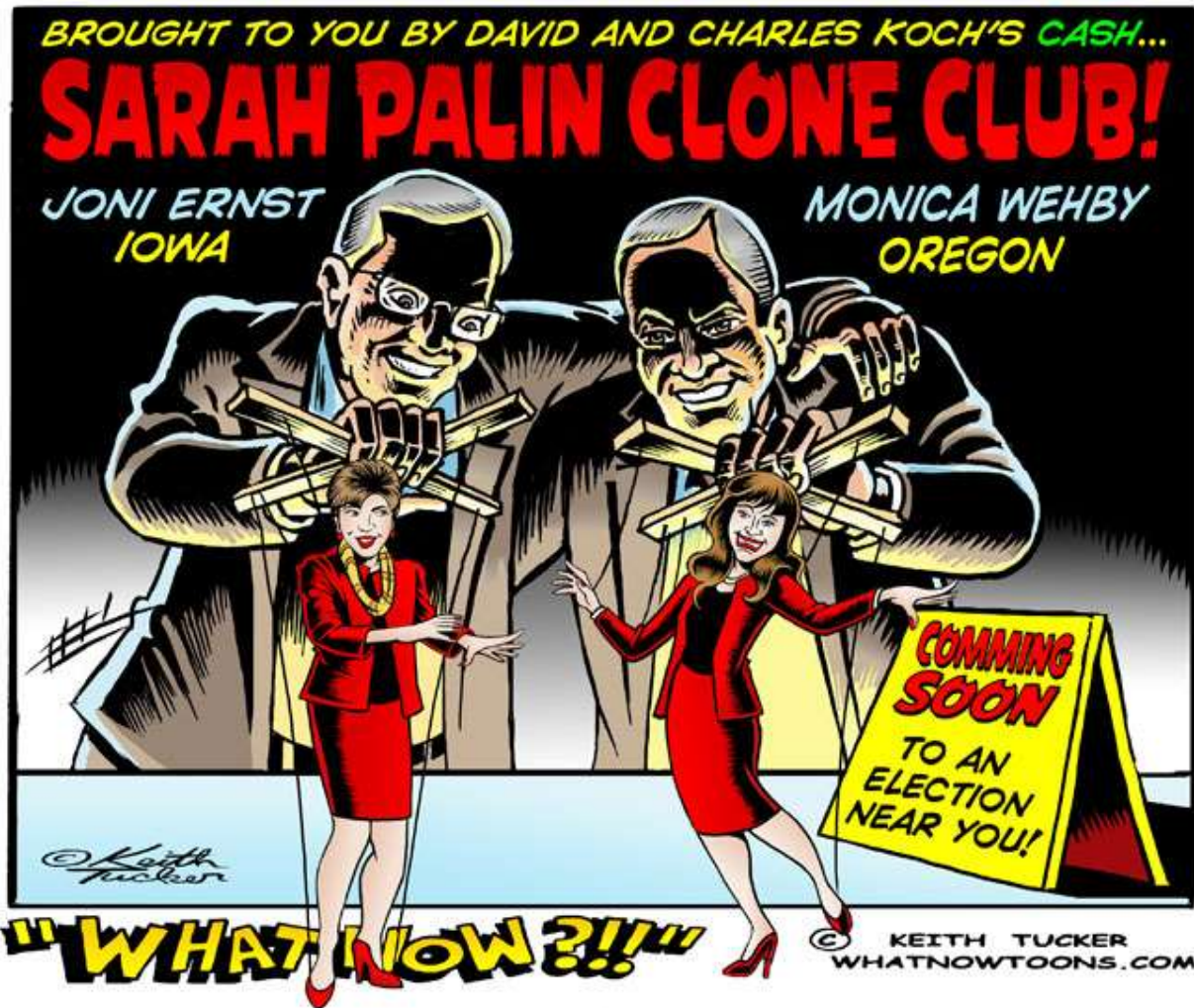
The actuality of this system is bad enough, but it's even more offensive when politicians try to cover up the reality with pablum like "inversion". [Go down the list...](#) "Clean Skies" increased pollution, "Defense of Marriage" attacked marriage, "No Child Left Behind" left millions of children behind, the "Patriot" act destroyed everything that a patriot could love about America. Beware... the more a name promises then the less it is likely to deliver.

Our [News To Make You Furious this month](#) is all about Inversions. You'll find info on the process, the technicalities, the history, and the fixes. But through it all, please don't fall for the diversion! It's not "inversion"... it's "evasion".

Make a great day,

What NOW?!! Toons

Our monthly check in with Keith Tucker



Physician, heal thy friends

Tom's information to a friend with a problem



A friend of Tom's was on vacation and called in worried about his car's overheating problem that had developed on the way to Lake Quinault in Washington. The car was continuing to drive but the temperature gauge was starting to rise higher than normal. The car didn't seem to be losing coolant, but he was obviously worried about the classic scenario of a breakdown in the middle of the desert with steam pouring out of the hood. Since the coolant looked good he called Tom to see what he should do.

Tom's Response-

If you don't already have AAA Plus then get it. If there is no local shop and you must continue to drive here are some things you

should know...

First check and make sure the radiator is full. You need to look in the radiator; do not trust the over-flow bottle it can be full and the radiator empty. When the vehicle is cool remove the radiator cap and inspect the coolant level. Do not attempt to open the radiator cap when the vehicle is over heating or even at normal operating temperature unless you know what you are doing. If the radiator is low or empty the cause of the loss will need to be determined and corrected. If the radiator is full then here is a **101 primer on overheating with no coolant loss:**

"Probably the most common cause of over-heating is low or weak coolant, but if you've ruled that out then there are several other possibilities. Over-Heating without coolant loss could be caused by a defective thermostat, plugged radiator, electric fan not cycling, compromised head gasket, temperature gauge problem or a loose water pump impellor. Older vehicles had an external belt that ran the water pump and if it was loose or missing the water pump would not be driven properly. The timing belt runs the water pump on your vehicle so that will not apply here. Here is a bit of info on each possible cause for your car:

- **Radiator plugged:** Usually restricted radiators will cause problems and heat-up on hot days, uphill or under heavy loads, then the engine cools when the load or temperature drops. This can come on suddenly, but it's usually a gradual problem that gets noticed when the ambient temperature climbs or the car pulls a long uphill grade on hot day. The temperature gauge usually moves slowly up or down when this is the problem.
- **Electric fan not cycling:** Your fan is not needed as much when you're moving at freeway speeds or on cool days, it is needed more for around town, extended idling, stop and go traffic or pulling steep grades. It is normal for the temperature gauge to climb at stops or slow traffic, then drop when the car gets moving faster or when the fan kicks on. Listen for the sound of your radiator cooling fan operation... The Fan is thermostatically controlled and usually comes on somewhere over half gauge then switches off somewhere under or about half gauge.
- **Thermostat problem:** Thermostats can stick open, closed, partially open-or-closed, can be erratic, or work just fine then act up before returning to "normal". Once a thermostat has overheated it's damaged and needs to be replaced, no matter what initially caused the overheating.
- **Head Gasket failure:** Cracks or leaks in head gaskets (or heads or blocks) can cause some of the most difficult problems to diagnose. They don't always just "blow". The failures do eventually get worse and become obvious but it can take time in some cases. The head gasket should separate

coolant, oil, and compression gasses from each other and keep all of them from escaping to the external world. There can be many types of failures- external leaks, oil and coolant mixing, compression gasses and coolant bridging together, compression between cylinders, and more. When the barrier between compression and water fails, funny things can happen; for instance when compression gasses push into the cooling system it can stop the circulation of coolant and cause over-heating. (Not all breaches of combustion gasses into cooling system will cause this kind of coolant loss, though). This form of breach is the worst to diagnose because it can be really intermittent and troublesome before it is diagnosed or “blows”. The gauge may behave erratically but will not move instantaneously up and down unless the temp sensor is not submerged in coolant. I’ve seen this type of failure behave normally for days or weeks and then go back to over-heating. Eventually the head gasket gets compromised enough to consistently lose coolant, cause ignition miss, steam out the tail pipe, or hydraulically lock the motor etc.

- **Temperature Gauge:** If the gauge is moving wildly, really fast up and down, or erratically then there may be an “indicated” problem as opposed to a “real” problem. Your sending unit, gauge, or wiring can be causing the gauge to read wrong. Sometimes the gauge can indicate normal or cold when the engine is actually overheating. Common sense and being familiar with your vehicles normal operating behaviors can be a savior when the gauge is not working or not being monitored. Unusual Smells, engine pre-ignition (ping), visible heat, smoking, or power loss can all be tip offs something is wrong but yet the gauge may seem perfectly happy... Sadly the warning system may not work when there is no coolant. The temp sensor needs to be submerged to operate properly. One test is to run the heater and if no hot air is produced then either there is no coolant or no circulation. Steve said you knew the “run the heater to try to scrub of heat trick” the heater core is like a small radiator and it can remove some heat from an overheating vehicle when there is coolant and it can circulate.....
- **Water Pump Impellor:** I don’t often see this form of failure on Hondas, but in VW and some others the water pump impellor can spin on the shaft without moving coolant. Water pumps are not really pumps... they just sort of encourage the coolant to move with a bit of a push. If the impellor quits spinning even though its shaft is turning.... No push, and therefore no coolant circulation.
- **General ramblings and comments:**
 - Removing a thermostat can mask an overheating problem caused by a compromised head gasket for some period of time.
 - Leaving the radiator cap loose can also keep the pressures from a failing head gasket from stopping circulation or over pressurizing the system to the point it blows things like the radiator up. Don’t forget that if the cap is off or loose, coolant will evaporate and you’ll need to replenish it often.
 - If you idle the car with the hood open, the radiator cap off, and with the coolant full to the brim, and if you see bubbles raising from the depths of the radiator, that can be a sign of combustion gasses from a compromised head gasket (or cracked head or block) entering the cooling system and exiting the radiator.

It’s generally better and safer to rent a car than to try to proactively fix everything that could go wrong on an older vehicle. I counsel clients to rent cars for short vacations (7 days or less) when their vehicle is high mileage, challenged, or if there will be a lot of miles or extremes. You could easily spend \$2000 on repairs before leaving yet still have something go south and ruin your trip. On the other hand, you know a rental will make the trip, it will probably be more comfortable, it will get better mileage, and all those trip-miles will be on the rental (not your car) when you return. In situations like these a rental is not a waste of money, it is prudent insurance to protect your vacation.

If you go on your trip without getting the problem resolved and you end up trying to nurse the car back; do it early in the morning or at late at night when the temperature is lower and you won’t get stuck in stop and go traffic.”

Some advice anyone can use

Incidentally, Tom's advice about "renting a car for vacation" would have been unchanged. You can spend thousands prepping a high mileage vehicle for a trip and it can still break down! When the odometer is 200k even a psychic mechanic might not anticipate all the potential problems. People think spending \$200 on a rental is a waste, but compare that to a breakdown 1000 miles away from home and 100 miles away from a shop. Do you really want Goober's fillin' station to do that head gasket job while you're waiting? How much is a real carefree vacation worth? A rental will get there for sure and usually with better mileage and accommodations than ol' Betty. And realize, if you do have any problems on the trip they become the rental company's problem.

How did it all come out?

As it happened, things worked out OK. The friend made the return trip safely and brought the vehicle into our shop when he got back. The problem turned out to be a compromised head gasket, which as Tom pointed out can be one of the most difficult possibilities to diagnose when the gasket has not completely failed but is on the verge of failure. Two valuable lessons from this experience...

- **Get your vehicle checked BEFORE a big trip, with plenty of lead time to FIX any problems and TEST any repairs**
- **Consider getting a rental for that next big trip when your vehicle has high mileage or a list of problems!**

Living under a bridge

Behind-the-scenes as the Sellwood Bridge passes 50%



Our shop has been located at the base of the Sellwood Bridge since we opened in 1981. Even then people knew the Bridge was a little shaky but the idea of repair was just a glimmer in an engineer's eye, so we settled in next to our wobbly neighbor and got started repairing cars. But since about 2006, the Bridge has dominated our business... you could say we've been living under the shadow of the bridge for almost 8 years. Recently the Bridge project passed the 50% completion point (yea!) and Multnomah County offered a tour for the people who have been on the various advisory councils throughout the project. We eagerly strapped on our boots to go behind-the-scenes, so this month we are pleased to show you what we saw...

Before we start looking at the state of the construction, here are two images to show where we started and where we hope to end up...



Sellwood Bridge in September, 2010. View looking east from the west bank. Rated 2 out of a possible score of 100 on the National Bridge Inventory Sufficiency rating scale.

New design for the Sellwood Bridge, expected to be completed in 2016. View looking west from the east bank



Now, please join us for a journey into a once-in-a-lifetime construction project that only a very few people will ever get to see...

The tour started on the East side of the bridge. This view looks onto the new construction on the south lanes of the bridge.



Some of the construction pathways would make Indiana Jones think twice...



On the east end of the bridge, a concrete deck pour is the next big thing. Since the bridge could eventually carry streetcar as well as vehicle, pedestrian, and bike traffic, the concrete will need to be deeper under the streetcar than under the lighter traffic. This picture shows how the depth will vary for the pedestrian side (toward the left) and the traffic side (toward the right.)



View looking west from the east side construction zone.



A view down a stairway only available to the construction crews.



View looking west from the tip of the east side construction. You can see the old bridge and new bridge just inches apart. This small part of the old bridge will be one of the last remaining parts to be addressed, as described below.



This picture, looking west from the east bank of the river, is a good look at the construction tricks used to keep traffic moving during the bridge construction. The lighter concrete on the left is the new construction, while the darker parts to the right are the old bridge. This part of the old bridge is carrying traffic right now. You'll notice that the closest arch on the new side is a "T", but look further down the bridge... you can barely see it, but the farther new arches have two supporting columns instead of just one. When the rest of the bridge is complete, this will be one of the last areas to be addressed. Traffic will be completely diverted onto the new construction while this last remaining part of the old bridge is demolished, and the "T" arches of the new construction will be completed with their second supports.



Here's a reminder of one of the many reasons the Sellwood Bridge needed redoing. The clearance between the traffic lanes and the light posts is only 23", a dangerous choke point for pedestrians and bicycles trying to pass in opposite directions.



You may have heard a report from OPB that some of the concrete used in the bridge needed to be removed and replaced. It could have been a large and scary error, but wasn't. The concrete in question was used far down the west bank retaining wall. The top picture shows the area in question (in the red circle) and the bottom picture is a closeup of the concrete repair (in progress). When it's done, it will look as good as new. Problem solved!



It's been difficult to wedge a project this big into a quiet neighborhood like Sellwood, but the crews have done an amazing job. This picture of the bridge and the condominiums on the north side shows just how careful they're being.



The west side wall construction continues. This section of wall still has the exposed ends of soil nails visible. The soil nails extend 60' into the hillside to stabilize the soil and attach the wall. Eventually, this wall surface will be covered with the same vertically-striated concrete visible on the most northern end of the hillside.



This will eventually be part of the pedestrian and bike path along the west bank. You just have to use your imagination for now.



It's Portland... of course there's recycling, even on construction projects. All sorted by type, too.



The wall bordering the pedestrian path is designed to be a living wall. When finished, it will be covered with plants embedded into the wall's structure.



One of the main reasons the Sellwood Bridge was damaged in the first place was that the original engineers didn't realize the west bank of the river was basically a slow-motion landslide. The pressure over the decades moved the west end and buckled the support structure, so the new bridge will have motion monitoring equipment integrated into its design. These cylinders are access points to probes that extend deep into the ground. When the bridge is finished they'll provide ongoing data on ground movement. Right now, they're being used to confirm that all the engineering on the west side to stop the landslide has actually been effective.



The new interchange on the west side of the river is a major part of the Sellwood Bridge project. This picture shows the west approach span to the bridge in the foreground, with the interchange itself in the background.



This type of wood-and-steel wall, where 12x12 wooden beams are captured between vertical steel I-beams, is common throughout the project. Interestingly, the first beam goes in at the top and the other beams are added from below. Don't ask how.



It's easy to forget just how massive the equipment for this project is. They don't look as big when you drive past, but try getting up close to one of those cranes... they're GIGANTIC!



Most of the construction in the river is centered around the concrete supports that will hold the main steel support arches. For the next few pictures, as an orientation, here's what the steel arch supports will eventually look like.



This is the support structure where the steel arch will touch down on the west bank. Those black cable-looking things next to the yellow rods aren't structural, but they are vital. As concrete sets after pouring, it heats up. In a block of concrete as big as this, the heat in the center of the block can't make it to the surface to be released. If the heat can't dissipate, the concrete will be weaker when it eventually sets. Those "cables" are actually tubes to carry water through the concrete, cooling the core and allowing uniform setting.



It looks like there is a lot going on under the bridge (and of course there is) but most of the construction revolves around building the casting boxes that will shape the poured concrete. The yellow panels, gigantic as they are, are just the walls of a concrete mold.



The big wooden piece with the green tag is a template for the sweep of the big steel support arches that will hold up the bridge.



No, it's not to keep the bridge clean during construction. This bottle of dishwashing liquid helps slightly rusty nuts turn on to slightly rusty threads.



The steel arches will touch down on concrete supports at two points in the water. This is a view into the box where the concrete bases will be cast, showing the massive amounts of rebar needed to make the concrete structurally sound.



Wanna talk precision? Construction tolerances throughout the Bridge project are just +/- 1/8"!



Construction on the new bridge began in December of 2012, and is slated to continue until Fall of 2016. Here are some upcoming milestones you can look forward to..

- Next concrete pour on the east side road bed- Early Sep 2014
- Concrete pour for Hwy 43 ramp- Spring 2015
- Steel arches delivered late 2014 or early 2015
- Traffic on new bridge- late 2015 or early 2016
- Demolition of east end portion of the old bridge- Winter or Spring 2016
- Project complete and crews go home- Late Fall 2016 (The new bridge opens earlier, but it's not 100% complete until late 2016)

We bring you monthly reports on the progress of the Sellwood Bridge construction in our monthly

newsletter column, *Sellwood Bridge Update*. If you want more details more often, then Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge

Replacement project at www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience.

This boat landing on the east bank at the end of Spokane Street has been neglected for many years. The rumor is that when the bridge construction is complete, the landing may be spruced up and returned to service. Just a rumor, though.



Until the next update, remember that the Sellwood Bridge is safe and open. There are inevitable construction delays, but they're very minor... you might get caught by a flagger for a couple minutes, but that's about it. Don't let the bridge construction prevent you from coming to see us... and you might even look at it as a chance to see something that your grandchildren will one day ask about. Come on in!

Welcome to the Future

Our Car of the Future Contest winners



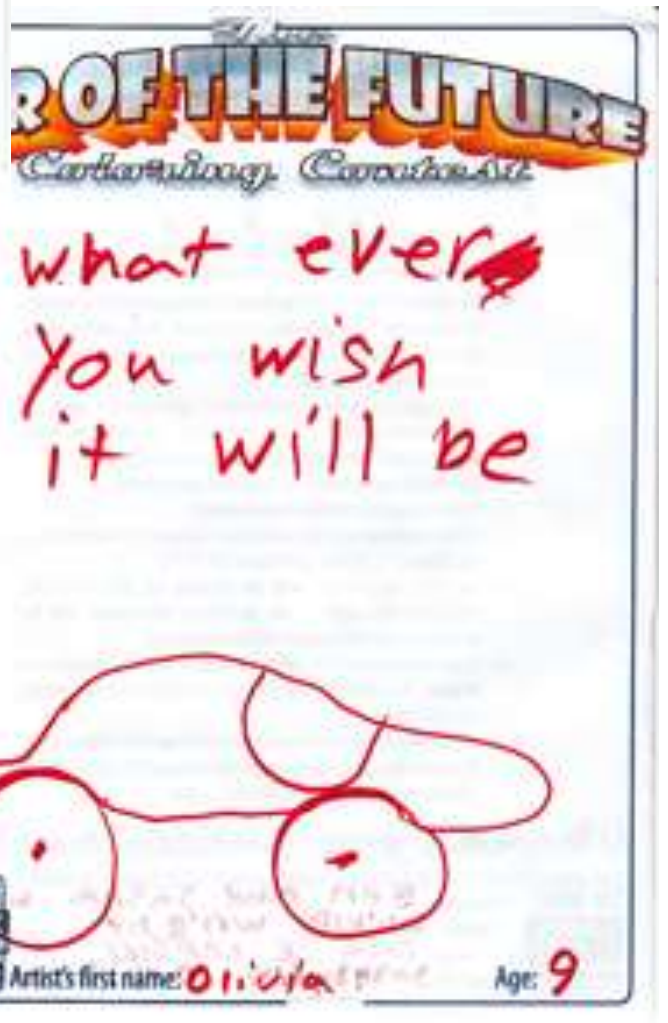
For many years we've been proud sponsors of the Sellwood Park Concert Series. (If you've never been to the show, you don't know what you're missing. Check out [our article on this year's series here.](#)) Each year, we run a coloring contest for the kids at the show. We call it the "Car of the Future" contest, and the pitch is simple... show us what cars will look like in the future. Winners receive gift certificates to Wallace Books in Sellwood, plus a little something for their parents. We had over 80 entries this year, and just like all the past years we weren't disappointed. Take a look at this year's entries and we think you'll agree- the future is in very good and very imaginative hands...

Our first place winner this year was 10-year-old Isabel, who combined nature, transportation, and pediatric management. This car, which doubles as an RV, has a treehouse that the kids can be banished to on those long summer road trips.



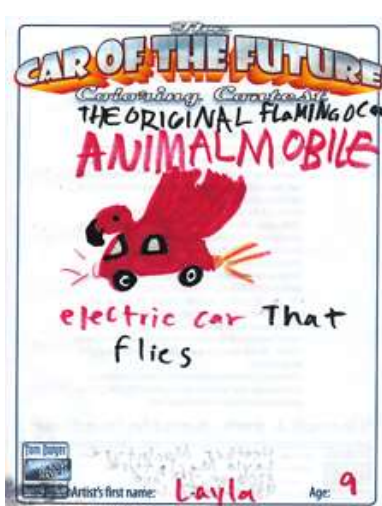
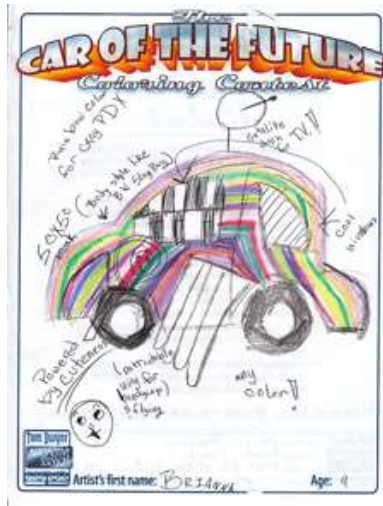
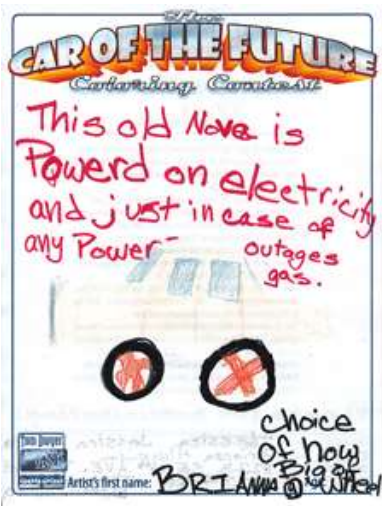


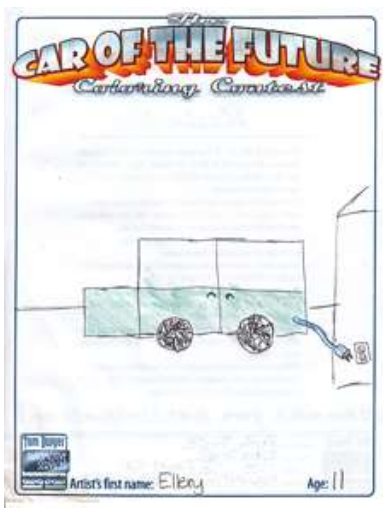
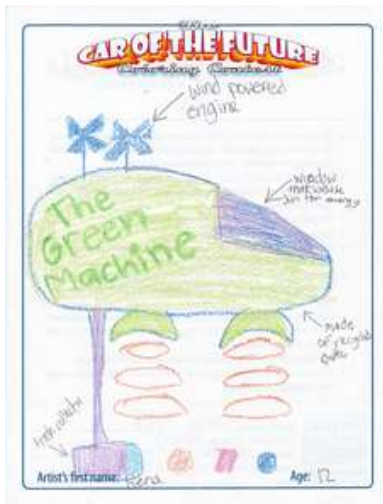
Second place this year went to 11-year-old Natalie, who designed a very considerate car. The legs don't just allow the car to walk, they bend to let people in and out.



Third place went to 9-year-old Olivia. Her car design wasn't very detailed, but she seemed to sum up all the potential of all the other entries. The Car of the Future will be "whatever you wish it will be". Good job, Olivia!

Those were our choices for the top three, but as you can see it was (as always) a difficult choice. We picked out 20 of the best for you to enjoy.





Drew's Kitchen

Scott Peacock's Pulled Pork



Drew's recipe this month comes by way of Scott Peacock, renowned chef of Southern Cuisine, and there's no better way to dive into the riches of Southern cooking than by diving into the riches of Pulled Pork. This recipe originally appeared in *Better Homes and Gardens*, July, 2014.

Ingredients:

- (1) 6½ pound bone-in pork shoulder blade roast
- 3 Tbsp. Dijon-style mustard
- 1/3 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp kosher salt
- 2 Tbsp smoked paprika
- 1 Tbsp chili powder
- 1½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp garlic powder

Preparation:

- Trim excess fat from pork, leaving fat cap about ¼ inch thick. Pat pork dry with paper towels. Place on a large piece of plastic wrap. Spread mustard on pork. In a small bowl stir together brown sugar, salt, paprika, chili powder, black pepper, and garlic powder. Coat pork with all of the spice mixture. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap. Place on a tray. Chill at least 1 hour or overnight.
- Preheat oven to 325°F. Line a shallow roasting pan with foil. Place a rack in the pan. Unwrap pork; place on the rack. Roast, uncovered, 4 hours. Wrap pork with a double thickness of foil and return to rack. Roast 2 hours more or until an instant-read thermometer inserted in meat registers at least 190°F. Remove from oven. Let stand 30 minutes to 1 hour. Unwrap. Using 2 forks, pull pork apart, removing any large pockets of fat as you pull. Serve with pickles, onion slices, Spicy Vinegar, Barbecue Sauce, and/or buns.
- Makes 20 servings.
- If you plan to reheat the pork, pull the meat apart before chilling or freezing. This will make reheating much easier.
- Each serving: 146 cal, 5g fat, 60mg chol, 998mg sodium, 4g carb, 0g fiber, 19g pro.

Some extra advice from Scott:

Leave some fat- "Don't be afraid of the fat- it adds so much flavor. It will melt and baste the meat as it cooks. You want to leave at least ¼" of fat.

Slather on Dijon- "Dijon has an intensity and punch that I love, and it's a great foundation to build flavor on. Plus, a generous slather helps the rub stick."

Rub generously- "You want to cover every inch of meat with the rub- use all of it. The combination of smoked paprika and chili powder gives such nice depth of flavor."

Wrap and chill- "The plastic wrap holds the rub right against the meat. I prefer to chill overnight before roasting to give the seasonings a chance to penetrate."

Let it rest- "This step makes a big difference. After the meat has roasted, it allows the outside crust to soften and gives you that buttery, tender-to-the-bone texture."

Pull the pork- "When I pull, I refrain from going crazy to the point that the meat is stringy. I like to keep a little integrity to its structure with some bigger pieces."

Shop Talk

Our New Produce Department



Get a FREE rental car

Our FREE Courtesy Shuttle runs within a 5 mile radius of our shop, but sometimes that's just not good enough... sometimes you need your own set of wheels. We always offer rental cars through Enterprise at a very reasonable rate, but this month we'll make that rate even better...

Get a FREE DAY'S CAR RENTAL with any service over \$350!

**You MUST mention this offer when you schedule your service!
Cannot be combined with other offers**

You must schedule service before 9/26/14 to take advantage of this offer.

Some restrictions apply so please call our shop for details.

When you do, ask our Service Advisors about other rental offers too!

Spotlight on Referral Reward program

It's been another good month for our Referral Reward program with 10 new groups benefitting. We're proud to say that gives us a total of 71 new clients and donations of \$2,706 to worthy causes. If you aren't familiar with our Rewards program, it's simple. Every time someone comes in and says they were referred by you, then we write a check to the non-profit group of your choice (up to \$50). Not only do we make that initial donation, but each group is eligible for quarterly and yearly awards as well. In fact, our next quarterly award winner will be announced in our September newsletter! Until then, we'd like to ask you once again to take advantage of this unique way to say "thanks for your support", and tell you the groups we've contributed to in August...



[Clackamas Women's Services](#) (second)
[Oregon Humane Society](#)
[Matunda Orphans Community Center](#)
[Family Dogs New Life Shelter](#) (second)
[American Red Cross](#)

[CCCC Headstart](#)
[Oregon Humane Society](#) (third)
[Oregon Food Bank](#) (fourth)
[Wireless Education Action](#)
[OHSU/Partnership Project](#)

Your reviews and referrals matter

We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you've found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!



Visit our new Tom Dwyer produce department

We're getting tired of just doing superior auto care, so we're branching out and starting a spectacular new produce department! Just kidding, but we do have produce available for any clients who come in. Tom's garden is going great guns right now so he's been bringing in a steady stream of fresh veggies every day. There's only so much of it we can eat here, so there's plenty to share. No guarantees on what you'll get, but be assured... it's from Tom's garden, so it's all organic!



Latest Automotive Recalls

Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer. The last month's recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.



[August 15: 124,007 GM vehicles from 2013-2015, including Chevrolet Silverado and Cadillac CTS models](#), Recalled for an incomplete weld that may not keep the front seats secured in the event of a crash.

[August 15: 16,249 Toyota Tundra vehicles from 2013-2014 modified by Gulf Stream Toyota](#), Recalled for chrome-plated lug nuts which may fracture or give, causing the wheels to separate from the vehicle.

[August 14: 83,250 Ford vehicles from 2013-2014, including Ford Flex and Lincoln MKX models](#), Recalled for the halfshaft and the linkshaft which may become disengaged while driving.

[August 14: 57,242 Chevrolet Impala vehicles from 2014](#), Recalled for a potential loss of power steering assist during start up or while driving.

[August 13: 40,551 Land Rover vehicles from 2010-2015, including LR2 and Evoque models](#), Recalled for the air bags which may be disabled in the event of a crash.

[August 12: 455 Thor motorhomes from 2014-2015, including Axis and Vegas models](#), Recalled for the use of incorrect adhesive that may cause the treads on the entry stairs to come loose.

[August 11: 151,389 Volkswagen Tiguan vehicles from 2009-2014](#), Recalled for a potential vehicle stall due to bubbles that may form in the fuel system.

[August 11: 235 Morgan 3 Wheeler Limited 3W motorcycles from 2012-2014](#), Recalled for missing a warning lamp to inform the rider about low brake fluid levels.

[August 8: 18,526 Volkswagen Routan vehicles from 2009](#), Recalled for the ignition switch which may move out of the run position, turning off the engine or causing the air bags to not deploy in the event of a crash.

[August 6: 184,611 GM vehicles from 2005-2007, including GMC Envoy and Chevrolet Trailblazer models](#), Recalled for a potential short in the circuit board which may cause a fire.

[August 6: 263 Toyota Sienna vehicles from 2014](#), Recalled for the transmission shift control cable which may separate while the vehicle is being driven.

[August 5: Subaru vehicles from 2003-2005](#), In a limited regional recall for air bag inflators that may rupture upon deployment of the air bag.

[August 5: Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles from 2007-2013 with 6-speed automatic transmissions](#), Recalled for the power steering pressure tube that may leak.

[August 1: 225,000 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles from 2001-2006](#), Recalled for the front coil spring which may fracture and potentially puncture a tire.

[August 1: 133,075 Hyundai Sonata vehicles from 2011](#), Recalled for a potential brake fluid line leak.

[August 1: 61,122 Hyundai Veracruz vehicles from 2007-2012](#), Recalled for a potential oil leak that may damage the alternator.

[August 1: 3,361 Harley-Davidson FXDL Dyna Low Rider motorcycles from 2014](#), Recalled for possible engine vibrations that may cause the ignition switch to move to accessory mode, causing the motorcycle to stall.

[August 1: 1,939 Chevrolet Corvette vehicles from 2014](#), Recalled for an improper welding that may cause the shock absorber tubes to separate, resulting in a sudden change in vehicle handling.

[August 1: 1,919 Chevrolet Spark vehicles from 2014](#), Recalled for lower control arm bolts that may not be tightened properly.

[July 31: 131,568 Brake Parts rear wheel brake shoes](#), Recalled for possible detachment from the brake lining.

[July 31: Certain Mitsubishi Outlander vehicles from 2007 and 2009](#), Recalled for replacement transfer case assemblies whose oil seal may come out of position.

[July 30: 883,000 Hyundai Sonata vehicles from 2011-2014](#), Recalled for the transmission shift cable which may detach.

July 30: 4,794 GM vehicles from 2013-2014, including Chevrolet Caprice and SS models, Recalled for the windshield wipers which may become inoperative.

July 29: 414,333 GM vehicles from 2010-2012, including Cadillac SRX and Buick LaCrosse models, Recalled for a seat bolt that may fall out, which could cause the seat to suddenly drop to the lowest vertical position.

July 29: 25,899 Suzuki Verona vehicles from 2004-2006, Recalled for potential heat generation that could melt the DRL module, causing a vehicle fire.

July 29: 2,473 Sunright Rodia RDH 500 motorcycle helmets, Recalled for potentially not protecting the user's head adequately in the case of a crash.

July 29: 305 Piaggio Vespa 946 Vespa scooters from 2013, Recalled for a fuel line that may leak.

July 29: 9 Spartan Motor Gladiator emergency vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for a potential fuel leak, which could cause a vehicle fire.

July 28: 643,618 Chrysler vehicles from 2005-2007, Recalled for the ignition switches that may be knocked out of the run position, turning off the engine or causing the air bags to not deploy in the event of a crash.

July 28: 226,326 Nissan vehicles from 2002-2004, including Pathfinder and Maxima models, Recalled for air bag inflators that may rupture upon deployment of the air bag.

July 28: 5,650 Hyundai Sonata vehicles from 2015, Recalled for a manufacturing error of the front brake calipers, which could reduce braking effectiveness.

July 28: Mitsubishi Lancer vehicles from 2004-2005, In a limited regional recall for air bag inflators that may rupture upon deployment of the air bag.

July 25: 18,050 Mazda vehicles from 2003-2004, including Mazda6 and RX-8 models, Recalled for air bag inflators that may rupture upon deployment of the air bag.

July 24: 16,932 Cadillac CTS vehicles from 2011, Recalled for the roof rail air bags which may deploy unexpectedly.

July 24: 2,001 VW Golf and GTI vehicles from 2015, Recalled for a stabilizer link fastener which may come loose and interfere with the steering.

July 24: 184 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra vehicles from 2014 with the optional all-weather floor mats and vinyl flooring, Recalled for not having the retention features necessary to properly secure the floor mats.

July 23: 712 Chevrolet Corvette vehicles from 2014, Recalled for optional seats not meeting internal specifications for injury protection.

July 22: 57,192 GM vehicles from 2015, including Chevrolet Silverado 2500 and GMC Sierra 3500 HD models, Recalled for a potential loss of power steering fluid.

July 21: 573,395 BMW vehicles from 2000-2006, including 323i and M3 models, Recalled for air bag inflators that may rupture upon deployment of the air bag.

July 21: 554,328 Cadillac vehicles from 2003-2014, Recalled for the ignition switches that may move out of the run position, turning off the engine or causing the air bags to not deploy in the event of a crash.

July 21: 392,459 GM vehicles from 2014-2015, including Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra models, Recalled for an electrical signal short which may cause the transfer case to shift to neutral without driver input.

July 21: 90,750 Cadillac vehicles from 2013-2014, including CTS and ATS models, Recalled for the transmission shift cable which may detach.

July 17: 311 Mercedes-Benz vehicles from 2014, including SLK 250 and SL 550 models, Recalled for air bags that may not have been assembled correctly, which could cause the air bag to not deploy properly.

July 17: 57 Allied Recreation motor homes from 2013-2014, Recalled for seat belt attachments that may be incorrect and cause fraying.

July 17: 14 Allied Recreation motor homes from 2015, Recalled for seat belt attachments that may be incorrect and cause fraying.

July 16: 261 Viking RV recreational vehicles from 2014, Recalled for incorrect labels regarding tire air pressure which could result in tire blowout.

July 16: 57 Viking RV recreational vehicles from 2014, Recalled for incorrect labels regarding tire air pressure which could result in tire blowout.

July 14: 651,130 Chrysler vehicles from 2011-2014, including Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Durango models, Recalled for wiring in the vanity lamp that may short circuit, increasing the risk of a fire.

July 14: 66,421 Harley-Davidson Touring and CVO Touring motorcycles from 2014, Recalled for a potential pinched brake line which could cause a front wheel lock-up.

July 14: 28,789 Saab 9-3 Convertible vehicles from 2004-2011, Recalled for seat belt retractors that may break.

July 14: 2,138 Hyundai Sonata vehicles from 2015, Recalled for a possible reduction of power steering assist.

July 14: 100 Gulf Stream Coach fifth wheel and travel trailers from 2014, Recalled for rivets attaching the support for the entry stairs which may fail.

July 8: Updated recall: 6,729,742 GM vehicles from 1997-2008, Recalled for the ignition switches that may move out of the run position, turning off the engine or causing the air bags to not deploy in the event of a crash.

Health Notes

Nothing keeps you healthy



Health is a lot of things. It's maintaining your body in top functional condition, it's eating the right foods, it's doing the right exercise, it's avoiding sickness, it's getting the right care if you get sick. But one of the most incredible things about your health is unexplained by the best science (or any other mechanism) available... the Placebo Effect. You've probably heard about it, but it's the ability of your body to repair itself by mimicking the actions of drugs that you didn't actually take. It's your own body's reaction to nothing at all! Unfortunately, it can also give you the symptoms of disease you haven't been exposed to. It sounds like a fairy tale, but it's so real that scientists have to guard against its effects in tests of any drug or medical therapy. We all have this hidden ability, but the hard part is "turning it on"... it exists, but it doesn't work on demand.

The Dark Side of the Placebo Effect: When Intense Belief Kills

Alexis C. Madrigal in *The Atlantic*, Sep 14 2011
The Placebo Effect hit these people in their sleep

The Placebo Phenomenon

Cara Feinberg in *Harvard Magazine*, Jan 2013
An ingenious researcher finds the real ingredients of "fake" medicine.

The Placebo Effect

Skeptic's Dictionary
Good overview article with excellent background information

How the Placebo Effect Works

Shanna Freeman on *How Stuff Works*
Placebos aren't completely explained, but there are some clues

Beware the Nocebo Effect

Enck and Hauser in the *New York Times*, Aug 10, 2014
Beware- the Placebo Effect can work against you, too

Sellwood Bridge Update

The Update takes a vacation



Again, we have this to report- The Sellwood Bridge construction is moving along. Of course, on a project of this size there's always more detail for the folks who want to dig deeper, and our Feature article on the Bridge this month covers it all. Since all the info you'll ever possibly want is in that article, we're sending the staff here at the Sellwood Bridge Update on a well-deserved vacation this month. Check back next month for the latest on our wobbly neighbor.

As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. If you're looking for something that's not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.



Book Spotlight

“Camp Free in the Mount Hood National Forest” by Don Reichert



Looking back at our past Book Spotlight choices, we seem to lean a little heavily on political choices. We also seem to send you to the Powell’s website for each book we pick, and the reviews are almost invariably from the Powell’s website as well. But now it’s summer, so it’s time to relax and shake stuff up a little. This month we picked a non-political book, wrote the review ourselves, and will point you to an altogether different book store. So let’s strike out into unexplored territory with this month’s Book Spotlight...



“Camp Free in the Mount Hood National Forest” by Don Reichert

Our family loves camping, but we’re procrastinators. We aren’t good at planning our trips months in advance, so when we get a free weekend it can be hard to find a last-minute official site. If we’re lucky enough to find one it means paying money to be right on top of the folks next to us and being about as far away from nature as it’s possible to be in a forest. That’s why we were so excited to find Don Reichert’s book. Camping anywhere in the National Forest is legal, but this book points out specific campsites you can try. Reichert defines a campsite as a place with a fire ring and at least enough flat space to pitch a tent, and he’s searched the Mt Hood Forest to find over 200 beauties. Each one has specific location, size, access, and amenity information along with a detailed description and directions. We’ve been trying a different site on each trip, and haven’t been disappointed yet. No crowds, no money, new adventures... rarely can you find so much packed into one book, and this one should be standard issue for any Oregonian bookshelf. You’ll find yourself turning to it again and again over the years, and finding something new each time.

Another reason we were excited by this book is that we discovered it at a local Sellwood bookstore, [Wallace Books](#), which is the kind of bookstore that gives other bookstores a good name. Julie Wallace has turned a small Sellwood house into a bookworm’s paradise, with old and new books stacked to the ceiling and wedged into every nook and cranny. There’s even a \$1 bargain rack on the front porch! If you’re interested in this month’s Book Spotlight, or really any other book you can imagine, we think you’ll love this local, independent business as much as we do.



Humorousness

Crazy funny politics



In the quiet of summer, it's easy to forget that the political season is not far away. Soon, the people who don't deliver anything during the rest of their terms offer to make us laugh for free in the hopes that we'll vote them into another term of ineffectiveness. It might be too sad to be funny as the reality of an election approaches, but right now we have the luxury to laugh. This month, Humorousness brings you the top 50 stupidest things said by people of both the major political stripes. Actually, we're just bringing you the top 10 from each; you'll have to click the links for the full stupidity.

[50 Dumb Liberal Quotes \(from number 10...\)](#)

10. Rosie O'Donnell: "Don't fear the terrorists. They're mothers and fathers."

9. Howard Dean: "We know that no one person can succeed unless everybody else succeeds."

8. John Kerry on the troops: "You know, education, if you make the most of it, you study hard, you do your homework and you make an effort to be smart, you can do well. If you don't, you get stuck in Iraq."

7. Barack Obama: "I've now been in 57 states? I think one left to go?"

6. Former DNC Chairman Donald Fowler on possible delay of RNC convention due to Hurricane Gustav: "Plus they think the hurricane's going to hit (starts laughing) New Orleans about the time they start. The timing, at least it appears now, that it'll be there Monday. That just demonstrates God's on our side"

5. John Conyers on the Health Care Bill, which he voted for: "I love these members, they get up and say, 'Read the bill. What good is reading the bill if it's a thousand pages and you don't have two days and two lawyers to find out what it means after you read the bill?'"

4. Joy Behar on Economics: "Isn't it a little racist to call it Black Friday?"

3. Whoopi Goldberg on 43-year-old Roman Polanski raping and sodomizing a 13-year-old girl: "I know it wasn't rape-rape. It was something else but I don't believe it was rape-rape. He went to jail and and [sic] when they let him out he was like "You know what this guy's going to give me a hundred years in jail I'm not staying, so that's why he left."

2. Joe Biden on culturalism: "In Delaware, the largest growth of population is Indian Americans, moving from India. You cannot go to a 7/11 or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent. I'm not joking."

1. Sheryl Crow on Environmentalism: "I propose a limitation be put on how many squares [sic] of toilet paper can be used in any one sitting. Now, I don't want to rob any law-abiding American of his or her God-given rights, but I think we are an industrious enough people that we

can make it work with only one square per restroom visit, except, of course, on those pesky occasions where 2 to 3 could be required."

[50 Dumb Conservative Quotes \(from number 10...\)](#)

10. "I couldn't imagine somebody like Osama bin Laden understanding the joy of Chanukah." ~President George W. Bush

9. "Feminism was established so as to allow unattractive women easier access to the mainstream of society." ~ Rush Limbaugh

8. "You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test." ~ George W. Bush

7. "We need to uptick our image with everyone, including one-armed midgets." ~ Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele.

6. "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on you." ~ Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-North Carolina)

5. "The ACLU is to Christians what the American Nazi party is to Jews." ~ Jerry Falwell

4. "My grandmother was not a highly educated woman, but she told me as a small child to quit feeding stray animals. You know why? Because they breed. You're facilitating the problem if you give an animal or a person ample food supply. They will reproduce, especially ones that don't think too much further than that. And so what you've got to do is you've got to curtail that type of behavior. They don't know any better." ~ South Carolina Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, arguing against government food assistance for poor residents.

3. "The only way to reduce the number of nuclear weapons is to use them." ~ Rush Limbaugh

2. "We spent a lot of time talking about Africa, as we should. Africa is a nation that suffers from incredible disease." ~ President George W. Bush

1. "When the President does it, that means that it's not illegal." ~ Richard M. Nixon

Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we've posted on [our Facebook page](#). If you're on Facebook, please stop by and "Like" us and we'll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!



Who are you, really? HA! WRONG!



One of the interesting paradoxes of life is that you are the only person who cares what you're thinking. To everyone else on the planet "you" are your external actions alone, with no clue to the thoughts or motivations behind them. So how well do you understand what other people see when they see you? [Research at Columbia University](#) indicates that the answer is "not very well". Various studies looked at assertiveness, attractiveness, voting patterns, and charitable giving, and found that in all cases people were pretty accurate on their estimates of others, but way off when it came to themselves. This may be surprising unless you're familiar with the [Dunning-Kruger effect](#), but that's another story...

Are you accidentally abusing your dog?



We're a dog shop (in fact we keep a box of treats behind the counter when for when your dog comes in) and most of our employees have dogs waiting for them at home. But when we ran across [this list of gripes dogs might have with their people](#), a lot of them surprised us. So many of the things we do to show affection to our pets make sense to us as people, but dogs have a completely different evolutionary past and completely different way of perceiving the world. When you think of things from their point of view, you can understand why these things may cause problems. Doesn't matter what the list says, though... we're still hugging our dogs when we get home.

Benghazi... the little scandal that couldn't



"The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence [12 Reps and 9 Dems] has concluded that [there was no deliberate wrongdoing by the Obama administration related to the 2012 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya.](#)" This is probably the biggest recent news that no one paid attention to. You'd think a report two years in the making, answering loud and persistent questions about the President's involvement in an event that killed an ambassador would get the same notice as the baseless accusations, but realize this... as much as you've heard in the media about Benghazi over the past two years, right now, you're reading about it from an auto repair shop. Hmmm.

Where in the world are you? HA! WRONG AGAIN!



We're interested in education, so every once in a while we have some Popcorn about the deplorable state of education in our country. (Our articles on ["Could you pass a US citizenship test"](#) or ["Do you have what it takes to vote in 1965 Alabama?"](#) are good examples). This month we ran across a survey in which American participants had to write in country's names on a blank European map. The results were truly frightening, painfully funny, but probably not surprising. You can see below that we didn't do much better. You can click [here to see the survey results](#) or click the blank map below to try it for yourself. Good luck!

News To Make You Furious

Tax Evasion By Any Other Name



We'll start this month's Furious with wise words from Abraham Lincoln. "How many legs does a dog have if you call the tail a leg? Four. Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it a leg." Why this quote? Because this month, we're steamed about people trying to cover an ugly reality with a meaningless word. We have an aversion to this diversion, so this month we'll give you an immersion into the assertion they make to hide their perversion. It's an exertion of distortion, a cheap and tawdry conversion, a contortion used as coercion to hide the desertion of the proper dispersion of their responsibility. Please join us on our excursion into evasion, as we take you on a tour of...

INVERSIONS.

What is an inversion?

An [Inversion](#) is a paperwork trick that allows corporations to avoid US taxes. The US-based corporation buys another company in a foreign (more tax-friendly) country, then moves its official corporate headquarters to the new company. Nothing else changes; not the physical operations, not the management. Nothing changes except the mailing address and the tax liability.

Where did inversions come from?

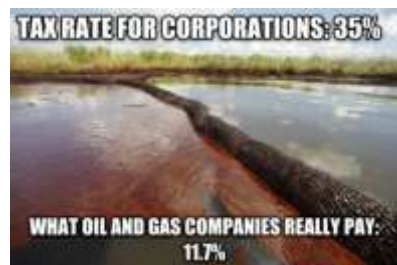
Remember the scandal of the [single building in Grand Cayman](#) that was the official tax home for 18,857 companies? In 2004 Congress wrote a law to address that. Unfortunately the law has a loophole in Title 26, subtitle F, Chapter 80, Subchapter C, [section 7874](#) that allows companies to do exactly what the law was intended to prevent. Oops. Oh well, whatcha gonna do?

Why would anyone use this cheap trick to evade taxes?

Greed. No, seriously. No person wants to pay more than they have to in taxes, and corporate people are no different from human people in that respect. They just have no counterbalancing ethical sense that might tell them they should participate in supporting the society they benefit from. These "people" have the power to avoid things human people consider obligations, and they use it. Human people call that greed.

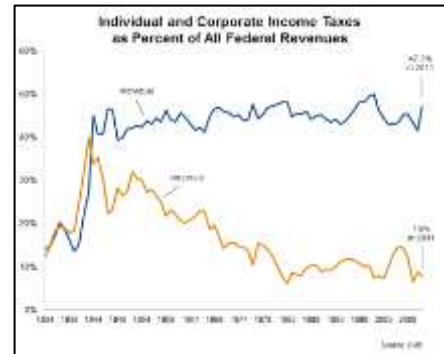
Doesn't the US have the highest corporate tax rate in the world?

No, but we're pretty darn close. On a list of [global tax rates for 145 countries](#) our corporate tax rate is 40%, but as of 2014 the United Arab Emirates had a 55% rate. (In all fairness they were the only country higher than the US). Corporate tax rates vary by source; some sources peg our rate at 35%, and some at 39% including state and local taxes. However, all these numbers all these are numbers for the *official* tax rate while [the effective tax rate](#) is far lower. Estimates for the effective rate for corporations also vary widely but most estimates range around 10-16%, around the *bottom* 20% worldwide. Of course, that doesn't give an accurate picture, either. Many corporations pay 0%, and some 'pay' a negative rate.



Who cares if a corporation slimes its way out of a few tax dollars?

Anyone else who pays taxes to support civilization in the US. In 1934, individuals and corporations paid roughly the same percentage of Federal revenues through their taxes. In 2011 the share had changed to 47.3% for individuals and 7.8% for corporations. Money has to come from somewhere, and governments get their money through taxes. [If corporate 'people' aren't paying it then human people are.](#)



What can human people do about this?

Congress has the power to fix this loophole, but they have shown no interest in doing so. President Obama [may have the power to close the loophole under his Executive Powers](#), but there may be problems with that as well. For now, public knowledge about the issue and public pressure on corporate boards may be most effective cure. Walgreens was preparing to move to Ireland to execute an inversion until 300,000 people signed an online petition against it. [They changed their mind.](#)

Gosh, I'm still not Furious. Can you tell me anything else to make me a little more livid?

Of course. Here's just a few articles to get you started. Some were sources for our article, and others are an opportunity to go even deeper into the sewer on your own. Have fun!

[Walgreen Drops "Inversion" Plan to Avoid US Taxes](#)

Moyers & Company, Aug 7, 2014

Details on the Walgreen inversion backpedal

[How US Companies Buy Tax Breaks](#)

Zachary Mider, Bloomberg Quick Take, Jul 18, 2014

Good brief primer with good links to outside sources

[GAO: U.S. Corporations Pay Average Effective Tax Rate Of 12.6%](#)

James O'Toole on CNN Money, Jul 1, 2014

Difference between published and effective tax rates

[AbbVie and Shire seal \\$55B, tax-slashing deal](#)

Kim Hjelmgaard, USA Today, Jul 18, 2014

Up-close look at one of the inversions on the table right now

[Escaping the US Tax System: From Corporate Inversions to Re-Domiciling](#)

Stuart Webber, reprinted from Tax Notes Int'l, Jul 25, 2011

Painful detail on inversions. Suitable for tax professionals only.

[Durbin urges Obama to take executive action to end corporate tax Loophole](#)

Chuck Raasch, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Aug 5, 2014

Some pressure, at least. And Elizabeth Warren is on board!

[The Disappearing Corporate Tax Base: How to Reclaim Lost Tax Revenue to Rebuild State Budgets](#)

Center for Effective Government, Mar 27, 2014

Plugging the hole left by decades of corporate-friendly tax law

[Corporate Tax Rates Table](#)

KPMG

Compares tax rates and systems from countries around the world

[How Much Do Americans Pay In Federal Taxes?](#)

Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Apr 15, 2014

The overall picture on who pays what tax.

[The Sorry State Of Corporate Taxes- What Fortune 500 Firms Pay \(Or Don't Pay\) In The USA And What They Pay Abroad- 2008-2012](#)

McIntyre, Gardner, and Phillips at Citizens for Tax Justice, Feb 2014

In-depth but readable, a detailed evaluation current tax policy and recommendations for changes

[Federal Budget 101: Where Does The Money Come From?](#)

Occupy ONLINE, Sep 22, 2012

Not everyone pays income tax, but everyone pays tax. Here's how.

[Obama Explores Tax-Code Weapons in Inversion-Merger Fight](#)

Farrell and Paletta at the Wall Street Journal, Aug 8, 2014

What are the options for executive action?

[US Corporate Tax Inversions Explained \(VIDEO\)](#)

Bloomberg TV