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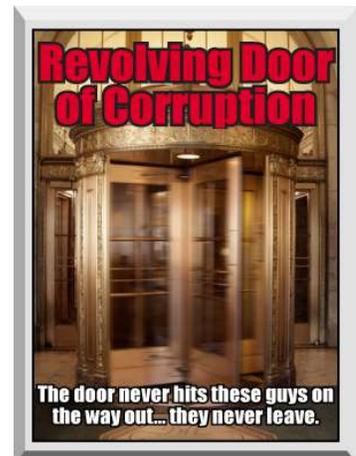
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- A Prius CAMPER? And it sleeps FOUR?
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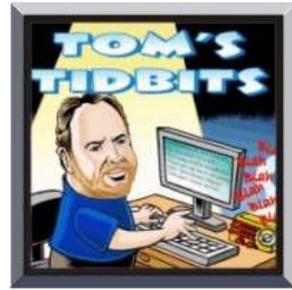
News To Make You Furious

Revolving Door of Corruption



Tom's Tidbits

Hopefully... a look beyond the labels



Greetings!

I try to view the world without the distortion of a "Left" or "Right" prism; labels seldom add value or understanding to complex issues. I hate labels, and maybe there's a potential for this year's presidential campaign to go beyond them... we may get the opportunity to debate some pressing issues, have real conversations about our national priorities, and hear from a person who puts understanding and action beyond the current political spectrum.

We've been programmed to believe there are only two viable candidates in a Presidential election; the Republican or the Democrat. We've also been programmed to believe the 2016 contest will come down to Hillary against a to-be-determined Republican. But if we look beneath the simplistic labels, what will our choices *really* be? While there are critical differences between our modern major parties, they also share a toxic similarity... they're both bought and paid for by a Corporatocracy run amok. Neither Hillary nor any of the potential Republicans show signs they would make any move toward meaningful reform of the inequalities eating away at our society, freedoms, and quality of life. Neither corporate-approved selectee would risk biting the hand.

Enter Bernie Sanders. On May 26, the Vermont Senator took ten minutes to officially announce he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President. Then, without any coy gamesmanship, he went back inside to do his job as a U.S. Senator. He didn't start a listening tour or board a bus for a 5-state campaign swing; he went right back to the job we're paying him for. I'm excited that Bernie Sanders will bring more of this much-needed contrast to the 2016 political debate, but I'm fearful that labels may overshadow content. Bernie has dealt with labels for years- "populist", "crank", "idealist", and "unrealistic" are just a few. "Socialist" is the biggest one, as he is the only self-identified Socialist in Congress. Just the word "socialist" might deafen the average American listener, but in a world where "Socialist" is just a mindless insult, having him actually explain the concept to the FAUX-News-poisoned audience could be the high point of the election! But other labels have been applied as well... labels like "integrity", "principled", and "straightforward". These good labels don't necessarily aid understanding either, but when you dig beyond the labels and into his stances you'll find Bernie has positions that would actually help rebuild the middle class in our country. And he's consistently advocated these positions for many, many years.



Here's a great way to meet Bernie... an article from Alternet about "[The 10 crucial issues most politicians except Bernie Sanders lie about](#)"

The American people are deeply and justifiably angry so populism *should be* welcomed in the 2016 battle, but I worry that without Bernie it would be (corporate) business as usual. Just by being in the race, identifying real problems and proposing real solutions in stark contrast to the Corporatist's non-solutions, Bernie will be offering people a chance to see a real difference. Despite overwhelming evidence, Americans aren't always stupid. They'll ask their mainstream candidates why those differences exist and the candidates will have to scramble their positions more toward something plausible. Just by entering the race, Bernie Sanders will push both Left and Right toward something more sensible.

Current polls put Clinton version 2.0 ahead of Sanders by 50 points, but Bernie *will* cause some ripples with his campaign, even in a potential \$5 billion dollar pond. Bernie has some things I see lacking in other candidates... an accurate view of the fundamental problems (and their causes) facing America, a get-to-work and get-it-done attitude, a coherent vision of where America could be, and rational solutions on how to get there. As America considers its nominees I hope they'll be able to accurately compare the candidates' diagnosis and prescriptions, look beyond the labels, and examine the issues on the merits. Bernie Sanders may never be President, but if he changes the fundamental dynamics of the election then he's already won for the American people.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom".

What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's Toon for June



RAIDING MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TPP JOB LOSSES!



STOP THE TPP

WHAT NOW?!!

© KEITH TUCKER
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

For an understanding of this naked plunder of MediCare, Keith recommended "[Congress Plots To Pay For A Trade Deal By Raiding MediCare](#)" from the May 2015 LA Times.

Money IS speech in Oregon

But it doesn't have to stay that way



Democracy, the radical idea that the voice of the people should drive government, becomes nothing more than a bitter joke if the voice of the people is drowned out. Here in Oregon, we've set the standard for the rest of the country with our wide-ranging and effective campaign finance limits which... wait... what's that? Oregon is one of only six states WITHOUT ANY LIMITS ON DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS?!! HOW COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE??!!

We were first made aware of this Beaver State Embarrassment by an email from [Common Cause Oregon](#), the state chapter of one of the leading groups working for more effective and accountable government. Later, they came by the shop and explained how our more-protective-than-most state constitution led to this problem, what's been proposed to fix it, and how we could help make the change happen. We knew this is the kind of thing our Your Car Matters audience would be interested in and immediately wanted to pass it on. So, rather than read our second-hand explanation please welcome Daniel Lewkow of Common Cause Oregon who'll explain first-hand how you can help bring campaign limits to Oregon and why there's a problem in the first place...

By Daniel Lewkow, [Common Cause Oregon](#)

What would you do with a quarter of a million dollars? Would you pay down any debts? Save it for retirement? Get to those long-needed repairs on your car and your house? How about, on the spur of the moment, give it all to one politician running for election? [That's what Nike Chairman Phil Knight did](#). In 2014, he wrote one check for \$250,000, and gave it to Governor Kitzhaber's re-election campaign. One check. Was that just a nice gesture between old friends? [Well, if gestures from old friends include calling a special legislative session to secure you a lucrative tax deal in late 2013, then yes.](#)

This reminded us of the Gilded Age, when the enormously-wealthy Robber Barons would funnel massive campaign donations to the politicians of their choice. The results were terrible for the average person... brutal working conditions in factories, mines, and shipyards, horrifying degradation of our environment, and no protections whatsoever for consumers from exploitative contracts, false advertising, or dangerously neglectful food production. The people asked why their elected leaders were not confronting these issues. When it was clear that campaign contributions were getting in the way of their voices, they rose up and demanded campaign finance reform. They demanded that we get money out of politics.

Oregonians need to make their voices heard again. Oregon is one of only six states that have no limits on how much a donor can give to a candidate for public office. A wealthy donor could very well finance an entire campaign by his or herself (same with a corporation or a special interest).

And that means that the voices of the average voter are drowned out by that one donor. That is not how democracy should work.

Not having contribution limits also increases the costs of elections. Even though Oregon is a small state, our 2014 state elections were the fifteenth most expensive in the country. In 2012, the average amount that a candidate had to raise for the Oregon State House was the sixth-highest in the U.S.

Why don't we have contribution limits? Almost every other state has them, and the Supreme Court has said that they're legal. The problem is that in the 1990s, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that money was equivalent to speech, and that for limits to be put in place, we would have to amend the Oregon constitution. This goes even further than the federal Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United, which equated money with speech when spent independently of candidates, but upheld the justification for limits on contributions directly to candidates.

Oregon has a chance to turn the tide and send a message that the voters should come first. [Senate Joint Resolution 5 is a bill currently in the state senate, and was introduced by then-Secretary of State Kate Brown in January.](#) SJR 5 would, upon passage of the legislature, refer to the ballot a constitutional amendment that would allow for contribution limits. If approved, it would add a very simple line to our state's constitution, saying that lawmakers and voters have the ability to set contribution limits. That would allow us to pass major reforms like limiting the total amount that a donor can give to a candidate's campaign.

So what's the hold up? Just one vote. We are one vote away from having enough votes to pass the biggest campaign finance reform in decades. We are on the cusp. [You can help change this. By clicking here, you can email your legislator and tell them that you want money out of politics. You want working families to come first.](#) Tell them that you want a democracy for the people... like it was meant to be.

Electronic R-E-S-P-E-C-T

What to expect from our electronic communications



Everyone loves the InterTubes, but for every movie or blog you actually *want* to know about your inbox is flooded with a hundred messages about celebrity diets or Nigerian pyramid schemes. Every company, candidate, and cause on the planet wants your email, and when you visit us for the first time we'll ask for it too. Should you give it to *any* company? In our opinion two things matter to that decision... how will the company protect your information, and what will they send you if they have it? You can feel safe sharing your sensitive cyber-identity with us because the foundation of our electronic information policy is respect- respect for you and

the trust you've placed in us...

It may not seem like it, but it wasn't all that long ago that email was a novelty, even a luxury. Now email is a critical means of communication for most people. It's almost as big a commitment to give your email address as it is to give your home phone number, so you definitely don't want to give it to someone who will abuse it. How do we handle your email or sensitive electronic information?

We recognize that having your email and electronic information is a privilege and responsibility so we treat it that way. Your cyber-security is paramount... to protect your personal and vehicle information we constantly upgrade our computer hardware and software systems as well as our security and records policies to ensure your data is safe from outside hacking or internal crashes. You gave us your email address in confidence so we protect that just as vigorously. **We will NEVER give, sell, or otherwise transfer your email address or other electronic information to ANYONE for ANY REASON, unless you *explicitly* authorize us to do so for necessary vehicle service.**

Respect doesn't just mean protection; it also means not wasting your time. Although we take communication with our clients very seriously we won't clog your inbox with useless drivel. We send an email to our full client list about once every two weeks to stay in touch with special offers, shop news, automotive news, and features. Beyond that, we send very rare bulletins on critical auto issues like auto recalls, free tickets or prizes, or event announcements. The best way to see what to expect from the future is to look at what we've done in the past. As an example, in the two-year period covering 2008 to 2010, here's everything we sent:

- Our electronic newsletter each month
- One invitation to a client party we threw, and three offers for free tickets to events we sponsored.
- A safety warning about tire pressure when we started seeing a summer epidemic of over-inflated tires.
- A survey on how we could help our clients during the Sellwood Bridge reconstruction.
- Eight special offers to members of our Carbon Neutral Program.

We may send a little more or less in years to come, but if so we promise to act with the same restraint. You can rest assured we won't spam you!

We try to make it as easy as possible to stop receiving communication from us if you ever decide that you want to. Every email we send to our full client list has an "opt-out" box at the bottom, and checking that box will take you off our bulk email list. This won't interfere with direct emails so we'll still be able to communicate with you individually if your vehicle is being serviced, but you'll be off our general list and shouldn't be bothered again.

Electronic communication is critical to function in today's world, but it's all too easily abused. We want you to know that we realize the trust you're placing in us when you give us your information, so we'll treat it with the respect you deserve.

Carwash Coupon Season is going on NOW

Here's how it works and why we do it



It's that time of year again- Car Wash Coupon Season at Tom Dwyer Automotive! During Portland's dry summer months our parking lot stirs up a lot of dust and we don't want our clients driving dusty cars, so we created Car Wash Coupon Season to solve the problem. The season goes from May 15 to September 15, and we'll give you a coupon for a [Washman car wash](#) for purchases over \$125. So why don't we just wash your car here instead? Even easier, what about just paving the lot and being done with the whole thing? These are some of the most frequent questions we get, not just in summer but throughout the year, and Carwash Coupon Season gives us a chance to answer them as well. Here's your handy guide to

Car Wash Coupon Season...

Why don't you just pave the lot?

There are several factors that, when combined, make it all but impossible for us to pave the lot in the foreseeable future.

We did try to pave it, many years ago, but that idea was crushed by the City. Our parking lot is actually the end of SE Tenino Street so we asked the City of Portland about the possibility of paving. They had no intention of paying for any improvements at their cost, but were adamant that any improvements we made had to meet their standards. A client who owned a local construction company at the time explained the golden rule when dealing with the City on matters like this: "it is better to beg forgiveness than ask permission". He explained the positives and negatives of just moving ahead and paving without permission, but we decided to do things by the book. We invested five thousand dollars for engineering the plans and researching the possibility of paving the lot, determining the project would require about \$60,000.00 in drains, sumps, curbs, etc. We didn't pursue it any further.

One other thing influencing this decision is our contempt for pavement in general. There is already too much pavement in the world as it is without our contribution! Pavement keeps water from absorbing into the ground and reflects heat back to our already heat-soaked atmosphere. Pavement keeps vegetation from acting as a carbon sink and adds no beauty. If other factors made it possible to pave we might still consider it, but since we can't we might as well appreciate the up-side.

Could you just wash the cars there?

Sounds simple, but it's not. We're very close to the river, so we (and the City) closely monitor our discharges. If we washed cars here we'd have environmental impact problems with the runoff into the river. We service a large volume of cars, and washing all of them would require capture and disposal systems for every drop or risk damage to the environment. Our clients know our

environmental commitment isn't just greenwashing, so that's a risk (and an expense to prevent the risk) that we can't accept.

Since we can't do it ourselves, we offer coupons for a company that's already made the investment to do it right. Washman uses biodegradable soaps and solutions, as well as capturing and recycling all the wash water. They've already made the investment to do washes right, so we rely on them.

What if you at least vacuumed my car?

We used to vacuum cars, but we stopped out of respect for our clients. Our vehicles become extensions of our selves, and people maintain that expectation of privacy even when they drop their cars off with us. You wouldn't believe the things people leave in their cars, from fragile breakables to money to weapons and more! We didn't want to intrude on our client's privacy, and didn't want the liability if something was damaged or missing, so we decided it was best to stop vacuuming altogether.

Paving, washing, vacuuming... that about covers it! Now that you know the story, come on down and enjoy the celebration of Carwash Coupon Season!

Drew's Kitchen

Bacon-wrapped Corn on the Cob



If last month's Talapia recipe brought you in from the grill, this month's will give you a reason to go back out to it. It's not a meat recipe though... it's a new take on an old side dish, but it will bring sparkle to any meat lucky enough to be served with it...

Recipe Name

Ingredients:

- 2-3 pounds bacon slices
- 1 bunch basil leaves
- 2 jalapeno peppers, sliced
- 8 ears corn, shucked

Preparation:

- On a piece of parchment paper, place a few slices of bacon (2-3 slices, or as many as you prefer) alongside each other, slightly overlapping. Cover with another sheet of parchment paper and pound lightly with a rolling pin to flatten the bacon and press the slices together. Remove the top parchment sheet and sprinkle the bacon with basil leaves and jalapeno slices.
- Lay 1 ear of corn across the bottom edge of the bacon and roll the corn up. Transfer the corn to a parchment-lined baking sheet, laying it seam-side down. Repeat the process with the remaining ears of corn. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight or up to 24 hours.
- Preheat a grill or grill pan to medium heat. Grill the corn, starting with the bacon seam-side down. Give the ears a quarter turn every 5 minutes, until the bacon is crisp and caramelized on all sides and the corn is tender, 25 to 30 minutes total.

Serves 8. Prep time 20 minutes plus refrigeration time. Cook time 30 min.



Secret Drew's Kitchen

Hidden Article

[New research](#) suggests that cooking appeared millions of years ago, shortly after early humans learned to control fire. The research also shows that chimps have the mental tools needed to cook food. Remember that if you're ever intimidated by one of Drew's recipes!

Shop Talk

Vote for Tom Dwyer!



Vote For TOM DWYER AUTOMOTIVE- Best Auto Repair in Portland!

The Willamette Week “Best of Portland” issue is a city icon, the Bible of the Best in our beloved city. We’ve been honored twice in it, once as “The Best Place For An Emotional Tune-Up” and once (a little more appropriately, in our opinion) as the “Best Place To Get Your Car Fixed”. In past years the winners have been chosen by the Willy Week editors but this year they’re trying something a little different. You, the readers, will get to vote for your favorites in almost 200 categories. We’re asking for your vote in just one, though... “Best Auto Repair”. We’re one of 5 finalists and would really appreciate your vote to put us over the top. If you’d like to help us out, go to the [Best of Portland voting page](#) and click the “Vote Now” link. We’re in the [Local Business/Services](#) section under “Best Auto Repair”. There are four other excellent shops in the running but we are selfishly asking for your vote for just us. Hurry, because voting closes June 30! (Unless you’re voting for one of those other guys; then voting closes July 15.)



Comment of the Month

“You did it. You gave an estimate for replacing front lower control arms and bushings. It was done for slightly less. Thank you!”

-Jory L.

Glad to do it, Jory. [When we give estimates it’s for a complete job done right](#). Our estimates aren’t bait-and-switch sales tools, they’re intended to give you rock-solid information you need to make rational service and budgeting decisions. We don’t give “bare bones” estimates to get you in the door and then call with additions we knew were coming all along. Of course, there are always situations in which the unanticipated happens, but when it does we *call* our clients *immediately* to ask how they want to proceed, and we NEVER do work without your direct authorization. Because we’re giving our most professional prediction of the job cost from the very beginning we very rarely have to change our initial estimates... we’re proud to say we’re [on-estimate 98.77%](#) of the time!



Our Referral Reward program-

We continue to be amazed at the response to our [Referral Reward Program](#), in which we make donations to the non-profit group of your choice whenever a new client comes to the shop through your referrals. Just since January, we have made 34 donations totalling slightly over \$1300 to the organizations our clients care about. May was an especially strong month with 13 donations to these groups...

[American Red Cross](#) by Bruce P.

[FACT \(Families and Communities Together\)](#) by Jim L.

[Oregon Humane Society](#) by Marlene M.

[American Heart Association](#) (in memory of Jesse Rogers) by Nancy S.

[Center for Appropriate Transport](#) (in memory of Peter Bryner) by Nicole Potts

[PKD \(Polycystic Kidney Disease\) Foundation](#) by Veneta S.

[Randall Children’s Hospital](#) by Mark G.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Brad L.

[Mercy Corps](#) by Jay S.
[KBOO Radio](#) by Woods S.
[Oregon Humane Society](#) by Darrin F.
[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Seth W.
[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Sue F.

And don't forget that these groups are eligible for \$200 quarterly and \$500 yearly awards as well. We'd like to make a donation to the group YOU care about most... refer a new client to us today and we'll get a check in the mail!

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!



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.



Health Notes

Something's fishy here...



By Sarah Heidler

Fish. For decades it has been touted as dieters dream meat for its high protein and low caloric content. We also now know fish is packed with Omega-3 fatty acids that can prevent heart disease, lower blood pressure and ease inflammation. Dr. Gourmet even boasts that [fish make you smarter](#), or at least less dumb.

But is it all that good for you? With possible high levels of mercury, industrial chemicals like PCBs or pesticides like DDT and Dieldrin? The Harvard School of Public Health says that the [benefits far outweigh any risks](#) of mercury poisoning. Which, I suppose is fine, as long as you're not the one being poisoned.

One of the biggest considerations regarding fish is where it comes from and how it is farmed or caught. We need to be our own watchdogs in this arena, because the [FDA is underfunded](#), having not received promised funds to keep consumers safe. Less than 2% of all imported seafood actually gets inspected before it sold.

I believe that our food needs to be good for our bodies, our community and our environment. Or at least not detrimental. That is a lot to consider, when all I want to do is grill some salmon for the family on Friday night. Luckily, there are a lot of folks out there doing research and making it easy for me to find out what's up with my fish...

Prevention Magazine has a quick article on [12 fish to avoid](#).

The Environmental Defense Fund has a great [database](#) where they give different fish and practices an eco-rating, a mercury rating and an Omega-3 rating.

The Natural Resource Defense Council has a guide to [Mercury in Fish](#).

Food and Water Watch have a helpful [Seafood Buying Guide](#).

Alaskan Salmon might be good for us, environmentally sustainable, very low in contaminants and high in Omega-3's, but American Salmon sometimes makes a round trip to China for processing. Read about other strange things about the US fish market in this [article](#).

Happy fishing for information!

Sellwood Bridge Update

The View From Down Under

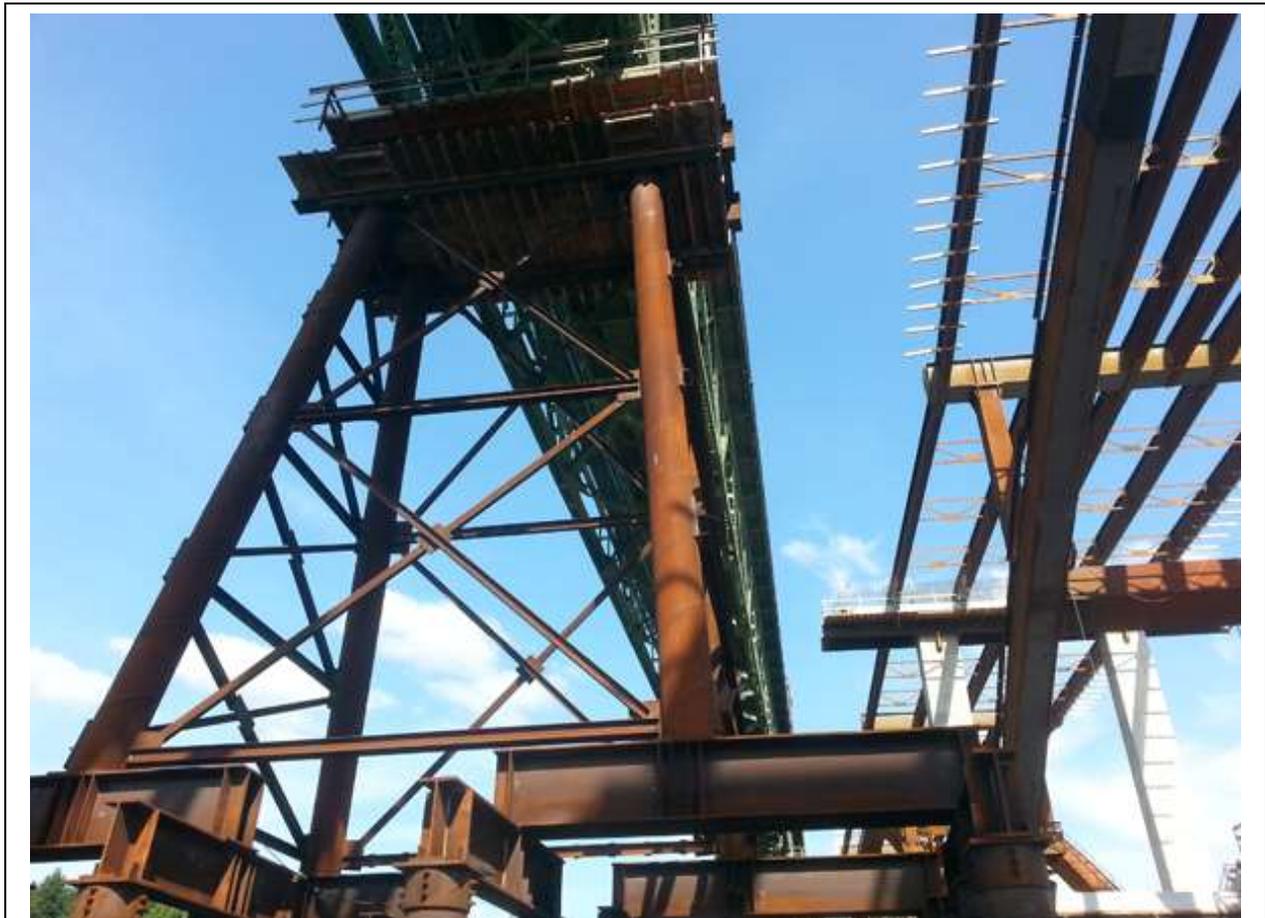


We've Updated the Sellwood Bridge progress from just about every perspective. We've shot pictures from the top, explored the elementary school aspects of it, talked about the computers used in the bridge design, and posted many, many pictures of the construction issued by Multnomah County. This month we bring you something new. One of the reporters from our Sellwood Bridge bureau recently had



The Sellwood Bridge reconstruction, approaching from the North.

the opportunity to take a relaxing cruise along under the bridge and took pictures in a desperate attempt to make the whole trip reimbursable as a business expense. While we denied his expense report we did like his pictures, so we hope you enjoy looking at them as much as he enjoyed taking them!



View from the middle of the Willamette River. The old bridge on its temporary supports is on the left, while the skeleton of the new roadbed on top of the new arches is on the right.



East approach construction area



West approach construction area



Contrast of the old versus the new



Construction area on the east side of the central arch.



Construction area on the west side of the central arch.

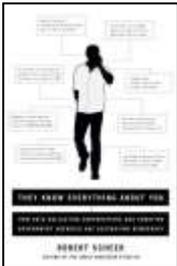
As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. If you're looking for something 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

Our Spotlight illuminates the shadows



With the expiration and immediate reinstatement of NSA surveillance powers, surveillance and privacy (or at least the politics surrounding them) have dominated the news lately. This month we bring you three books dissecting the now-global corporate/government surveillance state...



[They Know Everything About You: How Data-Collecting Corporations and Snooping Government Agencies Are Destroying Democracy](#)

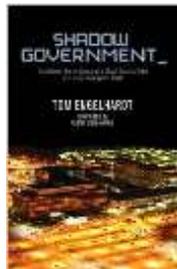
by Robert Scheer

They Know Everything About You is a groundbreaking exposé of how government agencies and tech corporations monitor virtually every aspect of our lives, and a fierce defense of privacy and democracy. The revelation that the government has access to a vast trove of personal online data demonstrates that we already live in a surveillance society. But the erosion of privacy rights extends far beyond big government. Intelligence agencies such as the NSA and CIA are using Silicon Valley corporate partners as their data spies. Seemingly progressive tech companies are joining forces with

snooping government agencies to create a brave new world of wired tyranny.

Life in the digital age poses an unprecedented challenge to our constitutional liberties, which guarantee a wall of privacy between the individual and the government. The basic assumption of democracy requires the ability of the individual to experiment with ideas and associations within a protected zone, as secured by the Constitution. The unobserved moment embodies the most basic of human rights, yet it is being squandered in the name of national security and consumer convenience.

Robert Scheer argues that the information revolution, while a source of public enlightenment, contains the seeds of freedom's destruction in the form of a surveillance state that exceeds the wildest dream of the most ingenious dictator. The technology of surveillance, unless vigorously resisted, represents an existential threat to the liberation of the human spirit.



[Shadow Government: Surveillance, Secret Wars, and a Global Security State in a Single-Superpower World](#)

By Tom Engelhardt

In 1964, a book entitled "The Invisible Government" shocked Americans with its revelations of a growing world of intelligence agencies playing fast and loose around the planet, a secret government lodged inside the one they knew that even the president didn't fully control. Almost half a century later, everything about that "invisible government" has grown vastly larger, more disturbing, and far more visible. In his new book, Tom Engelhardt takes in something new under the sun: what is no longer, as in the 1960s, a national security state, but a global security one, fighting

secret wars that have turned the president into an assassin-in-chief. Shadow Government offers a powerful survey of a democracy of the wealthy that your grandparents wouldn't have recognized.



[E-Book- Surveillance Nation- Critical reflections on Privacy and its threats](#)

Articles from *The Nation* magazine, 1931-2014

We've been living in 1984 since 1941. That was the year the Justice Department first authorized the wiretapping of Americans. "We shudder to think of what its agents will do with this new authorization," *The Nation* warned in an editorial that year. Ever since then, our writers have investigated, exposed and denounced gross violations of our most basic civil liberties.

Now these articles have been collected in *Surveillance Nation*, a fascinating and timeless alternative history on the rise of the surveillance state. As our legal affairs correspondent, David Cole, writes in his introduction: "Time and again, writers for *The Nation* identified threats to privacy and liberty long before they were acknowledged by the broader public and media."

Contributors to this important collection include Victor Navasky, Diana Trilling, Christopher Hitchens, Eric Foner, Laura Flanders, Jonathan Schell, Naomi Klein, Christopher Hayes, Patricia Williams, Fred Cook, Frank Donner and Jaron Lanier. *Surveillance Nation* is an intellectual and historical feast for anyone who wants to learn more about the kind of widespread abuses that Edward Snowden revealed in June 2013.

Humorousness

Pictures worth less than a thousand words



This month's Humorousness is for the graphic designers out there, or anyone who likes to laugh at graphic designers when they totally screw up. What makes a good logo? Clear brand identity, clean graphics, creative imagery, stuff like that. What makes a bad logo? These examples demonstrate every possible way a logo can be bad. From poor messaging by big companies to must-have-been-unintended messages by small ones, from just plain ugly to borderline pornographic, these logos are a quick-start guide for what NOT to do. It may take a while to "get" why each one is so bad, but you will. And when you do, please remember that despite the fact that some of these are pretty inappropriate, all of them were at least intended for public consumption.



Popcorn Shorts

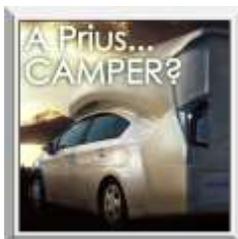
Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



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!

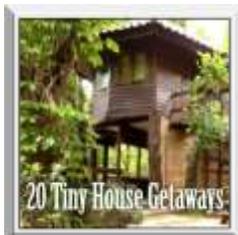


A Prius CAMPER? And it sleeps FOUR?



We work on a lot of Priuses (Pri-ii?) here at the shop and we think they're great cars, but "spacious" is not a word frequently applied to them. Now you can expand your idea of a Prius by expanding the Prius itself... with a camper. [It's called a Relax Cabin](#), it's a Japanese conversion, and it will set you back about \$36K, but it may be worth it. The design is gorgeous Japanese tech elegance with storage, sleeping areas, sunroof and more. Buy now and you'll be ready for eco-efficient camping!

20 Tiny House Getaways



Portland may be ground zero for Tiny Houses, but unsurprisingly this good idea is taking off around the world. You may even be considering a Tiny House yourself but may not be sure it's for you. Airbnb has a solution... take one out for a test sleep! They've put together a great list of [Tiny Houses available for rent around the world](#). From Olympia, Washington to Stockholm, Sweden to New Orleans, Louisiana, to Canarias, Spain, you're sure to find something in your price range and near you that matches your own particular tastes.

Traffic Laws By State



As you head out on your Summer adventures, remember that you're not in Kanas anymore. Unless you are, in which case you'll want to know the traffic and safety laws. [This interactive map will give you the basics](#) of aggressive driving, cell phones and texting, child passengers, drunk and drugged driving, licensing, helmets, mature drivers, seat belts, sobriety checkpoints, and speed limits. Remember, "ignorance of the law is no excuse", so check the applicable laws before you hit the road. It may make the difference in a trip you'll enjoy and one you'll be telling horror stories about for years.

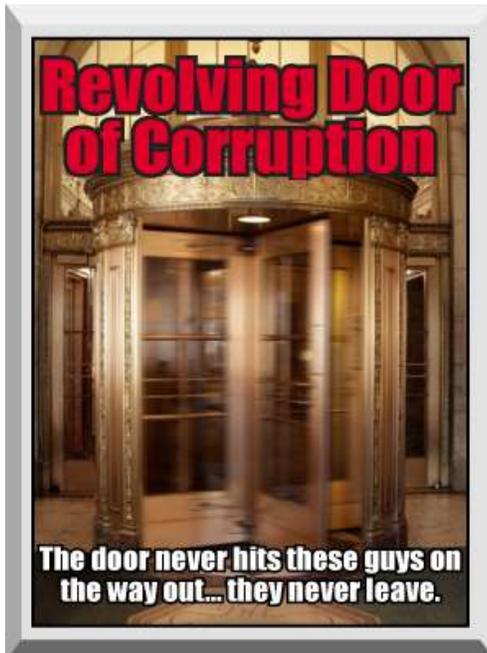
Who owns your car? Not you!



We know what you're thinking... "Of course I don't own my car... the bank does!" Both you and the bank may be in for an unpleasant surprise because it may be that [the manufacturer of the vehicle remains the owner no matter how much you paid for it](#). According to the Digital Millenium Copyright Act, "No person shall circumvent a technological measure that effectively controls access to a work protected under this title", meaning a company can lock out changes in your vehicle software. Not a big deal until you try to modify "your" vehicle or do a range of diagnostic or repairs on it. But no matter who actually owns it, we bet GM won't be lining up to pay your repair bills!

News To Make You Furious

The Revolving Door of Corruption



It's something almost no one notices anymore, but we should. When a Senator is defeated, a cabinet member is shuffled out, or a Congressman resigns in disgrace, where do they go? The all-too-common answer is that they have a cozy position waiting for them in private industry as a lobbyist, influencing law and policy in the government they just left. That may be just annoying, but it gets worse... once they've been on the outside a while, they have the "track record" and "industry experience" to be politically attractive once again, so back into the government they go. They return with hearty congratulations and bonus check from the industry they've just been working for, but certainly without any nasty conflicts of interest. Then they stay until the next scandal puts them on the street again, or at least back into their cushy corner office where they wait for another chance to "serve" the public. And the door goes 'round again...

The people defending this "Revolving Door of Politics" have one plausible reason the door might exist. We as citizens don't want an incompetent government, so when an agency (or political party) wants a person to fill a job they look to the appropriate industry to find a qualified candidate. While this may be rational on its face, it's very limited. It ignores the fact that qualified people are available from many other sources. Yes, we want our banking regulators to understand banking, but there are people from finance, economics, law, and other areas who never lobbied at all yet still understand the field. Their "outsider perspective" may give them insights not possible to an insider. And they come without the baggage of conflicting interests.

That's one of the biggest problems with the Revolving Door... the conflicts of interest. Unless you believe that major corporations are in politics due to a driving need to make things better for society at large (a show of hands, anyone?) then they do it because there's a financial advantage attached. It doesn't take much to see where that advantage lies. Having an ex-congressman on staff not only burnishes the prestige of the company, but in a world where access is power it gives an "in" to all the friends, staffers, and colleagues he once dealt with daily. It's even worse when the congressman goes through the Reverse Revolving Door from industry into government... they carry a fat bonus check from their now-ex-employer in their back pocket, reminding them who will have a job for them when they get back out.

This corruption of a single individual is one thing, but the situation becomes much, much worse when it becomes endemic. Because the Revolving Door pervades every agency and level of government it has contributed to a phenomenon called "regulatory capture", where the regulations and/or regulators of an industry are controlled by the industry itself. Stories of industry-friendly regulators are legion, and groups like ALEC exist solely to push legislation through an army of lobbyists and legislators dizzy from going through own revolving doors. CitiBank recently even cut out the middleman, writing the bill eviscerating banking regulation themselves and passing it on through pet legislators in the Financial Services Committee.

So that's our subject this month... the Revolving Door of Corruption. We highly recommend you check out OpenSecrets.org amazing resource that [documents exactly who is using the revolving door these days](#). Use it to check each member of recent congresses, as well as the employment history of most individual members. You can brush up on the basics of the problem with the [explainer](#) from HowStuffWorks, get a look at how the revolving door affects issues like [TPP](#) and [banking](#), and find out more about the [reverse revolving door](#) that is even worse than the one we all know about. Wash it all down with a series of articles (including several excellent articles by the folks at Moyers&Company) that tackle the more detailed aspects of the problem.

Neils Bohr once said "Anyone not shocked by quantum theory doesn't understand it". It's the same for the revolving door, except once you understand this flamboyant systemization of bribery you won't just be shocked... you'll be Furious.

[The Revolving Door](#), OpenSecrets.org

[What is the Revolving Door?](#) Josh Clark on HowStuffWorks, Feb 2011

[Bernie Sanders on Obama's Treasury Nominee: We Don't Need More Wall Street Executives](#), Amy Eddings on Ring of Fire radio, Nov 2014

[The Reverse Revolving Door: How Corporate Insiders Are Rewarded Upon Leaving Firms for Congress](#), Lee Fang in The Nation, May 2013

[Obama Admin's TPP Trade Officials Received Hefty Bonuses From Big Banks](#), Lee Fang in Republic Report, Feb 2014

[Congressman Investigated By Feds Now Gets Paid By Feds To Lobby Congress](#), Michael McAuliff on Huffington Post, Apr, 2015

[Living the High Life After Congress](#), Michael Winship on Huffington Post, Apr 2015

[More Light Needed on Wall Street's Revolving Door](#), Daniel Indiviglio in the New York Times, Nov 2014

[This Day In Anonymous Sourcing: Area Source Concerned Elizabeth Warren Might Get Mad](#), Jason Linkins on Huffington Post, Jan 2015

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[The Trouble With That Revolving Door](#), Thomas Edsall in the New York Times, Dec 2011

[Revolving Door: From Top Futures Regulator to Top Futures Lobbyist Matt Taibbi in Rolling Stone](#), Jan 2012

[Corruption and the Revolving Door: Recent Discussions and Further Reflections](#), Matthew Stephenson on the Global Anticorruption Blog, Oct 2014

[The Problem with the Revolving Door - It Brought Us Too-Big-To-Fail](#), Tiffiny Cheng on the Center for Media and Democracy's PRWatch, Dec 2009

[Behind the SEC's Revolving Door](#), John Light on Moyers&Company, Feb 2013

[Stories From Washington's Revolving Door](#), John Light on Moyers&Company, Dec 2012

[The Revolving Door Spins from Sea to Shining Sea](#), Bill Moyers and Michael Winship on Moyers&Company, Feb 2013

[The Washington-Wall Street Revolving Door Keeps Spinning](#), Bill Moyers and Michael Winship on Moyers&Company, Jan 2012

[A New Spin on the "Reverse" Revolving Door](#), John Light on Moyers&Company, May 2013