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Tom's Tidbits

Remember the Kids For Cash scandal?



Greetings!

Remember the “[Kids For Cash](#)” scandal? Judges [Mark Ciavarella](#) and [Michael Conahan](#) were caught taking millions of dollars in kickbacks from Robert Mericle, builder of two for-profit youth detention centers, to sentence kids to his facilities. These judges weren’t just sending a few borderline cases, either. From Pennsylvania’s [Juvenile Law Center](#)...

“From 2003 to 2008, the Luzerne County judicial corruption scandal altered the lives of more than 2500 children and involved more than 6000 cases. Over 50 percent of the children who appeared before Ciavarella lacked legal representation; 60 percent of these children were removed from their homes. Many of them were sent to one or both of the two facilities at the center of the corruption scandal.”

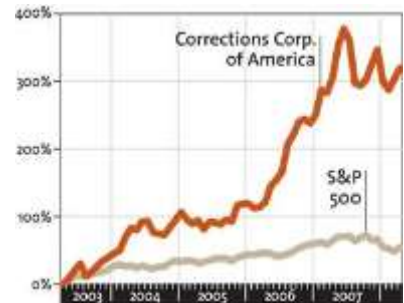
“Shackling compounded the trauma that a corrupt juvenile court inflicted on the children in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Hillary—whose “conviction” for a MySpace parody of a school official started Juvenile Law Center’s 2007 investigation into Luzerne County practices—was shackled and dragged from the courtroom after a two-minute hearing. She had never before been in trouble. She presented no physical threat. She was not a threat to flee. Hillary was not alone—the shackling in Luzerne County is just one of many examples of the daily state-sanctioned maltreatment of children in jurisdictions across the country.”

I thought I’d washed this out of my mind until an [article this month](#) brought it back. The article commented on the sentencing of Ciavarella to 28 years in prison (although he was actually [sentenced back in 2011](#)), rightly but belatedly wishing him good riddance. It made me think about the other guys involved in the scandal so I did a little research. Conahan, the other judicial insect involved, was sentenced to 17.5 years while Mericle, the waste of skin who bribed them, was [sentenced to a year](#) in prison and was [released in April](#). Mericle settled civil suits by the kids involved for \$17.75 million, and [his company](#) that built the kiddie dungeons stayed operational throughout his short prison stay and is still in operation today. (There’s no mention of its leader’s extracurricular activities on their website.)

This desecration of justice is appalling on so many levels there’s not enough space to even start addressing them, but let me focus on one... NOTHING has changed to prevent this from happening again. Unless one thinks Ciavarella and Conahan were actively soliciting bribes, then this epic crime was initiated by Mericle, the person who was punished least. His company, the motivation for the crime in the first place, was not affected at all. The system that encourages private prisons rather than making prisons a duty of our government did not even feel a tremor. The private prison companies that lobby for this system are stronger than ever. These children’s lives are destroyed, and they weren’t even a speed bump to the [corporations whose existence depends on depriving citizens of liberty](#). At any cost.

It’s feels good to see malignant cancers like Ciavarella and Conahan doing time, but “feeling good” is not the reason we have a justice system. The police and government are necessary, but they are comforting necessities when they protect us and necessary evils when they don’t. Cases like “Kids For Cash” show exactly how dangerous and voracious they can be unless they stay firmly under control of law and the people. But that lesson is useless unless we not only learn it, but take action to change it.

Take care and make a great day,



What NOW?! Toons

A Labor Day Thought from Keith Tucker



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

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WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

Mercy Killers

The US healthcare system takes center stage



One man, alone on a stage, with a table and chair beside him. What can one man teach us, where can one man take us? In the play “[Mercy Killers](#)”, coming to Portland next week for one night only, one man takes us face-to-face with one of our deepest fears. Michael Milligan takes us inside the mind of an everyman named Joe, a man who’s built his life by the sweat of his own brow, who’s played by the rules, and who’s never asked anyone for help. But when his beloved wife gets cancer he finds himself battling not just the disease itself but one of the most dreaded monsters lumbering across today’s America... our bloated and voracious for-profit health care system.

Of course, the reason this play has such impact is that it doesn’t deal with the bogeyman fears of psycho slashers but with a *real* killer that could strike at any minute. We’ve always known that a car accident or a major illness can destroy our lives... that’s the human condition, and it’s scary enough by itself. But add the spectre of slow economic devastation after years of scraping to prevent it, and the simple human condition becomes a Kafka-esque battle against an unbeatable foe.

It’s a battle that Michael Milligan, writer and performer of “Mercy Killers”, renders in gripping detail. The action of the play takes place in the interrogation room of a local police station, where “Joe” is giving a statement about the suspicious death of his terminally ill wife, Jane. He quickly moves from the facts of the arrest to the story that brought him to it. We follow Joe and Jane as they struggle to build an independent and secure life, only to see it brought down around them when Jane gets breast cancer. Home loss, divorce (so Jane can access MediCare), job loss, and ruin follow with death as the caper. Joe, an archetypical American, must come to terms with all of this in the context of his Libertarian ideological leanings.

Says Milligan, “The play is extremely critical of the health insurance industry. The couple loses their coverage, not for a pre-existing condition but because they fail to respond to a questionnaire. They fail to respond because they are temporarily living in a trailer park where they don’t receive mail. That’s something that can happen. That specific example was taken from the case of a woman who was giving testimony to Congress during the health care debate.

“The added thing is this guy (in the play) is actually a Tea Party kind of guy. I wanted to explore and understand that mindset – that sense of self-reliance. He wants to do it all himself and as he’s giving his testimony to the police (about how his wife died) he also is dealing with everything that has happened and confronting his belief about things. It’s tragic; he can’t get over the fact that he has failed...that this was all his fault...that somehow if he was smarter/richer/done more that somehow it would have been different.”



MERCY KILLERS by Michael Milligan

[Click here for a RealNews report on “Mercy Killers”](#)

“Mercy Killers” has been played to rave reviews across the US and internationally, including recognition at the Edinburgh “Fringe First” festival. Here are just a few excerpts from those reviews... “Milligan is riveting, conveying a fascinating mix of decency, heartbreak, and impotent fury”; “The best theater kicks down walls, pulls off the gloves and starts swinging. Mercy Killers is that kind of play”; “In our ever present day of political discourse, finger pointing, and profitable racket over healthcare, Milligan manages to strip down the arguments by humanizing them to a frustrating, but immensely profound degree”, and “Like Ali Baba opening a cave to a treasure, Michael Milligan’s “Mercy Killers” opens a door to a world that is hard-edged in a way that is compelling, soft but not overly sentimental. “Mercy Killers” rings of truth. It is good theater”.

One of the most unusual parts of “Mercy Killers” is the fact there’s an open discussion forum following the show. Since the play has been staged in front of medical students, politicians, medical ethicists, insurance companies, and more, this after-play has become one of the most popular parts of the show!

“Mercy Killers” is being brought to you in Portland by [Health Care for All Oregon](#), the group that’s been fighting for single-payer health care in Oregon and beyond since 1999. If you miss the show at Portland’s [Alberta Rose Theater](#) on September 17th, you’ll still have a chance to catch the remainder of the Oregon tour in Newport, Albany, Springfield, Florence, or Eugene before it returns to its [national schedule](#).

Good theatre and single-payer healthcare rarely overlap, so for that reason alone this play is worth your time. But even more, it’s an opportunity to look at the issue through a new set of eyes. If you’re already an advocate of single payer then it won’t change your mind at all, but questioning your assumptions and challenging your perspectives always helps. That questioning and challenging is what theatre in general, and “Mercy Killers” in particular, does so well. “Enjoy” may not be the right word for a play that’s this compelling, but we think your night with Joe will stay with you for a long time to come.

“Mercy Killers”, Portland performance, Sep 17, 2015

When:

Thursday, September 17, 8pm – 10pm

Where:

Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 Northeast Alberta Street, Portland, OR 97211

What:

Health Care for All-Oregon is bringing Michael Milligan to Oregon in September, for performances of his one-man play, Mercy Killers. The first performance, sponsored by the [Portland Health Action Group](#), will be on September 17, 8 p.m., at the [Alberta Rose Theatre](#), Portland. Open discussion to follow.

For tickets, visit

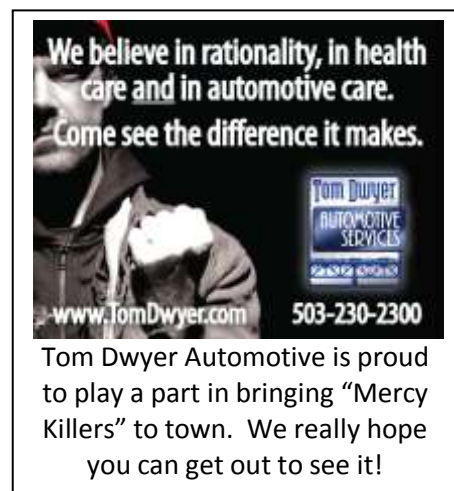
[The Alberta Rose Theater ticket page](#)

For more information, contact

Tom Sincic, sincict@gmail.com

For more information on “Mercy Killers” itself, please visit

<http://mercykillerstheplay.com/> or
<http://www.poetinmo.com/milligan.html>



The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a man in a dark jacket, likely a mechanic, looking towards the camera. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it reads: "We believe in rationality, in health care and in automotive care. Come see the difference it makes." Below this, there is a logo for "Tom Dwyer AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES" with a phone number "503-230-2300". At the bottom left of the image, the website "www.TomDwyer.com" is listed. Below the image, a text box contains the message: "Tom Dwyer Automotive is proud to play a part in bringing “Mercy Killers” to town. We really hope you can get out to see it!"

The Case of the Disappearing Clients

The real deal on your new car warranty



Some of our most loyal clients suddenly vanish and then reappear three years later. When we ask where they've been they tell us they bought a new vehicle and have been going to the dealer because they thought their warranty requires a dealer to perform all their services. Not so! Base factory warranties can be maintained by *any* shop you choose, and many extended warranties can be as well. We want to clear up this confusion, and let you know exactly

why and how you can come to us even if you're enjoying a brand new ride...

Types of Warranties

Broadly, there are two types of new vehicle warranties...

- **Base (Manufacturer's) Warranty**- All new vehicles come with a basic warranty by the manufacturer that cover specific components up to set month or mileage limits. A base warranty covers most components, but does not cover the maintenance and consumable items that wear out in normal driving; things like tires, batteries, brake pads, filters, belts, hoses, or wiper blades.
- **Extended Warranty**- Extended Warranties add additional coverage time, additional covered components, or both. Extended warranties are offered by manufacturers, dealerships, and secondary companies. Since an extended warranty is essentially a contract between you and the offering company, the terms and conditions vary widely.

Service Under Warranty

A base factory warranty can actually be maintained by any shop you choose. *Failed* components have to be addressed by the factory, but we can handle that long list of *maintenance* items your warranty doesn't cover. It's actually illegal for a dealer to tell you otherwise, but beware... they will often do their best to make you believe it with or without saying so explicitly! Dealers try to get new vehicle owners habituated to coming to them during the warranty period so they continue coming when warranty period ends.

Warranty repair is an expense to the manufacturer so most manufacturers don't allow dealers, on their own initiative, to identify and perform warranty repairs! You as an owner need to be both aware of a problem AND use the proper nomenclature describing it to have a warranty job performed free of charge. We actively identify recalls and any needed warranty repairs, insuring all covered repairs are addressed at no charge to you.

Extended warranties can be more complex and the terms vary, but often we can service your vehicle under them as well. If you purchased an extended warranty, just give us a call and we'll gladly review it to determine what services, if any, we can offer.

Whether you have a base or extended warranty, we strongly think it's in your interest to have us monitor your warranty whenever possible. Just call and ask if you have any questions or concerns during your warranty period. Our Service Advisors aren't on [commission](#) and aren't answerable to a manufacturer, so they'll give you the best, most unbiased advice.

Before Your Warranty Expires

Whatever warranty you have, don't let it expire without a thorough exam by us! Bring it by so we can perform our in-depth [Comprehensive Inspection](#), giving you a complete mechanical evaluation of your vehicle. This is a very prudent way to identify any issues the dealer may have "missed" before they become painful out-of-pocket expenses for you.

After Your Warranty Expires

When your warranty does end, we'll be here to handle the ongoing repair and maintenance needs that will keep your vehicle "safe, breakdown-free, and operating at its best" for many years to come. With our own [24-month, 24-thousand mile warranty](#), [top-of-the-line](#), [non-flat-rate](#) Technicians, and [non-commissioned](#) Service Advisors, we think you'll be as glad to see us as we'll be to see you after your sojourn with the dealers!

Changing of the Guard

Changes behind the wheel of our courtesy shuttle



Our Courtesy Shuttle is one of our most popular value-added services, ferrying clients back and forth during their service within a 5-mile radius of our shop. The shuttle driver is a particularly important position to us because, aside from our front-line Service Advisors, our shuttle driver is the face of our company that our clients see most. We recently had a changing of the guard in our driver position, so we wanted to say a fond goodbye to Doug and a warm hello to Josh, the new face you'll be seeing behind

the wheel...

Here's a behind-the-scenes fact about our shop... you know those comment cards you find in your vehicle after service? Not only do we read every one (and take action where necessary) but we keep track of which employees were mentioned specifically by name. We've had a lot of shuttle drivers over the years. Charles, Ian, and Jeff each drove for a long time and Tom himself even drove the van many years ago. But no one, NO ONE, has received as many compliments and cheers as our most recent driver, Doug Van Dyke! Month after month, the accolades have poured in- "Doug, the very kind gentleman", "Doug gets a gold star", "Doug was polite and interesting to talk to", "Doug gave me an insider's view of Portland", "Can I hire Doug as my personal driver?" Doug, Doug, DOUG! It got to be something of a joke around the office as we teased him about exactly what he was doing to get all those compliments! As popular as he was, we hoped Doug would be the shuttle driver for many years to come, but unfortunately, a serious family problem has cropped up that will demand his full attention for the foreseeable future. It looks like Doug won't be coming back, but we wanted to pass on his "thank you" to the many clients he's shuttled, our own thanks for his service, and our sincerest best wishes for his success in the future.



Of course when one door closes another opens, and when we opened the door Doug closed we found Josh Miller standing behind it. Josh has taken a fairly odd route into the shuttle driver's seat; he earned his Associate's Degree in Automotive Service Technology from PCC, but had been working for several years with special-needs adults when we met him. Josh was training to be one of our Service Advisors when the Shuttle seat came open,



and he decided that it looked like a much more comfortable chair than the one he was planning on. Josh has been driving the shuttle for a few weeks now, and he seems to be really enjoying it. "Being a Service Advisor would have been great, but then I'd be stuck in an office all day. Driving the shuttle gets me out and seeing the city, driving beautiful people around a beautiful town. It's a much more relaxed position, but still very important. I'm really looking forward to it." We see this as a huge advantage to our clients, who will have access to someone with all our inside info as they are comfortably shuttled about their business. Josh has a tough job to meet the standard set by Doug, but he's off to a great start and we hope you get to meet him soon.

Our Courtesy Shuttle Service

As long as we have your attention, maybe this is a good time to remind you about our Courtesy Shuttle service. Some longtime clients still don't even know we offer it, but for others it's one of the best value-added services we offer!

We try to make auto repair as convenient as possible, but sometimes it's hard to maintain your schedule while your vehicle's in the shop. We don't offer loaner cars, but we do offer a FREE Courtesy Shuttle. We can ferry you to anywhere in a 5-mile radius (map below) and then pick you up again when your vehicle is completed. However, coordinating rides all over the city can be hectic on our end, and it can mean upset clients if we can't meet expectations. To make things run smoothly for everyone, here are some details about how the Shuttle works.



When you first call to schedule work on your car, please tell us then if you plan to use the Shuttle for an outbound ride, inbound ride, or both. We try to group riders in similar areas (Downtown, Multnomah Village, Milwaukie, etc.) on the same Shuttle, so we'll work with you to match the days and times of your service with the Shuttle schedule. Although we do everything we can to accommodate the inevitable surprise riders, the Shuttle runs BY ADVANCE APPOINTMENT and we must serve clients with appointments first. The shuttle schedule may cause the day of your service appointment to be delayed, so remember to call several days ahead if you need a ride.

The morning Shuttle makes three scheduled outbound runs at 7:30am, 8:30am, and 9:30am.

The Shuttle does not run between 12:00pm and 1:00pm.

The Shuttle does not run Saturday.

The evening Shuttle makes inbound runs until its final trip at 5pm.

The Shuttle needs to be back and finished for the day by 5:30pm.

If you scheduled an outbound ride, you can expect a return ride as long as it has been scheduled in advance, there has been communication during the repair, and that the vehicle will be completed by 5:30pm.

We stick strictly to the 5-mile radius for the 7:30am and 8:30am morning rides, and for all our rides after 2pm. From 9:30am through 2:00pm we can be a little more flexible about distance and can run as far as 7.5 miles if needed. We will work with you on these longer rides if you can work within this middle-of-the-day period.

The latest inbound ride back to the shop is 5:00pm. If you need a return ride after that time we will not be able to pick you up. We would recommend taking advantage of an Enterprise rental car, available here by appointment at discounted rates, in situations where distances or vehicle completion times cause problems. The inbound rides during rush hour are sometimes unpredictable. If you have a pre-scheduled evening Shuttle ride and we are not able to honor it, we will pay for a taxi back to the shop.

If your destination falls outside our 5-mile radius, or can't use the Shuttle for some other reason, don't panic! We have other options to keep you on the move...

We offer discounted rental cars through Enterprise Rentals for qualified services.

We can drop you at bus or light rail stops within our area.

If you're heading downtown, our shop is on the Springwater Trail. Many clients bike into town from here!

The most important thing to remember is that when you decide to trust your vehicle with us, we will do everything we can to make your experience pleasant and convenient. Please ask your Service Advisor if you have any questions.

Drew's Kitchen

Goodbye breakfast crab muffins



Our recipe this month comes with a bit of a story... Drew was out recently for a sad duty, scattering the ashes of his brother-in-law on the Tillamook River. After the ceremony the family members decided to take advantage of the abundant seafood available in Tillamook and bought oysters, crab legs, smoked salmon and more for a memorial feast. Drew applied his considerable talents to the palette before him and came up with a simple and elegant treat that sounded too good not to share...

Goodbye Breakfast Crab Muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 English Muffins (1/2 muffin per person)
- 4 Kraft cheese singles
- ¼ pound fresh Dungeness crab legs (cracked)
- Hollandaise sauce (cooked per package directions)

Preparation:

- Cut the muffins in half. These crab muffins are very rich, so one half an English muffin is enough for most people. Toast muffins lightly.
- Once toasted, add a cheese single slice on top of each muffin
- Put desired amount of crab pieces on top of cheese
- Top each muffin with 2 tbsp Hollandaise sauce
- Serve immediately
- Serves 4 people

One small caution on this month's recipe... make sure you remove all the plastic wrapping from the cheese slice. Drew pointed out that [Kraft is recalling 36,000 cases of individually-wrapped cheese singles because part of the wrapper could become a choking hazard.](#)

Shop Talk

Our \$200 Quarterly Award, and a donation bounces back



Comment of the Month

"I'd like to thank the counter staff who gave me an article to read about buying a used car and advice on how to start looking." -Paula W.

Glad to do it, Paula. We write a lot of articles on issues that come up among our clients, and we're constantly asked for car buying advice. The article you mentioned is available [here](#), and our most popular advice articles are gathered together in our [Information Archive](#). Hope it's useful!



Referral Reward program- \$200 Quarterly Award

Our Referral Reward program is designed to say "thank you" for your generous referrals of new clients without actually bribing you with things like oil changes. It continues to be a very popular program, donating **\$8686 to 134 groups** since the program started! Here are the 11 groups that benefitted in August...

[Artichoke Music](#) by Jack K.

[Children's Cancer Association](#) by Chris F.

[Dress for Success](#) by Lisa D.

[Gifford Pinchot Task Force](#) by Pam H.

[Guide Dogs for the Blind](#) by Randy T.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by John L., Manuel R., AJ O., and Steve P.

[Oregon Humane Society](#) by David H.

[Red Cross](#) by Kevin T

[Restore Oregon](#) by Mike T.

[Share Vancouver](#) by Terry T.

[Union Gospel Mission](#) by Mark E.

But these individual donations are only part of the program... each group is also eligible for quarterly and yearly awards as well. [Medical Teams International](#) was the recipient of this year's first \$200 quarterly award, and September brings our second for 2015. As always we faced an agonizing choice. Here were the groups we had to choose between for this quarter...

American Red Cross
Families and Communities Together
Oregon Humane Society
American Heart Association
Center for Appropriate Transport
Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation
Randall Children's Hospital
Oregon Food Bank
Mercy Corps
KBOO Radio
Oregon Humane Society

Bicycle Transportation Alliance
Community Music Center
It Gets Better Project
SOLV
Portland Animal Welfare Team
Catholic Charities
Growing Gardens
KMHD Radio
Raphael House
Oregon League of Conservation
Voters

KBOO Radio
Tualitin Valley Workshop
Cleveland High School
Amnesty International
Portland Waldorf School
American Civil Liberties Union
Natural Resources Defense Council
Bernie Sanders 2016
Doernbecher Foundation
Randall Children's Hospital
St. Andrew Nativity School

But we had to choose just one of these worthy groups, so the recipient of this quarter's \$200 award is...



Randall Children's Hospital

Every aspect of Randall Children's Hospital has been carefully created to promote maximum care, healing and comfort for our young patients and their families. Thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors giving gifts of every amount, our legacy of healthy kids grows stronger.

Serving children from its new state-of-the-art home since 2012, Randall Children's Hospital offers the most modern approach to children's health care — blending the finest in medical services with family-friendly spaces and patient care procedures designed to reduce stress on patients and their families. With specialists in virtually every field of children's medicine — heart, cancer, neurology, orthopedics, neonatal and pediatric intensive care, rehabilitation and more— Randall Children's Hospital is a regional leader in the care of babies, children and teens.

The generosity of those who donate to Legacy Health makes a sustainable difference in our community and allows Legacy to remain a national health care leader. Your gift creates a lasting impact that saves lives, advances health care and creates educational opportunities for clinicians and the communities we serve.

In 1909, Legacy Emanuel Hospital was founded by citizens dedicated to the delivery of compassionate health care to all. The founding spirit is alive today through the generosity of 1909 Society donors, who enable this legacy of community care to continue. Membership in the 1909 Society is given to individuals with annual cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more to Randall Children's Hospital Foundation or Emanuel Medical Center Foundation.

To learn more about donor-funded projects and needs, please contact Kathy Lynch Hostetler, executive director of Randall Children's Hospital Foundation, at 503-276-9496 or mnrose@lhs.org.

Congratulations Randall Children's Hospital, and we wish them continued success in their valuable work!

Referral Reward program- Bernie Bounces

We give to any non-profit group our clients choose, but we ran into a bit of a roadblock with one donation because of a refreshing bit of integrity. Darin M. wanted to donate to the Bernie Sanders campaign, so we gladly wrote a check. A couple weeks later, though, we received a letter from the campaign along with our uncashed donation. Why on earth would a politician return money? Because "The Federal Elections Campaign Finance Act prohibits reimbursed contributions or contributions "in the name of another".

We got around this by getting one of our guys to write a personal check and reimbursing him, so Darin's donation was made as he wanted. But we thought it was an educational little story about how election law works, and about how not all politicians are the same.



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

Is EMF pollution the next health risk to watch for?



One of our clients, Rodrigue D., has been telling us about EMF pollution for years. If you haven't heard of it, it's pollution from ElectroMagnetic Fields, the invisible fields produced by all electrical devices. Now, human beings have always had EM fields around. The sun is an EM field producer, and we live in a constant bath of EM background radiation from it and other EM sources throughout the universe. We evolved to live in an EM-flooded world and no one is quite sure what a world without EM radiation would look like. But... the intensity of the EM fields we're experiencing now is something new and novel in human history. Yes, the sun is a gigantic EM source but it's 90 million miles away; the EM field you experience from your cellphone is thousands of times stronger than the one you feel from the sun. And that goes for the microwave, and the lightbulbs, and the electric wire, and everything else in our modern lives that involves electricity. RestOfNewsletter

EM pollution is garnering more concern in Europe than America, in part because while everyone agrees that EM fields are more consistent and persistent than they've ever been, no one has been quite sure how they might act to our detriment. Unfortunately, Rodrigue was recently able to give us an answer to that. He directed us to a paper by Dr. Martin Pall, whose paper "Electromagnetic fields act via activation of voltage-gated calcium channels to produce beneficial or adverse effects" in the Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine describes the result of nitric oxide-cGMP-protein kinase G pathway stimulation and its effect on... well, if you're like us it would be pointless to read the paper, but the takeaway is that they've located a mechanism by which EMF pollution could act.

Is EMF pollution something to worry about? Evidence seems to be growing that it's something to take a look at. Here are three links if you want to dig deeper. First, for the medical-minded readers out there [Dr. Pall's paper is linked here](#), here is a [link to an overview of the problem](#), and if you're concerned about EMF in your home or workplace you can [contact Rodrigue through his company Healthy Spaces Now](#).

Sellwood Bridge Update

Will bad bolts bang the Bridge?



The Sellwood Bridge Project continues to trundle along, mostly on-schedule and mostly on-budget. We've seen some construction on our doorstep recently as the County has been installing the infrastructure for a traffic signal at SE 6th and Tenino. Although the signal won't be activated until the project is complete, it will eventually be a HUGE advantage to our clients trying to make a left turn onto the Sellwood Bridge from our shop!

There's other happenings on the Bridge this month, but rather than write an article ourselves we'll direct you to yet another excellent article by David Ashton at the Sellwood Bee- "[Out-Of-Spec Bolts Slow Sellwood Bridge Progress](#)" (*Sellwood Bee, Sep 2015*). The article has much more detail, but here are a few of the takeaways...

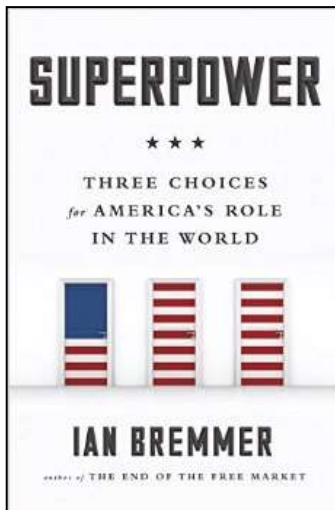
- Opening date will be around February or March of 2016
- There have been problems with some of the bolts used in construction, but they're getting replacements and it doesn't look like it will be a serious problem
- At this point the project is likely to come in at 3.5% over estimate, but the vehicle surcharge to cover it is coming in over estimate as well. The costs should be roughly equal, and the surcharge will probably go away as scheduled.

Again, these are the high points... check out The Bee's article to dig deeper.

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

“Superpower” by Ian Bremmer



[Superpower- Three choices for America’s role in the world](#)

By Ian Bremmer

From the bestselling author of “The End of the Free Market” comes the story of three provocative choices facing the world’s sole superpower.

Global policy expert Ian Bremmer calls for a complete rethink of America’s role in tomorrow’s world. In an increasingly volatile international environment, the question has never been more important. Bremmer explores three choices, each with its own benefits and drawbacks:

“Independent America” argues that it’s time for Washington to declare independence from the responsibility to solve everyone else’s problems. Instead, America should lead by example by investing in America’s enormous untapped potential.

“Moneyball America” acknowledges that we can’t manage every international challenge but asserts that we must defend U.S. interests wherever they’re threatened. It looks beyond phony arguments about American exceptionalism with a clear-eyed assessment of U.S. strengths and limitations.

“Indispensable America” insists that only Washington can promote the values on which global stability increasingly depends in our hyper-connected world. Turning inward would threaten America’s security and prosperity.

Bremmer makes his best pitch for each scenario, offers his own conclusions, and challenges the reader to choose.

About the Author

Ian Bremmer is the president and founder of Eurasia Group, a leading global political risk research and consulting firm. He has published ten books including the national bestsellers “The End of the Free Market: Who Wins the War Between States and Corporations”, and “Every Nation For Itself: Winners and Losers in a G-Zero World”. He is an active public speaker, a contributor to the Financial Times and Reuters, and has written hundreds of articles for other leading publications. He lives in New York City.

Humorousness

Hipster Barbie... and yes, she's from Portland



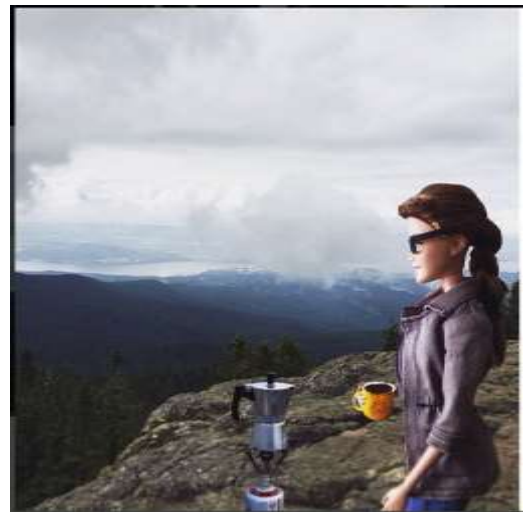
It's off to the Intertubes for this month's Humorousness as we introduce you to Socality Barbie, the new hottest thing on Instagram. Often called "Hipster Barbie", she's the creation of a 20-something wedding photographer in Portland who has so far chosen to remain anonymous. Madame X says "I created the account to make fun of the people who were using the '#liveauthentic' hashtag on Instagram. All their pictures looked alike to me and I couldn't tell them apart anymore so it just didn't seem all that authentic." Socality Barbie has been profiled in [Wired](#), [the Guardian](#), and [The Atlantic](#) among other venues, but her Instagram account has floods of pictures that may be a little too close to the truth for many Portlanders. Well, no matter how pretentious we may be we can still laugh at ourselves, and here's your chance to laugh at our locally-grown plastic stand-in...

[Socality Barbie on Twitter](#)

[Socality Barbie on Instagram](#)



"Went for a walk in the woods this morning. Couldn't resist the urge to put plant life in front of my face."



"I just 'happened' to bring all my coffee gear on this hike. Might as well make a cup on this mountain top like a normal person would do."



"Could I be any more authentic?!"

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!

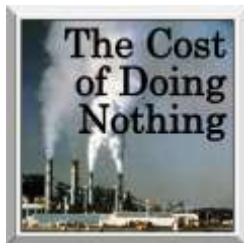


[Take a tour of the freakin' SPACE STATION](#)



Today's world is the world of the future, yet we take it for granted. For instance, how often do you stop to realize that there is a permanent manned space station orbiting over our heads RIGHT NOW? It's been a dream of every child since the 1950's, yet on a daily basis we pay more attention to Kim Kardashian. [Here's an opportunity to look around this castle in the air...](#) before ESA astronaut Samantha Christoforetti ended her 199 day mission on the station, she took up to 15 pictures of each room in the station. They've been stitched together through the magic of software, and now you can take a fully interactive tour through the entire thing. It's fascinating and educational, but may not be what you think...

[The high cost of doing nothing](#)



Some people deny the reality of climate change NOT because they aren't convinced by the science, but because they think it would be too expensive to do anything about it. One of the basic flaws in this idea (and there are many) is that doing nothing has no cost. A lefty/righty coalition of business, political, and scientific leaders (Hank Paulson, Michael Bloomberg, Tom Steyer, and others) engaged an economic research group and the world's largest catastrophe-modeling company for insurance to analyze and quantify exactly how much it costs to bury our heads in the sand. [Here's their report](#). Great fodder to talk about with your climate-change-denying uncle, especially if he's the CEO of a large company...

[Portland's zombie apocalypse](#)



The Portland Film Festival was going on over the Labor Day weekend culminating with "Zombie Day" on Labor Day Monday, and the highlight of Zombie Day was the filming of "The Zombie Day Apocalypse". The apocalypse happened under the Morrison Bridge, where a couple thousand people got into their undead finery to be extras in the shoot. Not only was there movie fun, but it was a chance to beat the world's record of 656 zombies in a movie. And now it's not official: the estimated 3000 people who waited in the sun for 6 hours look like they ate the brains of the previous record. Here are reports from [KGW](#), [KOIN](#), the [Oregonian](#), and a particularly good video from [KPTV](#). BRAINS!

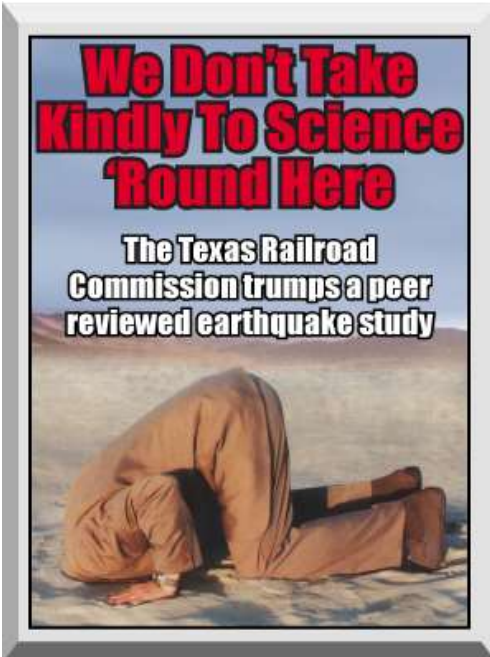
[Gold-filled Nazi ghost train discovered?](#)



Things were looking pretty bleak for Germany in early 1945. The Allies were on the march and the Nazis realized they were going to be on the losing end of the war. In a panic, they began hiding the gold, jewels, artworks, antiques, critical documents, and more that they had plundered from across Europe. Some went in homes and caves, others were loaded onto cars, and most of these caches were found by the war's end. But one train in Poland, a legend in the local area, was lost. Until now. [Polish treasure hunters using ground penetrating radar believe they have found the train](#) in a tunnel in Poland. Relics from the site seem to back them up, but is it real? Stay tuned...

News To Make You Furious

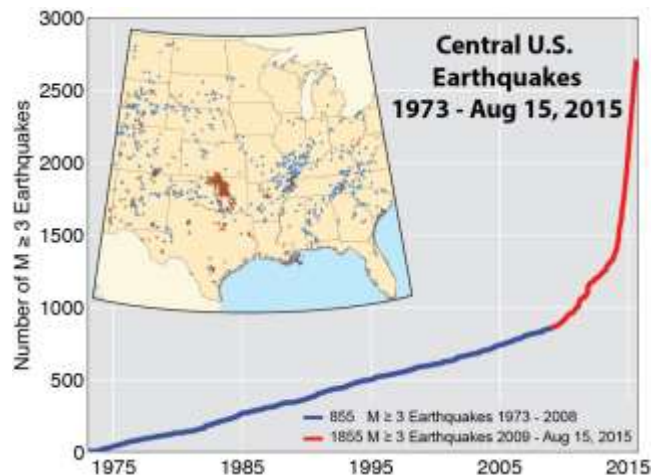
We don't take kindly to science 'round here



You don't have to look further than a legislature for hubris, but for truly Texas-sized arrogance you have to go to Texas. The small Texas towns of Azle and Reno sit atop a geological formation called the Barnett Shale, ground zero for fracking in Texas. It's ground zero for a swarm of earthquakes too; earthquakes that started right after fracking did. Since that could just be a coincidence, the Texas Railroad Commission (TRC, the agency in charge of oil and gas regulation in Texas) held a hearing to determine if drilling and fracking were contributing factors in the quakes. You may be relieved to know that they concluded there was NO LINK. Whew! But you'll be less relieved to find out how they kicked aside the peer-reviewed study showing there WAS a link (by Texas scientists, no less), how they fixed testimony in the hearing, and how they bent themselves into pretzels to justify their reasoning.

The [US Geological Survey](#) (USGS) is an actual scientific agency that "...provides impartial information on the health of our ecosystems and environment, the natural hazards that threaten us, the natural resources we rely on, [and]

the impacts of climate and land-use change." Founded in 1897, it is the sole scientific agency of the US Department of the interior. [According to USGS](#), between 1973 and 2008 there was an average of 21 magnitude 3 or stronger (M3+) in the Azle/Reno area. This jumped to an average of 99 M3+ earthquakes between 2009 and 2013, and there were 659 M3+ quakes in 2014 alone. This was enough to prompt [many people to think](#) there may be a link to fracking, which [began in the Barnett shale in the early 80's and was in full swing by the mid 2000's](#). Researchers at Southern Methodist University in Dallas (SMU) did the [actual research and found that \(surprise!\) there was a link](#). The report was peer reviewed and [published in Nature Communications](#), a scientific journal for the natural sciences.



So now let's get Furious... In June, the Texas Railroad Commission held a hearing to determine whether XTO Energy (a subsidiary of ExxonMobil) was contributing to the earthquakes by pumping millions of gallons of drilling and fracking wastewater into the ground. Believe it or not, in this hearing [XTO was the only party to offer direct evidence](#), the SMU study wasn't mentioned, and the TRC found in XTO's favor.

But it gets even worse. The oil and gas lobby spends billions not only lobbying, but in spreading doubt about doubtless issues like climate change. If the knowledge that fracking causes earthquakes got out then reality-based people might realize they have an interest in regulating it. Right-wing rag The Daily Caller

sailed in to the rescue by pointing out a distinction without a difference. They differentiated “fracking”, the industry, from “fracking”, the drilling process, by pointing out that [the fracking itself doesn't cause the quakes, but the deep injection wastewater wells that fracking requires do](#). They also pointed out that until the EPA interfered the poisonous fracking fluids could be dumped directly into open waterways, thus eliminating the threat of earthquakes.

We could go on, but we're incensed enough already. If you aren't, then here are the articles that irritated our id enough to produce this article...

[Texas Railroad Commission says no to peer-reviewed science study linking earthquakes to oil and gas](#), Walter Einkenkel on Daily Kos, Sep 2015

[Railroad Commission Refutes Peer-Reviewed Study Linking Quakes to Oil and Gas Industry](#), Mose Buchele on KUT.org, Sep 2015

[Earthquakes and the ever-dissolving credibility of the Texas Railroad Commission](#), Rudolph Bush in the Dallas Morning News, Apr 2015

[Azle earthquakes likely caused by oil and gas operations, study says](#), Anna Kuchment in the Dallas Morning News, Apr 2015

[USGS Earthquake Hazards Program; Induced Earthquakes](#)

[Scientists: Fracking is not causing earthquakes](#), Michael Bastasch on the Daily Caller, May 2015

[Texans angrily protest fracking after 30 earthquakes hit town](#), RT Question More, Jan 2014

[Fracking is not the cause of quakes. The real problem is wastewater.](#), Becky Oskin in the Washington Post, Apr 2015

Darn it, we just can't let these other articles go by without notice. Although the Texas Railroad Commission situation was the focus of Furious, this obstinate refusal to acknowledge science is ubiquitous. We ran into a couple other sources describing how ideology is corrupting science, specifically in global warming...

[Scientists try to replicate climate denier findings and fail](#), Suzanne Jacobs on Grist, Aug 2015

[Congressman: Don't Trust Climate Scientists, They're In It For The Money](#), Emily Atkin on ThinkProgress, Sep 2014

[Learning from mistakes in climate research](#), Benestad et al, Theoretical and Applied Climatology, Aug 2015