



This Month's Matters...

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"What NOW?!!" Toons

Keith Tucker's Special-To-Us Toon of the Month

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Two 60-Minutes interviews YOU MUST SEE!

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Money Saving Programs See our website for complete details
Carbon Neutral Program Offset your vehicle's carbon emissions and save 10% off labor costs!
Labor Lock Program Pay today's prices for the rest of your life!
Planned Maintenance Package Get up to a 60% discount by buying your basic yearly maintenance services in advance
First-Time Clients ONLY! Save \$75 to \$150 on our most thorough inspection!

Moneysaving Programs

To stretch your hard-earned dollars their farthest



Tom's Tidbits **De-Occupation...**

Greetings!

The nation-wide Occupation met strong resistance as cities used the excuses of safety and sanitation to trump constitutionally protected free speech. The occupation has been forced to change, but there hasn't been any change to the issues that put people into the parks to begin with:

The top one percent still controls 42 percent of the nation's wealth

Real unemployment rate is well over 16 percent

We have the highest income inequality since the 1920's

Ethical decay fosters rampant graft and corruption

An anemic educational system delivers crushing student debt


Crumbling physical infrastructure

Decades of war fought by the children of the poor

Spiraling health care costs and more...

...all complicated by a political system responsive only to money. We've acquiesced to a system no longer able to represent the majority, where Corporations are people and money is speech. The same societal disgust that put Obama into office also created the Occupation, and it's not leaving just because the Occupier's tents are gone.

To succeed Occupy needs to evolve into a political force too loud to be ignored. Occupy the voting booth! As the movement recalibrates, inequities and anger will continue to fester. As more of the 99% recognize, understand and sympathize; the scope of Occupy will multiply.

Make a great day,




"What NOW?!!" Toons

You can't see this one anywhere but here



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

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Tom Dwyer Movie Night Catch a FREE movie every month in 2012!

We're starting something new, and we want you to be a part of it! Starting on December 15 and continuing on every third Thursday of the month, [SEIU Local 503](#) and [Jobs With Justice](#) (JWJ) will bring you Tom Dwyer Movie Night... absolutely FREE!

Together, we'll screen movies spotlighting many of the issues facing our society. We plan to cover the spectrum of movies from new to old, serious to funny, and documentary to fiction. SEIU's Timothy Welp says "This partnership with Tom Dwyer Automotive is a great chance for like-minded people

to get together in a relaxed setting and talk about the things that are really important." Maureen Crawford, community organizer for SEIU, is responsible for bringing Jobs With Justice to the partnership. "JWJ is active in a range of critical societal issues. We're looking for movies that make these complex issues accessible and interesting." Our own Tom Dwyer is very excited about the project, saying "I'm particularly looking forward to finding provocative older movies that people may not have had a chance to see on the big screen. Our January film, *Network*, is a great example." No matter what the selection, we promise you'll have a entertaining evening that leaves you with something to think about the next day.

All shows will take place at the SEIU Union Hall at the corner of SE Foster and Holgate. The doors will each open each night at 6pm, and the movies will start at 6:30pm.

Since we're starting Movie Night during the holidays, we'll kick things off with a holiday-themed double feature... "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" and "It's A Wonderful Life". More than holiday traditions, these classics recall a quaint, earlier time when greed was something to be ashamed of and the holidays meant more than the bookends of a month-long Black Friday. Once the holidays are behind us, we'll strike out into new territory. Here's what to expect in the month's to come:



On your next free Thursday, follow the links from our website to see what's playing at Tom Dwyer Movie Night, brought to you through the generosity of SEIU Local 503 and Jobs With Justice. Good movie, good people, a few surprises, and you can't beat the price... we look forward to seeing you there!



Get Ready For Winter

Two critical areas of concern for winter driving

No one wants to be left on the side of the road in winter weather. It makes a great story for future holiday get-togethers, but it's a miserable experience everyone would rather avoid. Many of our clients worry about tough winter driving and call us asking how to be ready. This month we thought we'd talk about two critical areas of concern for any Winterization Service: your vehicle's engine cooling system and the battery/starter/charging systems...

What is engine coolant (antifreeze)?

Some people may not know that coolant is the same thing as antifreeze. It's made of ethylene glycol (to prevent freezing or boiling) mixed with various other additives. Some of those additives provide "reserve alkalinity" to neutralize internal corrosion before it can start.

When should you change the coolant?

New antifreeze is alkaline, usually between 8.0 and 9.0 pH (where 7.0pH is neutral). Antifreeze protects your engine as long as it stays above 7.0pH, but when it drops below 7.0 it starts to eat away your engine from the inside. Most new car maintenance schedules call for changes every three years or 60,000 miles, some professionals recommend every two years or 24,000 miles, and others think later model vehicles with bi metal engines should have yearly changes. Rather than using mileage or time menus, we think the best way to know if the coolant needs to be changed is to test it, determine the pH, and replace it if needed. As long as antifreeze is changed before the reserve alkalinity is depleted the cooling system should be no worse for wear. If you wait too long, however, you could have expensive internal corrosion in the radiator, water pump, hoses, heater core and engine.

When should you check your coolant system?

The best time to inspect the overall integrity of the system hardware is when you change the coolant. Our procedure checks belts and hoses for cracks and wear, makes a visual inspection for leaks, pressure tests the radiator and cap, and checks the operation of your heater and defroster. The thermostat regulates the engine coolant temperature and should be changed if the system has been allowed to corrode, it is over 10 years old, it has been causing trouble, or the engine has been overheated. Replacements should be good quality units with the same temperature rating as the original. This is extremely important on late model vehicles with computerized engine controls, where fuel, ignition and emission functions are all affected by coolant temperature.

What's involved in a coolant flush?

When the coolant is changed the whole system should be pressure tested for leaks first, then reverse flushed and refilled. It makes no sense to service a leaking system! The pressure test ensures the hoses and water pump are in good shape and there are no leaks in the system. Once the system is leak proof, we flush and refill the coolant. Reverse flushing (instead of just draining) helps dislodge and remove accumulated debris in the system and also removes old coolant that would otherwise remain in the engine block. Chemical cooling system cleaners usually aren't necessary, and we prefer not to use one unless the system has been badly neglected and is full of lime deposits. Once the old coolant is removed completely, the system should be refilled with a 50/50 mixture of ethylene glycol antifreeze and clean water. This provides freezing protection down to -34°F and boil-over protection to 265°F.

How does your charging system work?

Many people think a vehicle's electrical power comes from the battery, but as long as the engine is running all of the power for the accessories is delivered by the alternator. The alternator is the heart of the charging system, converting the mechanical energy of the engine into DC electricity to power all the electrical accessories and maintain the battery. Batteries are actually loads on the charging system, and only supply power when starting the vehicle, when the accessory load (defroster, AC, headlights, etc.) exceeds the alternator capacity, or when the engine is at a very low idle. When alternators fail, vehicles switch to battery power and continue until the battery is dead.

Alternators are designed to maintain the charge of a functional battery, not to recharge a failing one. The quickest way to kill an alternator is to put it to work struggling to maintain a failing battery. It not only damages the alternator, but can also cause damage to the starter motor and starter contacts. When alternators are replaced it is critical to make sure the existing battery is in good shape or it can cause the replacement alternator to fail.

When should you replace your battery?

Sometimes vehicles won't start with a failed alternator and low battery, but other times the vehicle starts fine and then fails on the road when the battery finally dies. If you are not sure how old your battery is, have it tested. You should consider replacing batteries over 5 or 6 years old even if it tests OK now. Most new vehicle batteries are rated for 36 months, and while a small number fail within this period, most will make it 4 or 5 years. It's rare for original equipment batteries to survive more than 5 years. Preventative replacement is important for batteries, because extremely hot or cold weather will reveal marginal batteries at the most inconvenient times.

What's involved in battery and alternator service?

Maintenance and service of the electrical system should always start with a careful visual inspection of belts and pulleys, belt tensioners and idlers, battery exterior condition, the battery hold down, and the battery cable connections. Most of these defects would need to be corrected before deeper testing can be done. For example, a discharged battery can't be tested properly and would require several hours of charging to test it. With a visual inspection performed and problems corrected, actual testing of the electrical system can begin. Complete electrical testing should include:

- Testing the battery for resting voltage
- Testing the battery for capacity and reserve
- Testing alternator output and diode condition
- Testing the starter for excessive draw and electrical signature
- Testing the resistance of ground circuits
- Voltage drop testing

It is much better to replace a questionable battery than to risk the consequences, but all batteries are not created equal and cheap batteries are not a value. We have tested many brands in the almost 30 years we have been servicing vehicles. We only stock high quality batteries like Interstate and AC Delco for most of the vehicles we service.

What can you do by yourself?

We've seen major and avoidable expense caused by battery acid on electrical harnesses and other sensitive electronics near the battery. Battery acid is highly corrosive and can cause major damage to the battery tray, battery cables and power feeds, fuse and circuit breaker holders, battery hold downs, and anything else exposed to it. If you see fuzzy acid crystals growing on or near your battery, clean and neutralize everything that has come in contact with the acid. And, unfortunately, you'll probably need to replace the battery as well.

Do your electrical and coolant system need service?

A large percentage of vehicles broken down on the side of the road are there because of electrical or cooling system related failures, but these are some of the most basic things you can do to prevent major problems with your vehicle. Checking these systems are standard parts of our comprehensive and seasonal inspections, so if you've seen us for either of those services then you're ready to go. If you're not sure, give us a call and we'll tell you the last time these services were done and when they're due again.

In many cases charging and coolant system failures can be prevented or repaired before a breakdown causes major inconvenience or larger expense, but it requires a careful inspection of the systems BEFORE problems become obvious. You don't want to be telling stories about this winter's unplanned breakdown... call us today and drive with confidence throughout the winter!

Habeas Traitors

New law will allow indefinite detention without trial



Frequently, the legislation we should pay most attention to is the legislation that gets the least coverage. That's the case with a few paragraphs tucked into the most recent [Defense Authorization Act, Pages 359-378](#) have language that could (and is in fact intended to) allow for the permanent detention without trial of anyone, including American citizens, that is accused by the President of being a "terrorist".

The offensive language was crafted behind closed doors by [Senate Armed Services Committee](#) Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich) and Ranking Member Sen John McCain (R-Ariz) as part of the [National Defense Authorization Act for 2012](#). Part of it would grant power to the U.S. Armed Forces to exercise complete control over all custodial matters related to the treatment of those detained for suspected belligerent behavior in the "War on Terror". Another part would give Attorney General Eric Holder the final decision on whether suspects are tried in civilian courts or military tribunals. On November 16 the committee voted 26-0 to pass the bill on to the full Senate.

The Senate bill drew immediate fire from civil rights groups, government watchdogs on the left and right, the Pentagon, the FBI, and the President. Unfortunately, while the civil rights and watchdog groups were shaken by the bill's destruction of basic constitutional and human rights, you might be surprised why the other groups rejected it. For the Pentagon, [Defense Secretary Leon Panetta complained](#) that the revised mandatory military custody could force the government to obey the same strict limits on transferring Guantanamo detainees to other countries – which the administration wants lifted – when dealing with terrorism prisoners held in other prisons. FBI Director Robert Mueller wrote a letter to members of Congress, saying that “The legislation ... will inhibit our ability to convince covered arrestees to cooperate immediately, and provide critical intelligence.” The Obama administration's concerns are for a possible dilution of the power they already have.

Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.) stepped in proposed an amendment to strike the language and set a timetable to come up with a new plan. It was swatted down in the Senate by a vote of 60-38 (roll call vote here), and the bill was passed to the House on December 1 by a vote of 93-7. The next step is reconciliation of the language with the House version, and then a vote by the full House. The bill faces a promised veto by President Obama if the offending language is not removed.

With so many parties weighing in on the bill, it's difficult to sort out the truth from the hyperbole. Here are several links with more in-depth information, and ways to stay up-to-date as this country-changing legislation sneaks its way through Congress...

[GovTrack.us](#) allows you to track specific legislation or debates in Congress. The continually updated [details on S1897](#) are here. [Votes by name on the Udall Amendment](#) are here.

Full text of the [2012 Defense Authorization Bil \(S1867\)](#) is here, and [excerpts of the Detainee Provisions](#) are here.

The [Congressional Record for Nov. 18](#) has the most recent events, including a statement by Sen. Levin as to why he thinks the Levin/McCain Amendment is more than fair and the Administration's objections are unfounded.

Remarks of Senator Carl Levin, [Senate Floor Speech on the Detainee Provisions of the Defense Authorization Bill](#)

[ACLU](#)- Article describing the legislation [here](#), letter to Senators [here](#),

As you can imagine, there are some great articles on the issue. Here are a few of the best...

- [Setting the Trap](#), Justin Raimondo's clarion-call article on AntiWar.com, with extensive hyperlinks
- [The Detainee Debate Heats Up: The Rule of Martial Law vs. the Unitary Spookery](#) at Emptywheel is a very detailed article with supporting quotes
- [The Defense Authorization Bill: Only Home is the Udall Amendment](#) on Talk Left
- [Udall hits back against Levin, McCain on detainees](#) on The Hill
- [Levin and McCain Strike Deal Over Detainee Handling on](#) New York Times
- [Senate Votes To Let Military Detain Americans Indefinitely, White House Threatens Veto](#) on Huffington Post
- [Senate Committee Grants Military Absolute Power Over Detainees](#) on the New American
- [Mandatory military detention of terror suspects clears Senate hurdle](#) at CNN Politics
- Senate [approves Martial Law: Military can jail indefinitely, no charge, no trial](#) at Examiner.com
- [15 Democrats Join Republicans to Give Military Power to Imprison Suspects Indefinitely](#) at AllGov.com

...and please, PLEASE, [call your representatives](#) to tell them what you think about this proposed law, that could, with the stroke of a pen, change the basis of our system of law and government.



Shop Talk

Christmas means **FREE COFFEE** and more!

Only nineteen days left... how are your holiday plans going? We're all busily putting off our own personal shopping, but the plans for the shop itself are pretty well nailed down. We thought we'd keep you posted on our holiday schedule as well as a couple holiday traditions you should know about...

- Christmas falls on a weekend this year. Christmas Eve is Saturday and Christmas Day is Sunday. We'll be **open Friday December 23rd** and **closed on Monday the 26th**.
- The first day of 2012 will be Sunday, January 1. We'll be **closed on Monday, January 2**.
- With the new year you'll be looking for a new calendar. Our **Tom Dwyer Shop Calendar** (recognizing small non-profit groups) did so well last year that we're doing it again this year. Stop by for your **free copy** starting in mid-November. And, for you die-hards that still want the magnetic version, we'll have those for you too!
- Finally, for many years now, Christmas at Tom Dwyer Automotive has meant **FREE COFFEE SEASON**. Nancy at [Schondecken Coffee Roasters](#) packages up small bags of coffee for all our clients, and we'll have them waiting for you here at the shop again this year. **Take home a bag FREE with any service, starting December 19** and going through New Year's Day.
- **EXTRA-** It's not our holiday tradition, but the Sellwood Holiday train is running in December. Check our article in this month's Popcorn Shorts for more information.



Health Notes-

Dangerous chemicals in cookware and home products

The growing data on the toxic effects of [perfluorinated compounds](#) (PFCs) is difficult to ignore. PFCs belong to a class of chemicals known as perfluoroalkyls which are hazardous synthetic chemicals used to repel grease, oil and water. They are known to harm the endocrine system by causing damage to the pituitary gland and disrupting sex hormones, and are associated with weight fluctuations of organs, decreased fertility, thyroid disease, cancer, immune

system suppression and increased levels of LDL cholesterol in children and teens, and even death upon high levels of exposure.

As awareness increases, it's helpful to know to avoid these chemicals as much as possible. They're most commonly found in non-stick cookware, but [other items that contain PFCs](#) include carpet and fabric protectors, flame retardants and stain-proof clothing. When used in cookware, heating causes the release of gaseous fluoride compounds that are strong enough to kill small birds. The fast-food industry has recently added PFCs to food wrappers, where they leach chemicals into the food which then pass into the body, eventually finding their way into the blood stream.

There's no way to completely avoid PFCs, but there are ways to limit your exposure...

- Avoid purchasing or, at a minimum, limit use of products containing PFCs.
- Watch for packaged foods. Stay away from greasy or oily packaged and fast foods, as the packages often contain grease-repellent coatings. Examples include microwave popcorn bags, french fry boxes, and pizza boxes.
- Avoid stain-resistance treatments. Choose furniture and carpets that aren't marketed as "stain-resistant," and don't apply finishing treatments such as Stainmaster® to these or other items. Where possible, choose alternatives to clothing that has been treated for water or stain resistance, such as outerwear and sportswear. Other products that may be treated include shoes, luggage, and camping and sporting equipment.
- Check your personal-care products. Avoid personal-care products made with Teflon™ or containing ingredients that include the words "fluoro" or "perfluoro." PFCs can be found in dental floss and a variety of cosmetics, including nail polish, facial moisturizers, and eye make-up.
- Avoid Teflon™ or non-stick cookware. If you choose to continue using non-stick cookware, be very careful not to let it heat to above 450°F. Do not leave non-stick cookware unattended on the stove, or use non-stick cookware in hot ovens or grills. Discard products if non-stick coatings show signs of deterioration.

As you can imagine, there's much more to the story. Here are some links if you want more info...

- A [good overview article](#) by Dr. Joseph Mercola with much more detail and extensive hyperlinks
- A [PFC Fact Sheet](#) from Washington Toxics Coalition
- A [fact sheet on the health effects of PFCs](#) from the Global Health And Safety Initiative



Drew's Kitchen Dijon Fish Fillets

With Thanksgiving in the bag, we're all almost done sleeping off our tryptophane hangover. This month, Drew brings you a delicious main dish that has nothing at all to do with turkey.

(Of course, if you do want Holiday ideas, you can check out Drew's past recipes for [Cures for Turkey Leftovers](#), [Holiday Feast Essentials](#), or [Holiday Food and Drinks](#).)

Ingredients

(2) 6 to 8 oz Orange Roughy fillets	1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
(2) tbsp (1/4 stick) unsalted butter, melted	3 tbsp fresh white breadcrumbs
1 tbsp Dijon mustard	Chopped fresh parsley
1 1/2 tsp fresh lemon juice	Lemon wedges

- Preheat oven to 450°F.
- Butter 13x9x2inch glass baking dish.
- Arrange fish fillets in prepared dish. Season with salt and pepper.
- Blend butter, Dijon mustard, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce in small bowl.
- Spread half of butter mixture over each fillet, covering completely.
- Sprinkle half of breadcrumbs over each fillet.
- Bake fish until just cooked through, about 7 minutes.
- Sprinkle parsley over all, and garnish with lemon wedges.
- Makes 2 servings

For an easy weekday family dinner, make some steamed vegetables and rice to go with the fish fillets!



Sellwood Bridge Update It's here! It's here! It's here!

It's HERE! This, the month of December, in the Year Of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twelve A.D., marks the **START OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW SELLWOOD BRIDGE!**

As you can tell we're a little excited, but it's going beginning with more of a whimper than a bang. Although in-water construction was supposed to begin on Dec 2, a quick look out the window doesn't reveal any construction barges. Even when they get underway it will still be pretty quiet for a while. The major events this month are the start of the temporary supports for the shoo-fly and the building of material staging areas at both ends of the bridge. January will see the removal of the old Staff-Jennings buildings and the closure of Powers Marine Park on the southwest side of the bridge. We aren't really expecting any disruptions for several months yet. But it's December now, and that means THEY'RE STARTING!

If you're curious about the actual design of the bridge, there's much more info there as well. Final design recommendations have been made and accepted, and new renderings (at right) are showing a handsome new addition to Portland. The County has put together a great flyer that shows the final design and many of the individual details. You can get a PDF version of the flyer by clicking [here](#), and if our monthly update isn't enough for you then you can get daily updates from the County's Sellwood Bridge Project website at www.sellwoodbridge.org.





Book Spotlight

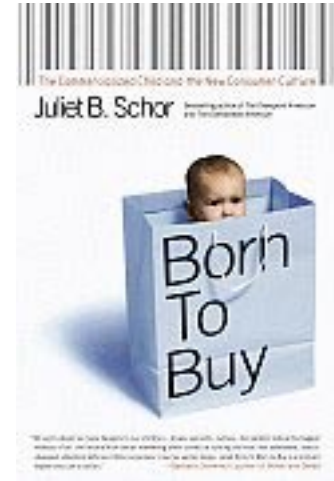
["Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture"](#)

It's the holiday season, the time to spend time with friends and family making the memories we'll treasure forever. It's also the time we are herded into the stores to spend about 25% of the year's total personal spending. As we flit from store to store deciding which mass-produced item best expresses our individuality, maybe it's a good thing to think about how the consumer culture has grown up and how it is now actively targeting our children.

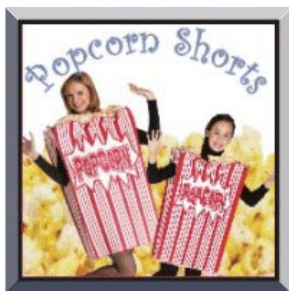
["Born to Buy: The Commercialized Child and the New Consumer Culture"](#) by Juliet B. Schor

Ads aimed at kids are virtually everywhere — in classrooms and textbooks, on the Internet, even at slumber parties and the playground. Product placement and other innovations have introduced more subtle advertising to movies and television. Companies are enlisting children as guerrilla marketers, targeting their friends and families. Even trusted social institutions such as the Girl Scouts are teaming up with marketers. Drawing on her own survey research and unprecedented access to the advertising industry, *New York Times* bestselling author and leading cultural and economic authority Juliet Schor examines how a marketing effort of vast size, scope, and effectiveness has created "commercialized children."

Schor, author of *The Overworked American* and *The Overspent American*, looks at the broad implications of this strategy. Sophisticated advertising strategies convince kids that products are necessary to their social survival. Ads affect not just what they want to buy, but who they think they are and how they feel about themselves. Based on long-term analysis, Schor reverses the conventional notion of causality: it's not just that problem kids become overly involved in the values of consumerism; it's that kids who are overly involved in the values of consumerism become problem kids. In this revelatory and crucial book, Schor also provides guidelines for parents and teachers. What is at stake is the emotional and social well-being of our children.



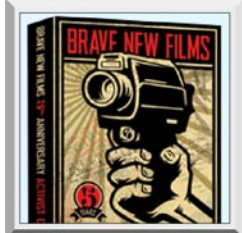
[\(Please click here for an archive of our past spotlighted books\)](#)



Popcorn Shorts

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

Vote FOR the 1%



If you know [OutFoxed](#), [WalMart- The High Cost Of Low Prices](#), or [The Real McCain](#), then you know [Brave New Films](#). [Robert Greenwald's](#) scrappy little film company has been responsible for a whole new generation of political documentaries. For their newest project, "Who are the 1%?" they want you to [vote for the best \(or worst\) representatives of the 1%](#). There are just two criteria: they have to be in the wealthiest 1% (net worth of over \$9 million), and they have to be using their wealth and power to keep down the other 99%. The rest is up to you. Enjoy!

Fun With Charts And Graphs



"A picture is worth a thousand words", so this month we'd like to show you two charts that are worth at least a thousand words each. The first is a [chart of bank consolidations from 1990 to 2009](#), and which banks are still left standing. The second is an interactive graphic that shows many of the [Eurozone countries \(along with the US and Japan\) and the debt we all owe](#) to each other. These two graphs will give you a whole new understanding of both our current banking crisis and the worsening crisis in the Eurozone.

Bringing the arts back to our elementary schools



[CAN, the Creative Advocacy Network](#), believes the arts are critical to real education. They are working hard to help Portland schools restore arts education for every K-5 student. As you might imagine, there are lots of ways you can help this worthy mission, but here's one that's easy and fun... consider attending their ["Artful Evening of Appreciation"](#) dinner, Dec 7 from 5:30 to 7pm at The Armory Mezzanine, 128 NW Eleventh Ave. If you'd like to know more, you can join the conversation at [Facebook/theArtsCAN](#) and [Twitter@theArtsCAN](#). Come on out... the arts need you!

Sellwood Holiday Train



One Sellwood Holiday tradition you might like to take advantage of is a ride on a real old-fashioned steam locomotive. The [Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation](#) runs this special event every year. Here's some more information from their website- "Join Santa Claus and his elves for a magical ride behind Portland's famous steam locomotives. Vintage rail cars transport you through wilderness in the heart of the city. Roundtrip rides run from Oaks Park Station through Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge to the Springwater Trail gateway on the Oregon Pacific Railroad. All proceeds go to

build a new Enginehouse and Rail Heritage Center in the OMSI District for Portland's historic steam locomotives. We operate Holiday Express trains out of Oaks Park Station, which is across the street from Oaks Amusement Park and Skating Rink."



News To Make You Furious

Two "60 Minutes" Interviews YOU MUST SEE!

The decay in our democracy comes in two flavors: legal and illegal. This month, CBS's "60 Minutes" interviewed two of the men who have been at the center of this rot for decades, and whose actions have helped to define the policies eating away at our democracy.



- [Grover Norquist](#) is the poster boy for the legal poison in our system. His stated goal is to "shrink government to the point where we could drown it in a bathtub", and his "no federal income tax increases under any circumstances" pledge garnered 279 signatures in the 112th Congress. His interview will tell you a little about how he has assembled these followers, and what he can do to those who want to get off the bandwagon.
- "[Casino Jack](#)" [Abramoff](#), standard bearer for the illegal side of the coin, was sentenced to six years in a federal prison for his overly-freewheeling lobbying activities. He describes his process for buying congressmen, the impact of his activities, and what he thinks would be necessary to change the system.

Watching both of these interviews back-to-back will take 28:25, and will give you an amazing behind-the-scenes look at the way our government REALLY works.

News To Make You Furious- [UPDATE](#)



What's the latest on Fukushima?

Have you heard ANYTHING on the state of the Fukushima disaster lately? You know, that little "oopsie" in Japan when an earthquake and tsunami combined to create one of the three largest nuclear disasters in human history? If you're like most people, the only sound you've heard is the chirping of radioactive crickets in the resounding silence of media coverage. But, there are new developments in the story and there's information to be had if you're curious. Here are a few links that we recommend to bring you up to speed...

- [Fukushima China Syndrome near says TEPCO, Government](#)
- [Fukushima Update](#)- Site brings you constantly updated coverage of the Fukushima disaster
- There are three recent videos taken by an unmanned aerial vehicle of the damaged reactor buildings. [This link](#) will take you to the first one, where you'll also find links to the other two.
- The Washington Post's Chico Harlan took a trip through the restricted zone around the Fukushima plant. Photos from his trip are [here](#), and a video with Chico's commentary is [here](#). These images are eerily (and not coincidentally) reminiscent of Paul Fusco's 2006 [tour of the Chernobyl disaster area](#).