

# Your Car Matters

**Tom Dwyer Automotive Services**  
**February 2013 Newsletter**

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Thankfully!

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Two stories that  
reminded us that  
"justice for some"  
means  
"justice for none"

## **Two-Tiered Justice**



Two stories that reminded  
us that "justice for some"  
means "justice for none"

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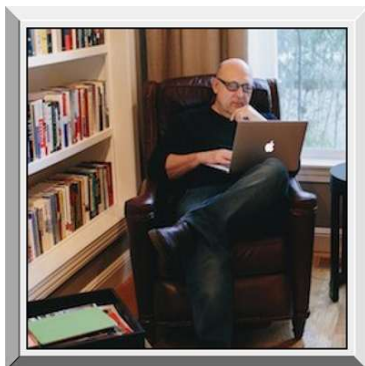


## This Month's Matters...

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The Big Move is old news. Thankfully!

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The Lone Light of Progressive talk in Portland returns to the air

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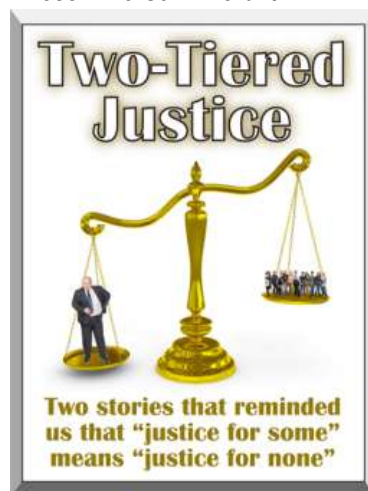
#### **Popcorn Shorts**

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

- Employee has the ultimate job... for a while
- What's the greenerer readerer?
- Portland considers city-wide sick leave policy
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#### **News To Make You Furious**

With Liberty And Justice for Those Who Can Afford It





# Tom's Tidbits

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The Big Move is old news. Thankfully!



Greetings!

It's a new year, and the biggest thing to happen in Sellwood for a long time is now history. The Big Bridge Closure, so the old bridge could be moved to serve as a temporary bridge while the new bridge is under construction, is over. The old bridge made the trip without a twist, popped rivet, or (I've been told) even as much as a creak. The Sellwood businesses had worried that the closure would bring the entire area to a standstill, but thanks to quick work by the County and the engineering crews it went off without a hitch and even opened a day early. We've weathered the storm so far with the support of our wonderful clients (thank you so much!) and this month we'll share some pictures we took during the closure. If you didn't make it out to see the Move itself, don't feel bad. From all reports it was as exciting as watching paint dry, but we've included links to several people's time-lapse videos that sum the whole thing up in less than a minute. There'll be more flagging and lane closures as the project continues, but this will be the last scheduled complete closure until the new bridge is completed in 2015.

The Sellwood Bridge isn't the only part of Portland's infrastructure that's seeing changes in 2013. Our critical news media is going through an upgrade too. Carl Wolfson, formerly of KPOJ, is returning with his "Carl In The Morning" show. It will be great having a strong voice to speak out on behalf of Portland's Progressives, but I have selfish reasons to want him back... I've got a few things that have been on my mind since KPOJ closed, and Carl's new show means I'll have an outlet for my musings once again! You can read all about his first week back on the air in the extended interview we did with him this month.

There are a few other things that came up already this year... Portland is considering a city-wide sick leave policy and we'll show you how you can get involved with this basic, common-sense, human dignity issue. We also found two stories that vividly demonstrated the decay of our justice system. Check those out in our "News To Make You Furious" column this month.

Now that it's February we're through packing away the holiday decorations, it no longer feels odd to write "2013" on checks, and the groundhog has predicted an early spring. Things are settling in to a regular rhythm, and we're ready for another year of opportunity, hard work, and fanatical vehicle service. We hope you'll find some time in 2013 to spend with us!

Take Care and Make a Great Day!



# What NOW?!! Toons

See it FIRST in *Your Car Matters!*



**"WHAT NOW?!!"**

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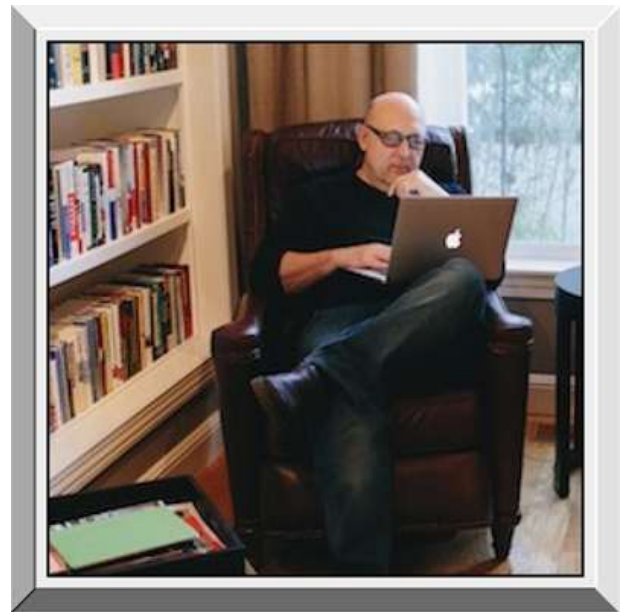
# Conversation With Carl

## The Lone Light of Progressive Talk in Portland returns to the air

At the far end of Division Street sits a small building with a banana on the side. Once home to an overstock liquidator, it now houses a massage therapist, two vegan restaurants, and a homemade beer shop, but there's more happening inside than meets the eye. It's the epicenter of one of the biggest things happening in Portland in a long time; an effort to fight back against a media business model that wounded Portland and is killing our country; an effort led by one-time KPOJ morning host Carl Wolfson...

KPOJ's November collapse left Portland's liberal political junkies wandering a media desert in a search for real information. Petitions hadn't changed ClearChannel's mind about the new format and efforts to start a new Progressive radio station have gone nowhere (as yet). We met with Carl as he was finishing his first week on the air since the crash. "I think the loss of KPOJ was a real wakeup call to Portland's Progressives", he said. "It sharpened their awareness of the need for a media alternative, and their awareness of their own values. They see it as a missed opportunity; one they won't miss again."

Carl, who anchored KPOJ's Morning Show, used the KPOJ debacle as a chance to take stock of his career. "Several people encouraged me to soak up unemployment to hurt ClearChannel" he laughed. "I thought about it, but it just wasn't me". Besides, he had other leads. "I was offered a spot at a Chicago station, and Thom and Louise (Hartmann, formerly of KPOJ) said I should move to DC and start something there. But I talked with Gary (Thill, Carl's partner) and we



decided to stay. Opportunities in other places are great, but Portland is our home, it's where we want to be".

A new show was the obvious next step, but money was a problem. Like any good liberal open to new ideas, Carl looked to Kickstarter to fund the show. "We were amazed and grateful for the response. We had four people who pledged \$1000 each and two who pledged \$2500, but we really appreciated the smaller pledges as well. Not everyone has even \$20 to send to a new venture". The goal for the project was \$40,000, but in just 6 days, 681 people donated a total of \$40,538 to the cause. "Carl In The Morning" was on the air.

"We're trying to rebuild what worked so well at KPOJ, but add more fun elements" Carl said. "We're really happy with the first week. There were some start-up problems, but we handled those quickly. The call-in response has been wonderful. Over 7000 people were listening live, and we had over 13,000 unique visits to the website. Many more are listening on the podcast, and that will only increase as people adjust to the new format". He thinks the Net version will quickly lead back to terrestrial radio. "An FM station in Florence asked about carrying the podcast, and we've had other

inquiries as well. Nothing firm yet, but we'll keep you posted. Our focus is building the value of the show, because people will eventually follow the content no matter what format it's in."

Carl emphasized the value of the Progressive community that formed around KPOJ. "Re-creating that community will be one of the strengths of our show, as it is to any successful business today". He pointed to Harvey's Comedy Club as an example, whose tight-knit community allowed them to prosper as other clubs came and went. He also mentioned our own Tom Dwyer as a rallying point for Portland's Progressives. "People want more from the companies they deal with than just a product or service. They're looking for a place where they're accepted and appreciated, and that shares their values."

Content was also strong in the first week. "We've covered issues that matter locally and nationally. We talked about the City's proposed sick leave policy and the loss of local jobs at the Sealy factory. Brad Avakian shared some of the innovations in technical schools, and Senator Jeff Merkley will be on next week." Carl intends to keep a strong local focus, but "a lot of the issues in Washington State affect Portland as well. We expect to be talking more about those regional topics as the show develops."

The audience and content have been strong, but advertisers seem eager to back the show too. "Almost all of the companies from KPOJ came with us to the new show." Carl plans to focus on these local businesses rather than national accounts. For example, along with strong on-air support, "Carl in the Morning" has a webpage listing his sponsors. "That's something we couldn't do at KPOJ. At first, when Air America was an unknown quantity, they worried righties would use a sponsor list as a boycott list. Later, they worried other

stations would use it to steal the advertisers. The idea that a competitor might listen to the station and write down the advertisers apparently didn't occur to them."

Of course, we also discussed wider political issues. "I'm hopeful Obama's second term will address important, basic things that have been long overlooked like basic civil liberties or climate change". He sees other priorities as well. "Stacks of judicial nominations are just gathering dust, and those live long after the president is gone". He agrees with Obama that economies grow from the middle out. "Mitch McConnell's wrong; spending isn't the transcendent issue of our time. The survival of the middle class is, and there are things we can do to encourage growth like reforming trade policy or strengthening Social Security and Medicare. Capitalism is great, but without rules it runs over the middle class". He also pointed to the power of local action in building economies. "Dollars spent locally recycle through the economy, building economic strength from the ground up. Black businesses in the Jim Crow era understood this and built vibrant local economies trading with other black-owned businesses".

Carl bemoans the problem of media consolidation, but sees little hope of direct intervention. "There were 15 owners of radio stations in Portland in the 1980's. An entity could own just one AM and one FM station in any market, but the Telecom Act of 1996 opened the door to cross-ownership". Carl cited the loss of Progressive radio across the country and the loss of Progressive outlets like Al Gore's Current TV as effects of media monopoly. "The Fairness Doctrine was intended to prevent this. It was held constitutional in *Red Lion vs. FCC*, but it was effectively killed during the Reagan administration. I don't see it coming back, and the Telecom Act is not going to be repealed", Carl said. "I think the most effective tool to

achieve balance is to challenge stations when their license comes up for renewal. Stations are still chartered to act in the public interest, which they are manifestly not doing”.

Carl says the problem with our country now is “the whack jobs are in power”. He thinks “FOX News is a farm league for GOP candidates” but Progressive media can fight this by offering content missing from the mainstream. He sees power in liberal radio, especially in tight political races like the Dudley/Kitzhaber race. “It’s kind of our Normandy, our foothold on the continent for full invasion”. And that invasion is not one of force or propaganda, but ideas. “In a marketplace of ideas, people need to see Progressive alternatives to the Right Wing”. As states increasingly become red or blue, Carl sees this in some ways as the way things are supposed to work. “The Founders thought states were laboratories for new ideas, and Oregon is a showcase of local, Progressive values. People from other states

want our representatives. They see our strong unions, public beaches, vote by mail, and death with dignity laws, and they like them. This is how big change happens; it’s the way Canadian Health Care started in Saskatchewan and Alberta, proved successful there, and then spread to the rest of the country”.

Whatever comes next, Carl insists you’ll keep hearing the “real Carl” on the air. “Today’s talk radio is just professional wrestling”, he said. “Hosts adopt on-air personas and then play that role to the exclusion of rational thought. I don’t think that’s good for radio, and I definitely don’t think it’s good for our country. Love me or hate me, the person on my show is the person I am off-air. It’s not an act. It’s honesty, and I think honesty is what people want in any of their media.” That honest, incisive, entertaining personality is exactly what we’re looking for, and what we’ll be tuning in to hear as “Carl In The Morning” continues to carry the Progressive flag.



# Welcome Back, Buddy

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## A photo essay on the Sellwood Bridge's big move

The Sellwood Bridge, our rickety neighbor two blocks from the shop, opened ahead of schedule after a one week closure. We've written a lot about the bridge throughout its construction, but in celebration of the new bridge we won't write anything at all... we'll share some pictures we (and a client, Jack DePue- thanks, Jack!) took from the first day of the closure through the first car across the new bridge. Enjoy!



The North face of the bridge on the day before the closure; the West side interchange is in the foreground and the East side at Tacoma is in the background. You can really see the difference between where the bridge started and what its final position would be.

An interesting detail at the end of the steel I-beams. Each beam has the initials of the engineers and fabricators who signed off on it at each phase of its construction and use.

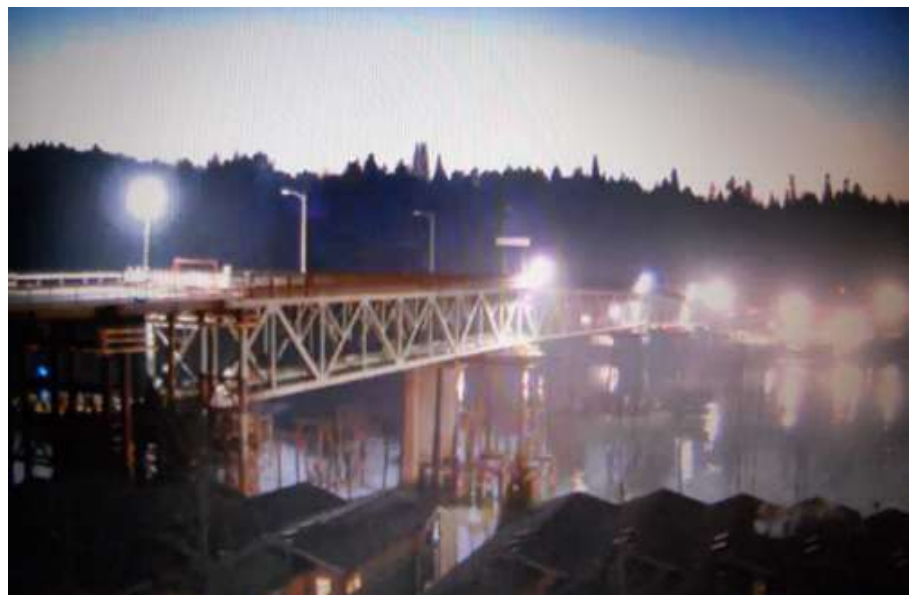






On the first day of the closure a sherrif was posted at the construction zone to stop anyone who just didn't believe the closure signs.

Crews swarmed over the bridge from the closure on Thursday to get it ready for the move on Saturday. Daylight was not a limiting factor, and they worked far into the night.





The actual day of the move was crisp, clear, and beautiful. Thousands of people turned out throughout the day to see this once-in-a-lifetime event. The SWBA (Sellwood Westmoreland Business Alliance, the Sellwood Business group) put out food and entertainment at the Oaks Pioneer church for all the observers.







Watching the bridge move itself was a very, very, slow and boring process. It started in the late morning and didn't finish until almost dark. The upper left photo shows the first river support early in the morning, and the lower left picture shows it just short of sunset.





The bridge opened in time for the Wednesday evening commute, a day ahead of schedule. The media turned out in force. Here you see County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury, who has played a pivotal role in the bridge construction, and was the first to drive across the temporary bridge. In an electric car, no less!





You have a fondue pot somewhere in your home, but you don't know why. You know you didn't buy it, but you also don't know who gave it to you. You don't remember where it came from. Maybe it was a wedding present, maybe it was left there by the people who sold you your house. But this much is certain... you have a fondue pot, and this month's glimpse into Drew's kitchen will tell you how to use it.

### **Ingredients**

- 1 garlic clove, peeled and halved
- 1 cup Gruner Veltliner or other dry white wine
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 1/2 cups shredded gruyere cheese
- 1 1/2 tbsp. all-purpose nutmeg
- Pepper
- Crusty French bread, cubed
- Bratwurst or other mild German sausages, browned and cut into bite-sized lengths
- Asian pears, sliced into thin wedges

### **Directions**

- Rub garlic clove around the inside of the 1-pt. fondue pot; discard clove. Pour wine into pot; warm over medium heat on the stovetop until bubbles start to rise.
- Mix Swiss and gruyere cheeses with flour and dry mustard in a bowl.
- Add cheese mixture to wine, a handful at a time, stirring gently after each addition until melted and smooth. Sprinkle lightly with nutmeg and pepper.
- Set pot over its heat source, adjusting so fondue barely bubbles. Arrange French bread, sausages, and pears alongside.
- Scrape bottom of pot occasionally to keep fondue from scorching as you spear and dip bread, sausages, and pears.
- Makes 2.5 cups, about 4 or 5 Main-Dish servings. Preparation time is about 30 minutes.

# Shop Talk

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## How to know what's coming up for your vehicle



The pudgy prognosticator from Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil, promised us an early Spring this year. Soon, weekends won't be just for depression and microbrews; there's every possibility that we will be seeing the lush and green Oregon we all love. Don't sit out the good weather because your vehicle is dead in your driveway- make sure your car's maintenance gets its proper place on your schedule. No, wait, don't skip ahead to the next article! Of all the articles in this newsletter, **THIS ONE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU, PERSONALLY**, to get the most from your vehicle and your experience as a Tom Dwyer client.

Regular scheduling of your vehicle's maintenance is critical for success! When we take on a person as a client, we're doing more than just saying we'll fix the particular problem they're having that day. We're making a commitment to do everything we can to keep their vehicle "...safe, breakdown-free, and operating at its best." We can't do that as effectively if we only see the car when something is smoking or sparking. Bringing it in on a regular, consistent basis lets us see when oil is starting to seep under a gasket long before the gasket fails. It lets us check the charging system and battery before the car fails to start in a parking lot. It lets us check the pH of your antifreeze before it breaks down and begins to corrode heater cores, head gaskets and radiators.

Putting your maintenance on a regular schedule makes your life easier as well. It helps reduce the number of unplanned, catastrophic breakdowns that leave you without a car while yours is in the shop. It allows you to see what repairs are likely in the future and to put aside a little money each month instead of having to come up with a huge hunk all at once. Finally, it allows you to keep an eye on problems that don't demand repair right away but will get worse over time, so when the time comes that it actually does have to be fixed you'll know it.

Here's another bit of behind-the-scenes info to make your scheduling easier... like most businesses, we have busy times and slow times. We're busier in the Spring and Summer months than in the Fall and Winter. We'll make room anytime you have an emergency or breakdown but for planned visits you may want to call a few days ahead during our busy times so we can budget time to insure the attention you need.

We like to see your vehicle about every 4 to 6 months in most cases. If we see it more often there isn't much time for the vehicle's status to change, but if we wait longer we run the risk of something cropping up unexpectedly. Also, please realize that we mean bringing the vehicle to US for OUR TECHS to look it over. Running to a Quickie Lube in a pinch is better than nothing at all, but if you do that then we miss the opportunity to keep an eye on things or to catch a problem before it starts.

So, please, pay attention to the dates / mileages on those oil change window stickers. If we haven't seen you for six months or more we'll send you a reminder to visit before your vehicle demands it.



# Health Notes

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## Are you living with “Presenteeism”?



Portland is currently considering new sick-leave rules that would require companies to provide at least 5 days of sick leave per employee per year. This seems like a measure that just makes sense... after all, do you want to work with someone who is contagious? Do you want your employees coming to work and infecting their co-workers, sending them home sick in another few days? Do you really want to eat in a restaurant where your preparers and servers are dripping bacterial goo into your bento? Thought not.

Responsible companies already make allowances for sick leave, and this ordinance would simply force the laggards to play on a level playing field. As a company we've signed on to the coalition of groups supporting the change, and we're behind it. But then we realized that few issues can have such a direct impact on your daily health and professional life as this one, and maybe the logic of the proposal isn't as self-evident as we'd like to believe. In this month's Health Notes we'll look at the proposed new rules, as well as the costs of a condition you may not have heard of before... "presenteeism".

If you'd like to get involved with Portland's Campaign for Earned Sick Days, or if you'd like more information on some point we missed, please contact [EverybodyBenefitsOregon.org](http://EverybodyBenefitsOregon.org) or [EverybodyBenefitsPDX.org](http://EverybodyBenefitsPDX.org).

### [FAQ's from Portland's Campaign for Earned Sick Days](#)

#### **Would this policy affect my Portland business?**

- The policy applies to employees who work within the geographic boundaries of the city for 240 hours or more in a calendar year. If you already allow employees to accrue 5 or more paid sick days, PTO, or paid vacation that can be used without notice for sick purposes, you already meet the proposed minimum and you will not be affected

#### **What does the law require?**

If you employ 5 or fewer people,

- Full and Part time employees would accrue one hour of unpaid (but job-protected) sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hrs/yr maximum.
- It would be illegal to fire or retaliate against someone for taking earned sick time.
- You would need to track employees' sick day usage consistent with current standards.
- You may exceed this standard if you wish, but you won't be required to.

For 6 or more employees,

- Full and Part time employees would accrue one hour of paid (and job-protected) sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 40 hrs/yr maximum.
- It would be illegal to fire or retaliate against someone for taking earned sick time.
- You would need to track employees' sick day usage consistent with current standards.
- You may exceed this standard if you wish, but you won't be required to.

**Does the sick time accrue year-to-year or pay out on termination?**

- Unused time can roll over to a new year, but you never have to pay an employee for more than 40 hours of sick time in a calendar year. You do not have to pay out unused time on termination.

**Does PTO count?**

- If your PTO policy meets the minimum requirements of the policy, then your PTO counts.

**Are temporary employees included?**

- The law applies to any employees working more than 240 hours in a year in Portland

**What if I have locations inside and outside of Portland?**

- The law only applies to employees that work 240 hours in a year in Portland

**What safeguards are there against possible employee abuse?**

- You may send an employee home and require they use their sick time if they are obviously sick when they come to work.
- Shift-trading is allowed if it takes place in the same or next pay period, and is mutually agreed on by employer and employee. However, you can't require that the employee find a replacement before taking their sick time.
- If there is a pattern of abuse of more than 3 consecutive days, you can require a doctor's note before any paid or unpaid leave is approved. However, you'll have to pay the costs of obtaining that note. You can also get the employee to provide a signed statement of their own that the time off was for a purpose covered by the ordinance.

**How likely is employee abuse?**

- Findings from San Francisco and other places show that abuse is rare. Nationally, employees who have sick time use 2.2 days/year in small companies and 3.1 days in large ones. In San Francisco, workers take a median of 3 sick days/year, even when they have more available to them.

**If you want to do deeper than the FAQ's, then these booklets and articles can help...**

- [Understanding Earned Sick Time in Portland- A Guide for Businesses](#) from Main Street Alliance of Portland
- [Evaluating Paid Sick Time: Social Economic, and Health Implications for Portland](#) from theFamily Forward Education Fund
- [Flu season fuels debate over paid sick time laws](#) from PostBulletin.com
- [Fact Sheet: Paid Sick Days- Paid Sick Days Work for U.S. Employees and Employers](#) From The Center for American Progress
- [Myth vs. Fact- Paid Sick Days](#) From Center for American Progress
- [Companies would benefit By Offering Better Kid Sick Day Policies To Employees](#) from Forbes

**These groups are working to implement sick leave policy locally and nationwide...**

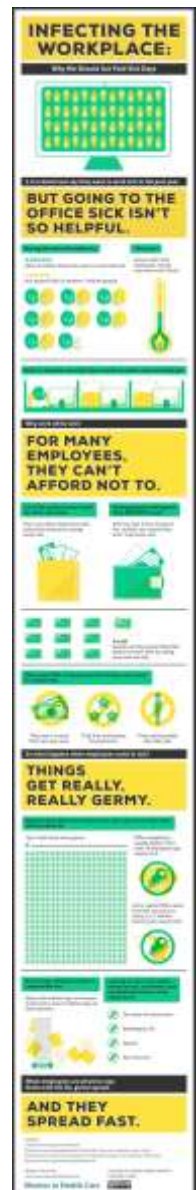
- [The Main Street Alliance](#)
- [The Main Street Alliance of Oregon](#)

- [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#)
- [National Partnership for Women & Families](#)

What about the phenomenon of “presenteeism” we mentioned? It’s when employees come to work when they’re sick or injured enough that they should be staying home, but they come in because they are worried about their job or can’t make ends meet without that day’s pay. Employers are just beginning to recognize and calculate the costs of employees coming in when they’re sick, and those costs are pretty high...

- [The Cost of Presenteeism](#), Patricial Pickett, About.com
- [The Hidden Costs of Presenteeism: Causes and Solutions](#), Patricia Schaefer, BusinessKnowHow.com
- [Presenteeism and Paid Sick Days](#), Jodie Levin-Epstein, Center for Law and Social Policy
- [Clear Presenteeism Danger](#), Philip Landau, The Guardian
- [New Findings and Realistic Solutions to Employee Presenteeism](#)- A white paper from the Health Enhancement Research Organization

And we’ll wrap things up with this in-depth infographic from Main Street Alliance, showing all the stats and info you’ll need to be the hit of any Sick Day Policy Implementation party. We know it’s too small to see here, but just [click this link to go to the full-size, downloadable version](#).





# **Sellwood Bridge Update**

Come try the like-new Bridge!



We'll be pretty lean on the Bridge Update this month because all the interesting stuff is in our Feature photo essay on the Big Move. We want to extend an invitation to come down and try the like-new bridge (it's safe, we promise) but there's not really much happening. As the move of the old bridge gives way to the construction on the new, we're sure there'll be more to tell you about, but for now we'll just give you this reminder:



Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org). Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. Their two constantly updated live webcams of the bridge cams are available [here](#). If you're looking for something that's not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen ([mike.j.pullen@multco.us](mailto:mike.j.pullen@multco.us), 503-209-4111) or visit [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org).

Oh, fine, here's something for our Bridge Update... several people did time-lapse videos of the Big Move. [You can see several of them on here](#). Enjoy!

## **We appreciate your patience!**

We know that this construction can cause headaches for everyone with business in Sellwood. We appreciate your patience during this time, and we want to make it as easy as possible to use our service while the project continues. If you find yourself inconvenienced by the bridge construction in any way please tell us... we'll do something to show how much we appreciate your support during the construction disarray.

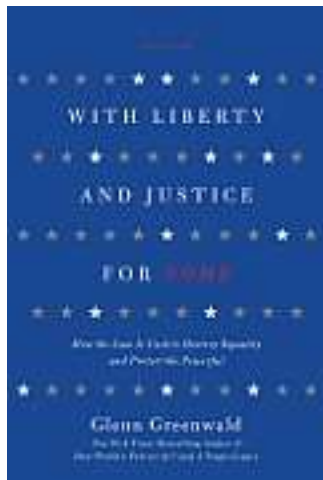


# Book Spotlight

“With Liberty and Justice For Some” by Glen Greenwald



In our “News To Make You Furious” column this month, we told you about the recent HSBC settlement and a FrontLine documentary on why no one has been criminally prosecuted in the Wall Street crash. We also said we have a two-tiered justice system in America now, and that justice for some means justice for none. That’s a fairly damning statement and the two stories we presented in “Furious” certainly don’t prove it by themselves. Unfortunately, they don’t stand alone. Glen Greenwald has done the hard work and extensive research necessary to, if not prove it, at least give more evidence. This month we’d like to shine our Book Spotlight on...



## [“With Liberty and Justice for Some: How the Law Is Used to Destroy Equality and Protect the Powerful” by Glen Greenwald](#)

From the nation's beginnings, the law was to be the great equalizer in American life, the guarantor of a common set of rules for all. But over the past four decades, the principle of equality before the law has been effectively abolished. Instead, a two-tiered system of justice ensures that the country's political and financial class is virtually immune from prosecution, licensed to act without restraint, while the politically powerless are imprisoned with greater ease and in greater numbers than in any other country in the world.

Starting with Watergate, continuing on through the Iran-Contra scandal, and culminating with Obama's shielding of Bush-era officials from prosecution, Glenn Greenwald lays bare the mechanisms that have come to shield the elite from accountability while the politically powerless are imprisoned with greater ease and in greater numbers than in any other country in the world. He shows how the media, both political parties, and the courts have abetted a process that has produced torture, war crimes, domestic spying, and financial fraud.

*With Liberty and Justice for Some* exposes a new and profoundly un-American justice system that incentivizes elite criminality, protects an oligarchical political culture, and sanctions immunity at the top and unyielding mercilessness for everyone else.

Cogent, sharp, and urgent, this is a no-holds-barred indictment of a profoundly un-American system that sanctions immunity at the top and mercilessness for everyone else.

GLENN GREENWALD is the author of *The New York Times* bestsellers *How Would a Patriot Act?* and *A Tragic Legacy*. Recently proclaimed one of the "Twenty-Five Most Influential Liberals in U.S. Media" by *Forbes*, Greenwald is a former constitutional law and civil rights attorney and a contributing writer at *Salon*. He lives in Brazil and New York City.

# Humorousness

## Laugh at an Oregonian Day



William Arthur Ward said “To make mistakes is human; to stumble is commonplace; to be able to laugh at yourself is maturity.” Laughing at ourselves may or may not be maturity, but it keeps us humble, letting us see ourselves as others see us. In some ways it’s like seeing yourself in a picture- “Do I really look like that?” It’s an educational surprise, and if the joke is told without malice it can even be a pleasant one.

### Humorousness BONUS!

You may be interested in [this recent study](#) that shows the ability to laugh at yourself is also linked with having an upbeat personality and good mood and may be the foundation for a good sense of humor.

That in mind, we trolled the net this month for jokes and funny miscellany about ourselves... Oregonians. We pride ourselves on our environmental awareness, on our groundbreaking legislation, on being at the national forefront of cool. But some of that, inevitably, also gives us the chance to laugh at ourselves. Here’s the cleanest Oregonian jokes we could find, along with some odd Oregon laws that are jokes in themselves. (Everything came from [ahajokes.com](#), [jokes4us.com](#), and [weirdfacts.com](#), except the few we added by asking around the shop.) Do you know any good ones we missed? Send them to [TomDwyer@TomDwyer.com](mailto:TomDwyer@TomDwyer.com) and we’ll pass them along in our next newsletter.

Q: Why do people from Portland go to garage sales in Gresham?

A: To get their stuff back.

To pay for the deficit, California wants to tax marijuana, Oregon wants to raise beer taxes and New York wants to tax internet porn. You know what that means, right? The national debt can be paid off by a few college frat guys in one weekend.

A hipster was skateboarding down a narrow, twisting, mountain road by Council Crest.

A woman was driving very slowly uphill, honking her horn and shouting at him: "PIG! PIG!"

He flipped her the finger and shouted back "\*&\$#\*\$) COW!"

...just before he collided with the pig.

Oregon has four seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter, and construction.

Also, last year 52 Oregonians fell off their bicycles - and drowned!

Q: How many Oregonians does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Three. One to change the bulb, one to get an organically grown free-range recycled low-wattage energy-efficient replacement bulb at the non-profit light bulb co-op, and a third to donate the old bulb to a homeless shelter.

Q: How many hipsters does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Oh, it's a really obscure number...you probably haven't heard of it.



A purportedly true story from Trimet...

Two guys just got into town and they're taking the bus to a party in Southeast.

First guy says, "It's gonna be a great party tonight!"

His friend says, "Yeah, man, I LOVE Halloween."

"Halloween's NEXT weekend, dude."

"What? You mean these people always look like this?!"

Actually, Oregon has two seasons: the rainy season and July 17th.

A newcomer to Portland arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young kid and, out of despair, asks, "Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?" The kid says, "How should I know? I'm only 8."

A Californian, a Texan and an Oregonian are on a camping trip. The Californian takes out a bottle of chardonnay and takes a swig from it, then tosses it into the air and blows it apart with a Glock.

The Texan and Oregonian protest and the Californian says "We have oceans of that stuff, it's no big deal."

The Texan, not to be outdone, produces a bottle of premium tequila, takes a drink then throws it into the air and blasts it to pieces with a revolver. He says "Got tons of it it, no big deal."

The Oregonian chugs a bottle of IPA, then takes a shotgun from his backpack and blows the Californian away. The Texan stares at him aghast until the Oregonian says: We have lots of those. But this bottle is worth five cents.

## **You Know You Live In Oregon If...**

- \* You stopped even pretending to believe the weather man.
- \* You throw an aluminum can in the trash and feel guilty.
- \* You hear the words 'sun breaks' and know what it means.
- \* You know more than 10 words to describe a cup of coffee.
- \* You complain about Californians as you sell your house to one for twice as much as you originally paid.
- \* You never go camping without water-proof matches and ponchos.
- \* You stand on a deserted street corner in the rain waiting for the light to change (if there even is a light).
- \* You know more people who own boats than air conditioners.
- \* You obey all traffic laws except keep right and left passing.
- \* You only honk your horn if collision is imminent and never for anything else.
- \* You consider swimming an indoor sport.
- \* You know it's a "hill" instead of a "mountain" if it doesn't have snow on it or has not recently erupted, regardless of its altitude.
- \* You can tell the difference between Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Thai food.
- \* In the winter, you go to work in the dark and come home in the dark, but still only have an 8 hour day.
- \* You feel overdressed wearing a suit to a really nice restaurant.
- \* You consider "etiquette" a foreign word.
- \* You no longer resent being called "weird"
- \* You drool at the world's worst spaghetti sauce.
- \* You find a wallet with \$500 and give it back to the owner.
- \* You used to live somewhere else but won't admit it publicly.
- \* You've ever ordered a half caf/decaf, nonfat mocha grande with sugar-free cranberry whip (or you know what it is).
- \* Your friends registered at Deek & Bryan's Next Adventure for their wedding.
- \* If someone ran your car off the highway, you might drown.
- \* You'd be miffed if the store was out of your favorite brand of water.
- \* Every day is casual Friday.

## **Dumb Oregon Laws (Statewide)**

- Dishes must be drip dried.
- The "Peer Review Statute" prohibits you from finding out details of any written or oral discussion about your medical treatment. Not even a court of law can. All you can access is what the doctor or nurse voluntarily records in your chart.
- It is illegal to buy or sell marijuana, but it is legal to smoke it on your own property.
- Ice cream may not be eaten on Sundays.
- You may not pump your own gas in service stations.
- One may not bathe without wearing "suitable clothing," i.e., which covers one's body from neck to knee.
- Canned corn is not to be used as bait for fishing.

## **Dumb Oregon Laws (by City)**

### **Beaverton**

- You must buy a \$10 permit to be allowed to install a burglar alarm.

### **Eugene**

- It is illegal to show movies or attend a car race on Sundays. (Repealed in the 1970s)
- It is legal to conduct a horse race or a symphony concert.

### **Hood River**

- Juggling is strictly prohibited without a license.

### **Klamath Falls**

- It's illegal to walk down a sidewalk and knock a snake's head off with your cane.

### **Portland**

- It's against the law for a wedding ceremony to be performed at a skating rink. (Repealed in 1989)
- People may not whistle underwater.
- You cannot wear roller skates in restrooms.

### **Marion**

- Ministers are forbidden from eating garlic or onions before delivering a sermon.

### **Myrtle Creek**

- One may not box with a kangaroo.

### **Salem**

- Women may not wrestle in Salem.

### **Springfield**

- It is illegal to own a reptile within the city limits, unless you are a school or city, as a pet.

### **Stanfield**

- Cloth towel dispensers are banned from restrooms.
- No more than two people may share a single drink.

# 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. Bet you can't eat just one!

## **Employee has the ultimate job... for a while**



When a software company did an internal audit they found one of their employees was showing a little too much initiative. "Bob" was a star programmer earning a six-figure salary who had [outsourced his own job to a Chinese software company](#) for a fifth of his pay. He spent his entire work day surfing the internet before writing a progress-report and knocking off at 5pm. When the company found out how Bob was being so productive, rather than promoting him to senior management they quickly canned him. Sorry, Bob. Maybe Bain Capital has an opening for you?

## **What's the greenerer readerer?**



It's no secret that more people are reading electronically these days... Kindles, Nooks, and all the rest. Have you considered [which one is better if you want to reduce your footprint on Mother Earth?](#) Obviously it takes more resources to make one e-reader than one book, but every book you download means several more trees that didn't get cut down. How many e-books must you read before the environmental impact outweighs a printed book? Depending on which factors you include in the analysis, the answer may surprise you.

## **Portland considers city-wide sick leave policy**



Everybody gets sick. But not everyone has the time to recover. 40% of people working in Portland don't earn paid sick time while working – not a single day! That's not healthy for them, their workplaces, their families, their schools – or the people they serve. Portland is considering becoming the second city (after San Francisco) to mandate that companies give paid sick time to their employees. There's a lot of reasons this makes sense, and [EverybodyBenefitsPDX.org](#) can give you all of them. (Their [infographic](#) on sick leave is enough to make you sick by itself!)

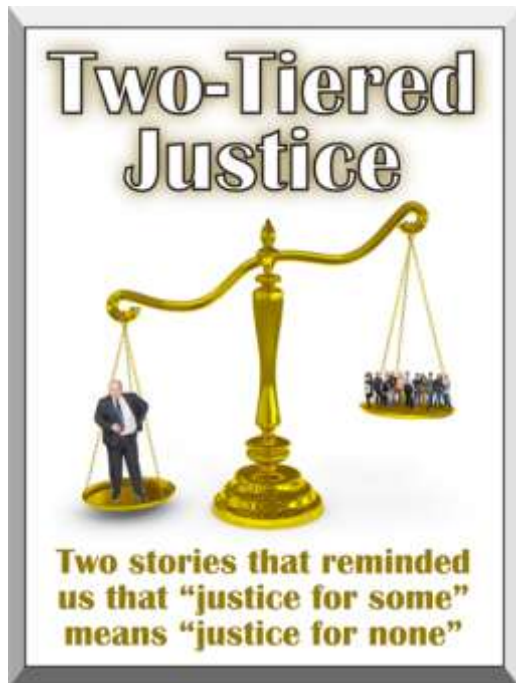
## **BP spill almost returns to the news**



Ahh, the agony of irony! Two stories in the continuing saga of the BP destruction of the Gulf of Mexico happened this week, but neither made the news in any big way. The first came out of New Orleans, where [a federal judge approved a \\$4 billion settlement in for BP.](#) News stories report that this is a record settlement, but they don't mention it's just 16% of their 2012 profit. The next story is from the Macondo well disaster site itself, where [an unexplained oil slick has been spreading from the site of the well since autumn.](#) Ask your friends if they've heard anything about it!

# News To Make You Furious

...with Liberty and Justice for those who can afford it



Two things increased our ire this month, and it doesn't take a very close look to see that they are intimately related. It also doesn't take a very close look to see the cancer that each exposes in a society once based on equality before the law.

The first thing came from Frontline, the PBS investigative report series, and their episode called "The Untouchables" in which they examined why no Wall Street executives have been prosecuted for fraud in the 2008 financial crisis. They interviewed several people who described the fraud and criminality they witnessed, followed by government prosecutors unable to find anyone who witnessed fraud or criminality. They interviewed attorneys who had prosecuted and won civil cases against these banksters, followed by government prosecutors saying it was impossible to prosecute and win a case against these same banksters. They interviewed Lanny Breuer, the assistant Attorney General, who said the reason they hadn't prosecuted was it would

destabilize the banking system. They then interviewed Ted Kaufman, a Senator who rightly pointed out that, for an attorney, the effects on the banking system should play no role in the decision to prosecute a crime.

The second thing concerned HSBC, the largest bank in Europe. The situation was almost identical if you change the names of the companies and the crimes they committed. (Don't worry, you won't have to change the names of the "prosecuting" authorities.) In December 2012, HSBC reached a settlement with the US government on charges of laundering money for terrorists, drug cartels, and international pariah states. This wasn't some "gotcha", one-time thing that overzealous regulators seized on to make a point. It was a pattern of intentional behavior, repeated regularly over a period of many years, involving amounts in the **trillions** of dollars. For us little people "providing material support to terrorists" is a serious crime. Federal sentencing guidelines mandate 17 to 21 years per offense plus heavy fines, but HSBC settled for 1.9 billion dollars. A record, yes, but that's less than 10% of their **profit** in 2011. And **no one** faces prison! Why? Lanny Breuer, assistant Attorney General, said that if they prosecuted HSBC it would certainly lose its license to do business in the US, costing thousands of jobs and destabilizing the entire global banking system. In the banking meltdown, HSBC was "too big to fail". This settlement proved they'd become "too big to jail".

Our Founders didn't overthrow a king just to install privilege for a lucky few. Our country's cornerstone isn't our military, religions, businesses, or natural beauty... it's our law. Justice. Unless we all stand equal before the law, justice is meaningless. It's obvious that the US has two justice systems now... a lenient and passive one for the well connected and a harsh and aggressive one for everyone else. That means instead of "justice for all" we have justice for none, and this month that was enough to make us Furious.

If you'd like to look deeper at these crumbling shards of a once-great justice system, here are some links...



[The Frontline documentary “The Untouchables”](#) is complete in itself, and is the usual interesting and insightful material you can expect from Frontline.

The HSBC issue is a little more complex. Here are links to news articles summarizing the story, as well as other links to detailed aspects of the issue...

[HSBC will pay \\$1.9 billion for money laundering](#)

[USA Today](#)- British banking giant HSBC agreed to pay a record \$1.92 billion settlement Tuesday after a broad investigation by U.S. federal and state authorities

[HSBC's record \\$1.9bn fine preferable to prosecution, US authorities insist](#)

[The Guardian](#)- Officials defend decision not to prosecute in money-laundering case despite HSBC's 'blatant failure' to implement controls

[HSBC money laundering report: Key findings](#)

[BBC News](#)- Failure after failure at HSBC led to the London-based bank being used as a conduit for "drug kingpins and rogue nations", a 300-page report compiled for a US Senate committee and has found.

[HSBC Announces Settlements With Authorities](#)

Press release from HSBC on the whole unfortunate misunderstanding

[HSBC Deferred Prosecution Agreement](#)

Here's the details of the crimes HSBC agrees they committed.

[The definition of a “two-tiered justice system”](#)

[Salon.com](#)- Ordinary people who commit petty, nonviolent crimes rot for decades in inhumane prisons. High political leaders who commit serious felonies receive full-scale immunity

[The two-tiered justice system: an illustration](#)

[Salon.com](#)- The lack of prosecutions after the financial collapse reveals the full-scale immunity vested in elites

[Obama Prosecuting Fewer Financial Crimes Than Under Reagan or Either Bush](#)

[Washington's Blog](#)- Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, and Clinton Each Prosecuted Financial Crime More Aggressively than Obama

[United States Federal Sentencing Guidelines](#)

[Wikipedia](#)- Full outline of Federal Sentencing Guidelines

[Terrorist Material Support: An Overview of 18 U.S.C. 2339A and 2339B](#)

[Congressional Research Service](#)- Examination of two of the most frequently used anti-terrorism statutes