



Tom's Tidbits

Snowden and the NSA... keep your eye on the ball

Our Feature Articles



Orwell was an optimist

The best articles on the evolving NSA scandal



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What's missing in this picture?

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Surprise! No one is innocent.

Humorousness

The lighter side of Orwellian Hell

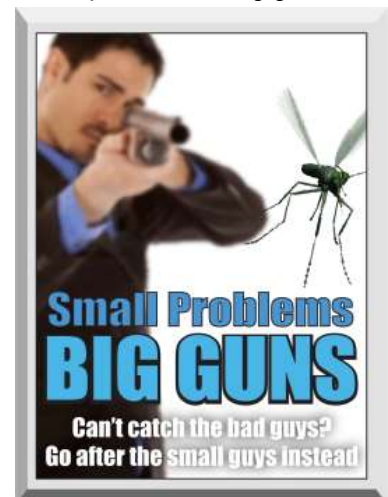
Popcorn Shorts

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

- Finally... Flying cars are here!
- Oregon officially agrees... Corporations are not people!
- FREE Sellwood Park concerts started with a bang
- Build your own swamp cooler

News To Make You Furious

Small problems... big guns



Tom's Tidbits

Snowden and the NSA... keep your eye on the ball



Greetings!

Did Edward Snowden watch and learn from the lessons of Bradley Manning? More importantly, have we?

Manning leaked information to WikiLeaks anonymously, and it wasn't until his arrest two months later that we learned his name. That was the beginning of a three-year Kafkaesque odyssey, three years of silence from Manning as Julian Assange tried to make his case, and three years in which the government sequestered and tortured Manning and stonewalled the substance of his leaks. Manning's trial finally began on June 6, but even with U.S. war crimes exposed, his military oath to report them has been overruled and the questions raised have withered and died.

Contrast this with Edward Snowden, who dropped his data bomb in a glare of publicity. He's been available to defend his revelations and motivations instead of relying on surrogates to do it. By staying out of the government's hands he's able to push back as they try to paint him as a traitor and divert the discussion from the abuses he revealed. If he (and we) can focus on the core issue, the unmitigated power of the Security State, then maybe his actions will matter.

As Big Brother makes himself more and more comfortable on our couch, the need for oversight from an informed and engaged public becomes ever more critical. Let's assume Snowden is Satan himself. After he's shipped to Gitmo for indefinite detention, we're still left with the reality of the NSA program he revealed. Do we (can we?) rein it in somehow, or do we leave our freedoms to [Al Franken's "assurances" that it's all okey-dokey](#)? Whatever happens to Snowden we now face a momentous choice. And as Rush (the band, not the bloviator) says, "[If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice.](#)"

Let's hope we don't lose the privilege of that choice in the increasing glare of our "follow the shiny object" media.

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Orwell Was An Optimist

The best articles on the evolving NSA scandal

Edward Snowden's allegations about the NSA are so serious and pervasive that the only person who looks to have been ahead of the curve is Alex Jones, the conspiracy-theorist whack job. Unfortunately, he makes the mistaken assumption that the whole thing is Obama's fault, while the scarier truth is that it's bigger than any one man. Alex may blame Obama, more sensible people might blame the NeoCons, but the ones closest to the truth realize the Security State feeds off itself; it grows no matter what party is in power, no matter what figurehead is at the helm. [Eisenhower didn't warn against the military-industrial complex](#) because the people in industry and the military were evil but because, like cancer, the system's nature is to aggregate power and control to itself, growing and metastasizing, regardless of the damage to the host that makes it possible. Today's world would be anathema to our



founders but it IS where we live. Its very existence poses perhaps the most fundamental question our democratic experiment can ever face... whether the snowballing power and scope of a corporate fascistic security state can co-exist with popular oversight in a free society. Most people

alive today will live to see the answer, and we think these people should have a hand in shaping it.

The Snowden fiasco will be unfolding for many months and years to come. There's very little we can add to the debate, but maybe we can save you some time if you'd like to dig into it a little deeper. We've been reading a lot of information on the scandal, so we've brought together some of the best reporting and opinion pieces we've seen to date. We've broken things up into eleven sections:

- **Just The Facts, Ma'am-** Factual material about the specifics of the alleged programs and abuses. As it deals with classified programs being exposed bit-by-bit, please read it with a little caution.
- **Digging for answers-** The response to politicians asking for clarification
- **The FISA Court-** Details on the court charged with issuing fig leaves
- **Opinion and Analysis-** The bigger picture sketched in by many artists
- **Whistleblowers-** What's happened (or is happening) to other Snowdens?
- **World reaction-** Americans aren't the only ones upset about this
- **"I don't have anything to hide..."-** Why you should care anyway
- **Are those pesky reporters really necessary?-** The ultimate in blaming the messenger
- **Snowden watch- The sideshow-** It's irrelevant, but still interesting
- **Big Brother is only getting bigger-** What else is happening in surveillance and censorship?
- **Is there anything... ANYTHING I can do?-** No. But here's a couple suggestions anyway.

You probably won't want to read everything we've picked, but look around and we're sure you'll find something to hold your interest!

Just The Facts, Ma'am...

[Here's everything \(so far\) about how the NSA's secret programs work](#)

By Timothy Lee at Washington Post

Any one of Snowden's revelations would have been a big story in its own right, but the news has been coming so rapidly that it's difficult to keep track of it all. Here's a handy guide from the Washington Post summing up the recent revelations about what the NSA's been up to...

[Timeline of NSA domestic spying](#)

Electronic Frontier Foundation

[How PRISM works \(infographic\)](#)

[Inner workings of a top-secret spy program](#)

Barton Gellman and Todd Lindeman in Washington Post National

The National Security Agency's PRISM program, which collects intelligence from Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, Apple and other tech giants, is "targeted" at foreigners. But it also collects the e-mail, voice, text and video chats of an unknown number of Americans — "inadvertently," "incidentally" or deliberately if an American is conversing with a foreign target overseas. Here are new details on how the program works, from top-secret documents and interviews...

[The Church Committee](#)

[All 14 published reports of the Church Committee are available here](#)

After the resignation of Richard Nixon in 1974, an aggressive media and a reform-minded Congress began uncovering abuses by the CIA, FBI, and other intelligence agencies. President Ford appointed a Commission on CIA Activities in the United States, headed by Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller. But this was quickly overtaken by the Senate Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, headed by Senator Frank Church of Idaho. The so-called "Church Committee" most famously delved into U.S. plots to assassinate foreign leaders including Fidel Castro and Patrice Lumumba, but its investigation went well beyond these plots. The Committee published 14 volumes of reports on a variety of activities in 1975 and 1976. These included the FBI's CointelPro program to infiltrate and disrupt domestic organizations, mail opening programs by the FBI and CIA, abuses by the Internal Revenue Service, and much more...

[Boundless Informant: the NSA's secret tool to track global surveillance data](#)

Glenn Greenwald and Ewen MacAskill at The Guardian

The National Security Agency has developed a powerful tool for recording and analysing where its intelligence comes from, raising questions about its repeated assurances to Congress that it cannot keep track of all the surveillance it performs on American communications. The Guardian has acquired top-secret documents about the [NSA](#) datamining tool, called [Boundless Informant](#), that details and even maps by country the voluminous amount of information it collects from computer and telephone networks. The focus of the internal NSA tool is on counting and categorizing the records of communications, known as metadata, rather than the content of an email or instant message.

[11 Shocking Things Snowden Has Taught Us \(So Far\)](#)

By Angus West at Global Post

Falling behind on the increasingly byzantine NSA scandal? We've got you covered. Updated July 9, 2013

Digging for answers

[James Clapper Says He Answered Senator Wyden in the 'Least Untruthful Manner' He Could Think Of](#)

By Dan Amira in NY Magazine

James Clapper, the director of national intelligence, is still working on his explanation for why he [told Senator Ron Wyden](#) in March that the NSA does not wittingly "collect any type of data at all on millions or hundreds of millions of

Americans." As we now know, the NSA does precisely that — metadata (but not content) from pretty much every phone call made in America is collected and stored.

On Thursday, Clapper claimed, "What I said was, the NSA does not voyeuristically pore through U.S. citizens' e-mails. I stand by that." Of course, that's not what he said, and everyone knows it, because video. So now Clapper says that he simply has a different definition of *collect* than most humans, and this definition allowed him to answer in the "least untruthful manner." He admits that this explanation is probably "too cute by half"...

"Dianne Feinstein is Outright Lying" about NSA Surveillance

Glenn Greenwald video from Democracy Now!

Senators accuse government of using 'secret law' to collect Americans' data

Dan Roberts at the Guardian

A bipartisan group of 26 US senators [has written to intelligence chiefs](#) to complain that the administration is relying on a "secret body of law" to collect massive amounts of data on US citizens. The senators accuse officials of making misleading statements and demand that the director of national intelligence James Clapper answer a series of specific questions on the scale of domestic [surveillance](#) as well as the legal justification for it. [In their strongly-worded letter to Clapper](#), the senators said they believed the government may be misinterpreting existing legislation to justify the sweeping collection of telephone and internet data [revealed by the Guardian](#). "We are concerned that by depending on secret interpretations of the Patriot Act that differed from an intuitive reading of the statute, this program essentially relied for years on a secret body of law," they say...

Senators: NSA must correct inaccurate claims over privacy protections

Spencer Ackerman for The Guardian

Ron Wyden and Mark Udall, two senators on the intelligence committee, accused the National Security Agency of publicly presenting "inaccurate" information about the [privacy](#) protections on its surveillance on millions of internet communications. However, in a demonstration of the intense secrecy surrounding [NSA](#) surveillance even after Edward Snowden's revelations, the senators claimed they could not publicly identify [the allegedly misleading section or sections of a factsheet](#) without compromising classified information.

Senators Ron Wyden (Democrat, Oregon) and Mark Udall (Democrat, Colorado) wrote to General Keith Alexander, the director of the NSA, to correct "inaccurate" portrayals about restrictions on surveillance published in a factsheet available on the NSA's homepage. The factsheet, concerning NSA's powers under Section 702 of the 2008 Fisa Amendments Act, was also supplied to members of Congress...

How Do You Know When President Obama is Lying? MSNBC Won't Tell You

By Jeff Cohen at Common Dreams

I was a young person when I first heard the quip: "How do you know when the President is lying? His lips are moving." At the time, President Nixon was expanding the war in Vietnam to other countries and deploying the White House "plumbers" to commit crimes against antiwar leakers.

Like Nixon, our current president is prolonging an endless, borderless and counter-productive war ("on terror") and waging a parallel war against "national security" leakers that makes the plumbers' burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office look almost quaint.

The World War I vintage Espionage Act, originally used to imprison socialists for making antiwar speeches, has been used by the administration against whistleblowers with a vengeance unprecedented in history: [eight leakers have been charged](#) with Espionage under Obama, compared to three under all previous presidents. The Obama administration has prosecuted not a single CIA torturer, but has imprisoned a CIA officer who [talked about torture with a journalist](#). National Security Agency official Thomas Drake, who was unable to get abuses fixed internally, now has a criminal record for [communicating with a reporter](#) years ago about sweeping domestic surveillance...

Chris Hayes: Unequal Responses to Leaked Security Intel

Video at Common Dreams

Chris Hayes points to the unequal and uneven response to leaked information that advances the Pentagon's agenda and leaked information that doesn't.

The FISA Court...

[The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court](#)

Washington Post Politics

Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, the government is required to obtain a judicial warrant — similar to those issued in criminal investigations — before federal intelligence agencies can conduct electronic surveillance and gather intelligence within the United States in the interest of national security. The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court was established by Congress to approve or deny warrant applications related to national security investigations...

[The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court \(infographic\)](#)

[The FISA court is acting like a legislature, and that's a problem](#)

By Timothy B. Lee, in Washington Post

One of the National Security Agency's key talking points since the PRISM program was revealed two weeks ago has been that its surveillance activities are subject to oversight by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. In his latest scoop, the Guardian's Glenn Greenwald has [revealed](#) two of the documents the government submits to the court prior to engaging in surveillance under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

These documents are often compared to the warrants the government ordinarily needs for searches of Americans. But they're dramatically different from a conventional search warrant. A warrant is supposed to "particularly" describe who will be targeted by a search. It will typically include a suspect's name, as well as the address to be searched or the phone number to be wiretapped.

The documents released by the Guardian don't look like that at all. The first document is nine pages long and explains in some detail the factors the NSA uses to determine whether a potential surveillance target is a "US person" — if the answer is yes, then the agency cancels the planned surveillance. The second document, also nine pages, describes what the NSA does if it accidentally collects the private communications of Americans.

[Secret-court judges upset at portrayal of 'collaboration' with government](#)

Carol Leonnig, Ellen Kanashima, in Washington Post Politics

Recent leaks of classified documents have pointed to the role of a special court in enabling the government's secret surveillance programs, but members of the court are chafing at the suggestion that they were collaborating with the executive branch. A [classified 2009 draft report](#) by the National Security Agency's inspector general relayed some details about the interaction between the court's judges and the NSA, which sought approval for the Bush administration's top-secret domestic surveillance programs. [The report was described in The Washington Post](#) on June 16 and released in full Thursday by The Post and the British newspaper the Guardian. U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, the former chief judge of the [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court](#), took the highly unusual step Friday of voicing open frustration at the account in the report and court's inability to explain its decisions...

Opinion and Analysis...

[America, Passive Nation -- Why Can't We Stand Up for Ourselves When Our Rights Are Stolen?](#)

Dan Gillmore at The Guardian

I'm a longtime subscriber to an internet mail list that features items from smart, thoughtful people. The list editor forwards items he personally finds interesting, often related to technology and/or civil liberties. Not long after the Guardian and Washington Post first started publishing the leaks describing the National Security Agency's vast surveillance dragnet, an item appeared about a White House petition urging President Obama to pardon Edward Snowden. The post brought this reply, among others: "Once upon a time I would have signed a White House petition to this administration with no qualms. Now, however, a chilling thought occurs: what 'watch lists' will signing a petition like this put me on? NSA? IRS? It's not a paranoid question anymore, in the United States of Surveillance"...

[The decade's biggest scam](#)

By Glenn Greenwald in Salon

The Los Angeles Times [examines the staggering sums of money](#) expended on patently absurd domestic "homeland security" projects: \$75 billion per year for things such as a Zodiac boat with side-scan sonar to respond to a potential attack on a lake in tiny Keith County, Nebraska, and hundreds of "9-ton BearCat armored vehicles, complete with

turret” to guard against things like an attack on DreamWorks in Los Angeles. All of that — which is independent of the exponentially greater sums spent on foreign wars, occupations, bombings, and the vast array of weaponry and private contractors to support it all — is in response to this mammoth, existential, the-single-greatest-challenge-of-our-generation threat:

“The number of people worldwide who are killed by Muslim-type terrorists, Al Qaeda wannabes, is maybe a few hundred outside of war zones. It’s basically **the same number of people who die drowning in the bathtub each year**,” said John Mueller, an Ohio State University professor who has written extensively about the balance between threat and expenditures in fighting terrorism.

Uncle Sam and Corporate Tech: Domestic Partners Raising Digital Big Brother

Norman Solomon at Common Dreams

A terrible formula has taken hold: *warfare state + corporate digital power = surveillance state*. “National security” agencies and major tech sectors have teamed up to make Big Brother a reality. “Of the estimated \$80 billion the government will spend on intelligence this year, most is spent on private contractors,” the *New York Times* [noted](#). The synergy is great for war-crazed snoops in Washington and profit-crazed moguls in Silicon Valley, but poisonous for civil liberties and democracy.

“Much of the coverage of the NSA spying scandal has underplayed crucial context: The capacity of the government to engage in constant surreptitious monitoring of all civilians has been greatly enhanced by the commercialization of the Internet,” media analyst Robert McChesney [pointed out](#) this week. Overall, he said, “the commercialized Internet, far from producing competition, has generated the greatest wave of monopoly in the history of capitalism.” And the concentration of online digital power is, to put it mildly, user-friendly for the surveillance state...

Terror v. Surveillance? Keeping Americans Safe in Two Simple Steps

By Robert Jensen at Common Dreams

In the frenzy over Edward Snowden’s leak of classified information about government data-mining surveillance, public officials and pundits have tried to lock us into a narrowly defined and diversionary discussion that ignores the most important question we face about terrorism.

Their argument goes something like this: No one wants to die in a terrorist attack. This kind of spying is necessary to prevent terrorist attacks. So, stop whining about how information is being collected, used, and potentially misused—it’s better than dying.

Let me be clear: I do not want to die in a terrorist attack. But before I am bullied into accepting intrusive government surveillance that is open to politicized abuse, I have another question: Are there other ways we could reduce the risk of U.S. citizens, at home or abroad, being targeted by terrorists? Two possibilities come to mind...

The Naked Empire

Robert Koehler at Common Dreams

America, America . . . Certainly Edward Snowden’s crime is one of public relations. In this day and age, power ain’t just jackboots, tanks and missiles. What he did by outing the NSA and its gargantuan surveillance operation was mess hugely with the American image — the American brand — with its irresistible combination of might and right.

That’s the nature of his “treason.” The secret he gave away was pretty much the same one the little boy blurted out in Hans Christian Andersen’s tale: “The emperor has no clothes!” That is, the government’s security industry isn’t devoted, with benevolent righteousness, to protecting the American public. Instead, it’s obsessively irrational, bent on accumulating data on every phone call we make. It’s a berserk spy machine, seemingly to no sane end...

How America’s Surveillance State Breeds Conformity and Fear

Glenn Greenwald at The Guardian [Video](#) (at the bottom of the page) and transcript [here](#).

And after the investigation concluded, he (Senator Church in the Church Commission) issued all sorts of warnings about the Surveillance State and how it was emerging, and the urgency of only allowing government officials to eavesdrop on citizens, that they have all kinds of layers of oversight in the courts and Congress, but he issued a specific warning about the National Security Agency that is really remarkable in terms of what he said. And this is what he said -- and you can find this anywhere online, in the *New York Times*, everywhere -- he said, as part of a written report, and in an interview: “The National Security Agency’s capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such is the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn’t matter”. He continued, “There would be no place to hide. If a dictator takes over the United States, the NSA could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back”.

[Apple Co-Founder Steve Wozniak Slams Surveillance State, Hails NSA Whistleblower Edward Snowden](#)

Andrea Germanos at Common Dreams

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak has cheered NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden and admonished the rise of the surveillance state. [Speaking](#) with CNN's Piers Morgan on Thursday, Wozniak expressed support for the whistleblower and said, "I felt about Edward Snowden the same way I felt about Daniel Ellsberg, who changed my life, who taught me a lot with a book he wrote..." He continued: "Read the facts—it's a government of, by and for the people. That sorta means we own the government. We're the ones that pay for it, and then we discover something that our money is being used for. That just can't be, that level of crime..."

[The Criminal N.S.A.](#)

Jennifer Stisa Granick and Christopher Sprigman in NY Times Opinion

The twin revelations that telecom carriers have been secretly giving the National Security Agency information about Americans' phone calls, and that the N.S.A. has been capturing e-mail and other private communications from Internet companies as part of a secret program called Prism, have not enraged most Americans. Lulled, perhaps, by the Obama administration's claims that these "[modest encroachments on privacy](#)" were approved by Congress and by federal judges, public opinion quickly migrated from shock to "meh"...

Whistleblowers...

[Obama Has Charged More Under Espionage Act Than All Other Presidents Combined](#)

By [Daniel Politi](#) at Slate

The U.S. government charged former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden with three felonies, including two under the Espionage Act. He now becomes the eighth person to be charged under the Espionage Act under Obama, according to [Firedoglake](#). That is more than double all previous presidents combined. Prior to Obama's administration only three people who leaked information had been charged under the 1917 statute that was never really intended for leakers. The arguments that Obama uses now to use that statute to go after those who reveal information were first brought up by Ronald Reagan's administration when it went after a Navy civilian analyst who leaked photographs to a British military magazine. But now the practice has become widespread.

[NSA Leaker Thomas Drake on Snowden's Case](#)

NPR's "The Takeaway" Audio interview with Thomas Drake

[A column by Thomas Drake in The Guardian is here.](#)

What might have happened if the former defense contractor Ed Snowden had decided to stay here and had taken up his complaint within the official chain of command? It's what former National Security Agency (NSA) official Thomas Drake, one of Snowden's idols, did. After September 11th, Drake became uncomfortable about the agency's top-secret counterterrorism programs. He grew to believe that the NSA's actions, which included warrantless wiretapping "subverted the Constitution." Drake took his complaint to the highest levels of the NSA, to Congress, the Pentagon and finally the press. He was eventually indicted by the Justice Department and faced up to 35 years in prison. But eventually, the charges against Drake were dropped and he pleaded guilty to a minor misdemeanor. Drake explains why he supports Snowden and describes his concerns about the NSA's actions following 9/11...

[Prosecution of NSA Whistleblower Collapses](#)

By Scott Horton at Harpers

The Obama Administration's highly touted effort to prosecute Thomas A. Drake, a former senior National Security Agency official, for violations of the Espionage Act due to his disclosure of pervasive fraud, waste, and abuse connected with a \$1-billion surveillance-technology contract [has collapsed](#) in a federal court in Baltimore. In a plea-bargain arrangement, Drake agreed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor count of misuse of a government computer, while prosecutors agreed not to push for jail time. The Espionage Act charges that formed the core of the prosecution are being withdrawn.

[3 NSA veterans speak out on whistle-blower: "We told you so"](#)

Roundtable discussion on USA Today

When a National Security Agency contractor revealed top-secret details this month on the government's collection of Americans' phone and Internet records, one select group of intelligence veterans breathed a sigh of relief.

Thomas Drake, William Binney and J. Kirk Wiebe belong to a select fraternity: the NSA officials who paved the way.

For years, the three whistle-blowers had told anyone who would listen that the NSA collects huge swaths of communications data from U.S. citizens. They had spent decades in the top ranks of the agency, designing and managing the very data-collection systems they say have been turned against Americans. When they became convinced that fundamental constitutional rights were being violated, they complained first to their superiors, then to federal investigators, congressional oversight committees and, finally, to the news media.

To the intelligence community, the trio are villains who compromised what the government classifies as some of its most secret, crucial and successful initiatives. They have been investigated as criminals and forced to give up careers, reputations and friendships built over a lifetime.

Today, they feel vindicated...

Obama's Attack on Whistleblowers Criminalizes News Gathering

Interview by Paul Jay, Real News Network

The Obama administration's seizure of phone records of Associated Press is clearly a message, first of all, to whistleblowers. If we can go after AP, we can go after anybody. And whoever you might phone, we can get hold of those records. And, of course, if they can go after AP, they can go after any journalist, so it's also a message to journalists across the country.

Now joining us to talk about all of this is Kathleen McClellan. She's a national security and human rights counsel at the Government Accountability Project, a leading whistleblower rights organization in D.C.

Thanks for joining us, Kathleen...

Daniel Ellsberg Issues Call for a New Church Committee To Probe NSA

By Miranda Green at The Daily Beast

"I'm hoping that we will see public pressure successful in causing Congress to name a select committee investigating the potential full scale of surveillance by the whole intelligence community and proposing legislation that will reflect a full congressional investigation," Ellsberg told The Daily Beast about a [new petition](#) he's putting his name behind, calling for greater congressional oversight of the NSA and the intelligence community. The petition is hosted by CREDO Action, an activist website that approached Ellsberg after hearing [his remarks](#) in recent weeks in defense of [Private Bradley Manning](#), [Julian Assange](#), and [Edward Snowden](#). "Pressure by an informed public on Congress to form a select committee to investigate these revelations might lead us to bring NSA and the rest of the intelligence community under real supervision and restraint and restore the protections of the Bill of Rights," Ellsberg writes in the petition.

Obama's crackdown views leaks as aiding enemies of U.S.

By Marisa Taylor and Jonathan Landay, McClatchy Washington Bureau

Even before a former U.S. intelligence contractor exposed the secret collection of Americans' phone records, the Obama administration was pressing a government-wide crackdown on security threats that requires federal employees to keep closer tabs on their co-workers and exhorts managers to punish those who fail to report their suspicions. President Barack Obama's unprecedented initiative, known as the Insider Threat Program, is sweeping in its reach. It has received scant public attention even though it extends beyond the U.S. national security bureaucracies to most federal departments and agencies nationwide, including the Peace Corps, the Social Security Administration and the Education and Agriculture departments. It emphasizes leaks of classified material, but catchall definitions of "insider threat" give agencies latitude to pursue and penalize a range of other conduct...

James Cartwright, retired Marine general, target of Iran leak investigation

Video, CBS This Morning

Whistleblowers come in many shapes and sizes. General James Cartwright is confirmed to be the target of a criminal leak investigation. If this turns out to be true, it will make it harder to paint him with the "treasonous leftwinger" sobriquet...

An appeal from Ethan McCord for Bradley Manning's defense

Ethan McCord appears in the "Collateral Murder" video released by WikiLeaks—the subject of the 2012 Academy Award nominated short documentary "Incident in New Baghdad." *Bradley Manning, who is accused of providing WikiLeaks with the video, sits before a hearing this morning at Fort Meade (near Washington DC) that will determine*

the time line for his upcoming court martial. [Please join Ethan in supporting Bradley by making a tax-deductible donation today to the Bradley Manning Defense Fund.](#)

World reaction...

[Ecuador's president to U.S.: Don't threaten us on Snowden case](#)

Catherine Shoichet, CNN, video and text

Defiant authorities in Ecuador say they won't bow to U.S. pressure as they weigh former NSA contractor Edward Snowden's request for asylum. Ecuador's president and other top officials said Thursday that they're turning down the trade benefits the United States gives them as part of the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act. "In the face of threats, insolence and arrogance of certain U.S. sectors, which have pressured to remove the preferential tariffs because of the Snowden case, Ecuador tells the world we unilaterally and irrevocably renounce the preferential tariffs," President Rafael Correa said Thursday, reiterating comments other officials from his government made earlier in the day. In a fiery speech at an event in Quevedo, Ecuador, the president vowed not to back down. "It is outrageous to try to delegitimize a state for receiving a petition of asylum," Correa said...

[NSA Spied on European Union Offices](#)

By Laura Poitras, Marcel Rosenbach, Fidelius Schmid and Holger Stark at Spiegel Online

America's NSA intelligence service allegedly targeted the European Union with its spying activities. According to SPIEGEL information, the US placed bugs in the EU representation in Washington and infiltrated its computer network. Cyber attacks were also perpetrated against Brussels in New York and Washington.

Information obtained by SPIEGEL shows that America's National Security Agency (NSA) not only conducted online surveillance of European citizens, but also appears to have specifically targeted buildings housing European Union institutions. The information appears in secret documents obtained by whistleblower Edward Snowden that SPIEGEL has in part seen. A "top secret" 2010 document describes how the secret service attacked the EU's diplomatic representation in Washington...

[Europeans plan to fight back against PRISM](#)

By Tero Kuittinen at bgr.com

Finnish communications minister Pia Viitanen has stated bluntly that [the NSA may be breaking the laws of Finland](#). According to the Finnish Constitution, capturing and reading emails or text messages without privileges is illegal. Viitanen plans to take up the issue with the European Commission. Several European countries are apparently considering unleashing Neelie Kroes, the feared European Commissioner for Digital Agenda, in an effort to [fight back against the NSA's PRISM program](#).

"I don't have anything to hide..."

[Privacy and the Threat to the Self](#)

Michael Lynch at NYTimes Opinion

In the wake of continuing revelations of government spying programs and the recent Supreme Court ruling on DNA collection – both of which push the generally accepted boundaries against state intrusion on the person — the issue of privacy is foremost on the public mind. The frequent mantra, heard from both media commentators and government officials, is that we face a "trade-off" between safety and convenience on one hand and privacy on the other. We just need, we are told, to find the right balance.

This way of framing the issue makes sense if you understand privacy solely as a political or legal concept. And its political importance is certainly part of what makes privacy so important: what is private is what is yours alone to control, without interference from others or the state. But the concept of privacy also matters for another, deeper reason. It is intimately connected to what it is to be an autonomous person...

[To those who say 'trust the government' on NSA spying: Remember J. Edgar Hoover's FBI?](#)

Barrett Brown, The Guardian

It's a fine thing to see mainstream American media outlets finally sparing some of their attention toward the cyber-industrial complex – that unprecedented conglomeration of state, military and corporate interests that together exercise growing power over the flow of information. It would be even more heartening if so many of the nation's

most influential voices, from senator to pundits, were not clearly intent on killing off even this belated scrutiny into the invisible empire that so thoroughly scrutinizes us – at our own expense and to unknown ends...

[Security-State Creep: The Real NSA Scandal Is What's Legal](#)

By Rebecca Rosen in The Atlantic

"We doubt," [the Supreme Court held](#), "that people in general entertain any actual expectation of privacy in the numbers they dial." And even if they did, the opinion continued, such an expectation would not be a "reasonable" one, for once you've disclosed anything to a third party, you cannot "reasonably" expect it to remain private. That decision, in a case called *Smith v. Maryland*, is highly relevant again today. The Court decided that a local police department did not violate the Fourth Amendment ("unreasonable searches and seizures") when, without obtaining a warrant, the police asked a telephone company to record all the numbers dialed from a suspect's home. The year of that decision? 1979, long before the rise of our modern, counter-terrorist security state...

[The Dictionary of the Global War on You \(GWOY\)](#)

by Tom Engelhardt at Common Dreams

In the months after September 11, 2001, it was regularly said that "everything" had changed. It's a claim long forgotten, buried in everyday American life. Still, if you think about it, in the decade-plus that followed -- the years of the PATRIOT Act, "[enhanced interrogation techniques](#)," "[black sites](#)," [robot assassination campaigns](#), [extraordinary renditions](#), the [Abu Ghraib photos](#), the Global War on Terror, and the [first cyberwar](#) in history -- much did change in ways that should still stun us. Perhaps nothing changed more than the American national security state, which, spurred on by 9/11 and the open congressional [purse strings](#) that followed, [grew in ways](#) that would have been alien even at the height of the Cold War, when there was another giant, nuclear-armed imperial power on planet Earth. Unfortunately, the language we use to describe the world of the national security state is still largely stuck in the pre-9/11 era. No wonder, for example, it's hard to begin to grasp the staggering size and changing nature of the world of secret surveillance that Edward Snowden's [recent revelations](#) have allowed us a peek at. If there are no words available to capture the world that is watching us, [all of us](#), we've got a problem...

[Tom Dwyer's "Book Spotlight" for July](#)

by Tom Dwyer in Your Car Matters

"Not having anything to hide" isn't the same as "not having done anything illegal". This month we spotlight two books that tell you how many things that aren't wrong can still land you in trouble with the Man. Check out "[Go Directly to Jail: The Criminalization of Almost Everything](#)" by Gene Healy and "[Three Felonies a Day: How the Feds Target the Innocent](#)" by Harvey Silvergate.

[Chomsky Says Young People Don't Care About Surveillance -- Is He Right?](#)

April Short at AlterNet

When the leaks by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden exposed warrantless, secret government surveillance of U.S. citizens' phone and Internet records—including [search history, the content of emails, file transfers and live chats](#)—Noam Chomsky surmised that younger people were less "offended" than older people by the privacy intrusion. In a [Guardian](#) article, he called this attitude a generational issue that "someone ought to look into." Younger people, he warned, are "much less shocked" at being spied on by the U.S. government than the older generation, "and did not view it as such a problem." He said: "It may have to do with the exhibitionist character of the Internet culture, with Facebook and so on. ... On the Internet, you think everything is going to be public."

Well, there is absolutely a generation gap when it comes to issues of freedom of information, the NSA leaks, and scandal in general—especially online—but it's not necessarily what you might expect. The lack of an "OMG" attitude over the U.S. government's mass-scale privacy intrusions stem from much more than a general air of nonchalance about technology.

[How You're Breaking the Law Every Day \(and What You Can Do About It\)](#)

By Adam Dachs at LifeHacker.com

You share music, rip DVDs, [make Hitler whine about your first world problems](#), and much more in the course of your regular online activities—and more often than not, you do these things without giving a thought to the fact that you're actually breaking the law. Here's a look at how you're inevitably circumventing copyright law and what you can do to protect yourself...

Are those pesky reporters really necessary?

Glenn Greenwald destroys David Gregory on Meet The Press

Video

10 Questions for NBC Host Who Shamelessly Suggested Greenwald Be Arrested for NSA Leaks

By David Sirota at Salon

Two weeks into the hullabaloo surrounding whistleblower Edward Snowden and Guardian reporter Glenn Greenwald, one thing is clear: they did not just reveal potentially serious crimes perpetrated by the government — including possible [perjury, unlawful spying](#) and [unconstitutional surveillance](#). They also laid bare in historic fashion the powerful double standards that now define most U.S. media coverage of the American government — the kind that portray those who challenge power as criminals, and those who worship it as heroes deserving legal immunity. Indeed, after “Meet the Press” host David Gregory’s instantly notorious performance yesterday, it is clear Snowden’s revelations so brazenly exposed these double standards that it will be difficult for the Washington press corps to ever successfully hide them again. The best way to see these double standards is to ponder 10 simple questions...

Glenn Greenwald Is 'Aiding and Abetting' Democracy

John Nichols in The Nation

Imagine if the Sunday morning talk shows had existed in 1776. Surely, they would have welcomed the most widely read and provocative journalist of that historic year. Perhaps the hosts would have asked [Tom Paine](#) if he felt that by penning articles calling out the hypocrisy of colonial officials—and incendiary pamphlets such as [Common Sense](#)—he was “aiding and abetting” the revolutionaries that King George III imagined to be “traitors.” An intimidating question, to be sure. Too intimidating, determined the founders of the American experiment.

After Paine’s compatriots prevailed in their revolutionary endeavor, they wrote into the Bill of Rights a protection of the ability of [a free press](#) to speak truth to power, to call out and challenge the machinations of those in government. Unfortunately, this history is sometimes lost on contemporary Washington...

Snowden watch- The sideshow

Chris Hedges Defends Snowden's Heroism in the Face of a Growing Smear Campaign

In this excellent debate from Democracy Now!, Chris Hedges makes a brilliant defense of Edward Snowden, and the collapse of our institutions.

As Bradley Manning Trial Begins, Press Predictably Misses the Point

By Matt Taibbi in Rolling Stone

Well, the Bradley Manning trial has begun, and for the most part, the government couldn't have scripted the headlines any better.

In the now-defunct *Starz* series *Boss*, there's a reporter character named "Sam Miller" played by actor Troy Garity who complains about lazy reporters who just blindly eat whatever storylines are fed to them by people in power. He called those sorts of stories *Chumpbait*. If the story is too easy, if you're doing a piece on a sensitive topic and factoids are not only reaching you freely, but publishing them is somehow not meeting much opposition from people up on high, then you're probably eating Chumpbait...

Snowden made the right call when he fled the U.S.

By Daniel Ellsberg at WP Opinions

Many people compare Edward Snowden to me unfavorably for leaving the country and seeking asylum, rather than facing trial as I did. I don't agree. The country I stayed in was a different America, a long time ago.

After the New York Times had been enjoined from publishing the Pentagon Papers — [on June 15, 1971](#), the first prior restraint on a newspaper in U.S. history — and I had given another copy to The Post (which would also be enjoined), I went underground with my wife, Patricia, for 13 days. My purpose (quite like Snowden's in flying to Hong Kong) was to elude surveillance while I was arranging — with the crucial help of a number of others, still unknown to the FBI — to distribute the Pentagon Papers sequentially to 17 other newspapers, in the face of two more injunctions. The last three days of that period was in defiance of an arrest order: I was, like Snowden now, a “fugitive from justice”...

What Have Snowden and Greenwald Got to Do With Gandhi?

by Subhankar Banerjee at Common Dreams

There is a linguistic gobbledegoo going on about what it is that Edward Snowden has committed that was made possible by the “advocacy journalism” of Glenn Greenwald and *The Guardian*. While many, in the US and around the world, seem to believe that Snowden committed a “heroic act” by blowing a loud whistle on the global spying by the US, the established order keeps insisting—noo, it’s “treason.” On Friday, one more US Senator [confirmed the latter view](#). Senator Angus King (I-Maine), a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, told *The Takeaway*: “I’ve been thinking about this as the story has unfolded, and at first I thought [Edward Snowden] was trying to raise a public debate about important issues, and that maybe he’s more like a whistle-blower. ... As it’s gone on, I’m moving more and more towards the treason end of the scale.” Treason is not the right word. Sedition is...

N.S.A. Leak Puts Focus on System Administrators

Christopher Drew and Somini Sengupta in NY Times

Edward J. Snowden, the former [National Security Agency](#) contractor who leaked details about American surveillance, personifies a debate at the heart of technology systems in government and industry: can the I.T. staff be trusted? As the N.S.A., some companies and the city of San Francisco have learned, information technology administrators, who are vital to keeping the system running and often have access to everything, are in the perfect position if they want to leak sensitive information or blackmail higher-level officials...

Seven Myths About Edward Snowden, NSA Whistleblower

Chase Madar in The Nation

So many questions! How much of our personal information can the NSA get at, with and without a warrant? What exactly does “server” mean on that NSA PowerPoint slide? Is Snowden in Moscow, Havana, Quito, none of the above? Tracking the fast-evolving scandal of NSA surveillance and whistleblower Edward Snowden requires a bullshit-detector cranked up to eleven. Though the NSA-Snowden affair is scarcely three weeks old, all manner of official folklore and panic-infused *idées reçues* have already glommed on, limpet-like, to media accounts, often deforming the story beyond recognition. Below is your handy myth-stripping guide to understanding this critical news item...

Big Brother is only getting bigger...

Military Blackout: Army Blocks Access to NSA News Reports

Sarah Lazare at Common Dreams

The U.S. Army is blocking all internet access to the *Guardian's* coverage of the NSA spying scandal to prevent service members and military employees from leaking information themselves, the *Monterey Herald* [revealed](#) Thursday. The censorship at Army bases across the U.S. is in place to ward off further leaks and ensure 'network hygiene,' said Gordon Van Vleet, spokesman for the Army's NETCOM network. He [told](#) the *Monterey Herald*: "We make every effort to balance the need to preserve information access with operational security, however, there are strict policies and directives in place regarding protecting and handling classified information." Yet, supporters of whistleblower rights argue that media filtering from the Army command ultimately cannot stop soldiers from learning about them or prevent them from potentially acting on their own consciences...

The NSA Is Building the Country’s Biggest Spy Center (Watch What You Say)

James Bamford at Wired

Under construction by contractors with top-secret clearances, the blandly named Utah Data Center is being built for the National Security Agency. A project of immense secrecy, it is the final piece in a complex puzzle assembled over the past decade. Its purpose: to intercept, decipher, analyze, and store vast swaths of the world’s communications as they zap down from satellites and zip through the underground and undersea cables of international, foreign, and domestic networks. The heavily fortified \$2 billion center should be up and running in September 2013. Flowing through its servers and routers and stored in near-bottomless databases will be all forms of communication, including the complete contents of private emails, cell phone calls, and Google searches, as well as all sorts of personal data trails—parking receipts, travel itineraries, bookstore purchases, and other digital “pocket litter.” It is, in some measure, the realization of the “total information awareness” program created during the first term of the Bush administration—an effort that was killed by Congress in 2003 after it caused an outcry over its potential for invading Americans’ privacy.

FBI admits using drones in the US

Video, The Young Turks

[Bradley Manning Trial Gets No Stenographers, Orders Court](#)

Joshua DeLeon at Ring of Fire

After majors news outlets raised over \$60,000 to hire stenographers to record Pfc. Bradley Manning's trial, the military court overseeing the trial [has denied the stenographers](#) press passes, cutting off any publicly-accessible written record of the proceedings.

Numerous news organizations that pooled together and formed the Freedom of the Press Foundation (FPF) [started the fundraiser](#) to pay for a stenographer to ensure the court's transparency during the trial. Wikileaks founder Julian Assange also assembled a group of journalists and first-amendment activists to [file a lawsuit](#), on two accounts, against the Department of Defense to force the court into transparency. Both time of which were ultimately struck down...

[Mythbusters banned from talking about RFID](#)

Video wherein Adam Savage tells how censorship worked in his corporate world. In a word? It works efficiently.

Is there anything... ANYTHING I can do?

[Why Edward Snowden's Leaks Have Empowered All of Us](#)

Elliot Sperber at AlterNet

If the expression "knowledge is power" - attributed to the English Renaissance philosopher Francis Bacon - is true, then it implies, among other things, that its opposite is also true. The is, if knowledge is power, then the lack of knowledge, or ignorance, amounts to a lack of, or exclusion from, power. As such, removing, obscuring, or hiding knowledge - in a word, secrecy - not only creates power, it produces powerlessness, weakness, and vulnerability as well. Indeed, as Elias Canetti phrased it in his "Crowds and Power", "Secrecy lies at the very core of power". As the state, then, acquires ever more knowledge/power through such programs as PRISM, 'the people' in general - in spite of the State's dubious claims of enhancing security and safety - are only further weakened, put into an ever more vulnerable, precarious position. In addition to the myriad political, legal, and ethical issues embedded in the debate concerning the whistleblower Edward Snowden's ongoing disclosures of classified information. This nonconsensual, actual precarization of the public (by secretive state and private-sector agencies whose authority to gather this power is by no means clear) constitutes a substantial harm in itself.

[How to hide your data from Internet Snoops](#)

Doug Gross, CNN Tech

Having concerns about [NSA cybersnooping](#) doesn't mean we must surrender all [privacy -- what's left of it --](#) in our day-to-day online activities. It's easy to forget that we're volunteering basic information about ourselves in return for free e-mail, social networking and other digital services. And let's remember that third parties -- from government agencies to cybercriminals -- can get their hands on even more personal stuff if they're actively trying. So, whether it's due to a vague fear of Big Brother or a more specific desire to keep your bank information out of the hands of thieves, you might be considering ways to keep your communication more secure...

[Join the Electronic Frontier Foundation](#)

The EFF is asking individuals to email Congress right away to tell them in the strongest possible terms that you do not consent to dragnet domestic surveillance. Tell your elected officials that you object to this mass domestic spying program. Demand that they initiate a full-scale, public investigation immediately with the results of the investigation made public as much as possible. Demand that the public officials responsible for this program are held to account.

[Join Fight For The Future](#)

Fight for the Future is dedicated to protecting and expanding the Internet's transformative power in our lives by creating civic campaigns that are engaging for millions of people. Alongside internet users everywhere we beat back attempts to limit our basic rights and freedoms, and empower people to demand technology (and policy) that serves their interests. Activating the internet for the public good can only lead to a more vibrant and awesome world. And Fight For The Future will keep you posted on all internet-related threats

[Call for Investigations at FireDogLake](#)

Thanks to Edward Snowden's whistle-blowing, we now have a small but significant glimpse into our government's vast, secret surveillance state. As information continues to trickle out, Americans are starting a serious debate about the

proper balance of security, privacy and liberty. Call your representatives now and ask them to convene a special congressional investigation into the surveillance activities of the NSA, FBI and CIA. You can reach your representative using the number 1-STOP-323-NSA -- a project of the [Stop Watching Us coalition](#) or you can look up your rep's number and call directly.

[How You're Breaking the Law Every Day \(and What You Can Do About It\)](#)

By Adam Dachis at LifeHacker.com

You share music, rip DVDs, [make Hitler whine about your first world problems](#), and much more in the course of your regular online activities—and more often than not, you do these things without giving a thought to the fact that you're actually breaking the law. Here's a look at how you're inevitably circumventing copyright law and what you can do to protect yourself...

"Idiot lights"? Only if you don't understand them

What do your dashboard warning lights mean?

Some people call them "idiot lights" but they're more properly called "dashboard warning lights"... they're the Christmas Tree display of lights that come on every time you start your car. If everything's running fine then you never see them, but what does it mean when one comes on? What do you do? Do you ignore it, keep driving, or call for a tow? Is it something that can be solved by tightening your gas cap, or does it mean an expensive trip to the shop? Well, buckle in (which usually turns the seatbelt light off) as we take you on a tour of your vehicle warning lights, and give you our best advice on how to handle them...

Just like every other system on modern vehicles, your dash lights have evolved over time. Early cars didn't have dash lights at all, just head, side, and tail lights. From the 40's to the 60's manufacturers added lights to the dashboard to illuminate analog dials, but it wasn't until the introduction of LED lights in the 70's and 80's that the lights themselves started to be used to convey critical information. Now dash lights are your primary source of real-time information for almost every vehicle system.

Before even getting to the symbols, you can learn a lot from the color of the indicator. Red is normally for emergency situations or a critical failure, Yellow and Orange are for cautionary and non-critical information, and Green and Blue lights tell you everything is working fine.

Blinking lights are generally more important than solid ones. For example, if your "check engine" light is on solidly, you can probably keep driving (but get it checked soon). If it's blinking you should get it checked as soon as possible. A flashing check engine light is serious business!



There are no standardized icons for warning icons, so each manufacturer is left to develop their own. Some icons are very distinctive to a particular manufacturer or vehicle model, while others are becoming more common between manufacturers. **You have to READ YOUR OWNERS MANUAL TO FIND OUT WHAT THE LIGHTS ON YOUR DASHBOARD MEAN!**

Of course there are sources to give you some general guidance as well. Believe it or not, there's a website called DashboardSymbols.com that's dedicated to all the details of the subject. They have pages for [picture symbols](#), [text symbols](#), [icon acronyms](#), and [combo symbols](#). (It's not strictly related to dashboard symbols, but they also have a page for [dead key fobs](#) that will get you into your car when the battery on your key fob has died.) They also have a very useful [downloadable app to tell you the meanings of all your warning icons for any particular car](#). If you download it now, you'll be ready for any emergency light without having to rifle through the glove box for your coffee-stained owner's manual.

We'll close with one final thing that can help you out... the sheet below shows the 25 most common warning icons with a little info to help you out when they come on. You can print a copy to stick in your glove compartment, or make flashcards of the icons to get your child ready for the driving world. Arm yourself with information, and enjoy your drive! (Until one of these lights comes on!)

Inspired by this article?
[Click here](#) for a musical
bonus from Meat Loaf



« JUST THE FACTS »

Vehicle Warning Lights

Vehicle warning or indicator lights are not new but what these lamps are telling us has changed along with vehicle technology. The following list is by no means comprehensive, and the indicator images are not necessarily universal (automakers do differ so the owner's manual should always be consulted), but these should provide a fair cross section as to what may appear on a vehicle's dash.



Oil Pressure Warning: If this light stays lit it indicates loss of oil pressure. Immediately check oil level and pressure.



Coolant Temp Warning: Indicates temperature has exceeded normal limits. Check coolant level, fan operation, radiator cap, coolant leaks.



Battery/Charging Alert: Indicates voltage level is below normal level and the vehicle's charging system is not functioning properly. Check battery terminals, alternator belt, and battery condition.



Check Engine or Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL): Indicates the engine computer has set a Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC). Usually requires diagnosis with a professional scan tool.



Reduced Power Warning: Indicates Engine Computer has limited engine power output. The ECM has many levels of reduced power depending on what component has failed in its control system. Usually requires diagnosis with a professional scan tool.



Transmission Temperature: Transmission is operating at higher than optimum temperature as transmission fluid is hotter than normal. Check transmission fluid level and engine coolant level.



Overdrive Light: This symbol indicates that the vehicle's overdrive system has been manually turned off. Typically the overdrive system is controlled by an on/off switch.



Fog Lamps: Indicates that the vehicle's front fog lamps are illuminated.



ABS Light: Indicates that the Anti-lock Brake computer has set a code and needs professional diagnosis.



TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System): Indicates the tire pressure monitoring system has found a tire with low air pressure or there may be a sensor malfunction. Check tire pressure. Some vehicles will allow manual reset of TPMS warning light and others will require professional diagnosis. Refer to owner's manual.



Airbag Fault: If this light stays illuminated after starting it indicates that the vehicle has found a fault in the airbag system and the computer has set a code. Professional repair of the supplemental restraint system is highly recommended.



Service Vehicle Soon: Typically indicates a lighting or other electrical problem that is controlled by the BCM (body control module). Check all lights, head lights, turn signals, brake lights, and hazard lights. This symbol may also be used to warn driver of a traction control problem, or a communication problem between modules.



Door Ajar: Indicates that a door (including hood and trunk) is not closed. Open and close all doors, including hood and trunk. If vehicle is left in this condition overnight it can drain the battery.



Washer Fluid Reminder: Indicates washer fluid is low. Fill washer fluid reservoir. The cap has a symbol that looks like a windshield. Some vehicles have separate reservoirs for front and rear window washers.



Brake System: Indicates one of three possible conditions: parking brake is on; problem with the braking system/brake fluid is low, or ABS problem. Check brake fluid and make sure the parking brake is fully released. If the problem is in the ABS system, it may need a professional diagnosis.



Oil Change Reminder: Indicates that oil life has expired. This is monitored by the ECM; the interval can be mileage or a combination of readings taken by the ECM. The reset procedure is listed in the owner's manual. Some vehicles require the use of special tools to reset the light.



Traction Control or ESP: Illuminates when the vehicle's traction control/anti-slip or electronic stability system is in use. Usually an indicator that conditions are slippery.



Security Alert: If the symbol lights momentarily it may mean that the ignition switch is locked and will need the proper transponder-equipped key to re-start. If the symbol is visible when the vehicle is on, then it typically indicates a malfunction in the security system.



Gas Caps: The check gas cap light indicates that the gas cap is not tightened properly. If not addressed, quite often the Check Engine Light will also illuminate.



Lamp Out: Indicates that there is an exterior light on the vehicle that is not functioning properly.



ESP Fault: Indicates that there is a problem with the vehicle's traction control/anti-slip or electronic stability system.



Cruise Controls: Indicates that cruise control is set during driving.



Glow Plug (Diesel): On diesel vehicles this light indicates that the engine's glow plugs are warming up and the engine should not be started until this light goes out.



DPF Light (Diesel): The diesel exhaust particulate filter has failed its test and needs to be serviced.



DEF Light (Diesel): The diesel exhaust fluid reservoir is low on fluid.

“1998 and Newer” isn’t for everyone

If you’re an existing client, we’ll gladly work on your older cars.

While most shops will work on anything that limps into the lot, we limit new clients with older vehicles (currently older than 1998). We have good reasons for this, but although it seems straightforward it also causes quite a bit of confusion. The most important thing to clear up for our existing clients is that we will gladly continue to service your older vehicles for many years to come! If you’re an existing client with an older vehicle we haven’t been caring for, then we’d be glad to evaluate it to see if it makes sense to start taking care of that one as well. But this month we thought we’d explain why we have these policies for our new clients...



the right advice to maintain loyal clients for years to come.

Vehicles should come and go, but client relationships should endure.”

Setting aside any emotional considerations, all vehicles have a limited economically viable lifetime. Proactive, sensible maintenance can extend it for

many years but eventually the economics just don’t make sense. Toward the end of a vehicle’s life the number of failing systems starts to stack up, and at some point it gets too expensive to do ALL the repairs necessary to make the vehicle safe and reliable. Our general rule of thumb is that when the cost of predicted repairs exceeds the [Blue Book value of the vehicle](#), it’s time to find a new ride. The older a car gets the more repairs it may need, but at the same time it has less value to weigh against these repairs. A 15-year-old car that hasn’t had good, consistent maintenance often has the economic challenge of “catch-up-expense vs. value” and may fall into the “rolling illusion” category mentioned in the radio spot.

We typically recommend new clients start with our [Comprehensive Inspection](#) to determine the exact mechanical condition of their vehicle so we can prioritize our repair and maintenance advice. This inspection can turn up LOTS of potential issues on older vehicles. A first-time client has little reason to trust us, and a long list of recommendations can be difficult to prioritize especially when we think a late investment might be a mistake. When our existing clients reach this point of questionable return on investment we advise them to part with the vehicle, but a new client has no reason to trust our advice.

If all that’s true, then why does it make sense to continue working on *existing* client’s older vehicles? Because a vehicle’s current condition

“When I started in the auto service industry in the seventies, I was told “no vehicle was ever beyond repair”. Those used up vehicles weren’t economically totaled rolling illusions; they were “roses”... which is true, from a repair shop’s viewpoint.

I knew these roses were money pits, and while the shop would profit the owner would lose in the end. Shops live to repair, so few cautions are ever issued. Requested repairs will be performed whether they make economic sense for the client or not.

Poorly maintained vehicles tend to gobble the most money right before they die... it can be a waste trying to squeeze out those last few miles.

Our clients trust us to give solid advice that’s in their best long term interest. We’ll recommend against repairs when we know it’s

matters along with the relationship we've built with the client. Many of our longtime clients have vehicles much older than 15 years, but we've been working on those vehicles since they were new (or at least new-ish). Because we've been keeping them on the road for years we know whether the vehicles have backlogged needs or whether they are reliable and safe. When a new problem arises, we know the condition of the rest of the car so we know if it will make sense to do a repair. And most importantly, if we advise an established client a given repair *doesn't* make sense then they'll trust our motives and evaluation. They'll trust our advice, and our relationship will grow.

1998 may be an arbitrary cutoff point for an "older" vehicle. After all, there are 97's out there in spectacular condition and 99's ready to die.

We have some clients with classic cars, but the emotional content of those vehicles makes for different economics than if they were simply for transportation. A fundamental difference between our shop and many others is our emphasis on building long-term, trusting relationships. It's almost impossible to establish this type of relationship with a new client based around an older vehicle with a string of problems. If a new client is suspicious of our motives, if economics keep us from making their vehicle reliable or performing proper work we can guarantee, if that relationship is endangered from the start, then we can't provide the service we think our clients deserve. Our "1998 and newer" policy might be inconvenient sometimes, but we think it's the best way to protect our value to you for the long term.

Drew's Kitchen

Kelley's Creamed Potatoes & Peas



Celebrity watchers at the first Sellwood Park Summer Concert may have caught a glimpse of Drew enjoying a picnic with his entourage. Perfect weather, perfect picnic, perfect music; all inspiration for this perfect picnic side dish recipe. This one's been in Drew's recipe box for quite a while. He picked it up about 30 years ago from his friend Kelley Orlaska, and it's been one of his go-to dishes ever since. Hi Kelley!

Ingredients

- 12 small red potatoes, cut into 1½" pieces
- 8 slices bacon cut into ½" pieces
- 1 cup red onion cut into ½" pieces
- 3 tablespoons flour
- ¾ teaspoon thyme
- ½ teaspoon salt and pepper
- 10 oz peas
- 1 cup whipping cream
- ½ cup milk

Directions

- Boil potatoes until just done.
- Cook bacon only partially.
- Add onion and cook until brown
- Drain off fat; set aside 2 tablespoons
- Stir in flour, thyme, salt, pepper into the 2 tablespoons fat and cook over medium heat until smooth.
- Stir in whipping cream, peas, bacon, onion, and potatoes.
- Continue cooking until mixture thickens and is heated throughout.
- Chill for 1 hour

Makes 6 servings

Shop Talk

Calendar nominations, road trip tips, and an indestructible kitten



Call for Nominations- 2014 Tom Dwyer Charitable Giving Calendar!



We always feel a little silly this time of year because, even though you're finally enjoying the sun for the first time in 8 months, we're about to ask you about New Years. For the last three years we've created a shop calendar featuring community-minded non-profit groups nominated by our clients. To be done by November 1 we have to start in August, which means now is when we have to ask for your nominations. Is there a group you work with, care about, or benefit from that you'd like to see included in our calendar? Nothing against the big national charities, but we're looking for small, unnoticed, local groups that could benefit from letting Portland know about their existence. If you can think of any, please email

our Calendar Coordinator Charles at Charles@tomdwyer.com. Do it now while you're thinking about it, but if you forget we'll ask again in the next newsletter.

Our biggest tips for a worry-free summer road trip

You know you're planning a road trip this summer, so here's our biggest tip to make it a success... **BRING YOUR VEHICLE IN NOW, NOT THE FRIDAY BEFORE YOU LEAVE!** We've had several clients schedule appointments recently on a Thursday or Friday when they were planning on driving on the weekend or Monday. No problems so far, but there are several reasons this is a bad idea...



- **Last minute appointments can be hard for us to accommodate-** Summer is our busiest time, and we sometimes book a couple weeks in advance. Don't let that put you on the road unprepared.
- **Quick turnarounds don't leave any room for the unexpected-** If any unanticipated problems pop up under the hood there's no time to deal with them without moving your start date.
- **You'll need a couple days to make sure the repair worked-** No matter how good we are, mistakes can happen. Bad parts, a missing screw, whatever... plan some time to test drive any repair
- **Advance planning is important, but don't "risk it" if you see a problem coming-** If it's a choice between calling with not enough time or not calling at all, call us. We may or may not be able to help you, but we'll do our absolute best to get you in or at least tell you what to watch out for.
- **Rely on us if you DO run in to problems on the road-** If something does go wrong, call us. We have all your vehicle repair and technical information here if needed. Plus, if you're not sure the local mechanic is giving you good advice, we'd be glad to offer our opinion.
- **Give us a call if you have ANY questions-** We want to be an advantage to you in every phase of your driving life. Please call if you have ANY questions you think we can help with, and our salaried Service Advisors will be glad to talk you through your problem.

FREE Carwash Season



Don't forget that Free Carwash Season is going on now. To make up for the summer dust in our lot we offer free coupons to WashMan car wash. We don't do it for just oil changes, but for larger purchases you can

count on a clean ride on us.

Miracle Kitten



Last month's "Rodent of the Month" made for our most popular Shop Talk ever. OK, now we know what you like, so check out this story about [what happens to an adorable fluffy kitten that takes a 1000-mile trip... INSIDE a car's engine](#). (Don't worry, the story has a happy ending.)

Health Notes

The sweetener that gives monkeys tumors



Here's a situation we've all been in... you're working in a lab on an anti-ulcer drug, but you create a methyl ester of a phenylalanine/aspartic acid dipeptide. You accidentally spill some of it, but instead of cleaning it up with the lab's biohazard kit you inexplicably wipe it up with your hand and lick your finger instead. "Hmmm... kinda sweet", you think. If you're a typical scientist, you wash your finger and consider brushing up on your lab safety procedures. If you're GD Searle, the pharmaceutical conglomerate, you decide to market it as an artificial sweetener, conduct shoddy tests, doctor the results, and fight the FDA for years to approve the product.

Now, if you're you again, you might be consuming aspartame every day in everything from breath mints to iced tea to candy. For our contribution to your health this month we'd like to bring you the story of aspartame's approval, where it is, and how you can avoid it....

[The Shocking Story Of How Aspartame Became Legal](#)

by Joe Martino on Collective Evolution

[Open Letter To Ajinomoto, Aspartame Manufacturer](#)

by Dr. Betty Martini

[Internal Searle memo on Aspartame approval strategy](#)

by Herbert Helling, GD Searle

[List of Aspartame products by category](#)

Drugsdb.com

[List of Aspartame products by name](#)

Supersweet blog

Sellwood Bridge Update

What's missing in this picture?



Portland weather reports are pretty boring through the summer. They're always "sunny and warm, with a slight chance of widely scattered showers". The reports may be dull but you know it means the weather will be nice. It's kinda the same with the Sellwood Bridge construction. The bridge is open, the work is continuing, and there's a slight chance of occasional traffic slowdowns that (surprisingly) don't happen very often. Our reports may be boring for many months to come, but that just means the construction is proceeding smoothly and there's nothing interesting to report. No news is good news.

Environmental regulations to protect salmon runs mean work that disturbs the river bottom can be only be done from July 10 through October 15. With the July date upon us, pile driving will start on the west side of the river to complete the west work bridge and new river pier foundations. From July 10 – 31 the contractor plans to drive piles Monday through Saturday between 7 am and 6 pm. Pending progress in July, the contractor will shift to a Monday to Friday schedule in August.

We almost missed the passage of one major milestone this month- Here are two pictures of the easternmost in-river support point; one taken just after the ShooFly Move and one taken this week. Can you spot the difference?



That's right, the original concrete support is gone! In fact, the westernmost one is gone too! We didn't even notice it was gone until we went to take this week's construction pictures. The County snuck in with a gigantic concrete saw and very quietly sliced up the 88-year-old towers. Mike Pullen with Multnomah County told us "When they are done this summer, they will be removed all the way to the mud line at river bottom. The third pier will remain to help protect the detour bridge from ship collisions. It will be removed at the end of the project. Concrete from the old piers is being used as fill by Ross Island Sand and Gravel".

Here's a couple more pictures from this month's Sellwood Bridge Adventure...



Panorama of Sellwood Bridge under construction, taken from Sellwood Riverfront Park, 7/8/2013



Rebar reinforcement cage for the concrete footing of the east side landing of the bridge

If you want more info on any phase of the bridge project, there's only one place to go (other than our Pulitzer Winning Sellwood Bridge Update column). 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. Their two constantly updated live webcams of the bridge 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, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.

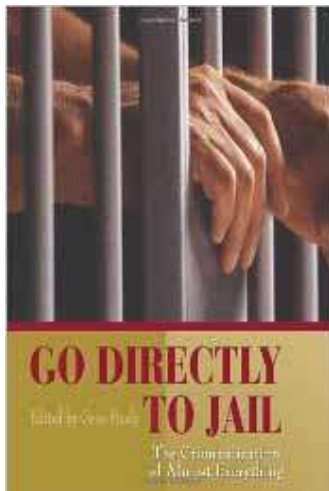
Book Spotlight

Surprise! No one is innocent.



One of the most common rationalizations from the citizenry to permit continued surveillance is that "If you don't have anything to hide, then it doesn't matter if the government is watching you". Maybe, but "not having anything to hide" isn't the same as "not having done anything illegal". The difference can be critical. This month we spotlight two books that tell you how many things that aren't wrong can still land you in trouble with the Man.

Don't panic... that bright light isn't a prison searchlight, it's this month's Book Spotlight falling on our two selections. Just click the cover to escape to the Powell's website page for either book.



[Go Directly to Jail: The Criminalization of Almost Everything](#)

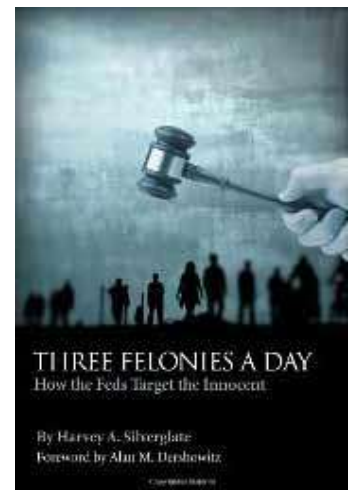
Gene Healy (Editor)

The American criminal justice system is becoming ever more centralized and punitive, owing to rampant federalization and mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines. Go Directly to Jail examines these alarming trends and proposes reforms that could rein in a criminal justice apparatus at war with fairness and common sense.

[Three Felonies a Day: How the Feds Target the Innocent](#)

Harvey A. Silverglate

The average professional in this country wakes up in the morning, goes to work, comes home, eats dinner, and then goes to sleep, unaware that he or she has likely committed several federal crimes that day. Why? The answer lies in the very nature of modern federal criminal laws, which have not only exploded in number, but, along with countless regulatory provisions, have also become impossibly broad and vague. In Three Felonies a Day, Harvey A. Silverglate reveals how the federal criminal justice system has become dangerously disconnected from common law traditions of due process and fair notice of the law's expectations, enabling prosecutors to pin arguable federal crimes on any one of us, for even the most seemingly innocuous behavior. The dangers spelled out in Three Felonies a Day do not apply solely to "white collar criminals," state and local politicians, and professionals. No social class or profession is safe from this troubling form of social control by the executive branch, and nothing less than the continued functioning and integrity of our constitutional democracy hang in the balance.



Humorousness

The lighter side of Orwellian Hell



One of the oldest theories of comedy is that comedy is built on pain. So, in keeping with our NSA issue this month, we sent our intrepid Humorousness news team in search of something funny about an overpowering government listening to our every word. Believe it or not, they found it. We have a laugh from our [favorite cartoonist, Keith Tucker](#), at the beginning of this newsletter, and you may also enjoy [this sampling from other political cartoonists around the country...](#)



Shoe me the funny!

By now you've heard the story of [Wendy Davis spectacular 13-hour filibuster of a Texas abortion bill](#). Always ready to be distracted by minutiae, Americans have fixated on the pink shoes she wore, a pair of Mizuno Women's Wave Riders. Why do Wendy's shoes belong in Humorousness? Because of the [review comments piling up on the Amazon.com site for the shoes](#). Check them out, they're pretty good.



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!



Finally... Flying cars are here!



How do we know when the Future has finally arrived? It's not [Green Energy](#), [Robot Slaves](#), or even [Warp Drive](#). The Future means just one thing... Flying Cars. Now, believe it or not, they're here! UK designer Witold Mielniczek created a RC model car that both flies and drives. Its four propellers spin horizontally inside hubless wheels, allowing it to switch almost seamlessly from zipping along the ground to darting through the air. Mielniczek's Kickstarter campaign raised \$181,542 of its \$128,331 goal to build his dream, so you'll be seeing these buzzing a park near you soon.

Oregon officially agrees... Corporations are not people



Congratulations to our own Oregon State Legislature for becoming the 16th state to pass a resolution demanding a US Constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and confirm that CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE! According to the resolution, Congress must propose a constitutional amendment "clarifying the distinction between the rights of natural persons and the rights of corporations" and recognizing "that Congress and state legislatures may regulate all moneys raised and spent for political purposes." 16 down, 34 to go.

FREE Sellwood concerts started with a bang



Monday night was a perfect night for the first Sellwood Riverfront Park Concert of the year. Nikki Hill, fresh from her performance at the Waterfront Blues Festival, blew away the crowd covering the lawn in our little neighborhood park. The event just gets bigger every year with more food, more vendors, more people, and this year even more music with an added 5th show in August. We'd like to think this was a Sellwood-only thing, but these concerts go on [all through the city](#) during the summer. Do yourself a favor, and plan to enjoy AT LEAST one!

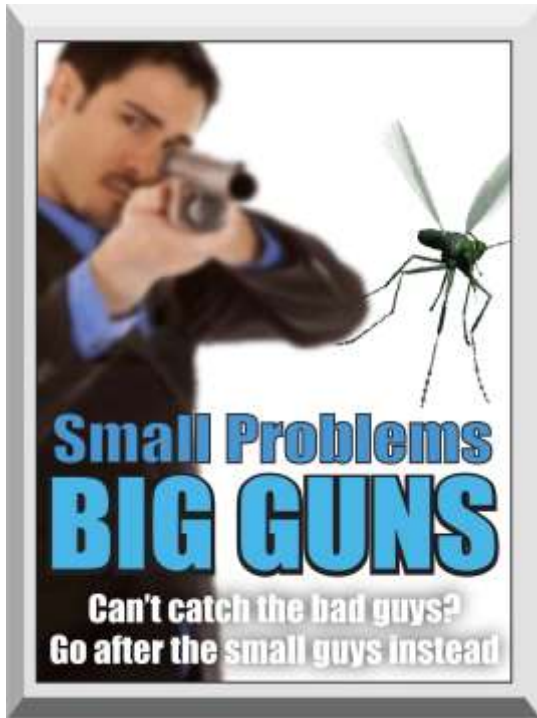
Build your own swamp cooler



With the summer heat cranking up, we've been cranking up the shop's swamp coolers; units that use water evaporation rather than refrigeration to cool the air. We use big industrial units because the shop is so big, but we ran across a great design for a DIY version that would be great for a garage, porch, deck, or other small space. It requires minimal electrical skills and the most expensive components are the fans and small pump, and if you're reasonably geeky you can put one together in an afternoon. Add a solar power unit and you have air conditioning for your yard!

News To Make You Furious

Small problems... big guns



This month's NSA scandals alone were enough to fill several Furious columns, but with Snowden hogging the front page we looked around for something less obvious for this month's Furious. It didn't take long to find it.

From the bankers who plundered our economy to the politicians who turned us into a torture state to the sports stars who rape and murder with impunity, there's no shortage of serious crimes and serious criminals in our society. Although their crimes may be obvious it's just as obvious that they're not being punished; a fact not lost on the general population.

People still cling to the idea that criminality should be punished, and if they don't see that principle applied in the larger society they try to apply it locally. Sometimes they can get carried away, and the results can destroy lives. This month we bring you several stories of little people being caught up in the wheels of justice; being punished harshly for small infractions. Some are innocent and some are guilty, but from school suspensions to federal prisons they're

stories of big guns used to go after mosquitoes. And a system of crime and punishment that can allow stories like this to happen? Why, that's enough to make you Furious!

Individual egregiousness...

[Girl arrested for using perfume](#)

[Man faces prison for writing on Bank of America with chalk](#)

[Three strikes law puts man in prison for life for stealing underwear and lighters](#)

[Kiera Wilmot: How Her Arrest and Expulsion Exposes America's Racial Discipline Gap](#)

[Texas Teenager Diane Tran Jailed for Working Hard](#)

[Girl handcuffed for doodling on desk](#)

[Student arrested for burping, lawsuit claims](#)

[Boy suspended from school for using the word 'gun'](#)

[School Guards Break Child's Arm And Arrest Her](#)

[Ten worst sentences for marijuana-related crimes](#)

The Bigger Picture...

["Why did you shoot me? I was reading a book": The new warrior cop is out of control](#)

[An Insult To Justice: Large Sentences For Small Crimes](#)

[The Eighth Amendment: When is a sentence disproportionate?](#)

[Seven Crimes That Will Get You a Smaller Fine than File-Sharing](#)

[Decades On, Stiff Drug Sentence Leaves A Life 'Dismantled'](#)

[Minor Crimes, Major Sentences](#)