



Tom's Tidbits

Cops and courts gone wild

Our Feature Articles



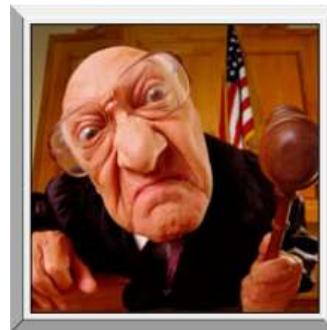
You Have The Right To Be Pacified

Police militarization.



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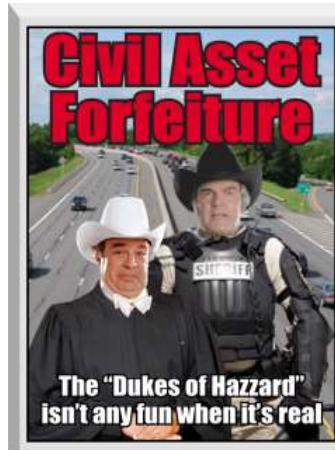
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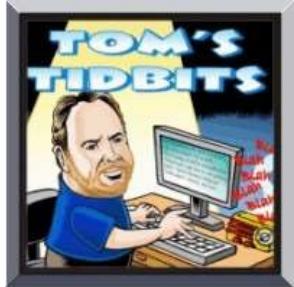
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Tom's Tidbits

Cops and Courts Gone Wild



Greetings!

Now that the protests and over-the-top police actions have stopped in Ferguson, Missouri, the story has all but dropped from the headlines. Deprived of potential "if it bleeds it leads" video, the media swarm has moved on to greener pastures and left the people of Ferguson to deal with their problems. But the problems in Ferguson didn't just appear out of a vacuum. They're problems that inevitably result when a government (literally and metaphorically) keeps kicking citizens, year in and year out, and telling them it's just the way government is supposed to work. Ferguson's problems, to varying degrees, are our problems all across the country. They've been simmering for years, but Ferguson was just where they happened to boil over.

Amid the flashbangs and tear gas, little attention was paid to one of the major contributing factors to the Ferguson uprising... the [abusive way their courts levy fines](#). The U.S. Supreme Court ruled people can't be sent to jail simply for being too poor to pay fines and fees. Someone could only be sentenced if they had the money and "willfully" refused to pay, but the justices did not define what that meant and they certainly didn't limit the size or nature of the fees. Municipal court fines are the second highest source of revenue in Ferguson, overwhelmingly targeting low-income people who become trapped in a cycle of unpaid tickets, arrest warrants, and fines. [Courts in Ferguson, a city of 21,135 people, issued 24,532 warrants in 2013, or three warrants per household](#). Again, this is not just an isolated problem in a small Missouri town, it is [representative of a pattern in municipalities across the country](#).



Another problem that faces us all was on full and ugly display in Ferguson's residential streets... the militarization of our police.

The image of SWAT robots lounging on tanks before squaring off against rock-and-bottle-throwing protestors is something we should never have to see in America, but it's something we should all be getting used to by now. (Remember Occupy?) It's happening in every state, in large cities and small towns, and it's not happening because cops suddenly need better tools to deal with a suddenly universally violent and well-armed America. It's happening because of money. Defense contractors see money to be made pumping military hardware onto city streets, so that's exactly what they're doing, and they'll continue to do it as long as the money is there. This powerful hardware, in the hands of people with no need or training to use it, is a literal powder keg waiting to explode.

Courts and police exist *solely* to serve the people. If the people can't trust their courts and police then the basic assumptions of a stable society, much less a free society, are invalidated. It is unreasonable to expect anyone to behave *as though* they lived with the rule of law when the reality they live with every day *proves* they don't. I chose to devote this month's newsletter to examining a few of the biggest issues of police in today's America. Last month, these country-wide problems surfaced in Ferguson. Next month, unless things change, there'll be another rupture somewhere else. This month, please join me in taking a deeper look at the issues that are simmering around all of us, and join me in thinking about what all of us can do to fix them.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

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

What NOW?!! Toons

Our monthly check in with Keith Tucker



You Have The Right To Be Pacified

Police Militarization



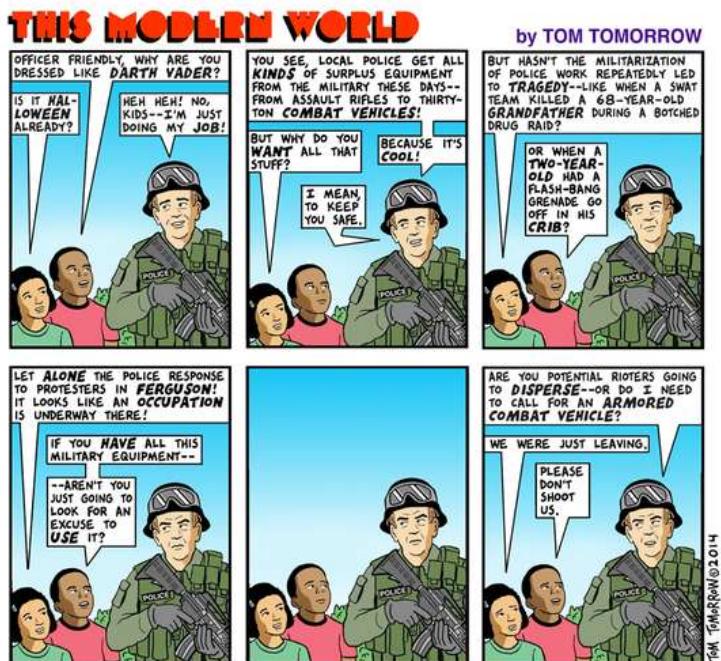
There's an old theater saying that if there's a gun is on the mantle in a play's first act, it will be used by the third act. For years, police around the country have been stocking their mantles with body armor, batons, tear gas, shotguns, automatic weapons, and armored vehicles. The Battle in Seattle, Occupy, Ferguson, and thousands of smaller, unnamed actions around the country are sounding a loud warning... the mantle is full, and the third act in this drama could be pretty ugly. Poverty, racism, corruption and more were on full display in Ferguson last month. These issues are all inextricably linked, and combined form a broken system that at best doesn't serve, and at worst preys upon, people who have no option but to deal with it. From this tangled mess of civic collapse we pulled one thread to look at in more detail this month, one that we all face regardless of race, economic status, or location... the problem of Police Militarization.

Our current system of policing is built on the ideas of Sir Robert Peel and the [principles he established for an ethical police force](#). His concepts have been [described](#) as "unique in history and throughout the world, because it derived, not from fear, but almost exclusively from public co-operation with the police, induced by them designedly by behavior which secures and maintains for them the approval, respect and affection of the public". Peel believed the police were inextricable parts of the community, and that this connection gave them their strength. Increasing police militarization is endangering that foundational concept. Aside from the equipment that inherently separates police from their community, current police culture has moved to an "[us vs. them](#)" format that views citizens as an enemy to be defended against.

Police militarization is a huge issue. It has many contributing factors that can't be teased apart, and these complex motivations mean the issue will continue for a long time to come. However, we assembled some of the best insights we've been able to find in the wake of Ferguson. We hope they can give you a broader perspective on the police and the problems we all face as we try to better define their role in our communities and our lives. And, surprisingly, you'll see several options for what we as citizens can do about this problem.

First, here are a couple articles that describe the shape and extent of the militarization problem

- [War Comes Home: The Excessive Militarization of American Policing, ACLU](#)
- [11 Shocking Facts About America's Militarized Police Forces, Alex Kane, AlterNet](#)



Much of the problem with militarized police is the face it presents to citizens.

- VIDEO: [Introduction to Police Militarization by Brave New Films](#)
- [These images from Ferguson show what it was like from the protesters point of view.](#)
- [Exclusive Video: This Is How Police Treated Residents of the Apartment Complex Where Michael Brown Was Killed](#) Steven Hsieh, *The Nation*

What kind of weapons are we talking about, where are they coming from, and where are they going?

- [Iraq Vet: Small-Town Cops Have Better Armor and Weaponry Than We Carried in a Combat](#) Moyers & Company
- [Why America's police forces look like invading armies](#) Amanda Taub on Vox
- [Mapping the Spread of the Military's Surplus Gear](#) New York Times

Why is this happening?

- [The Literal War on Drugs](#) Jacob Sullum, Reason.com
- [New Video Explains How Cops Became Soldiers](#), Saki Knafo, Huffington Post
- [4 Weird Decisions That Have Made Modern Cops Terrifying](#), JF Sargent and Billy Anderson, Cracked

Opinions from talking heads and public officials

- [Military veterans see deeply flawed police response in Ferguson](#) Thomas Gibbons-Neff, Washington Post
- [Why You Shouldn't Trust Right-Wingers' Sudden Concern About the Police](#) Heather Digby Parton, AlterNet
- [This Is The Terrifying Result Of The Militarization Of Police](#), Paul Szoldra, Business Insider
- [A Matter of Life and Death: The Danger of an Out-of-Control State](#), Norm Ornstein, The Atlantic
- [Officer Friendly Is the Policeman of the Past -- Now They Look Like Navy Seals](#), Jim Hightower, AlterNet
- [Will the Growing Militarization of Our Police Doom Community Policing?](#), Carl Bickel, Community Policing Dispatch
- [Rand Paul Calls For Demilitarization Of Police After Ferguson Shooting](#)
- [Rand Paul: Scene in Ferguson Resembles "War More Than Traditional Police Action"](#)
- [Dem pushes Ferguson machine gun bill](#)
- [Debate over police militarization to begin in earnest](#) Steve Benen, MSNBC
- [Obama orders review of military equipment supplied to police](#) Mario Trujillo, The Hill



It's not like Ferguson was an isolated incident. Here are stories from around the country of SWAT and Police going way over the line. Unfortunately, it's too easy to find many, many more.

- [The Day Ferguson Cops Were Caught in a Bloody Lie](#) Michael Daly, *The Daily Beast* Note: This is the appalling story about a Fergusonian who, beaten in custody, was charged with bleeding on the uniforms of the cops who beat him.
- ["They didn't have any reason to, but they hit my nephew in the head with their rifle. He's 13"](#) Free Thought Project
- [Indiana grandmother suffers violent SWAT raid after a neighbor uses her wireless internet](#) PoliceStateUSA
- VIDEO- [4:24 of cops openly beating, kicking, punching, spraying, and otherwise assaulting \(in most cases\) unresisting people](#). Very difficult to watch.
- VIDEO- [Cops Tase and Arrest Man for Sitting and Not Stating His Name](#) Arturo Garcia on AlterNet

- [Cops Beating Suspect During Arrest At Walmart](#), *The Young Turks*
- VIDEO: [Deputies Throw Paralyzed Man From His Wheelchair](#) *Information Clearing House*
- [Black Children as Young as Kindergarteners Are Getting Hand-Cuffed and Arrested Across the US](#), *Margaret Kimberly, AlterNet*
- [Police Shoot 95-Year-Old WWII Vet to Death for Refusing to Go to Hospital](#), *Jack Bouboushian, AlterNet*
- [A SWAT Team Blew a Hole in My 2-Year-Old Son](#), *Alecia Phonesavanh, AlterNet*
- [NYPD Continues Tradition Of Police Brutality](#), *Chariese Elizabeth, Ring of Fire Radio*
- [TV & Film Producer Arrested For Being Black In Beverly Hills](#), *Charles Belk, Liberals Unite*
- [Georgia cops fired Taser 13 times 'as a cattle prod' to make tired man walk before he died](#), *David Edwards, Raw Story*
- [Police Shot Texas Man So Many Times 'He Had No Face'](#), *John Prager, Crooks and Liars*
- [NYPD Pays \\$33K to Settle Suit After Mistaking Jolly Ranchers for Meth](#), *Aleksander Chan, Gawker*

Police attitude matters in every interaction from a traffic ticket to a potential riot situation. Tensions in Ferguson ratcheted down when [Captain Ronald Johnson and the Missouri State Police took over security from the locals](#). What was Capt. Johnson's attitude toward policing? "When I see a young lady cry because of fear of this uniform, that's a problem. We've got to solve that," Johnson said.

More on how a change in attitude affected the situation on the ground

- [MHP Captain Ron Johnson takes charge in Ferguson: "I got a big dog in this fight"](#)

What's coming next?

- [Militarized cops' scary new toys: The ugly next frontier in "crowd control"](#) *Heather Digby Parton, Salon*
- [The Pentagon's Ray Gun](#), *60 Minutes*
- [Texas Schools Arming Campus Cops With Surplus Military Weapons](#), *Amy Eddings, Ring of Fire Radio*
- [Massachusetts SWAT teams claim they're private corporations, immune from open records laws](#), *Radley Balko, Washington Post*

What can we do to end this?

- [How to End Militarized Policing](#) *Alex Vitale, The Nation*
- [Could the Ferguson Conflict Produce Actual Reform on the Limits of Policing?](#) *Moyers & Company*
- [Sign petition to Chuck Hagel: Suspend the Weapons Transfer Program that is Militarizing Police](#)
- [Grassroots Resistance as 'Police Militarization' Expo Descends on Oakland](#), *Sarah Lazare, Common Dreams*
- [Militarization, Surveillance, and Profit: How Grassroots Groups are Fighting Urban Shield](#), *Nadia Kayyali, Common Dreams*
- [Make cops wear cameras](#)
 - [California police use of body cameras cuts violence and complaints](#), *Rory Carroll in the Guardian*
 - [Will Forcing Cops to Wear Body Cameras Quell Brutality?](#)
 - [If all Cops used these New Devices, there would be a Dramatic Decrease in Police Brutality](#), *Matt Agorist, The Free Thought Project*
 - [Indiana grandmother suffers violent SWAT raid after a neighbor uses her wireless internet](#), *Police State USA* "Interestingly, both the plaintiffs and defendants believe the video helps their case. The Milans believe the video shows officers acting negligently and violating their constitutional rights, and the government believes the officers were shown to be "respectful" to the women — after pointing rifles at them and breaking their stuff."

YES on GMO Labeling... YES on 92!

Who decides what's in YOUR food?



Last year, the national political spotlight fell on Washington State as they tried to pass Initiative 522 requiring labeling of GMO products. November will be Oregon's turn as we attempt to join Vermont, Maine, and Connecticut in getting a handle on GMO foods. Measure 92 would require LABELING, not restriction, of foods containing GMO ingredients. This is an important point, as we emphasized to someone who had voted against Washington's 522 because of science on GMOs...

"522 would have only required labeling of the products. Even if one grants the benign nature of GMOs and the gullibility of GMO opponents, every person should have access to the tools to make informed choices about the products they buy, especially on something as intimate and vital as food."

Health effects (real or imagined) aren't the only reasons someone may want to avoid GMOs... they may want to support local, organic farms, they may not want to support the companies that produce GMOs, and there may be many more reasons. It may not be appropriate to restrict the production of GMOs, but neither is it appropriate to deny the power of choice to individuals.

522 would have empowered choice without restricting access. I think it was a good solution, and I'm sorry it was defeated."

Food labels are important. They offer information ranging from sugar and sodium levels, to whether flavors are natural or artificial, to whether meat is wild or farm-raised. Most people don't need all this information, but then they're free to ignore it. For the people who care, who want to make decisions for themselves rather than outsourcing decisions to government or business, the information is critical.

It's Oregon's turn in the spotlight this November... can you help us shine?



Map of states with pending GMO rules

Speaking of information, our friends at [Oregon Right to Know](#), [OSPIRG](#), and [Rising Tide Interactive](#) took the time to answer some questions about Measure 92, what enemies it's facing, and how you can help it pass. Thanks for the info, folks, and good luck on the campaign!

What is Measure 92?

This summer, more than 155,000 Oregonians signed a petition to a GMO labeling initiative on the ballot in our state. Measure 92 requires the labeling of all raw and packaged foods containing genetically engineered ingredients, or GMOs. That means the measure would apply to food containing DNA that has been altered in a laboratory via engineering or biotechnology. There's a lot we don't know about GMOs, including health and environmental implications. What we do know is that Oregon families have the right to make informed choices about what they are eating.

Both California and Washington have come close to passing similar initiatives. In 2012, Proposition 37 was defeated in California, coming close with 49% of the vote share. In 2013, Washington's Initiative 522 was defeated 52 to 48 percent. Pro-labeling groups were outspent in California and Washington and thus faced similar uphill battles. They were opposed by a number of big agribusiness companies and front groups, including Monsanto, Dow, Syngenta and the Grocery Manufacturers Association, who spent tens of millions of dollars to confuse and mislead voters about labeling. If Measure 92 succeeds, Oregon could become the first state to pass GMO-labeling by popular vote.

Why label genetically modified foods?

Labeling genetically modified foods is a common sense measure. Oregonians have the right to know what is in the food that they eat, and they can't make informed choices without informative labels. Labeling GMO foods would aid shoppers who are worried about the potential effects of increased pesticides and herbicides decide which products they want to buy. Sixty-four other countries, including many of our major trade partners, have already put similar labeling laws in place. All of the nations in the European Union, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Russia, and China have GMO labeling laws. American food companies are already required to label the foods that they export to those countries.

Who is Yes on 92 up against?

The No on 92 Coalition is made up of Big Food and chemical industry giants including Monsanto, Dow, and DuPont. The companies make an enormous profit from selling genetically modified foods, and they fear that a GMO labeling law would threaten their bottom line. These companies are ready to spend big to bombard the airwaves in hopes of torpedoing Measure 92. According to a poll conducted by the New York Times, 93% of Americans support GMO labeling and three-quarters of Americans expressed concern about the effects GMOs on their health. Given these statistics how did Proposition 37 in California and Initiative 522 in Washington fail? In both states pro-labeling was initially polling better. These numbers took a nosedive after corporate money and the anti-labeling lobby started flooding the airwaves with their massive disinformation campaigns. Many observers cite a heavy advertising presence from the opposition leading up to the election as the reason for the eventual defeat of the referendums. In both states, labeling opponents were able to convince voters that the labeling bills were poorly written and would only increase bureaucracy, causing grocery prices to go up for consumers. Yes on 92 is currently leading in the polls, but this is no time to rest on our laurels. The No on 92 Coalition recently placed \$1.8 million ad buy to blanket the Oregon airwaves with the same kind of ads that helped defeat labeling measures in California and Washington. With their corporate profits on the line, Big Food and chemical corporations are willing to say anything and spend any amount to prevent consumers from knowing what is in their food.

How can you help?

The easiest, most direct way to help is to VOTE YES on MEASURE 92. You can [click here to pledge to vote yes on Measure 92 right now](#), but don't forget to get your ballot in in November!

You can also [sign a petition here telling retailers to label Monsanto's Genetically Engineered Sweet Corn](#).

The harder, but more effective way to make a difference is to educate yourself and help the movement. "Yes on 92" needs volunteers to spread the word on the campaign. [Click here to get all the facts on GMOs from "Right To Know GMO"](#), and then [click here to find out how you can volunteer](#).

Finally, what may be the toughest hurdle... "Yes on 92" needs to be ready to counter these massive attacks from Big Food. [Click here to make a secure online contribution – even \\$5 really helps!](#)

“How Much Ya Got” becomes “Gimme More”!

Corrupt and abusive court fines



Riot police and SWAT cops were the public face of government in Ferguson, but they weren't the only source of friction. Fergusonians have for years been preyed upon by a judicial system not designed to dispense justice but to fund municipal government on the backs of the poorest citizens. Municipal court fines are the second highest source of revenue in Ferguson, overwhelmingly targeting low-income people who become trapped in a cycle of unpaid tickets, arrest warrants, and fines. [Courts in Ferguson, a city of 21,135 people, issued 24,532 warrants in 2013, or three warrants per household](#). A court system that can't be trusted by the people is nothing more than oppression under color of justice but again, like the militarization of Ferguson's police, this is not just an isolated problem in a small Missouri town. It

is [representative of a pattern in municipalities across the country](#), and it's something every citizen should know about...

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled people can't be sent to jail simply for being too poor to pay fines and fees. A person could only be sentenced if they had the money and "willfully" refused to pay, but the justices did not define what that meant and they certainly didn't limit the size or nature of the fees. Here's how courts in Ferguson and around the country are driving a budget-shaped truck through that loophole...

[Introduction to criminalization of poverty by Brave New Films](#)

[How America turned poverty into a crime, Barbara Ehrenreich, Salon](#)

[As Court Fees Rise, The Poor Are Paying The Price, Joseph Shapiro, NPR](#)

[The criminalization of poverty, Radley Balko, The Washington Post](#)

[Ferguson Sets Broad Change for City Courts, Frances Robles, The New York Times](#)

[A Matter of Life and Death: The Danger of an Out-of-Control State, Norm Ornstein, The Atlantic](#)

[Rising Court Fees Are Throwing The Poor In Debtors Prison, The Gothamist](#)

[Rising Court Fees Make Being Poor A Crime, Matt Staggs, Disinformation](#)

[Court Fees Drive Many Poor Defendants Underground, Joseph Shapiro, NPR](#)

[Poor People Going to JAIL Because They Can't Pay Rising Fines and Court Fees Many Don't Know Exist, Igor Derysh, Latest.com](#)

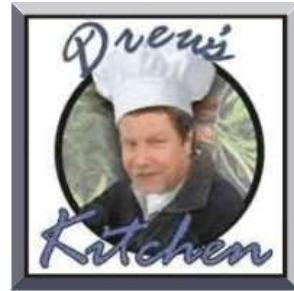
[The criminalization of poverty, Radley Balko, The Washington Post](#)

And why, why, why does any of this matter?

[The truth about public trust in government, Charles Barclay Roger, OpenDemocracy](#)

Drew's Kitchen

Linguine Milano



Ingredients:

- 8 oz. uncooked linguine
- ¼ cup chopped onions
- 1 tsp dried Italian seasoning
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup slivered ham
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 Tbsp flour

Preparation:

- Cook linguine as indicated on package. Drain and keep warm.
- Melt butter in saucepan. Sauté onion and garlic until tender. Blend in flour and Italian seasoning. Gradually stir in milk.
- Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Remove from heat.
- Add cheese and stir until melted. Add ham and peas; reheat.
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Pour over linguine and toss well.
- Makes 4 servings.

Shop Talk

Get YESTERDAY'S Labor Rate TODAY!



Special Newsletter Offer- Get YESTERDAY'S Labor Rate TODAY!

We have a special offer this month that will be especially attractive to our longest-term clients. Remember what our labor rate was years ago? You can get that same labor rate today. Bring us the oldest invoice you can find, and if you schedule your vehicle for service before November 21, 2014 then that's the labor rate you'll get. (Can't be combined with other offers, and savings are capped at \$100 maximum). It's a fun trip down a less expensive memory lane, and we invite you to take the trip. Come on in!

Referral Reward Program Quarterly Spotlight-

We've been very pleased with month 6 of our Referral Reward program. 15 donations went out this month to groups doing good work in Portland and around the world. Our new total stands at 86 new clients and donations of over \$3300 to the causes you care about. A brief recap of the Program... Every time someone comes in and says they were referred by you, we write a check to the non-profit group of your choice (up to \$50). Not only do we make that initial donation, but each group is eligible for quarterly and yearly awards as well. We'd like to thank you once again, tell you the groups our clients have contributed to in September, and introduce you to our next quarterly award winner...



September's Referral Reward Groups...

Lifewater International

Bonneville Environmental

Raphael House of Portland

Girl Scouts

Lewis Elementary PTA

Grout Elementary PTA

Planned Parenthood

Work for Art

Oregon Food Bank (5th,6th)

Menucha Conference Center

Janus Youth Programs

Humane Society (4th, 5th,6th)

...and congratulations to our second Quarterly Spotlight organization-

JANUS YOUTH PROGRAMS!



Since originating in 1972 as a Multnomah County demonstration project providing residential care for adolescents struggling with homelessness and drug abuse, Janus Youth Programs has provided a second chance for at-risk youth with few resources, and no place to turn for help.

Today, we have grown to become one of the largest nonprofits in the Northwest operating more than 40 different programs that span Oregon and Washington. Many Janus programs are regarded as best practice models and have been replicated both in and out of the United States



A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, Janus is independently audited and meets or exceeds reporting requirements on all of its funding contracts. 87¢ of every dollar contributed goes directly into our nationally recognized programs.

Your reviews and referrals matter

We are constantly grateful for the supportive and loyal clients we have developed over the years. Your comments and appreciation keep us on the right road to providing the superior automotive service you deserve. Your reviews and referrals are not only the highest compliments we can receive, but they're the lifeblood of our new business. If you like what you've found at Tom Dwyer Automotive Services, please tell a friend or take a minute to write a review on [Yelp](#), [Angieslist](#), [Google](#), or the review site of your choice. Thank you!



Another Automotive Oddity

In our occasional look at some of the less common issues we encounter here at the shop, we bring you these pictures of a recently relocated rodent condominium. A client came to us complaining about a funky smell coming from their RAV-4 and it didn't take long to trace the source to their cabin air filter. The picture on the left shows the damage they did to the filter itself, while the picture on the right shows the pile of plastic and paper strips making up their nest. We cleaned up the damage, replaced the filter, and sprayed it with a chemical to discourage future move-ins. Remember, no matter how odd your automotive problem might be, we can probably help.



Latest Automotive Recalls

Automobiles are just like any other product; occasional flaws in manufacture or design can cause problems once they leave the factory. When an issue is identified the manufacturers and government work hard to bring the vehicles back in for refit or repair, but not all recalls make the front pages. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration maintains a constantly updated list of recalls from every manufacturer. The last month's recalls are below, but clicking the button at right will take you to the full list at the NHTSA website.



September 17: 25,483 Chrysler Fiat 500L from 2014-2015, Recalled for possible improper deployment of the air bags.

September 17: 8,070 Continental Tire motorcycle tires, Recalled for potential separation between the tread, belt, and carcass resulting in a loss of tire pressure.

September 15: 20,000 Toyota vehicles from 2008-2014, including FJ Cruiser and Tacoma models, Recalled for potentially listing incorrect tire inflation information.

September 15: 356 Grand Design RV Momentum fifth-wheel trailers from 2014, Recalled for suspension bolts that may shear, causing the axle springs to detach from the frame hanger.

September 15: Certain Chrysler 200 vehicles from 2015, Recalled for wiring that may melt due to excessive heat, increasing the risk of a fire.

September 12: 133,227 Ford vehicles from 2013-2014, including Escape and Focus ST models, Recalled for potential stalling.

September 12: 70,209 Ford hybrid electric vehicles from 2005-2008, including Ford Escape and Mercury Mariner models, Recalled for the coolant pump in the hybrid system which may fail, resulting in overheating.

September 12: Certain Porsche Macan vehicles from 2015, Recalled for the brake booster which may have been damaged during installation.

September 11: 48,114 GM vehicles from 2013, including Buick Encore and Cadillac ATS models, Recalled for lap belt pretensioner cables that may not lock in place when tightened, allowing the seat belts to be extended when pulled on.

September 11: 415 Jayco Seneca motorhomes from 2013-2014, Recalled for potential electrical shorts due to water corrosion.

September 11: 218 Mercedes-Benz GLK350 vehicles from 2013, Recalled for voltage in the parking lamp circuit that exceeds Federal Safety Standards. The higher illumination level may cause glare to oncoming vehicles, increasing the risk of a crash.

September 11: 163 Jayco White Hawk Summit 27RBOK travel trailers from 2014-2015, Recalled for tires that may rub against the outrigger which could cause premature wear or tire failure.

September 11: 158 Mercedes-Benz vehicles from 2011-2012, including S550 and S65 AMG models, Recalled for potentially malfunctioning TPMS indicators.

September 11: 57 Winnebago motorhomes from 2015, Recalled for potentially missing a damper plate which could lead to a fire.

September 10: 31 ShowHauler recreational vehicles from 2010-2014, Recalled for the plastic furnace intake fan which may melt, causing a fire.

September 10: 20 Entegra Cornerstone motorhomes from 2014-2015, Recalled for seat belt attachments that may be incorrect and seat belts that may fray.

September 9: 14,940 Chevrolet Impala vehicles from 2014-2015, Recalled for the center storage console, which may not stay latched during a crash.

September 9: 16,527 Imperial triangle warning signs manufactured by Torch, Recalled for reflecting an inadequate amount of light.

September 9: 1,968 GM vehicles from 2009-2010, including Chevrolet Aveo and Pontiac G3 models, Recalled for the ABS valve which may corrode.

September 9: 1,600 Autotech Accessories Avid 03 15x8.0 +25 offset aftermarket wheels, Recalled for the spokes which may break, causing the rim to separate from the center part of the wheel.

September 9: 280 Delphi Automotive Systems replacement fuel pump modules for 2005-2010 Honda Odyssey vehicles, Recalled for potentially sending an incorrect fuel reading, which could cause the vehicle to run out of gas.

September 9: Certain Porsche 918 Spyder vehicles from 2015, Recalled for rear-axle control arms that may break, causing difficulty controlling the vehicle.

September 8: 126,000 Honda motorcycles from 2001-2012, including GL1800 and GL1800A models, Recalled for rear brakes that may drag after release.

September 8: 10 Kovatch Predator and Panther fire fighting vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for the latch plate of the seat belt, which may become partially engaged with the buckle.

September 5: 202,155 Saturn Vue vehicles from 2002-2004, Recalled for ignitions that may allow keys to be removed when the ignition is not in the "Off" position.

September 5: 1,755 Helmet City HCI Model 100 L, XL, and XXL motorcycle helmets, Recalled for failing to comply with Federal Safety Standards.

September 5: 1,041 Forest River recreational vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for microwaves that may start on their own and potentially start a fire.

September 5: 342 Tucker Rocky Cyber River Road Grateful Dead U-6 motorcycle helmets, Recalled for failing to conform to impact attenuation requirements.

September 4: 6,832 Dorman intermediate steering shafts sold for installation on GM vehicles from 2004-2012, Recalled for inadequate support of the u-joint bearing, which could cause complete loss of steering.

September 4: Certain Directed remote start systems and interface modules, Recalled for potentially shutting down the vehicle while in motion.

September 3: 82,509 SKF USA axle seals installed on Chevrolet and GMC vehicles from 1999-2013, Recalled for potentially leaking oil on the rear brakes.

September 3: 3,914 UCI-Fram Group E84070 replacement fuel pumps marketed and sold by Airtex Products, Recalled for potentially leaking fluid, increasing the risk of a fire.

September 3: 486 Trans National Trading Outlaw T-70 XL motorcycle helmets, Recalled for failing to comply with Federal Safety Standards.

September 3: 158 Tiffin Motorhomes Allegro Bus recreational vehicles from 2014, Recalled for seat belt attachments that may be incorrect and seat belts that may fray.

September 3: 27 BMW vehicles from 2014, including BMW i3 and MINI Cooper Hardtop models, Recalled for air bag inflators that may not have been assembled correctly, which could cause the air bag to not deploy in the event of a crash.

August 29: 508 Ford vehicles from 2014, including C-Max and Focus models, Recalled for steering gears that may have been incorrectly assembled.

August 29: 440 Aston Martin vehicles from 2014, including DB9 and Rapide S models, Recalled for a faulty circuit board which may cause the transmission to shift without driver input.

August 28: 800 Genuine Scooters Stella 125 Automatic scooters from 2014, Recalled for potential engine stalls.

August 28: 22 GM vehicles from 2015, including GMC Yukon and Chevrolet Suburban models, Recalled for the roof rail air bags that may puncture or tear during deployment.

August 27: 28,000 Ricon wheelchair lifts, Recalled for the platform side plates of the lifts which may crack.

August 27: 19,249 Suzuki Kizashi vehicles from 2010-2013, Recalled for fuel tanks that may crack as a result of hose blockage due to spider webs.

August 26: 120,426 GM vehicles from 2011-2013, including Buick Regal and Chevrolet Malibu models, Recalled for turn signal bulbs that may burn out.

August 26: 106 GM vehicles from 2014, including Chevrolet Camaro and Buick Regal models, Recalled for potential loss of steering due to improperly torqued fasteners.

August 26: Sutphen Minitower fire truck from 2013, Recalled for seat belts latches that may become partially engaged with the buckle, making the seat belt difficult to unlatch.

August 21: 15,956 Chrysler vehicles from 2014-2015, including Jeep Cherokee and Chrysler 200 models, Recalled for insufficient welding that may cause the rear shocks to detach from the vehicle.

August 21: 81 Jaguar XF vehicles from 2013-2014, Recalled for potential reduction of power steering assist.

August 20: 144 Jaguar XK vehicles from 2013-2015, Recalled for incorrect information about proper inflation on the spare tire, which could lead to tire failure.

August 19: 39,181 Recaro ProSport model 385 car seats, Recalled for failing to conform to Federal Safety Standard requirements, increasing the risk of injury.

August 19: 2,990 GM vehicles from 2013-2014, including Buick Encore and Chevrolet Cruze models, Recalled for engine block heater cord wires that may become exposed.

August 18: 9,371 GM vehicles from 2007-2011, including Chevrolet Silverado HD and GMC Sierra HD models, Recalled for a potential risk of fire.

Health Notes

GMO Debate... SOLVED!



We hope you read our Feature story this month "YES on Measure 92", about the GMO Labeling bill in Oregon. Questions abound on both sides as to the safety and other aspects of GMOs, so as a public service we decided to devote this month's "Health Notes" to definitively deciding who's right. Well... not really. GMOs are controversial in part because they represent a new and emerging field, with the first GMO product brought to market only 20 years ago. The effects of the technology aren't yet apparent to even to the scientists and farmers who work with it every day, much less to the people who are paid to market it or the people trying to make their best decisions about what to eat based on stuff they found on the internet.

When faced with an insoluble problem like this we've found the best way is to let the flag bearers battle it out and let you decide who won. So, in the battle for your Health this month we have two contenders...



In one corner, representing the "Pro-GMO" side, is [GMO Answers](#). This website is brought to you by the transnational corporations who produce GMO's and have your best interests at heart, including companies like BASF, Bayer CropScience, Dow, Dupont, Monsanto, and Syngenta. It's full of double-speak, happy talk, and half-answers, but if you want all the real science supporting GMO's (and there's *lots* of it) then they'll be sure to have it. Stuff opposing... not so much. And there are many questions about GMOs they don't bother to address.

And in the other corner, representing the "Anti-GMO" side, is the [NON-GMO Project](#). This scrappy little website is brought to you by people who may *actually* have your best interests at heart, but, unfortunately, may not have science on their side. They mix good (but unanswered) questions about GMOs with debunked science, tantalizing studies, and anecdotal evidence to show why GMO's may not be the panacea the agri-companies would have you believe. They can't prove GMO's are bad, but they may be able to prove more research is needed.



And there you have it, two groups bringing their best, most detailed arguments to the table on the value (or lack thereof) of GMO foods. Get ready to rumble!

(Of course, please remember that Oregon's Measure 92 would only require LABELLING, not banning, of GMOs. In our humble opinion, this seems like a very good compromise until the science is definitive. Get the information you need, then YOU decide!)

Sellwood Bridge Update

The Bridge Arches are done



If you're interested in the Sellwood Bridge construction, then you'll be interested in a major milestone that just passed. It didn't happen at the construction site, but across the Columbia in Vancouver. Thompson Metal Fabricating just finished building the gigantic arches that will be the backbone of the new bridge. The arches will be delivered by barge in early 2015, and traffic should be flowing on the new bridge in late 2015 or early 2016. Just click below to read OPB's great article on it.



[Click here for
OPB's story on
the completed
steel arches](#)

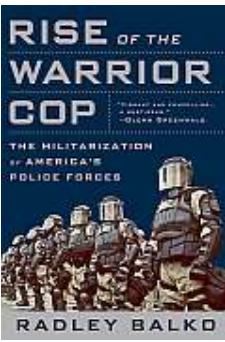
As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. If you're looking for something that's not on the website, you can contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) or visit www.sellwoodbridge.org.

Book Spotlight

Spotlight on Police Militarization



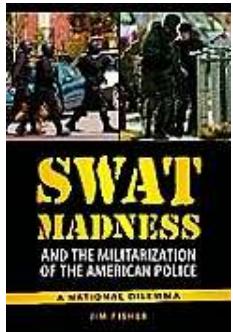
Our Book Spotlight this month shines brightly on one of the problems in Ferguson, Missouri, that we're facing around the country. Officer Friendly is dead, and our streets are patrolled by SWAT robots with a "kick it in and ask questions later" mentality. Supported by a steady flow of money and equipment from the Military-Industrial complex, it's a problem that is unlikely to disappear anytime soon and will undoubtedly get worse before it gets better. It's a serious and complex issue, so this month we bring you two of the best books we could find on the subject. (Don't get caught with them!) Clicking the link will take you to the Powells.com site for each book, and a visit to our shop will take you to these books and more in our extensive, in-shop lending library.



[Rise of the Warrior Cop: The Militarization of America's Police Forces](#) *By Radley Balko*

The last days of colonialism taught America's revolutionaries that soldiers in the streets bring conflict and tyranny. As a result, our country has generally worked to keep the military out of law enforcement. But according to investigative reporter Radley Balko, over the last several decades, America's cops have increasingly come to resemble ground troops. The consequences have been dire: the home is no longer a place of sanctuary, the Fourth Amendment has been gutted, and police today have been conditioned to see the citizens they serve as an other—an enemy.

In *Rise of the Warrior Cop*, Balko shows how politicians' ill-considered policies and relentless declarations of war against vague enemies like crime, drugs, and terror have blurred the distinction between cop and soldier. His fascinating, frightening narrative shows how over a generation, a creeping battlefield mentality has isolated and alienated American police officers and put them on a collision course with the values of a free society.



[SWAT Madness and the Militarization of the American Police: A National Dilemma](#) *by Jim Fisher*

In the United States, military-style police enforcement is fast becoming the norm—even the smallest police departments now field costly SWAT units. While the fact that police forces have increased capabilities to deal with urgent or dangerous situations may seem positive, this type of aggressive response is problematic; court settlements regarding excessive SWAT raids cost law enforcement agencies millions of dollars every year, not to mention that these brute-force strategies often traumatize, injure, and kill innocent people.

This book takes an unprecedented look into the realities of zero-tolerance, militaristic policing, the tactics and equipment used, the problematic "crime warrior" mindset at play, and the statistical evidence of its ineffectiveness. The author's professional experience in criminology and scholarly knowledge of the topic enables him to candidly address common concerns about utilizing paramilitary law enforcement and special weapons and tactics (SWAT) units in routine, low-risk police work, such as the general loss of freedom, the often tragic results of excessive force, and the effects on race relations.

Written by a former FBI agent and criminal justice professor who has followed policing trends for 35 years, this is the first book to address the issue of SWAT team overuse.

Humorousness

These police jokes are so funny, it's a crime



We examined a lot of serious issues with the police this month, but it's worth acknowledging that the overwhelming majority of police aren't problems at all. They're just people, putting their lives on the line in a dirty business day after day. They rarely get the praise, thanks, or recognition they deserve. That said, police are fodder for countless jokes because the awkwardness, confusion, and tension of a police encounter can lead to some very funny slips of the tongue. If the rest of this month's newsletter has given you reason to cry, then let us give you a reason to laugh at some of the funniest cop jokes we could find. (Thanks to ahajokes.com and jokes4us.com for the selection.)

A circus performer was pulled over by a police officer for speeding. As the officer was writing the ticket, she noticed several machetes in the car. "What are those for?" she asked suspiciously. "I'm a juggler," the man replied. "I use those in my act." "Well, show me," the officer demanded. So he got out the machetes and started juggling them, first three, then more, finally seven at one time, overhand, underhand, behind the back, putting on a dazzling show and amazing the officer. Another car passed by. The driver did a double take, and said, "My God. I've got to give up drinking! Look at the test they're giving now."

A police officer pulls over a driver and informs him that he has just won \$5,000 in a safety competition, all because he is wearing his seat belt. "What are you going to do with the prize money?" the officer asks. The man responds, "I guess I'll go to driving school and get my license." His wife says, "Officer, don't listen to him. He's a smart aleck when he's drunk." The guy in the back seat pops up out from under the blanket and says, "I knew we wouldn't get far in this stolen car." Just then a knock comes from the trunk and a voice calls out, "Are we over the border yet?"

What do you call a clairvoyant midget who escaped from prison? A small medium at large.

Did you hear that the energizer bunny was arrested? He was charged with battery.

TRUE STORY- A sheriff's deputy arrested a 22 year old white male who was fornicating with a pumpkin in the middle of a field at night. The next day, at the courthouse, the man was charged with lewd and lascivious behavior, public indecency and public intoxication. The arresting officer testified "I walked up to him and he was just humping away at this pumpkin." The deputy went on to describe what

happened when she approached the man... "I said: 'Excuse me sir, but do you realize that you're having sex with a pumpkin?' He froze and was clearly very surprised that I was there, and then he looked me straight in the face and said: 'A pumpkin? Is it midnight already?' The man was found guilty only of public intoxication, fined \$10, and sent on his way.

An elderly couple was just settled down for bed when they heard voices. Three men had broken into the greenhouse. Scared, they called the police. The dispatcher replied, he would send an officer as soon as one became available as they were all out on calls. The old man waited for a few minutes and called Dispatch again. He told Dispatch, "Don't worry about sending an officer, I shot the robbers and now the dogs are eating their bodies!" In no time at all, police were all over the place and captured the robbers red-handed! One of the cops asked the old man, "I thought you said you shot the robber and your dogs were eating them." The old man replied, "I thought you said, there weren't any officers available."

What do you call it when a prisoner takes his own mug shot? A cellfie.

A man went to the Police Station wishing to speak with the burglar who had broken into his house the night before. "You'll get your chance in court." said the Desk Sergeant. "No, no no!" said the man. "I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years!"

DEA officer stops at a ranch in Texas, and talks with an old rancher.. He tells the rancher, "I need to inspect your ranch for illegal drugs." The rancher says, "Okay , but don't go in that field over there," as he points out the location. The DEA officer verbally explodes saying, "Mister, I have the authority of the Federal

Government with me." Reaching into his rear pants pocket, he removes his badge and proudly displays it to the rancher. "See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go wherever I wish.... On any land.. No questions asked or answers given. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?" The rancher nods politely, apologizes, and goes about his chores. A short time later, the old rancher hears loud screams and sees the DEA officer running for his life chased by the rancher's bull... With every step the bull is gaining ground on the officer, and it seems likely that he'll get gored before he reaches safety. The rancher throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs... "Your badge... Show him your badge!"

A policeman arrested 2 boys yesterday, one for drinking battery acid, the other for eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off.

I was drunk when I had my drivers license picture taken. That way, when the police pulls me over, I don't have to worry.

The CIA has three candidates, two men and a woman, for one assassin position. On the final day of testing, the CIA proctor leads the first male candidate to a large steel door and hands him a gun. "We must know that you will follow our instructions, regardless of the circumstances," he explains. "Inside this room, you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill her." The man is horrified, "You can't be serious! I could never shoot my wife!" "Well," says the proctor, "you're definitely not the right man for this job then." The CIA proctor leads the second male candidate to another large steel door and hands him a gun. "We must know that you will follow instructions, no matter what the circumstances," the proctor explains. "Inside this room, you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill her." The second man steadies himself, takes the gun and enters the room. After three quiet minutes, the man exits the room with tears in his eyes. "I wanted to do it I just couldn't pull the trigger and shoot my wife. I guess I'm not the right man for the job." Finally, the CIA proctor leads the female candidate to yet another large steel door and hands her a gun. "We must be sure that you will follow instructions, no matter what the circumstances. Inside this room, you will find your husband sitting in a chair. Take this gun and kill him." The woman takes the gun, enters the room, and before the door even closes completely behind her, she's fired off six shots. Then all hell breaks loose behind the door cursing, screaming, crashing. Suddenly, all goes quiet. The door opens slowly, the woman exits, and wiping the sweat from her brow, she says, "Did you guys know the gun was loaded with blanks? I had to beat the son of a bitch to death with the chair!"

The toilets were stolen from the police station. The cops have nothing to go on.

A policeman pulls a man over for speeding and asks him to get out of the car. After looking the man over he says, "Sir, I couldn't help but notice your eyes are bloodshot. Have you been drinking?" The man gets really indignant and says, "Officer, I couldn't help but notice your eyes are glazed. Have you been eating doughnuts?"

A policeman in the big city stops a man in a car with a tiger in the front seat. "What are you doing with that tiger?" He exclaimed, "You should take it to the zoo." The following week, the same policeman sees the same man with the tiger again in the front seat, with both of them wearing sunglasses. The policeman pulls him over. "I thought you were going to take that tiger to the zoo!" The man replied, "I did. We had such a good time we are going to the beach this weekend!"

Two Alabama State Troopers were chasing a Mustang East on I-20 toward Georgia. When the suspect crossed the Georgia line, the first Trooper pulled over quickly. The rookie Trooper pulled in behind him and said, "Hey, sarge, why did you stop?" The sarge replied, "He's in Georgia now. They're an hour ahead of us, so we'll never catch him."

Bobby and Earl were driving down the road drinking a couple of bottles of Bud. The passenger, Bobby, said "Lookey thar up ahead, Earl, it's a police roadblock!! We're gonna get busted fer drinkin' these here beers!!" "Don't worry, Bobby," Earl said. "We'll just pull over and finish drinkin' these beers then peel off the label and stick it on our foreheads, and throw the bottles under the seat." "What fer?", asked Bobby. "Just let me do the talkin', OK?", said Earl. Well, they finished their beers, threw the empties out of sight & put label on each of their foreheads. When they reached the roadblock, the sheriff said, "You boys been drinkin'?" "No, sir," said Earl while pointing at the labels. "We're on the patch."

A police officer attempts to stop a car for speeding and the guy gradually increases his speed until he's topping 100 mph. He eventually realizes he can't escape and finally pulls over. The cop approaches the car and says, "It's been a long day and my tour is almost over, so if you can give me a good excuse for your behavior, I'll let you go." The guy thinks for a few seconds and then says, "My wife ran away with a cop about a week ago. I thought you might be that officer trying to give her back!"

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!



TimeLapse Beauty of Portland



A frequent theme on our Facebook page is the overall awesomeness of Portland, but this video may sum up everything in 4:42. "["Weathering Spring - Portland Time-Lapse"](#)" is an artistic documentation of the Portland spring using time-lapse photography. It is a culmination of nearly 3 months of work, over 64,000 photos making up 83 different time-lapse clips, 800 GB of hard drive space and one very exciting spring season in Portland. The video provides an epic visual roller coaster ride through the city's stormiest days on into the night displaying glimmering city lights and intense traffic and back into the daylight with those beautiful spring days that lead us into the long awaited Pacific Northwest summer." Enjoy!

Is Idiocracy our future?



Are we too stupid to govern ourselves? Maybe. A recent [Cornell University study suggests that an unfortunate flaw in democracy may be that most of the public is too stupid to pick the right candidate](#). The idea of democracy depends on a majority of citizens recognizing the best political candidate or policy, and then voting accordingly. However, research led by [Professor David Dunning](#), a psychologist at Cornell University, indicates incompetent people are inherently unable to judge the competence of other people, or the quality of those people's ideas. Prof Dunning said: 'Very smart ideas are going to be hard for people to adopt, because most people don't have the sophistication to recognize how good an idea is.'

5 Ways New Car Dealerships Try To Rip You Off



Profit margins on new cars are surprisingly small, so Dealers are under more and more pressure to squeeze every deal for all it's worth. Not all of them slide into dishonesty but some do, and knowing their tricks can help you defend yourself. [This article has 5 of the current tricks you might not know](#). After you've armored-up here, please let us refer you to one of the most popular pages on the Tom Dwyer Website... ["Buying A Car"](#). This page has all our best advice on buying New OR Used cars, all based on our years of experience. From selection and negotiation of a new vehicle to getting rid of your old jalopy, it's all in one place. And we have our own tips to avoid getting ripped off, too.

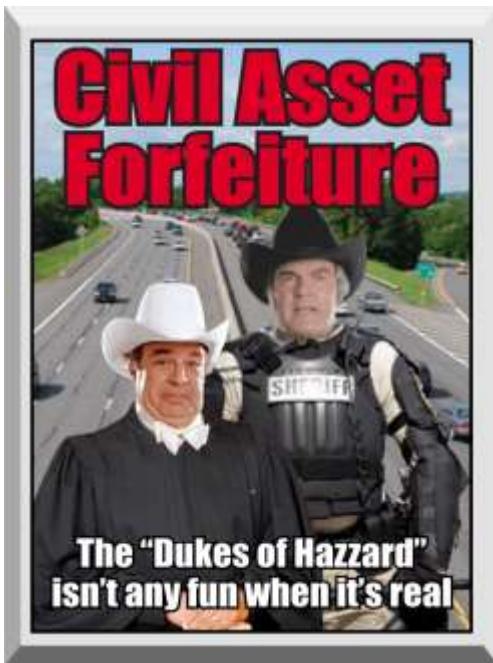
Happy 3rd Birthday, Occupy!



The third birthday of the Occupy movement passed quietly on September 17. Here's a chance to check in both on where they were then and where they are now. [This link will take you to an article we wrote during the occupation](#), with interviews of Occupiers who didn't quite match the media stereotype. This link will take you to [the website for Occupy Portland](#) (yes, they still exist) and their ongoing activities. One of the major initiatives of the continuing National Occupy movement is eliminating exorbitant student debt, and this [link will take you to a site that explains it all](#). Society hasn't changed and the 99% are still getting the short end of the stick... isn't it time to take another look at Occupy?

News To Make You Furious

Playing “Dukes of Hazzard” for real



In the cartoon world of “Dukes of Hazzard”, Boss Hogg ran Hazzard County with a comically pudgy iron hand. The County was his fiefdom, and Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrane his goofy but strongarm enforcer. The law was a fig leaf to be worn (or not) as it suited the Boss’s greed. Hilarity ensued.

In the real world, towns, cities, states, and even the Feds have a powerful tool to create their own little extortionary fiefdoms in a previously free country... Civil Asset Forfeiture. This charming idea takes advantage of a “loophole” in the basic concepts of justice going back to the Magna Carta. When the State takes action against YOU, YOU have rights and the STATE must prove you’re guilty before your property can be seized. That’s criminal law. Civil Asset Forfeiture is based in civil law, so the State goes after your PROPERTY instead of you, shifting the burden of proof to YOU because your property has no rights. Roscoe gets complete authority to seize your property based on such criminally suspicious behavior as “having an air freshener hanging from your mirror”. YOU have to pay for an attorney to PROVE

your property wasn’t involved in illegal activity, and the person deciding if you’ve proved your case is Boss Hogg. Hilarity does NOT ensue.

The Boss’s fig leaf for this extortion is, of course, the “war on drugs.” Officials call Civil Asset Forfeiture a powerful tool to use against drug kingpins but their actions belie those motivations. One example is Volusia County, Florida, where interstate highways serve as main corridors for the drug trade. Most drugs on this road flow north (into the country) while most cash flows south (out of the country). However, [most Volusia County seizures involve southbound rather than northbound travelers](#), suggesting that the drug cops are targeting fat bags of cash rather than dangerous criminals. Far from being the prime motivator of the stops, [no criminal charges were even filed in over 75% of the County’s seizure cases](#).

To give you an idea of how big this scam is, [forfeitures from 1989-2010 totaled over \\$12.6 BILLION](#). The total was [\\$4.2 billion just in 2012, up from \\$1.7 billion in 2011](#), and the Feds are expecting nearly \$5 billion when 2013’s totals are in.

It’s not just property at risk. Teneha, Texas, is a poster child for Civil Asset Forfeiture abuse. [A couple and their children were pulled over for driving in the left lane without passing](#). A search (seriously, a search!) uncovered a pipe but no drugs. Into jail anyway, where they learned they “fit the profile” of drug couriers... they were driving from Houston, “a known point for distribution of illegal narcotics” to Linden, “a known place to receive illegal narcotics”. The children in their car were dismissed as decoys but they still played a role in the story... the couple were offered the choice of facing charges and handing their kids over to foster care, or sign over their \$6,037 and be on their way. They paid.

Want to stay clear of Roscoe? Click here for the [“10 Common Indicators for Highway Drug Interdiction”](#).

WARNING: You fit at least four of these indicators!

Most people hearing about Civil Asset Forfeiture think it can’t possibly be happening here, and even those who know about it rarely realize the scope. To get your forehead veins popping this month we bring you a buffet of stories on the subject- you’ll find case examples, legal reasoning, videos, even a website for cops who want to make it big in the Civil Asset Forfeiture business. When you know the story you’ll agree... it’s funny when Boss and Roscoe do it, but the reality will make you Furious.

Stop and Seize

Investigative report in The Washington Post; September 2014

After the terror attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the government called on police to become the eyes and ears of homeland security on America's highways. Local officers, county deputies and state troopers were encouraged to act more aggressively in searching for suspicious people, drugs and other contraband. The departments of Homeland Security and Justice spent millions on police training. The effort succeeded, but it had an impact that has been largely hidden from public view: the spread of an aggressive brand of policing that has spurred the seizure of hundreds of millions of dollars in cash from motorists and others not charged with crimes, a Washington Post investigation found. Thousands of people have been forced to fight legal battles that can last more than a year to get their money back. Behind the rise in seizures is a little-known cottage industry of private police-training firms that teach the techniques of "highway departments across the country.

Here are four of the most disturbing Post's investigation:

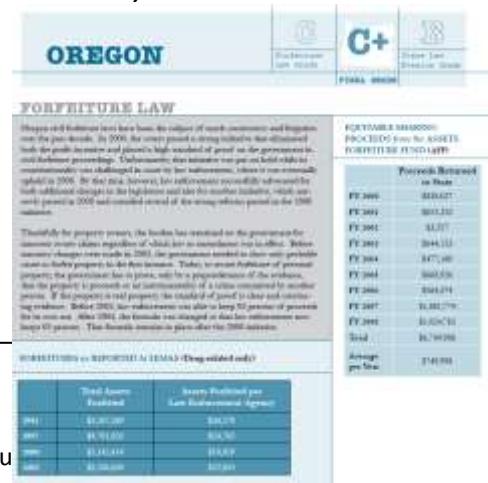
- State and local authorities kept more than \$1.7 billion of the \$2.5 billion in cash seizures made since 2001.
- Only one sixth of the seizures were challenged in court, thanks in part to the exorbitant costs of taking legal action against the government.
- The program is a critical source of revenue for hundreds of state and local departments. Since 2008, 298 departments and 210 task forces have seized what amounts to 20% or more of their annual budgets.
- Despite the fact that law enforcement officials in states like Kansas refuse to participate in the "highway interdiction" program because they worry it may not be legal, Justice and Homeland Security officials continue to use it.

Easy Money: Civil Asset Forfeiture Abuse by Police

ACLU Blog of Rights; February 2010

Civil Asset Forfeiture In-Depth

A 123-page PDF report from the Institute for Justice including state-by-state breakdown.



On November 18, 2009, Shukree Simmons, who is African-American, was driving with his business partner on the highway from Macon, Georgia, back to Atlanta after selling his cherished Chevy Silverado truck to a restaurant owner in Macon for \$3,700 of sorely needed funds. As Mr. Simmons passed through Lamar County, he was pulled over by two patrol officers who stated no reason for the stop, but instead asked Mr. Simmons numerous questions about where he was going and where he had been, and even separated him from his business partner for extended questioning. The officers searched both people and the car, finding no evidence of any illegal activity. A drug dog sniffed the car and did not indicate the presence of any trace of drugs. Notwithstanding the total lack of evidence of criminal activity and Mr. Simmons's explanation that he was carrying money from selling his truck, the officers confiscated the \$3,700 on the suspicion that the funds were derived from illegal activity, pursuant to their authority under Georgia's civil asset forfeiture law. Despite the fact that he was mailed his bill of sale and title for his truck, he was told over the phone that he needed to file a legal claim to get his

Cops Use Traffic Stops To Seize Millions From Drivers Never Charged With A Crime

Nick Sibilla in Forbes; March 2014

A deputy for the Humboldt County's Sheriff Office in rural Nevada has been accused of confiscating over \$60,000 from drivers who were never charged with a crime. These cash seizures are now the subject of two federal lawsuits and are the latest to spotlight a little-known police practice called civil forfeiture. Civil forfeiture allows law enforcement to seize property (including cash and cars) without having to prove the owners are guilty. Last September, Tan Nguyen was pulled over for driving three miles over the speed limit, according to a suit he filed. Deputy Lee Dove asked to search the car but Nguyen said he declined. Dove claimed he smelled marijuana but couldn't find any drugs. The deputy then searched the car and found a briefcase containing \$50,000 in cash and cashier's checks, which he promptly seized. According to the Associated Press, Nguyen said he won that cash at a casino.

Sourovelis v. City of Philadelphia- Fighting the Philadelphia Forfeiture Machine

Institute for Justice

Philadelphia's automated, machine-like forfeiture scheme is unprecedented in size. From 2002 to 2012, Philadelphia took in over \$64 million in forfeiture funds—or almost \$6 million per year. In 2011 alone, the city's prosecutors filed 6,560 forfeiture petitions to take cash, cars, homes and other property. The Philadelphia District Attorney's office used over \$25 million of that \$64 million to pay salaries, including the salaries of the very prosecutors who brought the forfeiture actions. This is almost twice as much as what all other Pennsylvania counties spent on salaries combined...

[Like what you career in justice sound](#)
There's a website you do

INTERDI

Highway Robbery:
Tennessee Police Are
Seizing Cash From Out-of-
State Visitors In Policy
Called "Policing For Profit"

Jonathan Turley: May 2012

Bates said that he was right to take the money because "he couldn't prove it was legitimate." That of course flips the normal presumption under criminal law, but it is an example have increased in this country.

To make matters even more authoritarian, Tennessee law allows a judge to sign off on the seizure in an ex parte proceeding. Reby was never informed of the hearing. Only the officer's account is considered at such hearings.

While Reby insists that he offered to show proof on his computer as to the source of the money, the offer was not reported to the court. Bates simply stated "common people do not carry this much U.S. currency." He noted later that "a thousand-dollar bundle could approximately buy two ounces of cocaine." Of course, ten dollars can buy drugs as well as a thousand dollars can buy a jet ski.

Bates also said Reby had a criminal history despite the fact that it was 20 years ago and did not result in any conviction. He also said the money was hidden in the car despite the fact the Reby consented to the search and told the officer about the bag (and gave the bag to the officer).

Highway Robbery- Police have incentives to commit legalized highway robbery.

Bruce Benson in *The Freeman*: July 1993

In 1863, Henry Plummer was sheriff of the gold camp at Bannock, Montana. He also organized a gang of about 100 "road agents" who stole from miners and travelers; his deputies were horse thieves, stagecoach robbers, and murderers. Citizens could do something about highway robbery by their sheriff in 1863, however. Since Plummer was breaking the law, a vigilante committee arrested, tried, and hanged him in short order, along with 21 members of his gang, banished several others from the area, and frightened [redacted] off most of the rest.

off most of the rest.

Today, the sheriff of Volusia County, Florida, also leads an organized band of "road agents" who confiscate cash from travelers on Interstate 95. His road agents are called the "drug squad" and they have seized an average of \$5,000 per day from motorists during the 41 months preceding June 1992 and over \$8 million dollars since 1989. But Floridians cannot do anything about this highway robbery, because it is perfectly legal under the state's asset seizure law.

Such highway robbery is being “justified” as part of a “war on drugs.” Actually, however, most Volusia County seizures involve

southbound rather than northbound travelers, suggesting that the drug squad is more interested in seizing money than in stopping the flow of drugs. In fact, no criminal charges were filed in over 75 percent of the County's seizure cases. But more significantly, a substantial amount of money has been stolen from innocent victims. In order to get their money back, these people must undertake an expensive civil trial to *prove their innocence*, something most decide they cannot afford to do...

ACLU on Civil Asset Forfeiture

Every year, federal and state law enforcement agents seize millions of dollars from civilians during traffic stops, simply by asserting that they believe the money is connected to some illegal activity and without ever pursuing criminal charges. Under federal law and the laws of most states, they are entitled to keep most (and sometimes all) of the money and property they seize. In many jurisdictions, the money can go to pay for salaries, advanced equipment and other perks. When salaries and perks are on the line, officers have a strong incentive to increase the seizures, as evidenced by an increase in the regularity and size of such seizures in recent years. Asset forfeiture practices often go hand-in-hand with racial profiling and

disproportionately impact low-income African-American or Hispanic people who the police decide look suspicious and for whom the arcane process of trying to get one's property back is an expensive challenge. ACLU believes that such routine "civil asset forfeiture" puts our civil liberties and property rights under assault, and calls for reform of state and federal civil asset forfeiture laws.

Taken

Sarah Stillman in The New Yorker; August 2013

The county's district attorney, a fifty-seven-year-old woman with feathered Charlie's Angels hair named Lynda K. Russell, arrived an hour later. Russell, who moonlighted locally as a country singer, told Henderson and Boatright that they had two options. They could face felony charges for "money laundering" and "child endangerment," in which case they would go to jail and their children would be handed over to foster care. Or they could sign over their cash to the city of Tenaha, and get back on the road. "No criminal charges shall be filed," a waiver she drafted read, "and our children shall not be turned over to CPS," or Child Protective Services. "Where are we?" Boatright remembers thinking. "Is this some kind of foreign country, where they're selling people's kids off?" Holding her sixteen-month-old on her hip, she broke down in tears...

PLUS TWO GOOD NEWS UPDATES! [East Texas DA faces civil rights lawsuit without government help](#), and [Settlement Means No More Highway Robbery in Tenaha, Texas](#)

Minnesota Now Requires A Criminal Conviction Before People Can Lose Their Property To Forfeiture

Nick Sibilla in Forbes; May 2014

In a big win for property rights and due process, Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton signed a bill yesterday to curb an abusive—and little known—police practice called civil forfeiture. Unlike criminal forfeiture, under civil forfeiture someone does not have to be convicted of a crime, or even charged with one, to permanently lose his or her cash, car or home.

The newly signed legislation, SF 874, corrects that injustice. Now the government can only take property if it obtains a criminal conviction or its equivalent, like if a property owner pleads guilty to a crime or becomes an informant. The bill also shifts the burden

of proof onto the government, where it rightfully belongs. Previously, if owners wanted to get their property back, they had to prove their property was not the instrument or proceeds of the charged drug crime. In other words, owners had to prove a negative in civil court. Being acquitted of the drug charge in criminal court did not matter to the forfeiture case in civil court.

Stopping The Abuse Of Civil Forfeiture

Michigan Congressman Tim Walberg in The Washington Post; September 2014

The Daily Show- Highway- Robbing Highway Patrolmen
Unsurprisingly, Jon Stewart has a very funny take on a very serious problem.



Imagine you are driving down the highway on your way to buy a car. You spent months researching years, makes and models, and you finally found somebody who was selling the exact ride you were looking for at a reasonable price. Suddenly, police pull you over for allegedly going 37 mph in a 35 mph zone. Upon discovering the \$8,500 in cash you have on hand, the officers take you to jail and threaten to charge you with money laundering unless you turn over the money. Frightened, you give it to them. This may sound like something out of a Hollywood movie, but it's a true story, and incidents like it happen all too often across the country because of our civil forfeiture laws. Fortunately, the victim in the above story, Roderick Daniels, had his property returned by officials due to media attention and legal pressure. But the power to take property without due process continues to be abused by local, state and federal law enforcement officials. In my state of Michigan, grocery store owner Terry Dehko had his bank account seized by the IRS because it suspected him of being a money launderer. Dehko would make cash deposits in the bank across the street every night to reduce the threat of robbery and because of coverage limits on his store's insurance policy. Charges were never filed, but Dehko had to fight in court to prove that his money was not being used in a criminal enterprise.

Civil asset forfeiture abuse takes away right to be presumed innocent

Ken Braun on MLive; January 2014

It's easy to understand why police chiefs don't receive hefty commissions for traffic tickets. If they did, then traffic stops for trivially small speeding violations would multiply like weeds, and eagle-eyed deputies would be on the lookout to pounce on every technical

failure to signal a turn. Changing the law enforcement incentive from protecting public safety to bureaucratic profit would obliterate the basic presumption of innocence at the heart of our legal system. The police would be looking at drivers as marks to be fleeced, rather than citizens whose rights must be protected and respected...

[The continuing outrage that is civil asset forfeiture](#)

Radley Balko in The Washington Post; July 2014

The motorist advocacy site TheNewspaper.com has the story of 64-year-old Laura Dutton. Estelline, Tex., police officer Jason Fry was manning a speed trap (a spot where the speed limit suddenly drops) when he pulled Dutton over for driving 61 mph just into the 50 mph zone. Here's what happened next:

Officer Fry said he "smelled marijuana" so a drug dog was called in, and when the K-9 arrived thirty minutes later, it alerted. Dutton had no drugs, but she was carrying \$31,000 in cash, the bills wrapped up as they had come fresh from the bank. She had recently earned the sum from the sale of 12.9 acres of land in Van Zandt County. Despite the explanation, Officer Fry grabbed the cash and arrested Dutton, who had no criminal record of any kind, for "money laundering." Officer Fry handed the money over to Estelline City Manager Richard Ferguson.

Two months after the money had been taken from her, the charges were finally dropped and \$29,640 returned to Dutton. In addition to the \$1400 stolen from her by the city, Dutton was out \$1050 in fees she had to pay to get out of jail the day after her arrest. She was never reimbursed for the travel expenses she incurred to get her money back.

Dutton filed a complaint. The city didn't bother to investigate. So she sued. The city claimed in discovery that all video related to Dutton's arrest had been destroyed. (Sound familiar?) Fortunately, a Texas judge didn't buy into any of this. Faced with the possibility of a jury trial in front of a sympathetic plaintiff, the city settled for \$77,500. It seems unlikely that the settlement will be enough to end the harassment and fishing expeditions. Consider that Estelline police need only find three more Laura Duttons who don't sue to more than recoup the city's losses. Here's the kicker: The Amarillo Globe-News reports that 89 percent of Estelline's 2012 gross revenue came from asset forfeiture.

[Had your stuff taken by The Man? This man can help...](#)

Geoffrey G. Nathan, Cash & Money Seizure Legal Specialists



[EDITORIAL: Putting a stop to civil asset-forfeiture abuse](#)

Washington Post editorial; May, 2014

When cops can help themselves to cash, cars, boats and houses of citizens who have never been charged with a crime, the system is badly broken. Minnesota has become one of the handful of states to do something to fix it.

Under the surreal doctrine of civil forfeiture, law enforcement agents can set aside constitutional protections and simply seize property under the assertion that the property is probably related to some kind of criminal activity. This is often an irresistible temptation, and the state gets away with it by laying charges against inanimate objects, which have no rights, instead of people, who do. This reverses the presumption of innocence, allowing money, cars, and even the occasional motel to become the constable's property without a judge finding the actual owner

guilty of anything. It's up to the owner to prove the cops wrong, and if there's any doubt, the government wins. The system is rigged to favor those who are corrupt.

[Policing for Profit? Lawmakers, advocates raise alarm at growing gov't power to seize property](#)

Barnini Chakraborty on Fox News Politics; May 2014

WASHINGTON — Motel owner Russell Caswell wasn't expecting to find himself at the center of a national controversy when FBI agents came knocking on his door. They said they wanted his Tewksbury, Mass., business — and the land it was on — because they suspected it was a hotbed for drug-dealing and prostitution. The agents, who were working with state and local authorities, told a disbelieving Caswell they had the right to take the property, valued at as much as \$1.5 million, through a legal process known as civil forfeiture. Caswell, 70, fought back, and the case turned into one of the nation's most contentious civil forfeiture fights ever — and one that legal experts say sheds light on a little-known practice that, when abused, is tantamount to policing for profit.

Civil forfeiture is when police and prosecutors seize property, cars or cash from someone they suspect of wrongdoing. It differs from criminal forfeiture cases, where prosecutors typically must prove a person is guilty or reach a settlement before freezing funds or selling property. In civil forfeiture, authorities don't have to prove guilt, file charges or obtain a conviction

before seizing private property. Critics say it is a process ripe for abuse, and one which leaves citizens little means of fighting back. "You breed a culture of 'take first, ask questions later,'" Larry Salzman, an attorney with the Institute for Justice, told FoxNews.com. "It's thuggish behavior."

Reining in Forfeiture: Common Sense Reform in the War on Drugs

Kyla Dunn for Frontline

Last year, almost a billion dollars worth of cash, cars, boats, real estate, and other property was forfeited to the federal government--most of it labeled as drug-related. And while much of this property was taken from bona fide criminals, critics of the nation's forfeiture laws say that too many innocent people have fallen through the cracks in a system that, until recently, has been far too heavily slanted in the government's favor. Retreat is rare in our nation's drug war--which makes recent roll-backs to the forfeiture laws all the more remarkable. In their scramble not to appear "soft on crime," lawmakers normally seem able only to get tougher, even amidst widespread agreement that a policy is flawed. But on August 23rd, 2000, after a difficult seven-year campaign by Republican Congressman Henry Hyde from Illinois, the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act finally went into effect--making it more difficult for the federal government to seize property without evidence of wrongdoing. It took a remarkable coalition of conservative and liberal lawmakers, to change a law that everyone from the American Civil Liberties Union to the National Rifle Association has recognized as flawed. And while the reforms come too late to help Rudy Ramirez, they will help to make cases like his rarer.

Civil Asset Forfeiture: The Biggest Little Racket in Nevada

Jason Snead and Andrew Kloster on The Daily Signal; April 2014

It was highway robbery, but they called it civil asset forfeiture. On the last day of his 2,400-mile drive to start a new life on the West Coast, Matt Lee found himself on the side of the road, his belongings combed through, and drug dogs sniffing his car. Why? Because Lee made the mistake of telling Humboldt County, Nevada, sheriff's deputy Lee Dove that he had \$2,400 in cash. Lee chronicled what happened in the Silver Pinyon Journal, and it reads like a dark, twisted version of the cop-comedy Super Troopers. The deputy claimed that he was interested only in people traveling with more than \$10,000. (After all, Lee was assured, it is not illegal to have cash.) Lulled into a false sense of security, Lee told the deputy about the money he had stowed in his trunk for the move, a gift from his father to help him get started with the next chapter of his life.

Deputy Dove emptied the contents of Lee's car onto the side of the road, sliced open his bags, and questioned his "cover story" that he was off to start fresh in California. The deputy found no evidence of drugs or illegal activity, but in the world of civil asset forfeiture, you don't need to in order to seize someone's property. The deputy wrote Lee a receipt for his money, then seized it on the pretense that he suspected Lee of traveling cross-country to buy illegal narcotics...