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Tom's Tidbits

Comparing apples and oranges



Greetings!

We're still 16 months out from the Presidential election, but it sure didn't look like it last week. There's no shortage of things to talk about concerning the Republican debates, but I was more struck by the contrast between the primary candidates on the Democratic side. Put the specifics of policy aside and just look at Hillary's and Bernie's approach to fundraising... who better represents the political process you want to see?

Scenario 1- [Hillary squeezed Portland](#) in between similar events at the homes of supporters in Park City, UT, and Atherton, CA. She hit the ground on Wednesday and headed for the home of Win McCormack and Carol Butler, described as "democratic insiders" who had supported Obama and worked for Wyden and Bonamici. 140 people were expected to attend "Conversation with Hillary", a two-hour, invitation-only event that cost \$2700 per ticket. None of these 140 people were reporters, who were sequestered at another home in the Dunthorpe neighborhood during the event.

Scenario 2- [Bernie squeezed Portland](#) in after a similar event in Seattle that drew 15,000 people. He was scheduled for the 12,800-seat Memorial Coliseum, but changed to the 20,000-seat Moda Center days before the event when it became apparent that Memorial Coliseum would be swamped. In the end even Moda couldn't contain the crowd; 8000 people gathered in overflow areas outside for a total of 28,000 at the event. Reporters' coverage is still focused on the size and enthusiasm of the crowd, but they were able to report *some* policy points because they were actually allowed inside to listen.

Again, let's keep policy out of the picture. The gulf between Republicans and Democrats may be vast, but the gulf between Hillary's and Bernie's fundraising styles is even larger and more fundamental. It's the difference between a government run by insiders who purport to know what's best for us, and a government run by the people and in our interests.

Openness, transparency, accountability, responsiveness... these are qualities Americans have always valued in government, and I believe our disillusionment today stems from the fact that they're qualities now only given lip service, when the politician in question isn't too embarrassed to mention them. Last week this gap was on display on just the Democratic side, but wait until the general election gets closer. We'll be lucky if we still have an example of a politician, *any* politician, going to the common people for their money.

But when that general election *does* arrive, ask yourself the question we should all be asking every day... how *should* government be run? I hope there'll be someone to vote for that represents the right answer to that question.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

What NOW?!! Toons

Our August check in with Keith Tucker



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

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Remembering Hiroshima

70 years since the world changed forever



70 years ago, America became the first and, so far, only country to use nuclear weapons in war. On August 6, 1945, the *Enola Gay* dropped a bomb on Hiroshima that exploded with a force of 15,000 tons (15Kt) of TNT, and on August 9 the *Bockscar* dropped a 20Kt bomb on Nagasaki. [Combined injured and dead in both cities totaled almost 200,000](#), and the Japanese government announced its surrender on August 15. WWII had ended, and the Cold War was about to begin. Ethical debates about the bombings continue today, but before we can learn the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we must first acknowledge their reality. We must remember the dead...

That's one reason [Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility](#) and their partner organizations are inviting you to the annual commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, tomorrow, August 6th, beginning at 6:00 PM at the [Japanese American Historical Plaza](#) at Waterfront Park in downtown Portland. The title for this year's event is: "[70 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The Ever-Present Nuclear Threat](#)". The event will feature speakers including atomic bomb survivor Michiko Kornhauser and anti-nuclear activist Carol Urner, with emcee Ronault LS Catalani and performances by Portland Taiko, Tomodachi Chorus, Sahomi Tachibana's dance group and more. There will also be opportunities for attendees to learn more about and to get involved in international efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

For more information, please contact Kelly Campbell, Executive Director of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (OPSR), by phone at 503.274.2720 or email at kelly@oregonpsr.org. You can also visit the OPSR website at PSR.org, or check out the [event page](#) and [Facebook page](#) for the Hiroshima commemoration. It's a somewhat solemn invitation, but one that we think is worthy of sharing with you. We hope to see you there.



For our own commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we bring you two other resources. The first is a book entitled "[The Last Train From Hiroshima](#)" by Charles Pellegrino. This haunting book relates stories from Hiroshima survivors, but concentrates on the words of an even rarer group... some of the approximately 165 people who survived *both* Hiroshima *and* Nagasaki.



As we get further from the actual event it can be easier to see the bombings as just historical statistics, so our second resource is designed to personalize the threat of atomic weapons. What would it look like if an atomic bomb exploded in YOUR city? Alex Wellerstein, nuclear historian at the Stevens Institute of Technology, created [NukeMap](#) to show you. Pick any point on a map and see exactly how far the destruction would range if the bomb hit there. Options include factors like airburst, groundburst, or fallout drift. It's educational to vary the weapon size a little... the Hiroshima bomb was 15Kt, but common nukes today hit the 100-500Kt range, larger ones run towards 200,000Kt, and the Tsar Bomba, the largest nuke ever tested, yielded a blast of 50Mt (50,000,000 tons of TNT)!

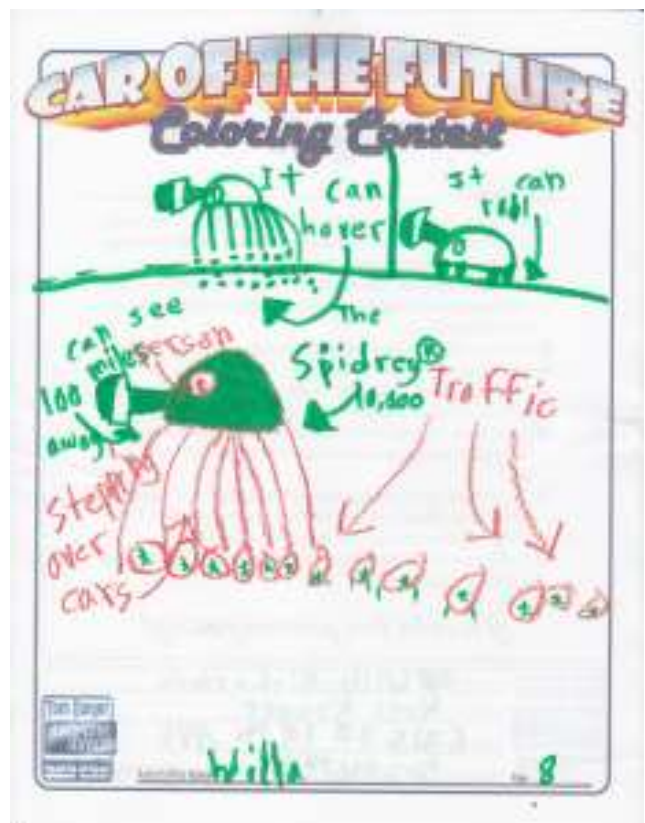
[\(Click here to see the Tsar Bomba detonation\)](#)



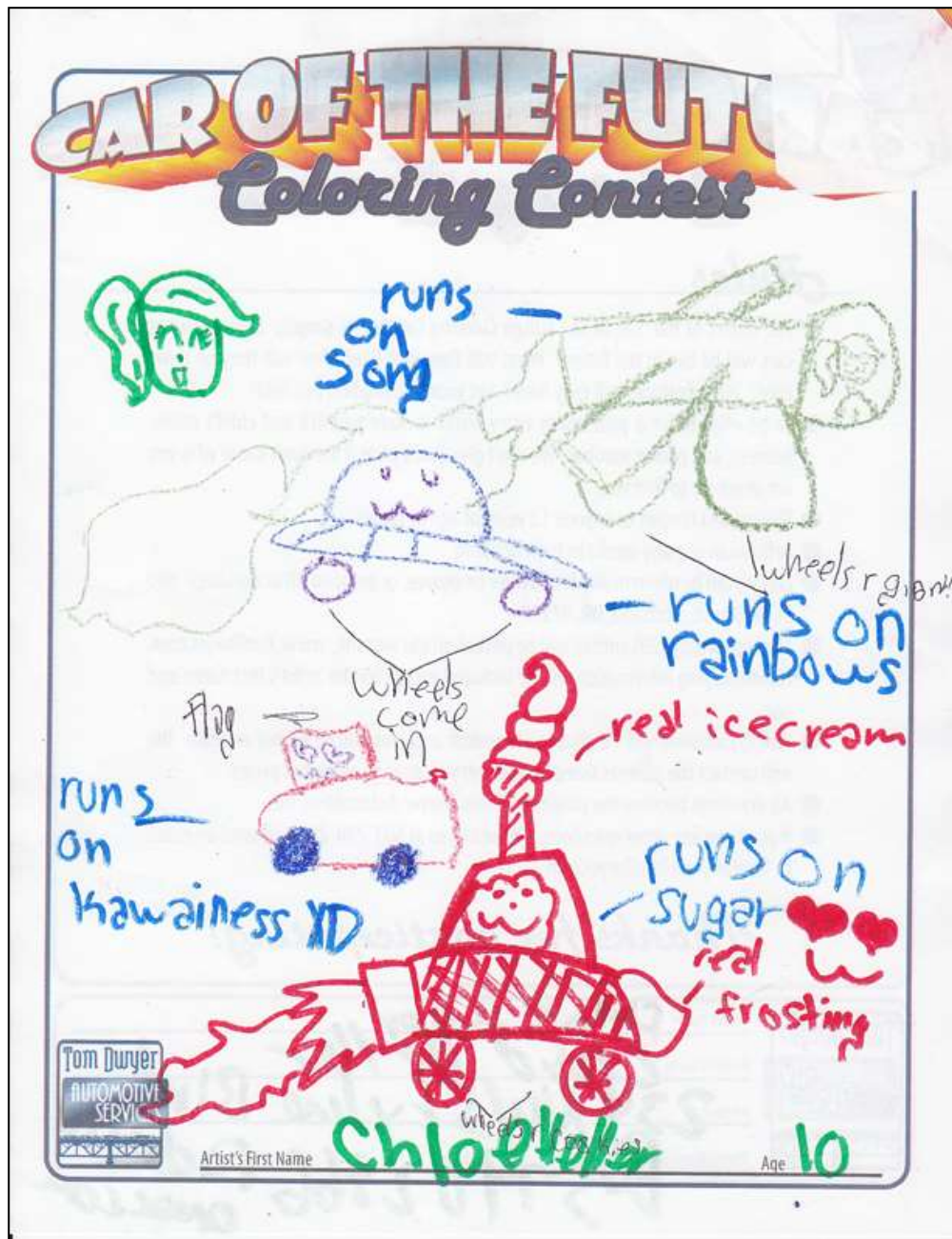
We look forward all year to the Sellwood Park Concerts, and not just for the music. One of the high points to us is our Car Of The Future contest, where we see the future of transportation through the eyes of kids. As usual the only downside is picking a first, second, and third place drawing, this year from an incredible 108 entries. Did we pick the Jet-powered Whale? The Hovercar with the “high-tech wonder light?” The Flying Car with the drag-behind Trash Collector? Or did Nuria come from behind to game the system with her “drawing” of an Invisible Car? You don’t have to live with suspense... for the Car of the Future, the Future is NOW!

Our Third place prize of \$10 went to Isabel, age 11, who doesn't settle for DVD players in the back seat. Her sleek little sedan has an entire pop-up playground for "use if kids are bored"!

Second prize went to Willa, age 8. For all the entries, hers was the only spider car. The "Spidrey 10,000" is never caught in traffic... not only can it hover, but it can step over cars on its extendable spider-stilt legs.



Chloe H., 10, took First Place this year with her deep consideration of alternative fuels... her cars run on sugar, song, and rainbows, but that's not all... one also runs on "Kawainess". We thought that was a misspelling of some kind (and we spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out what she was trying to spell) until we looked it up online... it's chiefly related to Japanese culture, and means the quality of being kawaii; cuteness. An under-utilized fuel, indeed!



Congratulations again to all our winners, and the 105 other drawings we wish we could have picked are all on our website at <http://tomdwyer.com/2015/newsletters/2015-car-of-the-future/>

Weeknight At Bernie's

On the ground at the July 29 Bernie bash



As we write this the 2016 US Presidential election is about fifteen months away, which means we're still very much in the pre-season. Polls don't mean much yet; it's like ranking baseball standings based on spring training performance. But even at this early stage there's one player who's already drawing the attention of the scouts... Bernie Sanders. While many of our readers know Bernie from his weekly appearances on the Thom Hartmann show, he's a mystery to most of the country. We hate mysteries, so we defrosted our *Your Car Matters* investigative reporter and sent him to uncover the mystery from the inside. Here's his report from the nationwide Bernie Sanders House Party on July 29, and a revealing glimpse into the Belly of the Bern...

(by Charles Letherwood, Portland, Oregon, July 29, 2015)

In July, Bernie Sanders announced his third fundraising event since he entered the race for the Democratic presidential nomination in April. His opponent for the primary, an unknown Arkansas lawyer named Hillary Clinton, had already established a strong fundraising footprint by raising almost \$47 million in the first quarter with an average donation of \$144.89. In stark contrast, Sanders had raised a total of \$15 million including \$1.5 million raised in the first 24 hours of his campaign. Average donation? Less than \$45. Still, in what will be the most expensive presidential election ever, \$47 million beats \$15 million. Bernie needed money.

Rather than sucking up to the big Corporate donors Bernie decided to try something different. His campaign set up organizational meetings around the country on one night, with Bernie to address them all over the internet. The idea wasn't new; Barrack Obama did it in 2012 with 4000 "watch parties" for the Debates (Mitt Romney did the same thing with 336 parties). What was new was how far in advance Bernie was trying it. The Debate parties were held in October, just a month before the election. Bernie was already getting some buzz, but would scheduling grassroots organizing parties a full 16 months before the election work?

I went online to track down the Bernie Bash nearest to Sellwood. There were plenty to choose from with 28 events within 10 miles of Portland, but I picked the one at [Watershed PDX](#) on Milwaukie Ave. The first murmurs of how successful things would be came a day before the actual event, when the party was moved from Watershed to [Trackers Earth](#), a much larger facility about a block away. When I arrived the line was already out the door. Moving inside, there were people of every age, shape, size, and description, and all rarin' to go for Bernie.

To get the people educated and making connections, the folks at Watershed (big Bernie supporters) had prepared 12 different cards with points from Bernie's campaign from "Reversing Climate Change" to "Reforming Wall Street" to "Growing the Trade Union Movement". Each card had 12 boxes to check, and our task was to pick a card, read and understand the point, then go search out the people with

Growing the Trade Union Movement

(Sample card from rally)

Union workers who are able to collectively bargain for higher wages and benefits earn substantially more than non-union workers. Today, corporate opposition to union organizing makes it extremely difficult for workers to join a union. We need legislation which makes it clear that when a majority of workers sign cards in support of a union, they can form a union.

the other 11 points and discuss the points with them. This not only was a great icebreaker between people who knew nothing about each other, but it also gave everyone an opportunity to change from having a nebulous feeling of “I like Bernie” to having an actually informed opinion.

My first stop from the card table was a small circle of people already excitedly comparing their cards. The youngest was 12; I had brought my daughter (Hi, Ivy!) to the event as an introduction to politics and was amazed at her passionate and common-sense explanation of why the minimum wage should be raised. On the other end of the scale was a long- retired woman named Meg who was equally excited about getting big money out of politics. This little group was a microcosm of the event as a whole... people with little knowledge to lots, from every age and background, but all enthusiastically supporting a man they believe cares about their opinion. Here’s a little bit about some of the other people I met...

Dan is from Southwest Portland and is supporting Bernie because he’s fed up with unresponsive government after fighting with the City to get a new brewery started. [Moon Shrimp Brewing](#), unsurprisingly in Portland, will be a gluten-free brewery.

Claire is a Bernie supporter who didn’t know about the night’s festivities in advance. She was walking to the gym, saw the crowd of people and stopped by to check it out, but she was glad she did. She plans to start volunteering for the campaign when she returns to the U of O this Fall.



Claire

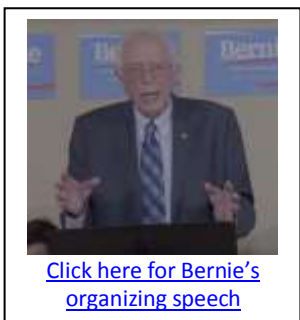
Susannah came all the way from Oregon City, and was familiar with Bernie from his Hartmann appearances. She liked his honesty, but also had a soft spot for his accent. Susannah brought her friend Debbie with her, but of all the people I talked to during the night Debbie was the only person who described herself as “apolitical”. She didn’t see much difference at all between Sanders and the other politicians running, but admitted that because she didn’t follow politics she didn’t know for sure. She said she was open to changing her mind, but when I talked to her later on she still hadn’t become a Bernie Believer. Oh well.

Anthony, Brian, and Kalani all had different degrees of political interest, but all found something to like in Bernie. Anthony had followed him since he announced his candidacy and likes him for his authenticity. He thought Bernie was “awesome”, though his positions were the obvious intelligent solutions, and thought it was strange that Bernie’s honesty and policies stand out so much against the field of other candidates. Brian’s priorities were infrastructure and education, he was angry about tax breaks for the affluent, and though Bernie had “common sense” solutions to those problems. Kalani said she was “desensitized” to politics, and that there was no politician she completely agreed with until she listened to Bernie.



Anthony, Brian, and Kalani

One thing about the Bern... if you’re looking for Obama-style soaring oratory, you won’t find it. He concentrates on content and specifics instead. When he got to it Bernie’s actual address was brief and to the point, delivered in his usual earnest and gruff style. He led with some overall policy points which were no surprise to any of his supporters, and closed with a call to take part in the campaign (it was, after all, an organizing event). It didn’t matter, though, because he was preaching to a very enthusiastic choir. The end of the speech was the signal for a huge and sustained round of applause.



[Click here for Bernie's organizing speech](#)

On the way out, people eagerly exercised their 21st-century “free speech” rights by giving money to the cause. The aforementioned Ivy was handing out Sanders bumper stickers as fast as possible from behind a growing pile of money. One guy stood up on a chair and auctioned off “the very first bumper sticker from the very first printing run from the very first Bernie House Party” for \$45. The volunteer from Watershed was winning her battle to collect cash and at the same time sign up people to help the campaign as fast as they could line up in front of her. But for all the money flowing into Bernie’s coffers, two things struck me... the piles were made up mostly of 1’s, 5’s, and 10’s instead of 50’s or 100’s, and every dime was given by individual flesh-and-blood people, not a Corporate Person or PAC in the bunch.

I never heard a final number for the money raised at the event, but I did talk to the organizers and multiple counts put the number of attendees at about 450. Nationwide, Bernie had 3500 events that drew a total of 100,000 people. We know now that this level of support was no fluke because of the turnout for Senator Sanders’ three major events since; he drew 15,000 in Seattle, 28,000 in Portland, and 27,500 in Los Angeles. One could ask if this support will last the 15 remaining months until the election, but one could look at it another way... what will his support be like if it’s this strong 15 months out?

I’ve listened to Bernie Sanders for years on his weekly “[Brunch With Bernie](#)” visit on the [Thom Hartmann Program](#), so I already knew what he’s about. I know that he’s a Socialist, not a FOX-News “Socialist-communist-leftist-totalitarian”, but someone who realizes that society has some elements that must be addressed by all of us together. I know he represented the democratic wing of the Democratic party, in the Elizabeth Warren mold. I know about his loathing for the Banksters who destroyed our economy, and that he realizes our income inequality gap is unsustainable. I know he’s as blunt as Chris Christie, yet charming in a way that Christie could never be. For a long time I’ve known that most average Americans would agree with him on most things, if they only had a chance to hear him. So I haven’t been surprised at the massive outpouring of support Bernie’s seen since entering the Presidential race. I’ve only been surprised that he’s finally gotten his chance to speak to the American people, and I can’t wait to be further surprised by their response.



The crowd gathers for the highlight of the evening, the speech from Senator Sanders himself.

[Why July 29 is such an important date to the Bernie Sanders campaign](#), Aaron Davis, Washington Post, Jul 17

[Bernie Sanders Hosts Biggest Organizing Event of 2016 So Far](#), Sam Frizell, Time Online, Jul 2015

[Protesters drove Bernie Sanders from one Seattle stage. At his next stop, 15,000 people showed.](#) John Wagner, Washington Post, Aug 8

[Windfall at Bernie's: Sanders raises \\$1.5 million in 24 hours](#), Dan Merica on CNN, May 2015

Drew's Kitchen

Flank Steak Tacos with Avocado and Red Onion Salad



Summer's still hanging on (thankfully!) so Drew's keeping you out on the grill for another month. Of course, with Drew, that's never a dull place to be...

Flank Steak Tacos with Avocado and Red Onion Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 flank steak (about 1 lb)
- 3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 tsp *each* kosher salt and pepper, divided
- ½ tsp smoked paprika
- ½ medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 ripe avocados, peeled, quartered, and thickly sliced crosswise
- ½ jalapeno chile, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup loosely packed cilantro leaves
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- 12 corn tortillas (6" dia)

Preparation:

- Heat a grill to high (450° to 550°). Brush steak with 1 tbsp oil, ½ tsp *each* salt and pepper, and the smoked paprika. Grill steak, covered, turning once, 6 to 8 minutes total for medium-rare (cut to test). Lift to a cutting board and loosely cover with foil. (keep grill on).
- While steak rests, toss avocados, onion, jalapeno, cilantro, lime juice, remaining 2 tbsp oil, and remaining ½ tsp *each* salt and pepper in a large bowl.
- Thinly slice steak against the grain. Quickly grill tortillas a few seconds on each side to warm them. Serve steak with salad and tortillas.
- Serves 6; 25 minutes prep



Per Serving- 428 calories, 50% (214 cal) from fat; 19g protein; 24g fat (4.6g sat); 35g carbohydrates (6.8g fiber); 359mg sodium; 29mg cholesterol.

Shop Talk

Spotlight on our Referral Reward program



Comment of the Month

Alex P. said "By now you know our car better than we do. You are our kind of people; the kindness, humor, integrity, generosity, warmth, intelligence (and overall cuteness) will keep us coming back every time, every car. I always come away from your shop loving America!"

Thanks Alex! We couldn't let a comment like this go unnoticed. We're very [proud of our team](#), for all the reasons you so generously listed. We try to hire people not just for their qualifications (although that's obviously the first hurdle) but for their personalities as well. It makes a better environment for everyone here, and our clients obviously appreciate it as well. And as for loving America... Alex, you do the same for us!

Referral Reward program

Our Referral Reward program is our way of saying "thanks" when our clients so generously refer a new client to our shop. It's not a bribery program because YOU don't benefit, but the non-profit and charitable groups you care about do. Every time a new client comes in because of your referral we'll make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice. Not only that, but they'll be in the running for quarterly and yearly awards as well. It seems to be working... **since this year's program started in February, we've made 61 donations for \$2,441.61.** Here are the groups that benefitted in July...

[KBOO Radio](#)
[TVW \(Tualatin Valley Workshop\)](#)
[Cleveland High School](#)
[Oregon Humane Society](#)
[Amnesty International](#)

[Oregon Food Bank \(2 this month\)](#)
[Portland Waldorf School](#)
[ACLU \(American Civil Liberties Union\)](#)
[NRDC \(Natural Resources Defense Council\)](#)

[Bernie Sanders 2016](#)
[Doernbecher Foundation](#)
[Randall Children's Hospital](#)
[St. Andrew Nativity School](#)

Look for our second Quarterly Award Winner in next month's Shop Talk!

Your reviews and referrals matter

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



Latest Automotive Recalls

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



Health Notes

Is it a disease or a profit center?

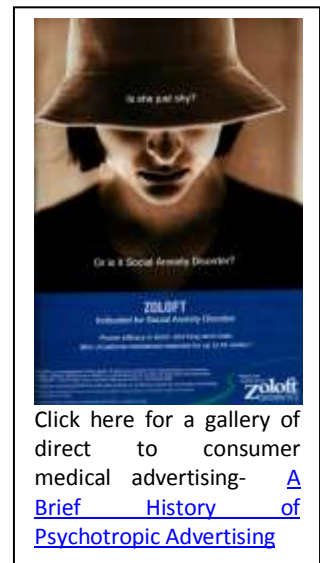


Feeling bad is just part of the human condition sometimes. Physically, we've all toughed out the flu or an unexplained muscle pain that went away with a little rest. Women overcome the discomfort of menstruation and adolescents live through the embarrassment of acne. All of these can go beyond "acceptable" levels of pain to require medical intervention, but as humans we soldier through them most of the time.

Psychologically, we accept a certain amount of pain too. The pain of a broken heart, the death of a loved one, the stress of work, the anxiety of social situations are all things we are usually prepared to live with, but any one of them could easily tip over into the realm of "disease".

Where does one draw the line? Low T, Simple Chronic Halitosis, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Oppositional-Defiant Disorders, and a slough of other physical and psychological ailments have their roots in real conditions that can cripple people's lives, but most of us at least occasionally deal with mild versions of these problems throughout our lives. When do they become diseases? One answer is, when there's money to be made.

Here are several stories that examine the link between diseases, "diseases", and the marketing departments of pharmaceutical companies around the world. And just for fun, we have one article that tells you how to get healthier without going to the pill poppers...



[Hey Doc, I Have Poop Disorder': 6 'Diseases' Big Pharma Is Trying to Make You Believe You Suffer From](#), Martha Rosenberg on AlterNet, Dec 2014

[Calling an Ordinary Health Problem a Disease Leads to Bigger Problems](#), Aaron Carroll in the New York Times, Jun, 2014

[Peddling Paranoia](#), Alan Cassels in New Internationalist Magazine, Nov 2003

[Disease mongering and drug marketing](#), Howard Wolinsky in EMBO Reports, Jul 2005

[Disorders Made to Order](#), Brendan Koerner in Mother Jones, Jul/Aug 2002

[Feeling Intense Emotions Doesn't Make You Crazy—But That's Not What Big Pharma Wants You to Think](#), Allegra Kirkland on AlterNet, Mar 2015

[Selling Sickness: How Drug Companies Are Turning Us All Into Patients](#), Michael Fitzpatrick in the British Medical Journal, Sep 2005

And here's the "Good News" article... [The Science of Stress and How Our Emotions Affect Our Susceptibility to Burnout and Disease](#), Maria Popova, Brain Pickings

[Psychiatry's sick compulsion: turning weaknesses into diseases](#), Irwin Savodnik in Los Angeles Times, Jan 2006

Sellwood Bridge Update

The Surprising Answer to our Trivia Question



6th and Tacoma pictures

Any inconvenience of the Bridge construction is vastly overrated. Sure, the area is torn up and flaggers abound, but the bridge traffic usually moves smoothly and consistently. That changed for us in the last week in July as construction focused on the intersection of 6th and Tenino St. A new traffic signal will be going in as part of the Bridge project, and crews had closed the intersection for the whole week while they put in the underground stuff for the light. It will be a big change for us when it's activated, and should greatly reduce the difficulty of a left turn onto the Bridge.



It's a long way from this right now, but here is a rendering of what the 6th and Tenino St. intersection (looking west) will look like when the Bridge is finished. We can't wait!



View of the intersection (looking west) similar to the rendering above.



View of the developing intersection from our shop (looking north)

Bridge Trivia answer

There has been quite a lot of furor over the [New Yorker's recent article about an impending major quake in the Northwest](#), so the answer to last month's Trivia Question seems particularly important. As we told you then, the Northwest is about 73 years overdue for the Big One. One of the area's biggest vulnerabilities is the structural integrity of our bridges, because aside from the devastation if a bridge collapses during the quake itself, the loss of transportation for repair and rebuilding would be crippling for years to come. So, in our [July newsletter](#), we asked "Which of Portland's bridges are CURRENTLY earthquake-rated?" Here are the bridges we counted as "Portland bridges" for the question...

Marquam Bridge (I-5 over
Willamette)

Interstate Bridge (I-5 over
Columbia)

Sauvie's Island Bridge

St. Johns Bridge

Fremont Bridge

Broadway Bridge
Steel Bridge

Burnside Bridge

Morrison Bridge

Hawthorne Bridge

Ross Island Bridge

Sellwood Bridge

Glen Jackson Bridge (I-205
over Columbia)

Abernethy Bridge (I-205 over
Willamette)

Tilikum Crossing

And we started you off with this hint... of the 15 bridges listed above, **only THREE are earthquake rated!**

Only a few people took us up on the contest, and unfortunately, none of them had the right answers. We also asked riders in our Courtesy Shuttle if they knew, but no joy there either. Pretty much everybody got one of them... the new Tilikum bridge is currently up to spec. Other answers were (literally) all over the map, with the Marquam and Fremont getting a few nods. But wrong there, too. So, here are the actual answers, as confirmed by the Multnomah County Communications Office (the folks in charge of communication for the Bridge Project)...

**The Tilikum Crossing,
The new Sauvie's Island Bridge,
...and (believe it or not) The Sellwood Bridge!**

Yes, you're reading that right... our wobbly neighbor, ground zero for construction in Portland since 2012, is currently one of the only three earthquake-rated bridges in Portland! Here's why... no regulation required the old Sellwood Bridge be brought up to earthquake spec (which is one reason the other twelve area bridges haven't been addressed yet). BUT... the move of the old span to new supports meant the temporary bridge would have to be regulated as a *new build* during construction. It would have to meet earthquake code. Although the old bridge was dangerously compromised, most of the structural damage was on the farthest west end of the bridge and the main part of the river span was in surprisingly good shape. By cutting the damaged part away and just moving the structurally sound part onto the new, earthquake-ready supports, the engineers kept the old Sellwood Bridge safe and dignified in these last few years of its life.

Looks like we'll be holding on to those spiffy First Aid kits we were offering as prizes, but don't worry... we'll have another chance for you to win soon!

Here's the Horse's Mouth...

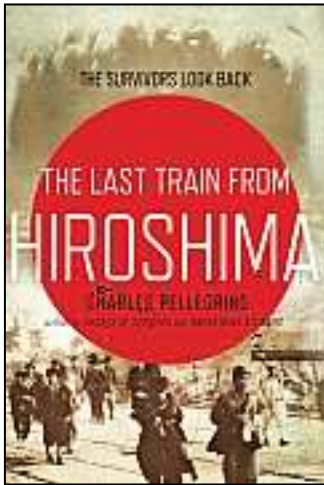
As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. If you're looking for something 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

"Last Train From Hiroshima" by Charles Pellegrino



Hiroshima was in the news recently as the world observed the 70th anniversary of its bombing, and the bombing of Nagasaki three days later. We were proud to co-sponsor a commemoration of the event by Physicians for Social Responsibility at the Japanese American Historical Plaza in downtown Portland. In our article about the event we recommended the book "Last Train From Hiroshima" as a good read, and so we illuminate it further with this month's Book Spotlight...



"Last Train From Hiroshima"

by Charles Pellegrino

(review from Powells.com)

Drawing on the voices of atomic-bomb survivors and the new science of forensic archaeology, Charles Pellegrino describes the events and aftermath of two days in August when nuclear devices detonated over Japan changed life on Earth forever. "Last Train from Hiroshima" offers readers a stunning "you are there" time capsule, gracefully wrapped in elegant prose. Charles Pellegrino's scientific authority and close relationship with the A-bombs survivors make his account the most gripping and authoritative ever written.

At the narratives' core are eyewitness accounts of those who experienced the atomic explosions firsthand, the Japanese civilians on the ground and the American flyers in the air. Thirty people are known to have fled Hiroshima for Nagasaki, where they arrived just in time to survive the second bomb. One of them, Tsutomu Yamaguchi, is the only person who experienced the full effects of the cataclysm at ground zero both times. The second time, the blast effects were diverted around the stairwell in which Yamaguchi had been standing, placing him and a few others in a shock cocoon that offered protection, while the entire building disappeared around them.

Review:

"Using a combination of firsthand accounts of Japanese A-bomb survivors, American aviators, and classified documents of government officials, Pellegrino reconstructs two horrifying days and their aftermath when the age of atomic warfare was introduced over Japan. He is fascinated with the 'strange alchemy' of these cruel weapons ('One ten-millionth of a second later, a sphere of gamma rays escap[ed] the core at light speed') as the bomb fell on Mrs. Aoyam tending her garden at Point Zero, literally before she could see it coming. Pellegrino is equally interested in the grotesque effects the blasts in Hiroshima and Nagasaki inflicted on the human body with its gamma rays, neutron spray and poisonous black rain. The stories of the few Japanese survivors includes a group of 30 civilians fleeing from Hiroshima to Nagasaki where they arrived to endure the second bomb, are heart-stopping. Pellegrino dissects the complex political and military strategies that went into the atomic detonations and the untold suffering heaped on countless Japanese civilians, weaving all of the book's many elements into a wise, informed protest against any further use of these terrible weapons.

EXTRA: Pellegrino's book, first released in 2010, raised questions because one source had falsely claimed to be an engineer on the Hiroshima mission, and two other sources' names were changed without acknowledgement. The book was recalled by its publisher at the time, and the issues have been fixed for the 2015 edition. We have both copies in our library for your enjoyment.

Humorousness

It's history... and FOX is there



There are lots of things one could say about FOX News, but most of them aren't very good. Since this is Humorousness, though, we'll try to introduce the following feature without saying anything overtly bad about FOX at all. (And thanks to FOX for this technique!) Here goes...

"Rupert Murdoch's FOX News has completely changed the way news is covered in America. Not content to follow staid, old-fashioned journalistic standards, FOX has shattered the conventional barriers between "true" and "false", "reporting" and "propaganda", "opinion" and "fact" to create something previously unknown outside repressive and totalitarian regimes. Thanks to FOX, Americans who have had objective, non-partisan reporting shoved down their throats for years now have a choice. But it wasn't always this way, and the wise elders who huddle around the flickering glow of Bill O'Reilly know it. Join us as we look back into a world without FOX, and imagine what today's world would have been like if we only had FOX to tell us the right way to think... way back when."

There, that wasn't so hard, was it? [Here's the link for all the original images.](#)





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!



Changing the way you look at the world



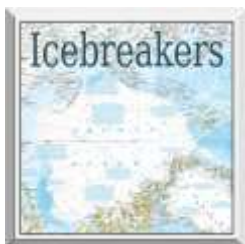
Popcorn shorts is frequently lightweight stuff, but we this month we ran across [something that will change the way you think about the universe](#). There may not be deep lessons in it, but a perspective change can be valuable in itself. We'll give you one without even clicking... "Realize that instead of looking up into the sky, you're actually gazing down into the infinite cosmic abyss, with only gravity holding you to the surface of the earth". Well worth a look!

Hiking and biking along the Oregon Coast



Since we're an automotive shop you may not think of us for travel advice, but we're out to change that. We occasionally pass along stories about ways to enjoy our glorious Oregon outdoors, and this is one more in the semi-irregular series. Allison Jones in Portland Monthly had [a list of several destination spots on the Oregon coast](#). From Neahkahnie Mountain near Manzanita to the Hobbit Beach trail near Florence, she gives you an insider's list of places to satisfy your wanderlust. Round trip distance, elevation gain, nearest towns and more, it's all there... why aren't you?

Breaking the ice on climate change



When President Obama announced a new, aggressive plan to combat climate change, he mentioned National Geographic very prominently... "Shrinking ice caps forced National Geographic to make the biggest change in its atlas since the Soviet Union broke apart". Mapmakers aren't frequent targets of Presidential praise, so Nat Geo made the most of it. Their article, "[Yes, Mr. President, We Remade Our Atlas to Reflect Shrinking Ice](#)" explains why, including a 3-second animation showing the reduction in Arctic Ice from 1999 to 2014. It's shocking, but watch it here... you won't be seeing it on any Koch brothers videos.

Ten craziest physical feats accomplished with a car



Jalopnik is a great source for many of our Facebook ideas, but they recently had a list of the [Ten Craziest Physical Feats Accomplished With A Car](#). You'll see "People getting run over, purposely, by trucks", "Balancing a car on your head", the "48 second engine swap", and more. But the craziest one, the one worth watching the most, is the one illustrated on the Popcorn button at left. Just in case you can't make out the detail, that's a Toyota FJ driving on two wheels, with five guys on the OUTSIDE of it, CHANGING BOTH TIRES, and doing it in under 5 minutes. It may not end the way you're thinking, so check it out...

News To Make You Furious

Vacation for our staff still means Vexation for you



Summer won't be here much longer and most of our "News To Make You Furious" staff still haven't had their vacations, so we kicked them out the door this month for some much-needed relaxation. Now they're out raging on the road, grumbling about traffic, complaining about food, and angrily stomping around the country looking for things to be indignant about. Good times! But don't worry; if you've come here for your monthly measure of mortification they left something for you to munch on...

August brought the one-year anniversary of the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. One of the questions asked by almost every talking head was "have things changed in Ferguson"? The residents didn't seem to think so, but perhaps they could have asked the reporters in turn, "how much did you *expect* to change"? Nothing *could* change in Ferguson because the problems aren't

local... Ferguson is just one festering example of a disease slowly eating our country. Our Vacation Vexation this month won't deal with Ferguson, but with the larger problem of which Ferguson is only a symptom... the metamorphosis of our police from a "protect and serve" organization to an occupying force. Here are several items from our past "Your Car Matters" [Feature](#) articles, [Book Spotlight](#) column, and of course [News To Make You Furious](#) that will give you an up-close look at the real problem in Ferguson and beyond...



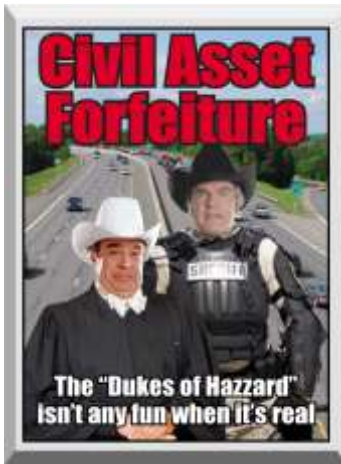
"Prison for Profit- The Low Price Of Your Liberty"

"Your Car Matters", "News To Make You Furious" Column, [Mar 2013](#) and [Dec 2013](#)

Profit is great. Enlightened self-interest is a spectacular motivator that drives our economic system. Nothing incentivizes a behavior like making it profitable in one form or another. But here's a blasphemy... profit is not the only good in our world! Other things are important as well, and

some may be even more important than profit.

Liberty is one of those things. Short of life itself, nothing is as valuable to a human being as liberty. It's so important that the power to send people to prison is limited to our government, and then only after a complex due process. "Justice", as this quaint idea was once called, is one of the six things our founders said our country was created to establish. So what happens when it becomes profitable to deprive people of their liberty? When liberty clashes with profit, which one wins?



“Playing ‘Dukes of Hazzard’ For Real”

“Your Car Matters”, “News To Make You Furious” Column, Sep 2014

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 Sherriff 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...



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

“Your Car Matters” Feature article, Sep 2014

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...

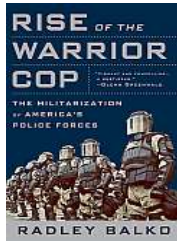


“You Have The Right To Be Pacified”

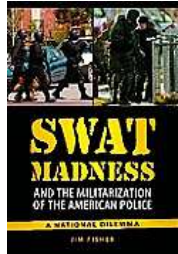
“Your Car Matters” Feature article, Sep 2014

There’s an old theater saying that if there’s a gun 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...



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](#)” looks at 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 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.