



## Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for April, 2016

### Tom's Tidbits

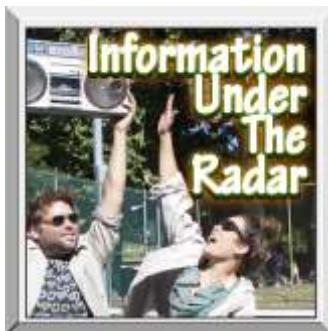
Business Healthcare Blues

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...When the Corporate Sludge Pump's not enough



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...oh yeah, save the planet too

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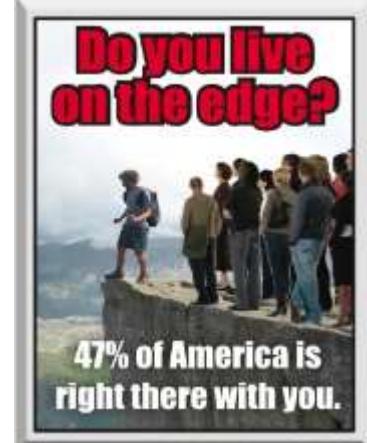
#### Popcorn Shorts

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

- Really, REALLY tiny cars
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- Amy Goodman is coming to Portland
- Tiny houses get VERY big

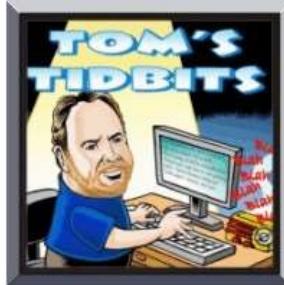
#### News To Make You Furious

Life on the Edge... with everyone else



# Tom's Tidbits

## Business Healthcare Blues



Greetings!

On a 1980 relief mission to Uganda, Dick Gregory told Thom Hartmann; "I don't know why America thinks she has to run around the world forcing people to take our way of governance at the barrel of a gun." He paused, then added with a sly grin, "When you've got something really good, you don't have to force it on people. They will steal it!" Well then, why is America still victim of a for-profit, insurance-driven health care system? I think if our country knew more about the benefits and savings of a Single Payer system they would be lining up to steal it. As a small business owner, I see a different side of health care and I'd like to share a few of my business reasons for stealing Single Payer for all of us...

An educated citizenry would start by rejecting Hillary's debate claim that a Single Payer system wouldn't work for us "because it is not the system we inherited". Obamacare offers some incremental improvement, but it's frustrating to deal with the half-measure of Obamacare when a better fix, Single Payer Healthcare, is available. I pay for Family coverage and run a small business, where healthcare and Worker's Compensation are among the biggest expenses I face. I think instituting a single-payer healthcare system would be one of the best possible stimulus packages to ever hit the US. Our company would save over \$50,000 a year on family and business coverage alone. That number doesn't even include all the other possible savings by providing healthcare coverage as a right instead of a privilege. From a business standpoint alone, Single Payer would influence...

- Cost of goods and services
- Greater individual spending power
- Worker's Compensation costs reduced
- Paperwork and Productivity.
- Legal reform
- Reduced cost of healthcare

Single Payer would NOT be a perfect system. Every other industrialized country has Single Payer of some flavor, and each one deals with their own waste, fraud, abuse, and failure. There would be plenty to criticize in a Single Payer world! But it would still be a huge improvement. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Single Payer is the worst form of health care... except for all the others".

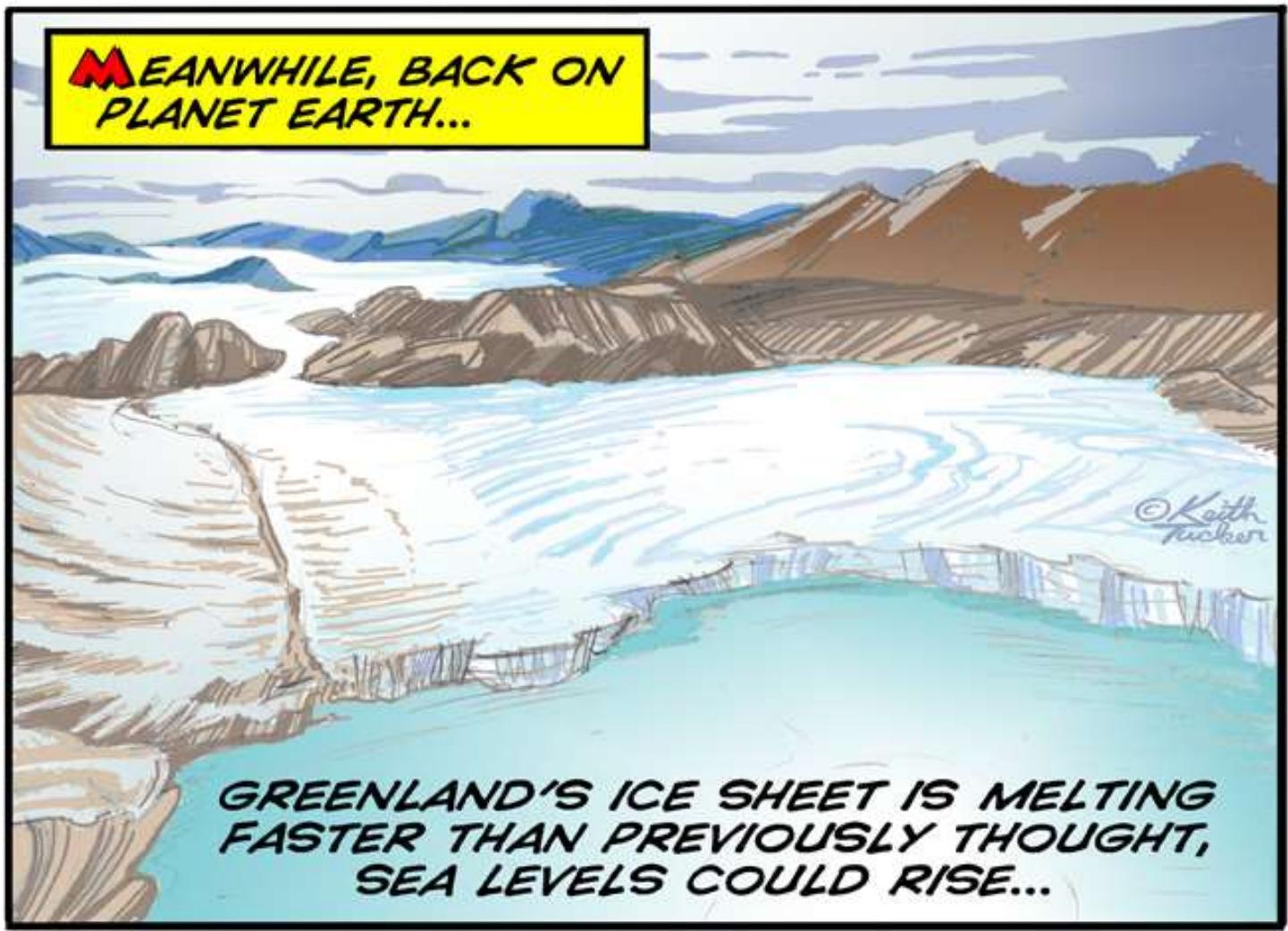
The fight for Single Payer is still going on, albeit quietly. States like Vermont, Massachusetts, and even Oregon are trying variations of Single Payer within their borders. Groups like HealthCareNOW! and Physicians for a National Health Program are pressuring legislators for change. Read this month's article on "Blazing Blues and Rational Healthcare" and you'll know we were at this year's Inner City Blues Festival in support of Health Care for All Oregon, the main group working for Single Payer in Oregon and beyond. It's still an uphill battle, but I've given you a few of my personal reasons to think it's a battle still worth fighting. What are *your* reasons, and what will you do to make Single Payer a reality?

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Hartmann".

# What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's Toon for April



**"WHAT Now?!!"**

© KEITH TUCKER  
[www.whatnowtoons.com](http://www.whatnowtoons.com)

Is the impending end of the planet getting you down? Check out this month's article "Save 10% on Dwyer labor charges for a year ...oh yeah, save the planet too!" for ways to make a difference, save money, and learn more than you ever wanted to know about Climate Change.

# Blazing Blues and Rational Healthcare

The Inner City Blues Festival hit the stage for the 5<sup>th</sup> year



The Blues is about pain. It's about torment and sadness, oppression and hardship, desperation and anguish. It's about all of that, but it's about hope too. The Blues is about fighting back against the pain, struggling against the oppression, and knowing that no matter how long the road, if you keep walking you'll eventually triumph over the sadness. On April 16, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Inner City Blues Festival hit the stage and the top Blues musicians in the Northwest scorched the room with the hottest Blues you've ever heard. But like the music itself, they didn't stop there. They called us to fight back, to stand up for a better future, and to walk the road for Single Payer Healthcare in Oregon and across the nation...

While things have improved for millions under Obamacare, expensive and arbitrary health care costs remain a looming shadow across our country. Individuals know they are only one serious illness away from bankruptcy, and businesses struggle under the burden of overpriced insurance. No one knows the perils of privatized healthcare better than musicians, who are typically self-employed with very unpredictable income. Festival headliner Norman "Boogie Cat" Sylvester is a sterling example. Norman's health care woes came in the form of four hip surgeries costing \$92,000 each—something he couldn't have paid for if it wasn't for his wife's health insurance. Since then, Norman has devoted his extraordinary energy to helping people without health care, even creating an original song for the cause, "Healing the Health Care Blues."



Norman Sylvester rocking the Blues that made him famous

Norman headlined the night, but was joined by a host of the Northwest's hottest Blues musicians...

- NW Women in Blues with Sonny Hess, Rae Gordon, Vicki Stevens & True Blue Lady Kat
- Roseland Hunters with LaRhonda Steele
- Terry Robb, Steve Cheseborough, and Tevis Hodge Jr.
- The Norman Sylvester Band featuring Shoehorn, "Sweet Thangz" Lenanne Sylvester, and Sarah Billings
- Bloco Alegria Brazilian Percussion & Dance Troupe
- Augustana Church Jazz Quartet with Marilyn Keller
- plus additional appearances from Carl Wolfson, Renee Mitchell, Paul Knauls & the Mad as Hell Doctors.

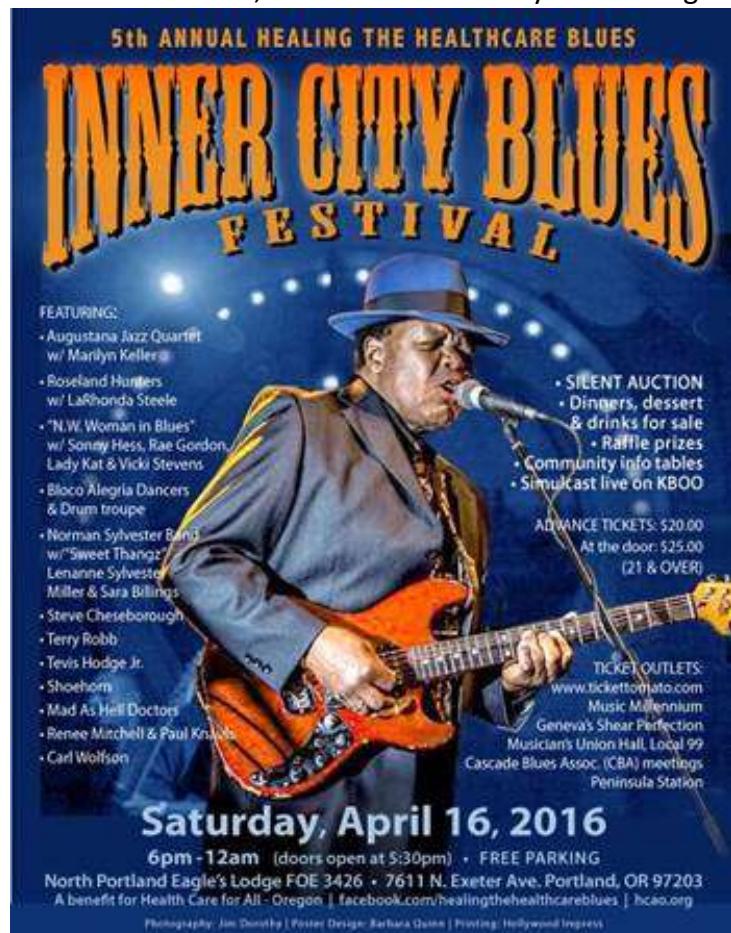
And if six hours of music weren't enough to have you singing the Healthcare Blues with Norman, there was a silent auction, two cash bars, dinner and dessert for purchase, and Community Village tables to meet event sponsors and community groups.

Today's healthcare is a problem, but it's a problem with one clear, obvious, and effective solution... **SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE!** [Health Care for All Oregon](#) (HCAO), the premier group backing single payer healthcare in Oregon and nationwide, was the beneficiary of the night. HCAO's mission is to "work for an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high quality, publicly funded universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon and the United States." They envision a healthcare system that delivers high-quality healthcare to all, is based on patient needs rather than profits, and focusses on improved medical outcomes. They believe a publicly financed system like this would direct resources to medical care instead of administrative expenses, profit, and waste. For anyone who felt guilty about just going out and wallowing in the Blues, supporting an organization this vital was just the counterbalance to feel good!

The Inner City Blues Festival began at the Royal Esquire Club as the "Jam for Jesse", a fundraiser for Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential bid. For the next 15 years the Festival hit the hottest blues venues in Portland as the cream of

Northwest Blues supported a variety of community causes. The Festival closed in 2003, but reopened in 2012 as a dedicated benefit for Single Payer Healthcare in Oregon. Tom Dwyer

Automotive has been a proud sponsor of the Inner City Blues Festival since that rebirth 5 years ago, and we were there in the Community Village again this year. Like we said, this is an event we looked forward to all year, so here's a few pictures from the night to share. The Blues will be played for Single Payer again next year... now that you know about it, mark your own calendars today!





Norman Sylvester Band with "Sweet Thangz"



Roseland Hunters with LaRhonda Steele



Carl Wolfson



Lenanne Sylvester



Blocl Alegria Dancers



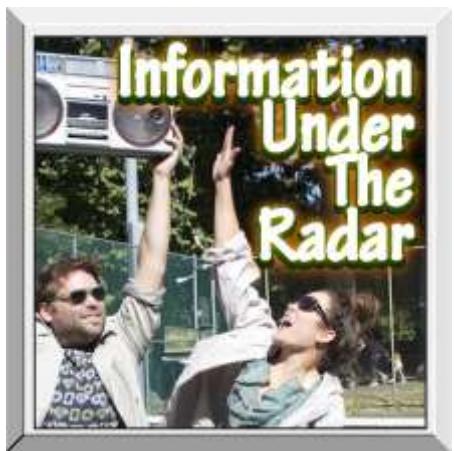
Steve Cheseborough



NW Women in Blues

# Information Under The Radar

Where to go when the Corporate sludge pump's not enough...



Journalism is the only industry protected by the Constitution. Why would the Founders bother with the Press while ignoring obvious guns-and-butter industries like banking or farming? Because while EVERY kind of society needs those industries, the Founders believed a *free, self-governing* society couldn't exist without informed citizens, and in turn a free and functioning Press. "The Press" has expanded to become "The Media", but there's little reason to believe today's Media is either free or functioning. Where do citizens turn for the information they need to make competent decisions? Here's a hint... look past the bright and shiny distractions of the Corporate Sludge Pump to the resources that exist in our own

backyards. If Big Media has become a joke, then it's a good thing Small Media is on the rise...

To some, the idea of a fair and objective Media sounds quaint. It may even sound impossible; we all have our own human prejudices and can't expect *pure* fairness or objectivity from human reporters. But it is possible to strive for those goals and [once upon a time people did just that](#). Big broadcast companies made billions from using public airwaves, and providing the information the public depended on seemed a small price in return. Network "News" divisions were separate from "Entertainment" divisions because News was seen as a public service that shouldn't be polluted by a profit motive. But that was then. The idea of an informed citizenry has collapsed under the assault of end of the Fairness Doctrine, the Telecommunications act, market deregulation, the rise of "Infotainment", and sponsored content. The big information sources we once turned to as a society are gone.

But information itself isn't gone. People still hunger for it, and there are still people trying desperately to provide it. For decades community non-profit radio has thrived under the radar, but the collapse of big media and the rise of social media are bringing it the attention it deserves. Portland stations [KBOO-FM](#) and [XRAY-FM](#) are two shining examples of the best community radio has to offer, and we're proud to say that Tom Dwyer Automotive has been long-time sponsors of both.

[KBOO went on the air in 1968](#) with a \$50 monthly budget and 10 watts of booming power. It began as a repeater for Seattle station KRAB, but was building an all-classical, listener-supported, non-commercial format of its own as well. KBOO cut loose completely from KRAB in 1975. With independence came growth and a greater focus on events in the community they served. Volunteers covered local music, events, and news, with a focus on untold stories and underserved populations. Today KBOO offers one of the most diverse playlists in Portland with extensive News and Public Affairs programming as well. KBOO-produced shows like "Old Mole Variety Hour", "Locus Focus", "Labor Radio", and "QueerBoo" join syndicated programs like Amy Goodman's "Democracy Now!" to offer one of the news and information sources available anywhere.



[KBOO](#) and [XRAY](#) are both in their Fundraising Drives right now, and independent media always needs your help. Click the logo above to support the station of your choice!

While KBOO's been around for almost 50 years, [XRAY-FM is just getting started](#). KPOJ-620 closed its doors in 2012 leaving an information black hole for Portland Progressives. (We were big supporters of KPOJ, and [wrote quite a bit about its untimely demise](#)). XRAY began, in part, to fill that void. It started with a KickStarter campaign for \$40,000 that quickly raised over \$100,000, and KRAY used the money to take over the license of Reed College's KRRC. They offer a unique blend of local music (curated by real, live, local DJ's) in the afternoon and evening and news/talk in the mornings. KPOJ's Carl Wolfson was their first morning anchor, and Christine Alexander fills that slot now. Our favorite KPOJ show, The Thom Hartmann Program, airs from 9a-12p. Something must be working well... XRAY was chosen as Portland's Best Radio Station in Willamette Week's 2015 "Best Of Portland" issue.

XRAY and KBOO are multi-dimensional stations serving music, news, and other community needs, but for this article we're more interested in the information they deliver. You can't trust ANY one information source... ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, CNN, MSNBC, and all the Big Media, mass-interest networks overwhelmingly carry the same stories with slightly different spins. To get a full data buffet, you have to include the stories covered by the smaller, scrappier, independent sources. For instance, did you know [KBOO produces its own 1-hour nightly news show](#)? While it covers many of the same stories as the national news, you can bet it's from a unique perspective and includes a very tight community focus. Shows like Amy Goodman's "[Democracy NOW!](#)" bring you in-depth coverage of issues the big networks miss, and interviews that don't shy away from the tough questions. Chew over what you've learned with other Portlanders on [KBOO's daily Talk Radio shows](#). [On the XRAY side, Thom Hartmann](#) provides a good cross between call-in talk radio and Amy Goodman's investigation and information. The XRAY morning show, "[The Show of Shows](#)", is a mix of the day's issues and deeper topics covered by a constantly changing gallery of hosts. XRAY also offers a mix of syndicated and originally produced spoken-word shows like [Reveal](#), [The Future of What](#), and [KickAss Oregon History](#).

But none of this is possible without you. Community radio depends on the Community to survive. You're probably painfully familiar with the Public Radio Pledge Drive, the bane of non-commercial radio. Well, KBOO and XRAY operate on that same model, and now's the time they come to all of us for help. Please, join us in supporting news you DON'T hear everywhere else, from people who DON'T sound like everyone else, talking about things other people DON'T talk about. Take a stand for the information sources that keep you posted on more than the Kardashians. Give yourself the gift of the information you need to make competent choices on the issues you and your kids will live with. Take time now to send just a few dollars to either (or both) of these community gems. And maybe just as important, take time to listen and enjoy!

# **Save 10% On Dwyer Labor Charges For A Year!**

...oh, yeah, save the planet too.



As strong environmental advocates, we realize the incongruity of working on internal combustion vehicles. Transportation is the second leading source of greenhouse gasses (26% vs. 30% from electrical production) and the sooner we can move to electric vehicles the better off we'll all be. Until then, about the best you can do is maintain your vehicle to minimize its carbon emissions is. Or is it? What if there was a way to make the net emissions from your vehicle zero? And what if there were a way to save money...maybe hundreds of dollars... while you did it? Interested? Read on...

Everyone (well, almost everyone) wants to reduce their contribution to greenhouse gasses, which trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. In 2007 we started a program that allows our clients to offset the carbon output of their vehicles and save money at the same time. As of 2016, the members of the Tom Dwyer Automotive Carbon Neutral Program (CNP) have been responsible for removing an amazing 1.69 million pounds of carbon from our air. Not bad, especially when you consider that each one of these members was saving 10% on all their labor costs here at the shop!

We make it as easy as possible for you to be part of this success as well. Here's the deal...

## **What You Get...**

Your ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP is applied to the vehicle of your choice, and includes...

- **Offsets** to cover your vehicle's carbon output
- **10% OFF labor** costs at Tom Dwyer Automotive
- Really cool **window cling sticker**

## **What It Costs...**

Cost varies by vehicle type and the number of offsets you need.

- Sippers (Hybrids) cost **\$30**
- Drinkers (Most cars) cost **\$50**
- Guzzlers (SUV's or large vehicles) cost **\$90.**

## **How To Join...**

Just give us a call at 503-230-2300, or talk with your Service Advisor the next time you're in. We'll handle all the details of getting you hooked up with Bonneville Environmental, and on the road to carbon-free driving.

## What Are Carbon Offsets?

Carbon Offsets don't actually affect the emissions of *your vehicle* at all. They fund other projects that reduce *overall* carbon emissions, which hopefully creates a "net-zero" emission. Here's some more information from [Bonneville Environmental Foundation](#) (BEF) on how they work...

**Carbon Offsets** (also called Carbon Credits) are generated by discrete carbon reduction projects. One Carbon Offset represents the reduction of 1 metric ton (or 2,205 pounds) of greenhouse gas emissions that occur as a result of that specific project. On top of their direct environmental benefit, some Carbon Offset projects carry additional certification to provide measurable social benefits as well.

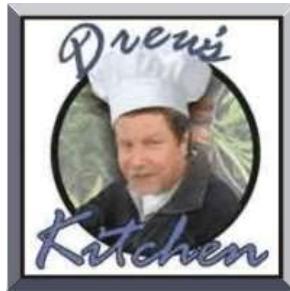
1 carbon offset = 1 metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e kept from the atmosphere

**Verification Standards-** Each Carbon Offset generated is third-party verified to prove that real, permanent, verifiable, additional and enforceable emissions reductions have occurred.

## What's The Science Behind Climate Change?



We started our Carbon Neutral Program because we think the science behind global climate change is unambiguous and inarguable, and that the time for taking action is long past. However, we're an auto repair shop... our opinion probably isn't very authoritative on this subject. But as part of our sponsorship of 350.org's 2011 event to raise awareness of climate change, we wrote an article called "[Science and History of Climate Change-Learn the science without the hype... from either side](#)". We linked to sources on the history of the issue, reviews of the science, sources critical of the science, and rebuttals of their points. As much as possible, we tried to create a one-page global warming "truth from fact" resource. Whether you're a tree-hugger who doesn't need convincing, or you're a climate-change-denier thinking "But what about this...", this is the page to get real knowledge on a subject that's threatening humanity. Probably a good use of time.



This is an ideal light main course for your spring and summer outdoor dining. It says "veggies" at the end, but don't make a mistake... make sure those veggies are asparagus.

### Garlic Parmesan Baked Halibut

#### Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter, softened
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup mayonnaise
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbsp green onion, finely chopped
- 4-6 cloves garlic, crushed
- Dash of Tabasco
- Salt and pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$  lemon, juiced
- 4 halibut filets (abt. 1" thick)

#### Preparation:

- Preheat oven to 450. Season halibut with salt, pepper, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Place filets in a baking dish. Bake for 6 minutes.
- Mix all topping ingredients together. Remove halibut from oven and spread Parmesan mixture over top and sides of fish. Turn oven to broil and cook for 2-3 minutes, until the tops are lightly browned.
- Serve immediately with rice and veggies

#### Cooking time

Prep time 5 min, Cook time 8 min, Total Time 13 min

#### Serves 4

# Shop Talk

## April awards and savings



### Comment of the Month



*Kathleen P. said "I feel like I have a fleet of sons looking after my best automotive needs"*

Thanks so much Kathleen, and you're right, you do. We often describe our Service Advisors' approach as "giving the same advice they'd give to a family member", so we're consciously trying to give you that feeling. And you're also right that it is actually a "fleet" of people, from the Advisor who checks you in to the many hyper-qualified Technicians who actually do the work to the Techs who do our Post-Service inspections. It's a full team of people that are looking at your ENTIRE vehicle, and all with "your best automotive needs" in mind. It's everything we try to accomplish here, and it's great when someone notices the feeling we work so hard to create. Thanks for your kind comment!

### Current Discount Offers



**Carbon Neutral Program-** Offset the carbon production of your vehicle AND save 10% on ALL labor charges for that vehicle throughout your one-year membership.

You also get a really cool window cling membership sticker. We have an article this month that explains how the program works, so please check it out and sign up. The planet is waiting for you!

### Referral Reward Program



Our Referral Reward Program is our way of saying "thanks" for your valuable-as-gold referrals of new clients to our shop. It's pretty simple... when a new client comes in based on your referral, we make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice. Donations vary from \$10 to \$50 depending on the new client's initial purchases. **Since we started the program in 2014, our clients have made it possible for us to donate \$10,895 to 175 deserving groups.** April was a great month because we were able to make 15 individual donations totaling \$553 to these groups...

[Project South](#) and [Street Roots](#) by Chris B.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Kyle B. and Laura Z.

[Friends of Multnomah County Library](#) by Adam W.

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#) by Richard A.

[Boys and Girls Club](#) by Stuart M. and Mary W.      [Friends of Haystack Rock](#) by Jean H.

[Partners in Health](#) by Kell F.      [Loaves & Fishes](#) by Paul L.

[Street Roots](#) by Phil K.      [Portland Rescue Mission](#) by Hyuen H.

[Mahasiddha Buddhist Center](#) by Michelle L.      [Free Geek](#) by Vernon H.

## 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

## How much exercise does it take to lose a calorie?



Spring means “shorts weather” is back, so everyone’s doing the math to know exactly how much exercise to do to fit into last year’s pair. Is that extra cheeseburger worth a half hour on a treadmill, or a half marathon? You use calories just sitting and breathing, so how long do you have to sit and breathe at the computer to burn that Snickers bar? Read this article from BBC Future and you’ll know exactly how much exercise how much exercise it takes to burn off a wide variety of foods. There is good news, though... the Snickers WILL disappear with computer time, and the article tells you how much it will take...

### [How Far Do You Have To Run To Burn Off A Burger?](#), David Robson on BBC Future, Oct 2015

“The gym bunny’s equation is simple enough: calories in versus calories out. After you’ve worked up a sweat in the gym, you should have gained the licence to treat yourself to a snack afterwards.

In practice, the maths is difficult to get right: it’s all too easy to overestimate how much we’ve burnt in a session, and underestimate the calories in a snack. The depressing result is that many people (up to 68%, in one study) hoping to shed pounds actually put on weight during their exercise regime.

Fortunately, BBC Future has scoured Harvard Medical School’s comprehensive table of the calories burned during everything from sex to long-distance cycling. Using this information, we equated exactly what it would take to burn off your favourite snacks. (The exact figures will vary from person to person – all the data here assumes an 11-stone, or 70kg, frame.)

You may be surprised by just how little you burn during seemingly energetic activities, such as sex

Compared to sleeping (which itself burns some calories), even something as simple as sitting at a computer, chewing gum or reading a book is equivalent to eating some modest nibbles. You may be surprised, however, by just how little you have earned during seemingly energetic everyday activities, such as sex – or how far you have to travel before you have burnt off a burger and chips. Exercise offers many benefits besides weight loss, of course. But if you are aspiring to a trimmer, more toned figure (or simply want to remain a stable weight), it’s worth knowing the facts before you hit the gym or raid the pantry.”



# Sellwood Bridge Update

## The Naked Bridge



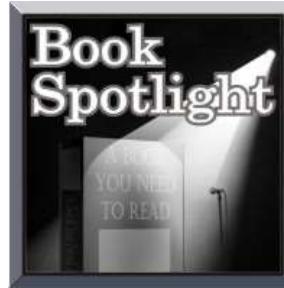
Progress is continuing on the Sellwood Bridge ahead of its actual, final, complete completion in November. They're mostly working on the West side interchange, removal of the old bridge, and final connection of the Bridge to Tacoma Street on the East side. There's really not much to update you on this month, so we'll just bring you this pretty cool picture of the old bridge with the old concrete removed. The steel will be cut apart and barged away in July, when the ban on construction in the river ends. Will there be something more significant next month? Stay tuned...



As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org). Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. 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](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org).

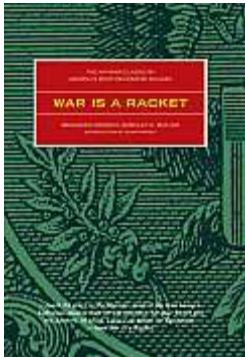
# Book Spotlight

## “War Is A Racket” by General Smedley Butler



Our Book Spotlight this month returns to a target it illuminated in 2014 with “War Is A Racket” by General Smedley Butler. It came to mind again because we had a new client in the shop recently who was pleasantly surprised by our [Book and Bumper Sticker library](#). Tom showed her around himself, and she left with a prescient quote from Abraham Lincoln and a copy of General Butler’s famous book. (And of course, a flawlessly operating vehicle). At any rate, that was the last copy we had on the shelves, and Tom ordered a new stock to replace it. If you want a copy of one of the classics of anti-war literature, written by a two-time Medal of Honor recipient who was once the most decorated Marine in US history, then we have several copies here at the shop. We usually just lend our books, but in this case just ask on your next visit and we’ll let you have one for free (while supplies last).

**“Corporations have been enthroned ... and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign ... until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.”** - Abraham Lincoln



### “War Is A Racket” by General Smedley Butler

(Synopsis from WikiPedia; click the book cover to go to the Powells.com site)

‘War Is a Racket’ is the title of two works, a speech and a booklet, by retired United States Marine Corps Major General and two time Medal of Honor recipient Smedley D. Butler. In them, Butler frankly discusses from his experience as a career military officer how business interests commercially benefit (war profiteering) from warfare.

After his retirement from the Marine Corps, Butler made a nationwide tour in the early 1930s giving his speech “War is a Racket”. The speech was so well received that he wrote a longer version as a small book with the same title that was published in

1935 by Round Table Press, Inc., of New York. The booklet was also condensed in Reader’s Digest as a book supplement which helped popularize his message. In an introduction to the Reader’s Digest version, Lowell Thomas, the “as told to” author of Butler’s oral autobiographical adventures, praised Butler’s “moral as well as physical courage”.



The story of the Bonus Army, with the real General Butler addressing the marchers



General Butler’s “War Is A Racket” speech delivered by a re-enactor

### HISTORICAL FUN FACT!

Did you know the US Government was once the target of a coup attempt? From [Wikipedia...](#)

*“In 1933, [Butler] became involved in a controversy known as the Business Plot, when he told a congressional committee that a group of wealthy industrialists were planning a military coup to overthrow Franklin D. Roosevelt, with Butler selected to lead a march of veterans to become dictator, similar to other Fascist regimes at that time. The individuals involved all denied the existence of a plot and the media ridiculed the allegations. A final report by a special House of Representatives Committee confirmed some of Butler’s testimony.”*

[Click here for more on the Business Coup from NPR](#)

# Humorousness

## REAL Political Insults



Ahh, the political season, when we're once again treated to a string of obfuscation, lies, gaffes, and most fun of all, the insults. This year we've heard Hillary and Bernie call each other unqualified, Trump call Cruz "Lyin' Ted", Boehner call Cruz "Lucifer", insults about "hand" size, and so many more gems. But we're really falling down on the quality of our insults. Back in the day, politicians really knew how to put their opponents in their place... at least before they put a bullet in them in a duel. Take a tour with us through the Memory Lane of past elections, and it may even make you feel better about the political climate today... maybe.

... and to you, sir, treacherous in private friendship ... and a hypocrite in public life, the world will be puzzled to decide whether you are an apostate or an impostor, whether you have abandoned good principles or whether you ever had any.  
*Thomas Paine (1737-1809), letter to George Washington (1732-99)*

... as thin as the homeopathic soup that was made by boiling the shadow of a pigeon that had been starved to death.  
*Abraham Lincoln (1809-65)*

... he insults the House of Lords and plagues the most eminent of his colleagues with the crabbed malice of a maunding witch.  
*Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81) on the Earl of Aberdeen*

... only a frantic pair of moustaches.  
*T. E. Lawrence (1888-1935) on Ferdinand Foch (1851-1929), French marshal*

... was brilliant to the top of his army hoots.  
*David Lloyd George (1863-1945) on Douglas Haig (1861-1928), British field marshal*

A cold-blooded, calculating, unprincipled usurper, without a virtue; no statesman, knowing nothing of commerce, political economy, or civil government, and supplying ignorance by bold presumption.  
*Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), American president, on Napoleon Bonaparte*

A crafty and lecherous old hypocrite whose very statue seems to gloat on the wenches as they walk the States House yard.  
*William Cobbett (1763-1835), on Benjamin Franklin (1706-90), American statesman and scientist*

A lamentably successful cross between a fox and a hog.  
*James G. Blaine, American politician, on Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-93), American soldier*

A retail mind in a wholesale business.  
*David Lloyd George (1863-1945) on Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)*

A tardy little marionette.  
*Randolph Churchill (1849-95) on Clement Attlee (1883-1967)*

A Winston Churchill who had never been to Harrow.  
*H. G. Wells (1866-1946) on Huey Pierce Long, American politician*

As an intellectual he bestowed upon the games of golf and bridge all the enthusiasm and perseverance that he withheld from books and ideas.  
*Emmet Hughes, American writer, on Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969), 34th American president*

As he rose like a rocket, he fell like a stick.  
*Thomas Paine (1737-1809), British political philosopher, on Edmund Burke (1729-97), British author and statesman*

Chamberlain is no better than a Mayor of Birmingham, and in a lean year at that.  
*Lord Hugh Cecil on Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940)*

Dear Randolph, utterly unspoilt by failure.  
*Noel Coward (1899-1973) on Randolph Churchill (1849-95)*

Douglas can never be president, Sir. No, Sir; Douglas never can be president, Sir. His legs are too short, Sir. His coat, like a cow's tail, hangs too near the ground, Sir.  
*Thomas Hart Benton (1782-1858) on Stephen A. Douglas, presidential candidate*

Dr Dread-Devil... said that there were no trees in Scotland. I wonder how they managed to take him around without letting him see trees. I suppose that that lick-spittle Boswell, or Mrs Piozzi, tied a bandage over his eyes when he went over the country which I

have been over. I shall sweep away at this bundle of lies.

*William Cobbett (1763-1835) on Samuel Johnson (1709-84)*

Every drop of blood in that man's veins has eyes that look downward.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82), American philosopher and poet, on Daniel Webster, American politician*

Filthy Story-Teller, Despot, Liar, Thief, Braggart, Buffoon, Usurper, Monster, Ignoramus Abe, Old Scoundrel, Perjurer, Robber, Swindler, Tyrant, Field-Butcher, Land-Pirate.

*Harper's Weekly on Abraham Lincoln*

Garfield has shown that he is not possessed of the backbone of an angleworm.

*Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85), 18th American president, on James A. Garfield (1831-81), 20th American president*

Gladstone appears to me one of the contemptibilist men I ever looked on. A poor Ritualist; almost spectral kind of phantasm of a man.

*Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), Scottish historian and essayist on William Ewart Gladstone (1809-98)*

He has all the characteristics of a dog except loyalty.

*Sam Houston, American politician, on Thomas Jefferson Green (1801-63), American politician*

He has committed every crime that does not require courage.

*Benjamin Disraeli on Daniel O'Connell (1775-1847), Irish lawyer, politician and agitator*

He is a self-made man and worships his creator.

*attr. John Bright on Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81)*

He is like a carving knife whetted on a brickbat.

*John Randolph (1773-1833) American politician, on Ben Harden, American politician*

He lived a hypocrite and died a traitor.

*John Foster, English historian, on Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), Lord Protector of England*

He objected to ideas only when others had them.

*A. J. P. Taylor, British historian, on Ernest Bevin (1881-1951) British politician*

He occasionally stumbled over the truth, but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing had happened.

*Winston Churchill on Stanley Baldwin (1867-1947)*

He only had one idea and that was wrong. Benjamin Disraeli on a now forgotten MP He is a mere cork,

dancing in a current which he cannot control.

*Arthur Balfour (1848-1930), British prime minister on Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836-1908), Liberal prime minister*

He slept more than any other president, whether by day or night. Nero fiddled, but Coolidge only snored.

*H. L. Mencken (1880-1956) on Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)*

He spent his whole life in plastering together the true and the false and therefrom manufacturing the plausible.

*Stanley Baldwin (1867-1947) on David Lloyd George (1863-1945)*

He thinks himself deaf because he no longer hears himself talked of.

*Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord (1754-1838) on Vicomte de Chateaubriand (1768-1848)*

He was essentially a prig, and among prigs there is a freemasonry which never fails. All the prigs spoke of him as the coming man.

*Benjamin Disraeli (1804-81) on William Ewart Gladstone (1809-98)*

He was oppressed by metaphor, dislocated by parentheses and debilitated by amplification.

*Samuel Parr (1747-1825) on a speech by Edmund Burke (1729-97)*

["In Praise of Political Insults"](#) by Joseph Tartakovsky, The Wall Street Journal, July 2008

["Slinging Mud: Rude Nicknames, Scurrilous Slogans, and Insulting Slang from Two Centuries of American Politics"](#), Rosemarie Ostler, Sep 2011

["How To Insult Your Political Opponents"](#) by Margaret Talbot, The New Yorker, May 2012

# 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!

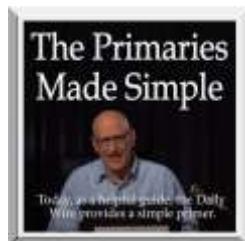


## Really, REALLY tiny cars



One of our Technicians, James Magmer, is a fanatic model builder. He builds hyperdetailed model cars from a combination of plastic kit parts and parts he builds himself. He's an artist, but gave us links to two model builders that amaze even him. The first is [Gerald Wingrove, an Englishman who scratch-builds photorealistic models from metal](#). The second is [Pierre Scerri, who spent 15 years building a fully functional Ferrari 312-PB](#). In this case, fully functional means he machined the entire engine and mechanical systems, so the car actually cranks, runs, and drives. You really just have to see these models to believe them!

## The Primaries made simple



This is one of the most unusual political seasons most of us will see in our lifetime. The veil has been pulled back, and Americans are slowly realizing that the two-party Primary system does not now, nor has it ever, depended on what people think. It's a Party function first, last, and only, but that doesn't make it any clearer. If you're still scratching your head about how things work then you'll want to watch [this clip from another of our Technicians](#), Chad Daley. It sums up the entire Primary process for both Democrats and Republicans in the simplest possible way. Sorry, Chad, but even if it's as simple as possible it may still not be clear.

## Amy Goodman is coming to Portland



Amy Goodman is one of the premier investigative and analytical reporters in any medium. Her long-running show "Democracy NOW" (which, by the way, we're underwriters of on KBOO) is a multi-award winning platform that routinely asks the big people the deep questions, but also looks to the little people for the rest of the story as well. Now, you have a chance to [see Amy Goodman live in Portland](#) as she tours in celebration of 20 years of Democracy NOW! She'll be at the Alladin Theater on Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 645p. There are a very few tickets still left, so get yours before they go!

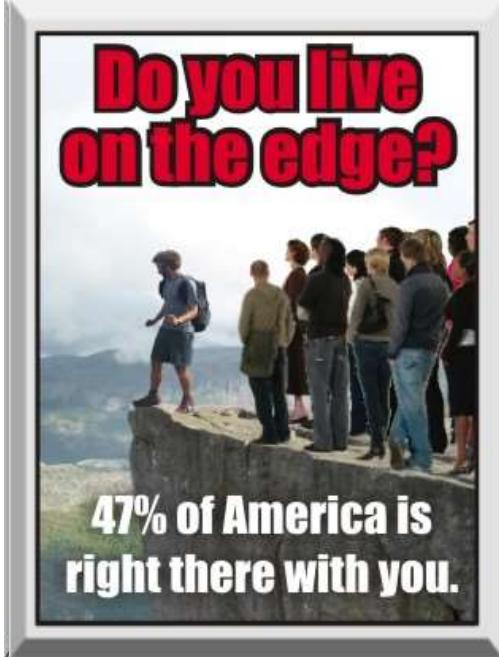
## Tiny Houses get very BIG



One Continuing our sometime-look at Tiny Houses, we bring you a Tiny House that's really grown up. If your vision of a Tiny House is an cramped and uncomfortable shack then get a load of this one... it's a compact apartment in Hong Kong, just 309 square feet, but it has a full kitchen, guest bedroom, home theater, and much more. Take a tour and you'll find small living may be for you!

# News To Make You Furious

Life on the Edge... with everyone else



Google "47%" and you'll get a lot of hits for Mitt Romney's comments from 2012. They're scary enough, but dig deeper and you'll find a [recent article from The Atlantic magazine](#) that's even scarier. Neal Gabler writes about the ups and downs of his own financial life, but then moves on to research how widespread his situation is. He found decades of wage stagnation, predatory lending, spiraling education and healthcare costs have all contributed to a financial wasteland that is quietly engulfing the Middle Class. One of the most infuriating things he found was this simple fact... 47% of Americans would have trouble coming up with the money for a \$400 emergency. Gabler digs deep to document our changing vision of the American Dream, which only 64% of us still believe in. Join Neal as he shares the results... 17% income drops, 65% financial illiteracy, 30% of the population with NO retirement savings, and much more. It's not fun reading at all, but

you're here for stuff that will "Make You Furious". Believe us, this will do it, but it will also make you better educated about the situation facing far too many Americans. And realizing we're all in the quicksand together is the first step to pulling ourselves out.

## "The Secret Shame of Middle Class Americans"

Neal Gabler in The Atlantic Magazine, May 2016