



Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for June, 2016

Our Feature Articles



Who Makes YOUR Service Recommendations?
WE rely on ASE-Certified Technicians



Radical Shopping Therapy
The Sellwood Farmers Market is more than you expect



The Powell Memo
The roadmap to today's political situation was drawn in 1971

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits

Past is Prologue

"What NOW?!!" Toons

Keith Tucker's Toon-of-the-Month

Drew's Kitchen

Scallop and Shrimp Kabobs

Shop Talk

Sellwood Summer Concerts and our Referral Reward Quarterly winner!

Health Notes-

Food keeps you alive... for now

Sellwood Bridge Update

Goodbye to the Big Steel

Book Spotlight

"Listen, Liberal" by Thomas Frank
...with a Book Spotlight BONUS

Humorousness

20 Signs Your Mechanic Is An Idiot

Popcorn Shorts

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

- Entire village is off-grid for food, water, power, waste
- An Oklahoma innovation... roadside shakedowns
- New York becomes 17th state against Citizens United
- Hillary Clinton's standard speech requirements

News To Make You Furious

SCOTUS kills the 4th Amendment





Greetings!

Are we the United States of Amnesia, creatively rewriting our stories to soften their marks on history? We're a nation born of the genocide of Native Americans and built by the suffering of slaves among our many other sins, but we're still unable to face those mistakes, learn, recalibrate and move on to become a better nation. Many Americans have been raised with a sanitized sense of our history and know nothing about civics or the political process in either theory or reality. This inability to compare current events to past history and learn from the comparison is a crippling handicap to rational decision making and progress in today's environment. As an example in recent history, I would point to a cultural shift that emerged with the 1980 election of Ronald Reagan, and its continuing impact today...

Reagan's election marked a major turning point in America. Jimmy Carter's traditional ideals, familiar to most Americans since Roosevelt, were attacked and toxic new memes such as "greed is good", "government is bad", "unions are corrupt", "education is too expensive", "privatization is the answer" and others were inserted. Government, long thought to be a flawed but essential protector of "the common man", became an object of blame. Business, long seen as a predatory force, was painted as an efficient replacement for "broken" government.

These oft-repeated and ubiquitous new memes took root but it's taken years for them to begin to bear fruit. Greed has been so good that now the richest 20 Americans have more wealth than the entire bottom half of the country combined. Government, starved of the money it needs to perform even its most basic functions, has let our infrastructure decay to the point where it would take over \$2 trillion dollars to repair it. Union membership has dropped from around 25% in 1970 to about 10% today, with a predictable effect on wages, job security, and retirement. The idea of productive, full-time labor that can support a family in dignity is now a sad punch line. Single-income families now make up about 37% of our population, down from 60% in 1970.

We are reaping the results of this worship of greed and vilification of government, but our citizenry is impotent to stop it. Why? Because the public school system has been pillaged to the point students are no longer taught civics and the history taught is minimal. This calculated dumbing down of America means no one can look back and see how things were, or more importantly, how things can be changed. Democracy is on life support while propaganda flourishes, sustained by the installed ignorance. Steamrolled by powers of greed, a population suffering from learned helplessness and complacency may now lose what generations before have died for.

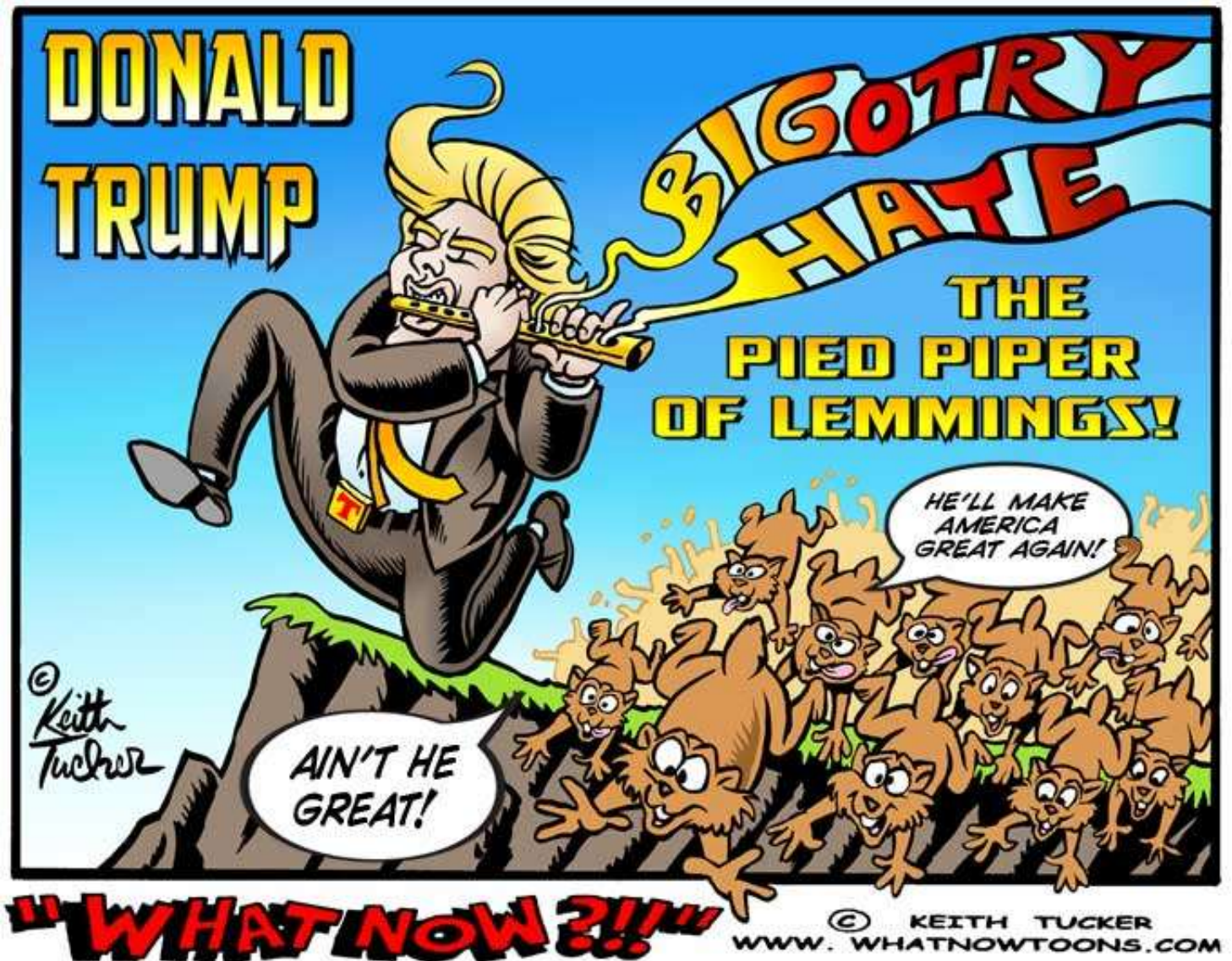
If we start fighting back now we could begin to reverse some of the damage over the next 30 years. It will take visionary leaders and common citizens alike to put us back on the path Jimmy Carter was blazing for us. Reagan was no statesman on par with Lincoln or Roosevelt, more a pretty figurehead of the 100-year-old movement for the wealthy to lull us back into accepting Plutocracy.

Please help stop the Ronald Reagan Worship and fight to reverse the dumbing down of America.

Take Care and Make a Great Day!

What NOW?!! Toons

Our June check in with Keith Tucker



Who Makes YOUR Service Recommendations?

WE rely on non-commissioned ASE-Professionals



The image of today's auto repair industry has suffered from some careless businesses. Most shops do their best to make repair recommendations in their customer's interests, but the commissioned pay structure of some shops can bias recommendations, while others may not be able to provide the thorough, prioritized recommendations you need. It's important to know how any prospective shop pays their technicians and whether the service writers are on a commission. It's also important to know exactly who determines the needs and priorities of your vehicle. If it's a commission-driven service advisor with limited car knowledge making the recommendations for your vehicle, then you

should reconsider things. If recommendations come from an experienced ASE Technician who is not paid [flat-rate](#), you can rest much easier. Let us explain how WE determine and prioritize YOUR vehicle needs, and you'll understand why so many people are so confident in our advice...

We build our service and repair recommendations by combining your vehicle history with our own detailed mechanical examination and manufacturer's specifications. The mechanical inspection is done by an ASE-Certified or ASE-Master-Certified Technician trained to understand the maintenance and service needs of your vehicle. That same Technician prepares a prioritized list of what they think your vehicle needs, and then gives it to one of our experienced Service Advisor (also ASE-Certified). The Service Advisor researches and estimates each item prioritized by the technician. When you get the call to discuss and authorize service, you'll get a concise report of the things your vehicle *does* need ([not just what it's supposed to need](#)), with [estimates](#), [prioritized](#) by safety, breakdown, and maintenance. Our *Technicians* make your recommendations; our *Service Advisors* oversee the process with you.

Some important things about this process... Our Technicians determine the priorities for your vehicle, but neither the Technician making the recommendations nor the Service Advisor reporting them are paid on a [commission](#) or [production](#) basis! Our professionals are paid for *all* the time they spend with you and your vehicle, ensuring there is no conflict of interest in their labor practices or advice. Technicians aren't rushing through your job to make more money and Service Advisors aren't recommending services to build a percentage-of-sales paycheck. Their only interests are making sure you get the services you need with the quality you deserve and that you return as a client for years to come. The pay structure of a shop's staff shapes your entire service experience... make sure you ask about it [no matter what shop you find yourself in](#).

No business survives without making a profit, but there's a difference in making a reasonable profit from needed services done right and just selling work whether it's needed or not. There is never a value in unneeded or unessential work no matter the price. Our shop was built by putting quality and integrity ahead of other considerations, and it shows. [We're intensely proud](#) that we're within estimate 98.82% of the time, on schedule 98.5% of the time, and satisfy 99.73% of our clients. [Goals determine outcomes](#), and our *only* goal is you!

Radical Shopping Therapy

The Moreland Farmers Market is more than you expect



(Guest article by Lannie Kali)

Have you ever been to the Moreland Farmers Market? It happens every Wednesday from May through October at the corner of SE Bybee and 14th. Even if you haven't stopped, you've probably seen the booths bulging with fresh and healthy food, smiled at the kids playing on the grass, heard the sound of music, or enjoyed the delicate smells wafting through the air. If it looks like a party, that's because it really is... a party that joins neighbors in a weekly celebration of shopping, relaxing, and children's activities. But it's not JUST a market; it's not even JUST a party. It's much more than either, and here's why the Moreland Farmers Market is more than

you could ever expect...

ALL Farmers Markets are radical

If you expect Farmers Markets to just be quirky fun then realize this... shopping at a farmers market is radical act. Our country's dominant food system of mass-market, large-scale grocery stores is broken because it was never set up to feed our communities to begin with. Large areas of our cities are "food deserts" where fresh food is unavailable; not because the food doesn't exist or can't be shipped in, but because it's not profitable enough for large grocery stores. Even where grocery stores do open, people are deprived of nutritious, flavorful, healthy food in favor of food selected for its transportability, chemical compatibility, shelf appeal, or other factors that have nothing to do with nutrition. Reliance on a system designed for large-company participation has squeezed out the small farmers who can't, or won't, produce food to fit the system.



Our communities have become so dependent on these corporate grocery stores that few people can imagine an alternative is possible, but Farmers Markets are just that. They're a locally-based, sustainable alternative to impersonal corporate distribution. They're a way to feed our families healthy food while supporting small-scale farmers, sustainable agriculture, and the environment at the same time.

An apple shows just one of the differences between Grocery Stores and Farmers Markets. If you hand a dollar for your delicious apple to a clerk at a typical Grocery Store, 50 cents goes to the store you're standing in, 30 cents goes to transportation and refrigeration, the grower (likely working on another continent) gets 20 cents. If you're at a Farmers Market, you're giving your dollar to the same farmer who grew the apple, so the farmer gets the whole dollar. Simple. No

corporate shareholders, shorter farm-to-market transport, no breakdown of nutritional value, less degradation to the environment. That apple tastes sweeter from a Farmers Market for a lot of reasons!

But the Moreland Farmers Market is unique

This being Portland, a radical farmer's market by itself just isn't radical enough. That's OK... the Moreland Farmers Market pushes the boundaries even further. We have three programs happening behind the scenes designed to reinforce the strengths of the Market, improve its outreach to underserved neighbors, and help people understand the value of healthy food in their lives.

Senior Nutrition Program

This extremely popular program connects Seniors who may not be physically able to get to the Market with a selection of fresh Market food. The Senior Nutrition doubled last year and will double again this year, but despite its success we're still waiting for other Farmers Markets to catch up... after X years, the Moreland Farmers Market is STILL the only market in Oregon with a Senior Nutrition Program!

Power of Produce

On the younger end of the spectrum, the Power of Produce program reaches into neighborhood schools to put information on food and farming into the hands of kids. Plus, the kids get a \$2 token to spend on fruits and vegetables at the Market each week so they can put their new knowledge into tasty practice! This is a powerful way to build good nutrition and conscious shopping habits for life.

Double-Up Food Bucks

Access to healthy food is a particular problem for low-income people, since much of the cheapest food is frequently the lowest quality. Thanks to our generous donors, the Moreland Farmers Market offers a \$10 match to everyone using SNAP funds at the Market.



These programs have been spectacular successes so far, and it's all due to the generosity of individual donors and business sponsors. Of course, we're always looking for ways to expand our impact even more, so if you'd like to add your support to any or all of these outreach programs then Lannie Kali at the Moreland Farmers Market can give you all the details. Any help you can give will go directly to the program goals, and various levels of business sponsorships are recognized by the Market in venues around the

Sellwood/Westmoreland area. It's a VERY effective way to introduce your business to your Sellwood neighbors!

Our Farmers are the backbone of our Market, but it takes a huge team to manage the upkeep and planning as well. There's a large board of directors, countless volunteers, college interns, even a dedicated market manager. It's a lot of people having a lot of fun, but we're not just here to throw a party every week. We're kale-eating-grassroots-organizing-change-the-world-one-Wednesday-

at-a-time food activists committing a radical act, an intentional weekly pop-up event that's subverting the dominant food system one apple at a time. Bet you didn't expect THAT from the Moreland Farmers Market! Come join us and 1300 other neighborhood radicals each week to see what else you're missing!



About the author,

Lannie Kali is a life-long activist, professional chef, and the current manager of two local farmers markets. She has been in the Portland food and farmers market scene for over a decade, and was one of the 10 Top Sustainable Food Leaders To Watch in 2010. She lives in SE Portland with her 7 year old daughter and their rabbit, Marshmallow.

The Powell Memo

The roadmap to our current situation was drawn in 1971



If you look around at our media/political/corporate landscape, it seems obvious (as Mr. Snyder will say below in his memo, "to any thoughtful person") that there is an overriding pro-business, pro-corporate, anti-worker, authoritarian fascist agenda. That same thoughtful person may come to the conclusion that this agenda could be the result of conscious intent. But wouldn't that be paranoia? Isn't someone who says there's a "vast right-wing conspiracy" just giving in to tin-foil hat theories? The Powell Memo is a smoking-gun argument otherwise...

The Powell Memo (also called the Powell Manifesto) is frequently referred to as the blueprint for the modern conservative echo chamber. It is an 8-page letter written in 1971 by Eugene Snyder of the US Chamber of Commerce to his friend Lewis Powell. (If the name Lewis Powell sounds familiar it's because good ol' Lew was a corporate lawyer nominated to the Supreme Court two months after this memo). Snyder describes a pervasive attack on the "American economic system" by leftists, Communists, and consumerists. He sees their influence in politics, in the media, and on the campus, and suggests that the Chamber of Commerce lead the charge to counter them. He lays out a plan of political pressure, legislative change, think tanks, school curriculums, media personalities, TV and radio appearances, textbook reviews, and much more to promote the cause of "the American Business Executive", who he says is "truly the forgotten man".

Snyder listened to Powell, and turned the Chamber into a long-term, pro-business movement-builder. Some of the organizations created or inspired by the Powell Memo include the Heritage Foundation, the Manhattan Institute, the Cato Institute, Citizens for a Sound Economy, Accuracy in Academe, and ALEC (the American Legislative Exchange Council).

In fairness, Snyder may not have agreed with the way his ideas are being implemented today. In his memo he points out that "...the need for liberal thought is essential to a balanced viewpoint" and he was sure the Chamber would never "...engage in the irresponsible tactics of some pressure groups". Most significantly, he mentions several "essential freedoms" including labor unions and collective bargaining. However, the current propaganda juggernaut despises any liberal balance, engages in the worst types of distortion and disinformation, and is bent on the destruction of labor unions and collective bargaining. Sorry, Eugene.

The Powell Memo is vitriolic and paranoid, and never addresses the remote possibility that the "American economic system" wasn't being attacked out of spite or ideology, but because it might have had flaws that needed fixing. However, it is clear and lucid as well, laying out a clear plan to deal with the problem as Snyder saw it. Its ideas have spread from a single letter between friends to influence our entire country without any signs of stopping. It's a crucial and often overlooked document that deserves your attention. So, without further ado, we bring you...

The Powell Memo



Little known trivia fact... your grill can cook more than hot dogs, steaks, and hamburgers! Let your barbeque stretch its wings with seafood, but don't work any harder than you have to. Drew will tell you how...

Scallop and Shrimp Kabobs

Ingredients:

- ½ pound scallops
- ½ pound large raw shrimp (peeled and deveined)
- (3) tbsp. Olive Oil
- (3) Tbsp Lemon Juice
- (2) large cloves garlic (minced)
- (3) Tbsp minced parsley
- ¼ dried basil, crushed
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- ½ pound mushrooms

Preparation:

- Add shellfish to olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, parsley, basil, and pepper. Marinate 30 min.
- Alternate scallops, shrimp, and mushrooms on skewers without crowding. Brush with marinade. Broil or grill 4 inches from source of heat for 4 minutes.
- Turn skewers, brush with margarine and continue to cook about 3 minutes longer or until scallops and shrimp are opaque.
- Serve with rice

Shop Talk

Summer Concerts AND our Referral Reward Quarterly winner!



The Sellwood Summer Concerts are back!



We look forward to the Sellwood Riverfront Park Concerts all year. They're part of a fantastic [city-wide program by Portland Parks and Recreation](#) that brings free movies, concerts, and more to parks around Portland. Our particular concerts happen in Sellwood Riverfront Park (the lower part of Sellwood park; the part with the off-leash area and not the upper park with the baseball areas). They're wonderful opportunities to relax on the grass, with a delicious picnic, listening to spectacular music while the sun sets. You can also spend a few minutes chatting about your vehicle at the Tom Dwyer booth... you'll find us at each of this year's concerts, where we've been for almost 10 years. It's part of Portland you don't want to miss, and we encourage you to make time to go to at least one show. Here's the lineup for this year's shows...

July 11- Keegan Smith (original urban Americana)

July 18- Pete Krebs & the Portland Playboys (old school western swing & honky tonk)

July 25- Edna Vasquez (velvety Latin pop rock with folklore roots)

Aug 1- Karen Lovely (award winning contemporary blues)

Aug 8- Quarterflash (energetic 80's rock)

Referral Reward Program- Monthly AND Quarterly Awards!



Our Referral Reward Program is our way of saying "thanks" for your generous referrals... after all, it's people telling people that keeps our doors open! It's a pretty straightforward program... **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 \$11,381 to 185 deserving groups, and that doesn't even include this month's totals! June was one of our best months ever, with **15 donations totaling \$657 to these groups...**

[Morrison Family Services](#) by Anna B. [Friends of Columbia River Gorge](#) by Annie R.

[Llewellyn School](#) by David P. [Bicycle Transportation Alliance](#) by Greg L.

[House of Dreams Cat Shelter](#) by Vicki H. [Sisters of the Road Café](#) by Jan E.

[A Social Ignition](#) by Matt S. [Loaves & Fishes](#) by Tom M.

[Free Geek](#) by Vernon H. (second Reward for Vernon!) [Feral Cat Coalition](#) by Allison C.

[Neighborhood House](#) by Laura M. [ChildFund International](#) by Ronald B.

[Audobon Society](#) by Vikki D. [Oregon Food Bank](#) by Elizabeth H. and Steve B.

That's just for our individual monthly donations, but this month we're also picking our first Quarterly Award winner of 2016. Before we announce it, we should tell you about a slight change. We've picked most of our Quarterly and Yearly Award winners in-house, until last year when we opened up the Yearly award for your votes. We're picking this Quarter's winner again, but it will be the last...

>>> **YOU'LL have the chance to VOTE for our next Quarterly Award winner!** <<<

That's right, we're taking the power out of the hands of a select few and putting it in the hands of the people where it belongs. Stay tuned to the Tom Dwyer Newsletter for voting information, but we'll make a big deal out of it so you'll be sure to be aware. In the meantime, please join us in congratulating the last winner of our handpicked Quarterly Award and recipient of a check for \$200...



Friends of the Columbia River Gorge

[Friends of the Columbia River Gorge](#)

The recent train derailment in Mosier has put protection of the Columbia Gorge on the front burner in regional politics. While Oregon has put a moratorium on oil trains, Washington has not. Pressure to bring more of the explosive Bakken crude through the Gorge will only increase, so we thought any group working to defend our precious Columbia River Gorge from defilement was worthy of help. If you'd like to get involved with the Friends then here's an ideal opportunity to learn more about them... their [36th Annual "Picnic in Paradise" happens Sunday, July 17, on Thunder Island](#) near Cascade Locks. And now here's a little more about the Friends of the Columbia River Gorge from their website...

In 1980, recognizing the ever-increasing threat of urban development encroaching into the Columbia Gorge, a threat symbolized with the construction of the suburban I-205 freeway and bridge over the Columbia River, a group of concerned citizens led by Nancy Russell formed Friends of the Columbia Gorge, an organization that would lead the effort to secure passage of federal legislation to protect the beautiful, wild Columbia River Gorge.

On November 18, 1986, we secured that protection. Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act, creating comprehensive Gorge protection across six counties and two states. Since that momentous day, Friends has continued its member-driven Gorge conservation work.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge shall vigorously protect the scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Columbia River Gorge. We fulfill this mission by ensuring strict implementation of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act and other laws protecting the region of the Columbia River Gorge; promoting responsible stewardship of Gorge land, air, and waters; encouraging public ownership of sensitive areas; educating the public about the unique natural values of the Columbia River Gorge and the importance of preserving those values; and working with groups and individuals to accomplish mutual preservation goals.

Congratulations to the Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, working to preserve one of the defining treasures of the Pacific Northwest. We wish you all the best with your work!

Current Discount Offers



We prioritize all our repair recommendations by safety, breakdown, and maintenance, but when Summer hits it seems like there can be another priority... AIR CONDITIONING! Don't wait till that first 100 degree day to find that

your AC has conked out.... schedule now to make sure your system is in top shape, and save money while you do it...

Get an A/C Function assessment at NO CHARGE!

Then, if you need it,

We'll waive up to one hour Diagnostic Time (with repair)

OR

We'll take 25% Off of system evacuation and recharge

A broken A/C makes a good vacation story, but if you'd rather have a good vacation then act now to make sure you'll beat the Summer heat!

Offer expires June 30, 2016



It's not bad yet, but the coming heat will soon turn our parking lot into a dust factory. We can't wash all the vehicles we service, so we created Carwash Coupon Season from May through September to make up for it.

Get a coupon for a FREE WashMan car wash (with minimum purchase)

CarWash Coupon Season only goes through Sep 15, so act now to get the sparkly vehicle you'll love. Sorry, but we only give coupons for services exceeding \$125 and not for oil changes or other minor services. So why don't we just wash your car here? It's one of the most common questions we get, so click here and we'll let Tom himself tell you why...

(offer expires Sep 30, 2016)

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

Food keeps you alive... for now



Health Notes is usually about keeping YOU healthy, and frequently about the foods you eat (or at least should eat). This month we're stepping out to get a longer range view, and concentrate on the food web that supplies ALL of us ALL the food we eat. Even more specifically, we want to tell you about bees. They're absolutely critical to our food supply, but they're facing an existential threat. Fortunately, there's a way you can help them...

Pollination is essentially plant reproduction. Without help from animal pollinators, our everyday food supply would look much different – at least one third of our staples we've come to rely on would no longer be available. A few examples of the foods that would no longer be available to us if bees ceased pollinating our agricultural goods are: broccoli, asparagus, cantaloupes, cucumbers, pumpkins, blueberries, watermelons, almonds, apples, cranberries, and cherries.

[Bees are responsible for pollinating](#) approximately 400 different agricultural types of plant. Honeybees and other pollinators are necessary to produce approximately \$29 billion (in 2010) of agricultural crops in the U.S. alone, about one-third of everything we eat.

Unfortunately, [bees are now vanishing at an alarming rate](#). They face many of the same challenges as other threatened species, including habitat loss and pathogens, but pesticide exposure is of particular concern. A growing body of evidence, including dozens of peer-reviewed independent scientific studies, indicates that exposure to systemic insecticides, like neonicotinoids, are directly harming pollinators and causing poor bee health and severe population declines.

This problem is urgent and worldwide. EPA plans is [reviewing many of these insecticides](#), but results from the study (much less any regulation) are not due for several years. This is not an acceptable timetable for beekeepers in crisis today.

If you think our food supply is important, then you might want to take action to protect the insects that make it possible. As it happens, we have just the way...

[Urge President Obama to protect bees from toxic pesticides before it's too late](#)



In a June 2014 Presidential memorandum, President Obama outlined a new strategy to protect pollinators that emphasized the need for public education, additional research, and habitat expansion. While these are all important in the protection of pollinators, there isn't much urgency or clarity on how the task force will address one of the primary threats to bees and other pollinators: exposure to highly toxic, systemic, and persistent pesticides.

As the inter-agency Pollinator Health Task Force finalizes strategies to best safeguard bee populations, we urge you to ensure pesticides, especially neonicotinoids and other systemic insecticides, are taken into account and decisively addressed. They are key part of the problem and need to be tackled head on.

Sellwood Bridge Update

Goodbye to the Big Steel



Closer, closer, closer... the Sellwood Bridge is edging ever closer to completion.

The biggest thing lately was the removal of the steel structure of the old bridge. The Bridge Project attempted to find someone to use the old bridge as an intact structure; possibly as a span across a much shorter distance. No takers. Instead, this being Portland, the old steel will be recycled at Schnitzer Steel. The old bridge will be cut into four sections, each about 250' long, and lowered onto barges for the trip upriver. As of this writing the East and West sections are gone, leaving the two spans in the center of the river to go. Here's some pictures of the removal, along with much more detailed information from local news sources.



Final situation before the first steel segment starts coming down.

[So long, Sellwood Bridge: Old span to be taken down, recycled](#) from KATU

[Sellwood Bridge demolition begins \(Photos\)](#) from the Oregonian

[Workers taking down old Sellwood Bridge](#) from KGW



Photographers for the demolition had a field day with the geese on the boat ramp.



Closer view of the lowering equipment.



Workers pull to the dock after the East section is removed.



West side section being lowered onto barge.



The East end of the Bridge emerges from its chrysalis.



First section on its way to recycling upriver.

Fi



The sections in the center of the river are all that's left!



STOP THE PRESSES! We got some cool pictures of the setup, but the crews weren't actually lowering any of the sections when our photographer was available. Shortly before we published this month's newsletter, however, we were able to get this shot of the remaining western section being lowered.

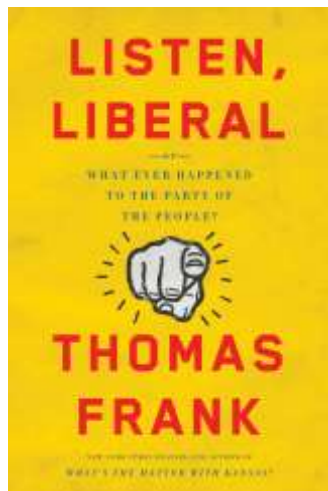
As always, Multnomah County maintains the definitive website on everything related to the Sellwood Bridge Replacement project, www.sellwoodbridge.org. Construction and closure alerts, archived information, and other resources are all available 24/7 for your convenience. If you're looking for something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

“Listen, Liberal” by Thomas Frank



The pontificating class has handed down their received wisdom identifying the source of the outsider political power wielded by Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump... the American People Are Angry. Well, duh. The more perceptive among us have noticed the rain is yellow for a while, but others are just coming around. The Right Wing is only now realizing they've been duped for years; that most of the agenda they've been promised has never been possible in the real world, and certainly not in a Republic with enumerated rights. They're flocking to Trump, who lacks the shame to quit pretending. Much of the Left may take a while to come around. They've been forced to define themselves as "Not the Right" for so long that the implosion of the Republican party seems like a victory in itself, but the victors should beware. Without a clear and realistic vision of where they want the country to go, they risk becoming the next useful but disillusioned shells...



[“Listen, Liberal” by Thomas Frank](#)

(click the image to go to the [Powells.com](#) website for the book)

From the bestselling author of *What's the Matter With Kansas*, “Listen, Liberal” is a scathing look at the standard-bearers of liberal politics—a book that asks: what's the matter with Democrats?

It is a widespread belief among liberals that if only Democrats can continue to dominate national elections, if only those awful Republicans are beaten into submission, the country will be on the right course.

But this is to fundamentally misunderstand the modern Democratic Party. Drawing on years of research and first-hand reporting, Frank points out that the Democrats have done little to advance traditional liberal goals: expanding opportunity, fighting for social justice, and ensuring that workers get a fair deal. Indeed, they have scarcely dented the free-market consensus at all. This is not for lack of opportunity: Democrats have occupied the White House for sixteen of the last twenty-four years, and yet the decline of the middle class has only accelerated. Wall Street gets its bailouts, wages keep falling, and the free-trade deals keep coming.

With his trademark sardonic wit and lacerating logic, Frank lays bare the essence of the Democratic Party's philosophy and how it has changed over the years. A form of corporate and cultural elitism has largely eclipsed the party's old working-class commitment, he finds. For certain favored groups, this has meant prosperity. But for the nation as a whole, it is a one-way ticket into the abyss of inequality. In this critical election year, Frank recalls the Democrats to their historic goals—the only way to reverse the ever-deepening rift between the rich and the poor in America.

About the Author

Thomas Frank is the author of *Pity the Billionaire*, *The Wrecking Crew*, and *What's the Matter with Kansas?* A former columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and *Harper's*, Frank is the founding editor of *The Baffler* and writes regularly for *Salon*. He lives outside Washington, D.C.

[Click here for an interview with Thomas Frank on BillMoyers.com](#)

BOOK SPOTLIGHT BONUS:

Here's an article we ran across that should be of particular interest and deep disappointment to our Book Spotlighters... [“Many College Students are ‘Book Virgins’”](#), meaning they've never read an full, adult-level book by the time they've reached college. Terrifying.

Humorousness

20 Signs Your Mechanic Is An Idiot



Reprinted from www.RideLust.com- We've all been in this situation before... your car begins smoking or making noises you only thought were possible in bowling alleys, and now you're stuck trying to find a decent shop. You've heard all the horror stories, you've seen the outrageous amounts dealerships charge, so you're looking for a nice local shop where you won't get taken for a ride. One problem...how do you tell if the shop you're considering is run by a qualified professional you can trust, or by a guy who was telemarketing for an aluminum siding company last week? Here we have assembled a list of 20 easy-to-spot signs that you may be better off having your 3-year-old attempt the fix using Tinkertoys.

Your friends have had bad experiences at the shop.

This may seem like a no-brainer, but in all seriousness when you need to choose a shop for work on your car, ask your friends. Let their experiences help you in finding a good quality place and a good price.

The shop requires you to pay before the work is done. Most reputable shops will give you an estimate, perform the work, and then charge you after you're sure the problem is fixed. This is the only reasonable business practice that makes sense, because having you pay before you can be sure the problem will actually be fixed just screams shadiness.

The mechanic is not certified by any national association. While certification certainly does not ensure good work and there are good mechanics who don't bother with these things, as a general rule of thumb, shops which have mechanics certified by national organizations such as the ASE (Automotive Society of Engineers) generally provide a better level of service.

The parking lot is full of cars that don't appear capable of movement. This may also seem like a dead giveaway, but many people in the search to save money will end up at a place like this. The general appearance of the shop, including the cars outside, can give you good insight into the quality of the service performed. Do you want your vehicle lined up among the sea of dead vehicles? I think not.

The mechanic attempts diagnosis based upon your broad description. Most of the time one symptom can have a wide variety of underlying causes. While listing a variety of possibilities is not a bad thing, a mechanic who seems to know exactly what is wrong based upon your simple description probably has no idea what is going on and is just guessing at this point. Without a thorough diagnosis, it can be very difficult to pinpoint exactly what is wrong.

The shop has lots of bad reviews online. In today's internet age, it is very easy to research a place of business and find reviews by other customers. A few minutes spent online at a search engine could save you time, money, and hassle later on.

The mechanic does not appear to have specific knowledge of your make and model. Some repair shops specialize in certain brands, while others attempt to do everything. Either way, they hopefully see a large volume of customers, and because of this should have some knowledge of your car's specifics without needing a manual or computer first. Simple things like a knowledge of engine size, which wheels drive the car, and approximate model year, among many others, can let you know that this mechanic has worked on cars like yours before and will most likely do a better job.

No estimate of time for repair. Shops which cannot provide an estimate of the time it will take to fix your car most likely have not worked on a car like yours before or simply are backed up and should be avoided.

Time for repair seems unnecessarily long. If the shop has quoted you a time for your repair which seems incredibly long, call around to other shops first and ask how long it would take them. If the repair estimate is unreasonable, finding another shop is a great idea, as the one you are at most likely has no clue what they are doing.

The shop is very new or has very little history in the area. While every shop needs customers to build up a history, newly opened shops may not be the best place to find good quality or the best deal. Shops that have been in the community a long time have to be doing a good job, otherwise they would have gone out of business a long time ago.

The mechanic tries to suggest a myriad of other services for you at the time of your repair.

Preventative maintenance may be the best way to avoid long-term hassle, but many times these offers of additional service (for a fee) are unwarranted and just attempts to get more of your money. Read your owner's manual and know the timetable for services so that you can avoid being suckered in by a shop that is only out for your pocketbook. Shops that try to get you to purchase all sorts of extra services are not looking out for your best interests, and this applies to the quality of their repairs as well.

The mechanic suggests fixes which don't add up.

Even though the average consumer does not have an extensive working knowledge of an entire automobile, some fixes just don't make sense. Use your judgment and common sense to question the mechanic if something seems out of place. For example, if you were having air conditioning issues and the mechanic suggests an exhaust problem, you may want to pack up and leave. Once again, use the internet as a resource to research possible problems before going to the mechanic so that you can be at least educated enough to spot someone trying to pull one over on you.

The shop tells you you need to fix more things than you came in for, without a thorough explanation.

While diagnosing one problem it is not uncommon to come across one or more secondary problems. For example, you need your brakes fixed but they suggest new tires, suspension fixes, or steering box problems. While it is very possible that while doing one job the shop may come across other things that need work, they should be able to explain this all to you in a manner you understand.

Lack of sufficient explanations. Following from #13, ANY instance at a shop where they suggest a repair but cannot thoroughly explain not only the reasoning but the procedure behind it should be a red flag. If a list of problems suddenly jumps up from their "master technician", ask them which ones are the most important and which could hold off. In most instances, if your car has been running fine for quite a while, it is unlikely that there are multiple serious failures lurking underneath, and the shop should be able to explain if that is the case.

The mechanic gives you a line like "good thing you brought this in, the car probably would not have lasted another 50 miles." Man, what are the chances that you happened to bring your car in at just the right time, to just the right shop! Lucky you! WRONG. Chances are, if you have been driving your car around

for a little while with a warning light on or a noise, it was not very close to total failure. Shops which say things like this are just trying to make you feel lucky for their services and will undoubtedly overcharge you for their services.

The mechanic suggests one fix first, then when that doesn't work, claims they "know" what has to be wrong this time.

Sometimes shops have a few go-to fixes for things (alternator + battery for electrical problems, for example) and will jump to these first, then look for other problems later. If a shop charges you for a fix but it doesn't actually fix the problem, they should be willing to refund at least some of your money, if not all, because after all, you have trusted them with fixing the problem, not playing trial-and-error games with your money.

Insisting they are the best in town without awards or recognition from the community to back it up.

Most any business will try to tell you that they are the best for the job, but look for proof. If a shop has been in the area for a while, look for local recognition (newspapers, chamber of commerce, etc.) to back it up. Without proof these claims might as well be thrown out as garbage.

The shop installs a new part, it fixes the problem but then fails soon after.

There are cases of new pieces being defective from the factory, but it is also possible that the shop installed the part wrong and this caused it to fail. In general, if the shop is not willing to replace the part free of charge, they should be avoided in the future.

The mechanic won't wait on you to call around to other shops or take the car other places to get estimates.

Often times, if the repair is a major one you might want to call several places and get estimates to make sure you are getting a good deal. If the shop you are at tells you you can't leave your car there for a few hours while you call around, they're not worth your business.

The mechanic cannot understand your explanation of the problem and asks you multiple times to repeat or rephrase.

Shops which have knowledgeable staff and provide good service should be able to understand the problem as told by a common person. You might not use the same technical terms, but if they cannot understand your explanation, there's a good chance they won't find the right problem. If you can't explain it in words, ask them to look at the car or take a short ride with you. If they want your business and are really interested in providing you with the best service, they will agree.

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!



Entire village is off-grid for food, water, power, and waste



One of the first things kids learn is "Clean up after yourself"! It's their first advice because it's some of the best advice they'll ever hear. Your mess is just that... YOUR mess, and it shouldn't be left to anyone else to clean up. When it comes to cities we don't think that way. Pollutants aren't "cleaned up", they're dumped into air, water, and land. The messiness of a town's food and energy is outsourced to surrounding, often poor, communities. But that's just how things are now, not how they have to be. A new concept called a ReGen Village, now being built outside Amsterdam, is totally closed-loop for all the basic necessities and is showing, finally, that we CAN clean up our mess! Hey cities... CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!

Oklahoma Innovation- Roadside Shakedowns



You may have heard of Civil Asset Forfeiture, the "law enforcement" practice of pulling you over without cause, taking whatever cash or property you have with you without charge or arrest, and making you beg to get it back. Seriously! Bad enough by itself, but [Oklahoma's opened a new frontier](#). Their new Electronic Recovery and Access to Data (ERAD) means cops don't have to limit themselves to plundering just the cash in your car; ERAD lets them scan an ATM card and vacuum any money connected to the card. Again, seriously. Go look for it in Oklahoma now if you want, but if it's anything like the rest of the [Civil Asset Forfeiture](#) program it will be coming soon to a roadside near you.

New York Becomes 17th State Against Citizens United



"Citizens United" was the infamous 2010 Supreme Court decision that corporations are individuals as far as their political contributions are concerned, so that restricting their ability to donate to candidates amounts to a violation of their First Amendment rights. Let's skip over the next 6 ugly years to today, when nearly 80% of Americans agree that the decision needs to be overturned. 34 states are needed to refer a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United to Congress, and in June [New York became the 17th state](#) (and the first with a Republican majority state house) to do so. Halfway there!

Hillary Clinton's Standard Speech Requirements



When asked why she accepted \$675,000 in speaking fees from Goldman Sachs for three speeches where "nothing controversial or memorable was said", Hillary said something memorable indeed... "Because that's what they offered". Well, "offer" may be a strong word. Here are Hillary Clinton's basic requirements for speaking to any group, including her \$225,000 speaking fee, the Gulfstream jet, the suites for her staff, the personal transcriptionist, and so much more. That seems like a lot for 3 speeches that made absolutely no news, but that's the point... a speech announcing effective controls of the banking industry would have made big news everywhere.

News To Make You Furious

SCOTUS kills the 4th Amendment



Once upon a time there was a king who felt sure some of his subjects were breaking the law, but he wasn't exactly sure which ones. "I'll search everyone!" said the king. "If they've done something illegal I'll slap them in the stocks. If not, I'll let them go." The king set about his plan but was stopped by the Supreme Wizards who told him that, even in his own kingdom, he couldn't just go around randomly searching peasants. They were protected, said the Wizards, by a powerful shield called the "Constitution" and the only weapon the king had against it was the magic of "Probable Cause". The Wizards cast a powerful spell to bind the king, declaring that knights had to say those magic words before searching anyone. "Screw ye that!" said the king, and told the knights to search any peasants they damn well pleased, especially the black and brown ones. Years later the Supreme Wizards returned to the kingdom, but this time the powerful shield of the Constitution had weakened and they saw things differently. "What were we thinking?"

they said. "Forget about that magic mumbo-jumbo. Go ahead and search who you want and we'll probably be fine." The king, if not the kingdom, lived happily ever after.

We're telling you this story because if you listen to the Corporate Sludgepump you may not have heard that our own Supreme Wizards recently defiled our own Kingdom in much the same way. When it comes to the admissibility of evidence, the "fruit of a poisoned tree" doctrine has held since 1920, which says that if the source of the evidence is poisoned then nothing that comes from that source is admissible in court. This rule was a sensible way to protect our 4th amendment rights against unreasonable search, but in a 5-3 decision in *Utah v. Strieff*, the Supremes turned that completely on its ear. They decided that a search without probable cause was just peachy as long as it turned up something actionable... drugs, outstanding warrants, anything. Goodbye 4th Amendment.

Aside from the basic facts of this latest Supreme Abomination, why should you be Furious about this? Because they aren't even pretending anymore.

[How the Latest SCOTUS Ruling Affects Your Fourth Amendment Rights](#)

By Aimee Kuvadia on attn.com, Jun 2016

In a 5-3 decision Monday, the Supreme Court ruled that evidence discovered in a search by police during unlawful stops can be used in court, so long as police officers conducted the search only after learning the person had an outstanding warrant. Writing for the majority, Justice Clarence Thomas said that a police officer's "negligence" in making a stop without reasonable suspicion should not preclude the defendant from being charged with a drug offense...

Here's a reminder of what the 4th Amendment says, just in case your kids don't believe you when you tell them about it...

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

[Supreme Court Says Illegal Police Stops Are OK as Long as They Find an Outstanding Warrant Afterward](#)

Kevin Drum in Mother Jones, Jun 2016

A couple of days ago the Supreme Court released its opinion in *Utah v. Strieff*. The facts of the case are pretty simple. Working from an anonymous tip about drug dealing, a police detective staked out a house and then randomly detained a man named Edward Strieff as he was leaving. He had no probable cause to do this, but he did it anyway. Then he demanded Strieff's ID, ran a background check, and discovered that Strieff had an outstanding warrant for a traffic violation. Bingo. That was enough to arrest him and conduct a search, which turned up some meth...

[Supreme Court ruling weakens crucial protection for us all](#)

By Phillip Holloway in the St. Louis American, Jun 2016

When I graduated from the police academy in 1988, I left knowing that police officers are limited by no less authority than the Constitution of the United States in just how and when we could stop a citizen and conduct an investigation. The instructors were quite clear: "You cannot lawfully stop someone unless you have at least 'reasonable articulable suspicion.'" They further warned that if you as a police officer don't have that level of suspicion, any evidence you collect will be inadmissible in court. This was the same law I learned in my criminal procedure course in law school, the same thing that I have taught to undergraduate criminal justice students and to police, and the same law I have applied in court as a prosecutor and as a criminal defense attorney.

['We the Prisoners': The Demise of the Fourth Amendment](#)

By John Whitehead on The Rutherford Institute, Jun 2016

In a carceral state—a.k.a. a prison state or a police state—there is no Fourth Amendment to protect you from the overreaches, abuses, searches and probing eyes of government overlords. In a carceral state, there is no difference between the treatment meted out to a law-abiding citizen and a convicted felon: both are equally suspect and treated as criminals, without any of the special rights and privileges reserved for the governing elite. In a carceral state, there are only two kinds of people: the prisoners and the prison guards...

[Justice Sotomayor's Ringing Dissent](#)

By Matt Ford in The Atlantic, Jun 2016

The U.S. Supreme Court weakened the Constitution's protections against unlawful police stops on Monday, ruling that evidence found during those interactions could be used in court if the officers also found an outstanding arrest warrant along the way. Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for a five-justice majority in *Utah v. Strieff*, concluded that a Utah police officer's "errors in judgment hardly rise to a purposeful or flagrant violation of [Edward] Strieff's Fourth Amendment rights." But in a thundering dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor was less forgiving. "The Court today holds that the discovery of a warrant for an unpaid parking ticket will forgive a police officer's violation of your Fourth Amendment rights," she wrote, joined by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "Do not be soothed by the opinion's technical language: This case allows the police to stop you on the street, demand your identification, and check it for outstanding traffic warrants—even if you are doing nothing wrong."

[How Two Recent Supreme Court Decisions Nullify Your Constitutional Rights](#)

By Derrick Broze in MintPressNews, Jun 2016

Since the 1914 case *Weeks v. United States*, the Supreme Court has interpreted the 4th Amendment to mean that evidence obtained through a violation of the Fourth Amendment is inadmissible in court. According to the Supreme Court's more liberal judges, this ruling could set a dangerous new precedent. Justice Sonia Sotomayor called the decision a threat to constitutional rights. "The court today holds that the discovery of a warrant for an unpaid parking ticket will forgive a police officer's violation of your Fourth Amendment rights," Sotomayor wrote with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. "Do not be soothed by the opinion's technical language: This case allows the police to stop you on the street, demand your identification and check it for outstanding traffic warrants — even if you are doing nothing wrong."

[Utah v. Strieff- Amicus Brief by ACLU](#)