

# **CAR RECOVERY CZAR ED MONTGOMERY COMES TO MICHIGAN**

Ed Montgomery was named on Monday to serve as the Director of Recovery for Auto Communities. He seems like a better pick for auto issues than all the other people Obama has named. It remains to be seen, of course, whether having a Director of Recovery will minimize the pain the Mid-West is going through and will be going through going forward.

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# **FIRE KEN LEWIS FOR THE \$3 BILLION IN MERRILL LYNCH BONUSES**

Ken Lewis let Merrill Lynch aware \$3 billion dollars in bonuses just as Bank of America—with financial support of you and I—took over Merrill Lynch. Which, in itself, is reason why Lewis deserves to be fired at least as much as Rick Wagoner.

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# **NATE SEZ: IT'S ABOUT LEGACY COSTS**

Nate, who is more of a Michigander than I am, drew this not-pretty picture of GM's operating margin over the last half century. He explains that this picture shows that GM has been using

healthcare and pension promises to put off the time it registers these real costs on its balance sheet as a way to get the benefit of labor but put off paying the true costs of it.

GM was

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## **BOB CORKER: “BUST THE UAW ALREADY, OBAMA!!!”**

Bob Corker’s wailing up a storm because Obama hasn’t busted the UAW yet. And then he’s wailing up a storm to keep his UAW GM plant in TN.

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## **OBAMA MOVES GM AND CHRYSLER TOWARDS BANKRUPTCY**

Let me start by saying I’m non-plussed by the call for Rick Wagoner’s head. I think Wagoner was making the right moves recently, but he was also responsible for years of inaction. So I’m not sorry to see him gone. In any case, Obama is forcing out the entire board of GM, so Wagoner would have had to go anyway.

That said, here’s what Obama seems to be announcing today: Chrysler will be

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# **WHERE'S THE GUY WHO DOESN'T KNOW \$HIT ABOUT WALL STREET?**

To manage the auto bailout, Obama picked someone who doesn't know shit about the industry. To manage the Wall Street bailout, Obama picked a crowd that was deeply involved in all the crappy decisions that got us into this mess. I may not love the choice of Rattner to lead the auto task force. But he may help us to avoid the rigid ideology of the Wall Street bailout team.

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## **MORE WHINES FROM AIG**

Funny. I never heard any UAW employees whine like this when they were falsely accused of ruining the domestic manufacturing industry because they demanded a completely fictional \$75/hour.

One A.I.G. executive, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he feared the consequences of identifying himself, said many workers felt demonized and betrayed.

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## **GETTING THEIR KICKS: THE AMERICAN-SAUDI GO AROUND COME-**

# AROUND

Despite a decent amount of negativity roiling around the socio-political scene lately, on a fine Saturday night right here in the ole USA, this gives me a lot of heart somehow: Then, with a scream of revving engines, it begins: a yellow Corvette and a red Mitsubishi go head to head, racing down the road at terrifying speeds, just inches apart.

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## FLEET STANDARD FAIL

Not only is Obama's auto task force full of people who don't drive American cars, but the task force's car owners as a group fail to pass CAFE standards.

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## CHINA AUTO: CROUCHING TIGER, LOOMING GIANT

The turmoil in the auto business isn't just with the American manufacturers; it is global, striking even the supposed gold standards such as Toyota and Honda. But there is opportunity in chaos, and China looks to capitalize on that.