

Sunday pops

By the Tribune-Review

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President Obama is running a heavy flight of campaign ads touting how he saved the domestic auto industry. But as economist John Lott crunches the numbers, he reminds that the taxpayers' \$100 billion-plus "investment" in General Motors now is worth \$34 billion. That scenario "would get a chief executive of any private company fired," Mr. Lott says. But not in a government operation. ... The Cato Institute's Michael Tanner reminds that the federal government borrows more than \$2.3 billion every day, the same amount lost in bad trades by JPMorgan Chase recently. Mr. Tanner says that while markets are holding JPMorgan accountable -- its stock has steeply dropped and there have been firings of top managers -- the government gets off scot-free for failures multiple billions worse. Asks Tanner, "Where's the outrage? Who's being fired?" Here's to November, eh? ... The University of California at San Francisco used a quarter of a million dollars in federal stimulus money to study erectile dysfunction in overweight, middle-aged men. Consider it an interactive Sunday pop; we'll leave the punch line to you.