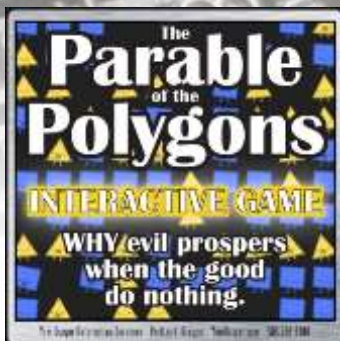




# “Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for July, 2019



## The Parable of the Polygons

Interactive game explains WHY evil prospers when the good do nothing



## Our 'older vehicle policy' for NEW clients

It isn't about the vehicles, it's about the relationships



## Lovett Deconstruction's DropBox Derby

Come be part of it with the Tom Dwyer Team!



The dumbing down of Italy... uh, America



Hackers can get your info the SOUND of your typing



Lessons from three mis-matched Ghosts of History.



MOON TRIVIA to celebrate Apollo's 50th anniversary

## Our Monthly Columns

**Tom's Tidbits-** It's time for you... yes, YOU... to Judge.

**Health Notes-** Our best Health advice? Don't do any of these...

**What NOW?! Toons** Tucker's Toon for July

**Book Spotlight-** “The End of Ice” by Dahr Jamail

**Shop Talk-** Should you refrigerate your car keys?

**Humorousness-** Ironically perfect pictures.

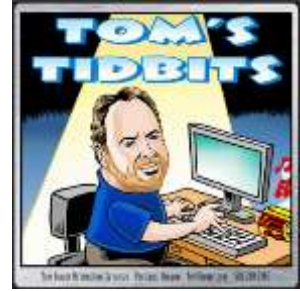
**Drew's Kitchen-** Loaded Alfredo Pasta with Vegetables

**News To Make You Furious-** The News that makes us ALL Furious... PROPAGANDA!

# Tom's Tidbits

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## It's time for you... YOU... to Judge



Whether you were born here or naturalized, no matter your political beliefs, regardless of your age, race, income, gender identity, or natural origin... if you're a *Citizen* of the United States of America then a huge obligation just dropped in your lap. The Special Counsel's report was delivered months ago, and now we've finally heard Mueller's testimony on it. No new information will be coming out. We've got all we're gonna get. So what's the *obligation* of every Citizen now? To Decide. To *Judge*.

While many people are quick to claim the *benefits* of Citizenship (or deny them to others), only a microscopic minority are as eager to claim the *obligations*. A 'Citizen' of a country is more than a 'resident', and *active participation* in societal issues is just one of the obligations. Any *resident* can have opinions, in fact no *human* can avoid it, but *Citizenship* demands educated opinions based on informed consideration of issues. And even more critically; a Citizen is sometimes required to put those personal biases aside (as much as humanly possible) and act in favor of the Country as a whole.

The Special Counsel's report demonstrated a coordinated and ongoing attack on our electoral system by an adversarial power, as well as a series and pattern of (at least) inappropriate and (arguably) illegal acts by a sitting President and his team. Just as lawyers argue for their clients regardless of guilt, partisans of every stripe will make self-serving cases from these facts regardless of actual truth. That's what they do, it's *what they're doing*, and only gullible idiots take these partisan arguments at face value. It's no secret I have very definite, very, very negative opinions of Trump and I've been very loud about them. But I'm also a Citizen, so I've been willing to put those opinions aside and wait while the Justice System I believe in methodically and all-too-slowly sorted fact from fiction. That part of the process is over. For me, and for every individual Citizen, the question has been called. It's time to decide.

One frequent warning about impeachment is that it could empower Trump and ensure his next election just as it did for Clinton. I think it boosted Clinton because Citizens (particularly *voting* Citizens) saw his impeachment as the end of a Republican political witchhunt that was shabby and cynical from the beginning. Trump supporters obviously feel the same way this go-round, but does America as a whole? The question has been called. It's time to decide.

For our Representatives, too, the question has been called. Nancy Pelosi has waited for a silver bullet to wake up America to Trump's outrages, something *guaranteed* to remove him for office with no risk to her or her party, leaving no blood on her hands. It's not coming. She can't keep waiting for "more investigations" or "additional confirmation". If she aspires to lead, then the time to lead is now. The question has been called. It's time to decide.

Mitch McConnell has reaped windfall political benefits from a President eager to put Party over country. He's gotten everything he could possibly want while the taint has attached to Trump. Yet even Mitch (possibly) has some stunted love of country, some remaining shred of respect for the Rule of Law that hasn't been consumed by greed, cowardice, or self-interest. He can't hide any longer. The question has been called. It's time to decide.

Democrats are loud about impeachment and most may even mean it, but it's much easier to say when impeachment is 'out there' somewhere; harder to do when the reality depends on their vote. Political wisdom says even if the House impeaches Trump he'll be cleared in the Senate, and that might be true, but it underestimates the Republicans. The Senate has a 51-49 Republican majority, and though there are loud partisan Trumpets there are also Republicans of integrity. They've either had the luxury (or

been forced, depending on their bent) to stay quiet. An impeachment vote would put them on record if the behavior of this president is something they'd accept from a Democratic president, or should even continue to accept from this one. Democrats and Republicans have mutual interests in avoiding impeachment, and even the most non-partisan must rightly consider the impact on the country of such a drastic step. But the time for dithering is over. For our Congress as a whole, the question has been called. It's time to decide.

Republicans have accused Democrats of wanting a "second bite at the apple" and told all America it's "time to move on", but these and other tropes pretend the process is (or was) over. It's not. Other investigations are continuing, but one way or the other the process of investigating the President for collusion and obstruction is only ending now. Regardless of partisanship NONE OF US WANTED TO BE IN THIS POSITION, but we are. Action depends on our Representatives but we can't avoid our own obligation. It's up to Citizens to rise to the challenge of the name; to Judge, as objectively and fairly as humanly possible, what outcome serves both Truth and Justice.

Like it or not, the question has been called. Our obligation as Citizens means all of us must Decide. ALL of us must Judge. Now.

Make a great day,



### **Digging Deeper...**

[Timeline of Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections](#), Wikipedia

[Timeline: Big moments in Mueller investigation of Russian meddling in 2016 U.S. election](#), McCool, Oatis, Trott, and Dunham on Reuters, Jul 2019

[Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election, Vol I and II](#), Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, Mar 2019

[The Mueller report, annotated](#), Washington Post staff in Washington Post, updated Jul 2019

[Full transcript: Mueller testimony before House Judiciary, Intelligence committees](#), NBC News, Jul 2019

[Fact-Checking lawmakers claims during the Mueller hearings](#), Salvador Rizzo and Glenn Kessler in the Washington Post, Jul 2019

[The 5 Biggest Lies Republicans Told at Mueller's Hearing](#), Eric Levitz in NYMagazine, Jul 2019

[Highlights from Mueller's report on Russia investigation](#), Earl, Farber, and Schmidt, FOX News, Jul 2019

[Tom's Tidbits- We've waited forever for Mueller. Good. Very good.](#), Tom Dwyer, Your Car Matters, Jun 2019

[Mueller Has Provided Congress With Everything It Needs to Impeach Trump](#), John Nichols in The Nation, Jul 2019

# What NOW?!! Toons

Keith Tucker's What NOW?!! Toon for July

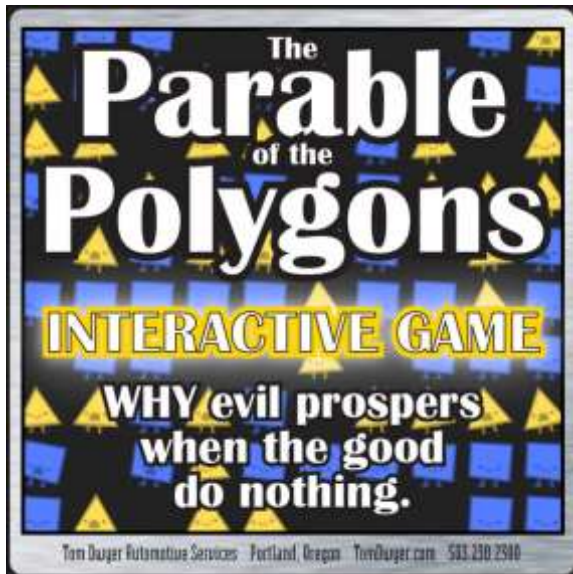


**"WHAT NOW?!!!"**

© KEITH TUCKER  
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

# The Parable of the Polygons

Interactive game explains WHY evil prospers when the good do nothing



The Civil Rights movement changed America yet racism and oppression stubbornly persist. The few who deny this have a seemingly strong argument... “Look, the laws changed decades ago. I don’t have a racist bone in my body, and neither do my friends. If minorities aren’t succeeding, it’s certainly can’t be society’s fault!” In other words, without racists, whence racism?

Part of the answer lies in the false premise that racists are gone... laws may have changed and (until recently) bigots may were being embarrassed into silence, but not inactivity... they didn’t go anywhere. Another, scarier part of the answer is structural racism; oppression built into the system itself. The systems we have today evolved from the racist systems of yesterday, and while laws may be neutral the people that implement them are not. Everyone brings their own attitudes, and to a large extent

we are chained to each other’s biases...

That’s an easy concept to hand-wave away for those few denialists we mentioned, so we thought we’d show you how it works in one sample area, neighborhood segregation, using [an animated interactive game-theory model](#). The simulation is based on the work of Nobel Prize-winning game theorist Thomas Schelling and his 1971 paper, Dynamic Models of Segregation.

Your task is simple... you’ll be God, in control of the ‘shapist’ attitudes of a population of cute squares and triangles. You won’t be presiding over a shape-war hell though, because while these polygons do ‘notice shape’ they aren’t bigots. Each polygon *wants* their neighborhood to be integrated. They’ll welcome different shapes into their neighborhood, up to a point, but they’ll get angry and move to a new neighborhood if they become the minority. Is that enough to desegregate their neighborhood? What happens when they become more- or less- accepting? What happens if they *won’t* move to a segregated neighborhood? What happens if you remove *all* bias? What happens if *there never was any bias at all*?

No matter what your preconceptions, we bet this game won’t play out like you think. We’ll give you a spoiler... it IS possible to achieve a stable, non-segregated equilibrium (assuming that’s your goal), but it’s not as straightforward as you might think. And here’s another spoiler... achieving that (or virtually any) goal depends on people not sitting quietly and hoping it happens, but actually *pushing for the change they want to see*!

This "playable post" was created by [Vi Hart](#) and [Nicky Case](#), inspired by Bret Victor's [Explorable Explanations](#) and Ian Bogost's [procedural rhetoric](#). Vi and Nicky had website suggestions with the original post, and we’d like to encourage you to check them out... [Black Girls Code](#) (gives coding lessons to girls of color), [Girls Who Code](#) (teaches high school girls to code), [Code 2040](#) (helps blacks & latina/os get into tech), [Code Liberation](#) (free workshops to help women make videogames), and [Nicky's Patreon](#) (makes public domain playables (such as this one!))

**Digging Deeper...**

[Parable of the Polygons- A Playable Post On The Shape Of Society](#), by Vi Hart and Nicky Case

[Dynamic Models of Segregation](#), Thomas Schelling, Journal of Mathematical Sociology, 1971

[Residential preferences and neighborhood racial segregation: a test of the Schelling segregation model](#), W.A.V. Clark on NCBI, Feb 1991,

[The Schelling Model of Ethnic Residential Dynamics: Beyond the Integrated - Segregated Dichotomy of Patterns](#), Hatna and Benenson, Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation, Jan 2012

[Social diversity is initially threatening but people do adapt over time – new research](#), Bryan Keogh on The Conversation, Jul 2019

[10 Signs Of Institutionalized Racism And The Rhetoric Of ‘Greatness’](#), Robin Lughes on Huffpost, Jun 2017

[What is Institutional Racism?](#) Vernellia Randall, University of Dayton, Jul 2008

[5 Examples of Institutional Racism in the United States](#), Nadra Kareem Nittle on ThoughtCo. Jul 2019

[Systematic Inequality- How America's Structural Racism Helped Create the Black-White Wealth Gap](#), by Hanks, Solomon, and Weller on Center for American Progress, Feb 2018

[Lens of Systemic Oppression](#), National Equity Project

[Does Systemic Oppression Really Exist?](#), by Humera Lodhi on HuffPost, Nov 2016

# Our Older Vehicle Policy

It's not about the vehicles. It's about the relationships.



The most disappointing calls we get come from potential new clients with older vehicles. We have to refer them to other shops because our policy is not to accept NEW clients with 15-years-old or older vehicles. It seems like older vehicles would be easy to work on and very lucrative for our shop, so why, why, why would we turn them away? It's not about too hard to work on; our team of ASE-Certified and ASE-Master-Certified Technicians can fix any problem thrown at them. It's the second point, that they'd be lucrative to our shop, that drives the policy. We know we could make lots of money from working on older vehicles, but we also know it's rarely in the clients' interest to do it. We've been in business over 30

years because we center our service on successful client relationships, and we've found through hard experience that it's almost impossible to build a solid service relationship around older, often challenged vehicles. Let us explain...

Why do we hold NEW clients to a "15-years-old-and-newer" standard at all? It might seem silly for an auto shop to turn down repairs on **any** vehicles, **especially** older ones that will need lots of repairs, but Tom explained the basics in one our old KPOJ radio spots...

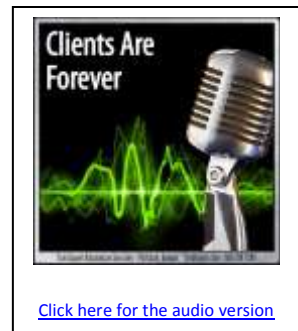
*"When I started in the auto service industry in the seventies, I was told 'no vehicle is ever beyond repair'.*

*Those used up vehicles weren't economically totaled rolling illusions; they were "roses"... which is true, from a repair shop's viewpoint.*

*Poorly maintained vehicles tend to gobble the most money right before they die... it can be a waste trying to squeeze out those last few miles.*

*Our clients trust us to give solid advice that's in their best long term interest. We'll recommend against repairs when we know it's the right advice to maintain loyal clients for years to come.*

*Vehicles should come and go, but client relationships should endure."*



## Older vehicles are poor starts for NEW relationships

Most shops look at a people as 'customers' buying a single product or service. They'll perform any repair a customer requests on any vehicle, and then send them on their way. There's nothing *necessarily* wrong with that, but we take a fundamentally different approach. We think the people who use our service are 'clients', people engaging us for long-term professional service relationships, so it's critical those relationships are solid from the start. Their quality and

effectiveness depends heavily on the quality and condition of the vehicles, and all too often older vehicles provide a poor foundation. We've found, through long and painful experience, that avoiding older vehicles avoids the problems that go with them...

### **Avoids suspicious 'upsells'**

We recommend our Comprehensive Inspection to establish the condition of all new clients' vehicles, but in older (especially neglected) vehicles this in-depth examination usually finds a long list of very necessary, very expensive repairs to make the vehicle safe and reliable. Clients who've dealt with us for years know that if we tell them they need any repair it's for legitimate reasons, but for a new client this can look suspiciously like we're trying to sell unneeded services... like the 'roses' in Tom's radio spot.

### **Avoids impossible prioritization**

If a new client doesn't want to address every item identified on the Comprehensive Inspection, their next logical question is often 'which ones are MOST important?' That's a question we like, because one of our Service Advisors' biggest values is the way they prioritize necessary repairs for all our clients. But they can't be effective if the list is too long... if fixing the most important problem(s) STILL leaves the vehicle unreliable, then the clients' money would be wasted to fix anything at all. They'd be rightly upset if we suggested they spend their hard-earned money for a vehicle that was going to 'die' soon anyway. That's an experience we don't want any new client to have!

### **Avoids awkward "goodbye" recommendations**

For every vehicle, the cost of necessary repairs will one day exceed the value of the vehicle. When our existing clients' vehicles reach this point (what we call "economically totaled") we advise them to sell (or donate), and they know from experience to trust us. New clients don't have the same basis of trust to work from. If their first taste of our service is our Advisor telling them to sell their vehicle, then it doesn't lead to future trust.

### **And there's still more...**

There are other nuts-and-bolts reasons (if you'll pardon the pun) for this policy. First, our ASE-Certified and ASE-Master-Certified Technicians can fix most anything, but they primarily trained to work on more recent vehicles and their particular needs and quirks. Second, the tools and technologies we've invested in are designed for newer vehicle technologies. Finally, (and especially important for NEW clients) older vehicles can be a "house of cards" due to their age, service history, or condition. A failure in one system can lead to failures in others, and this can lead to questions of "whose fault or responsibility is it" if connected systems fail during or after service.

As hard as we try to explain this policy, one of our clients may have done it better. Here's an excerpt from a [review by Robb W. on Yelp](#) that puts it more succinctly (and perhaps a little more bluntly) than we've ever been able to...

*"Tom Dwyer's is solid as hell across all fronts. They know most makes and models and bend over backwards to make your experience there the best you could ever imagine...seriously. Is your car less than 15 years old? Then they will be able to take care of you in all likelihood. Why 15 years? Their philosophy is that after 15 years, your money is better spent on a newer car...that the repairs will mount and it is no longer cost effective to continue to fix your old hooptie. And no, they don't sell new cars as a side business...it's just smart thinking and they're not trying to take your money doing a bunch of avoidable repairs."*

Thanks, Robb!



## **EXISTING Clients are never ‘cut off’ for older vehicles**

One of the biggest confusions in this policy is the effect on EXISTING clients. Sometimes they worry that their vehicles will “age out” of our care. Let us clear that up right now...

**If you are a Tom Dwyer client, we will continue to care for your vehicles as long as it makes economic sense for YOU!**

We have MANY longstanding clients with older vehicles, and we plan to keep them happy for years to come. But we started servicing their vehicles when they were new-ish and have continued to service them as they’ve aged. We know the vehicles and built the proper relationships with the clients, so everyone involved knows and accepts their responsibilities for the vehicle’s ongoing needs and condition. We’ll continue to care for these vehicles (and their owners!) as long as it makes sense for THEM!

## **We’ll even consider servicing older vehicles for EXISTING clients**

If you’re an EXISTING client and would like us to consider servicing your other, older vehicles, there are options. We still won’t service it (even for you!) if it doesn’t make sense, but, if it’s a quality vehicle with less than about 150,000 miles we can do our Comprehensive Inspection (\$150.00) to document its actual needs and conditions. If we find the vehicle is in a condition we can support then we certainly will. If not, then we’ll recommend you to another shop that can help you. (Sorry, but if you choose to go this route then we can’t apply any of our money-back offers to the inspection cost if we decline service.)

## **YOU are more important than your VEHICLE**

Tom Dwyer Automotive counts on long-term, trusting relationships with our clients, and we’ve found it’s almost impossible to build these relationships with NEW clients if their vehicle is a string of problems. “15 years” may be an arbitrary cutoff for older vehicles; after all, there are 16-year-olds out there in spectacular condition and 14-year-olds ready for the junkyard. We had to draw the line somewhere though, because all vehicles have a limited economically-viable lifetime. Proactive, sensible maintenance can extend the lifetime of a vehicle for many years but it’s rarely worth playing “catch up” to get an older, poorly maintained vehicle running safely and reliably. but eventually the economics just don’t make sense.

If a new client is suspicious of our motives, if economics keep us from making their vehicle safe and reliable, if mechanical issues keep us from doing the proper, high-quality work we can guarantee, then that relationship is poisoned from the start and we can’t provide the service we think our clients deserve and should expect. Our “15-years-old and newer” policy might be inconvenient sometimes, but we think it’s the best way to protect our value to you for the long term. Vehicles will come and go, but the service relationship can last for generations.

## **Digging Deeper**

[Why 15-Years-Old or Newer Vehicles?](#)

[“1998 and Newer” isn’t for everyone](#)

[Tom’s Tidbits- DON’T WORRY! We’ll still service your older vehicles!](#)

[Are We Car Snobs? NO!](#)

# Dropbox Derby

The Derby is back for a third year. Come be part of it with Tom Dwyer!



Many things may come to mind when you think about “auto mechanic”, but “skilled woodworker” probably isn’t one of them. Tom Dwyer’s “Mechanics” set out to change that by entering the 2018 DropBox Derby last year. They didn’t succeed. But hopefully they added phrases like ‘creative’, ‘engaged’, ‘community-minded’, and ‘always willing to participate in a fun activity that benefits a good cause’.

Lovett Deconstruction’s DropBox Derby is returning for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year in 2019, and the Tom Dwyer “Mechanics” will be there again to stretch the definition of what an auto shop is. And if you’d like to help out, maybe even help us WIN, there’s at least one open spot on the team available this year. Here’s the report back from what happened last year so you know what you’ll be getting yourself into, and contact information for the

Mechanics’ Coach if you decide YOU want to get involved...

## Lovett Deconstruction’s 2018 Dropbox Derby

Posted on [September 5, 2018](#) by [tomdwyer](#)



**“The Mechanics” were there, and we want to tell you all about it.**

As a company we try very hard to not just be IN our community but a PART of it. This usually takes the form of working with community organizations like [350.org](#) or [Health Care for All Oregon](#), or taking part in neighborhood events like the [Sellwood Concerts](#) or the [Moreland Farmers Market](#). Recently though, we’ve found ourselves engaging our neighbors in a very unique way we’d like to let you know about. Here’s our report back from the recent [DropBox Derby](#),

where we showed off woodworking skills not normally needed at an auto shop...

Labor Day brought [Lovett Deconstruction’s DropBox Derby](#), a design/build competition where teams of carpenters, builders, and woodworkers gathered under I-5 near OMSI to test their skills.

[Lovett Deconstruction is a leader in the field of deconstruction](#); taking apart buildings piece-by-piece and recycling the materials for use. Owner Der Lovett created the DropBox Derby (a ‘dropbox’ is the big dumpster in front of construction sites where all the building trash goes) as a way to raise awareness of deconstruction, celebrate creativity and woodcraft, and help a deserving group in the process. He also wanted to start an event that would eventually be on the “Portland Roster” of must-do events like Naked Bike Ride or Hood To Coast. This was just the second year for the event and judging by the growth, energy, and attention the Derby got he’s well on his way toward his goal.

Der has been one of our [Business Fleet](#) clients for years so we were there in support with our event booth and ‘Magical Buttonizer’ for the kids, but we also went a little further. Woodworking may not be the strong suit for auto mechanics but we’re very good with our hands and many of our guys are builders in their own lives. We decided to field a team for the competition and The Mechanics (Jon Feldhausen, Matt McKenzie, Bill Cheek, and Charles Letherwood) were born.

Each Derby team received an identical stack of deconstruction site materials and had 4 hours to build... what? Well, we didn’t really know until the day before the competition because the theme was kept secret. But Derby Day dawned and at 10am all the teams started building their interpretation of “A Seat At The Table”. 4 slightly harried hours later, everyone was done. Designs ranged from spectacular chairs of all kinds to abstract sculptures, 2-d murals, and great designs that had nothing to do with the theme but were designed to raise money at the Silent Auction.

How did it turn out? Well, the DropBox Derby did great! 27 teams competed and thousands enjoyed a Labor Day of music, food, and fun. [Oregon Tradeswomen](#), the group benefitting from the Derby, did great too by raising over \$4000. And The Mechanics did pretty well too, especially for our first time out. We finished our build, had all the fingers we started with, and had a great time. We didn’t win (darn it!) but our design DID sell at the Silent Auction and raised a little more money for the cause. No, The Mechanics didn’t win, but we’ll be back next year, and a warning to the other folks... we’ll be hungry.



The competition area under I-5, just before the start of the Derby



The Mechanics- (from left Jon Feldhausen, Matt McKenzie, Bill Cheek, Charles Letherwood)



Folks gathering to enjoy the music



Kids work on their buttons at the Tom Dwyer tent



Our final design, in-use by the people who bought it at the Silent Auction. We thought of the table as a conversation, and built three stools of different designs emblematic of the different people who take part in it. The table was built without legs (intentionally, not because we ran out of time!) to indicate that a conversation doesn't happen unless it's supported by the people in it. EVERYONE has to have a 'seat at the table' or it doesn't work. The purchasers were a family from Salem (sorry we didn't get their names!) who had brought their son up to show him the excitement of building. We hope it was a worthwhile day!

**COME JOIN THE FUN WITH US!**

The Lovett Deconstruction

**2019 DROPBOX DERBY**

Labor Day, Monday Sep 2, 10a-4p

Eastbank Esplanade (Between SE Salmon and Madison)

**If you'd like to join the Dwyer Team, "The Mechanics"**  
**PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL CHARLES LETHERWOOD**  
**503-230-2300    [charles@tomdwyer.com](mailto:charles@tomdwyer.com)**  
and he'll give you all the details.

# Shop Talk

Should you refrigerate your car keys?



## Comment of the Month



**"I've heard rumors thieves can 'hack' my electronic key fob remotely, but that storing my keys in my refrigerator will keep them safe. Should I be doing this?"**

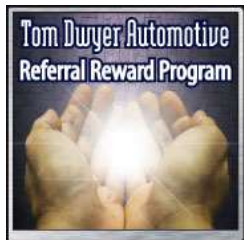
No. A concerned client called with this question and it was a real pleasure to debunk some "fake news". Key fobs can't be accessed or programmed remotely; in fact, when we have a fob issue here at the shop we have to call a locksmith with the special software tools needed to code the fob to the vehicle. You can rest easy; it's just an urban legend and there's no need to take any steps to protect yourself.

## SCHEDULING REMINDER!



Summer is the busy season at Tom Dwyer, so keep that in mind when you're scheduling for summer service. [If you have a trip coming up it makes sense to get your vehicle checked before you go, but in our busy times it can be hard to accommodate last-minute appointments.](#) Please try to schedule as far in advance as possible to make sure you get the service YOU need, on YOUR schedule!

## Referral Reward Program



Our Referral Reward Program is how we say "thank you" to the clients who recommend our shop to their family and friends. When a new client comes in and gives your name as a Referral Source we'll make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice, and all selections are eligible for our \$1,000 Yearly Award as well. It couldn't be easier!

**We've made 11 donations for \$425 since our last count; a total of 601 donations totaling \$26,020 since the program began!**

### Here's who our clients chose to help in July...

[Camp Tamarack](#) by Laura O.

[OPB](#) by Shannon K.

[Susan G. Komen Foundation](#) by Ken P.

[Oregon Humane Society](#) by Kristin L..

[Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland](#) by Sara D.

[Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence](#) by Gretchen D.

[Oregon Food Bank](#) by Deanna D..

[Clay Street Table](#) by Andrew M.

[Growing Gardens](#) by Grace B.

[Planned Parenthood of Col/Wil](#) by Stacey S.

## Current Special Offers



### CARWASH COUPON SEASON is going on NOW!

There are [reasons we can't wash or vacuum your vehicles](#), so during the dusty summer months we offer coupons for a FREE CAR WASH at [WashMan Car Wash](#), an [Portland Pollution Outreach certified EcoBiz](#) that's made the investment to clean your car spectacularly with minimum environmental impact. We can't do it for every purchase so you won't get a coupon for just an oil change, but for most things beyond that you can have your vehicle washed on us!

*Offer expires Sept 2019*



### Get a FREE Tire Alignment with purchase of 4 tires!

There's at least one critical point for any summer road trip... you want your vehicle to grip the summer road. That means tires, and tires mean alignment. If tires are on your vacation prep list then you'll definitely want to take advantage of this offer... it's \$109.95 extra dollars in your pocket for summer fun!

*Offer expires 8/16/19*

*Maximum value \$110*

*You must tell us you want this offer WHEN YOU SCHEDULE YOUR SERVICE!  
Offer is VOID AFTER SERVICE IS COMPLETE!*

## We also have a couple ongoing offers you might find valuable...



**Carbon Neutral Program-** Our company's commitment to the environment led us to partner with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to create our Carbon Neutral Program in 2007. **Client members offset the carbon production of their vehicles for one year AND save 10% on Labor Charges here at the shop!** It's a win for you AND our environment and it's been very successful... since we instituted the program our members have prevented over 1.9 MILLION POUNDS of carbon from being dumped into our air!



**Referral Reward Program-** Year after year, referrals from our existing clients are our greatest source of new clients, so we've tried hard to think of some way to appropriately reward people for their referrals. Our solution is our Referral Reward Program, where **we make donations to the non-profit group of your choice to say 'thanks' for your generous referrals.** Here's how it works...

## 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.

# Drew's Kitchen

## Loaded Alfredo Pasta with Vegetables



Restaurants make Alfredo sauce using cream, butter, and cheese, but this month Drew brings you a cream-free version with a béchamel sauce that uses flour, milk, butter, and Parmesan. Not only that, but the chicken, broccoli, mushrooms, and tomatoes bring extra nutritional value that you're usually missing in a basic Alfredo pasta recipe. Enjoy!

### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 3 Tbsp flour
- 3 cups 2% milk
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 Tbsp grated real Parmesan cheese
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- ½ Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cups bite-size broccoli florets
- 8oz cremini mushrooms, sliced
- ¼ cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes
- 8oz cooked chicken breast, thinly sliced (store-bought rotisserie chicken works well)
- 12oz whole-wheat fettuccine

### Preparation:

1. To make the béchamel, melt the butter in a saucepan over medium-low heat.
2. Whisk in the flour. Cook for 1 minute. Slowly whisk in the milk to prevent any lumps from forming. Add the garlic and simmer, whisking often, for 10 to 15 minutes, or until nicely thickened.
3. Stir in the Parmesan and season with salt and pepper. Keep warm.
4. Heat the oil in a large skillet or saute pan over medium-high heat
5. Add the broccoli and cook for 3-4 minutes. Add the mushrooms and tomatoes.
6. Cook for 5 minutes, or until the vegetables have lightly caramelized.
7. Stir in the chicken. Season with salt and pepper.
8. Meanwhile, cook the pasta according to the package instructions
9. Drain, reserving 1 cup of the cooking water. Return the pasta to the pot, add the sauce and the chicken mixture, and toss to coat.
10. If the sauce is too thick, add some of the pasta water to thin it. Serve immediately.

### PRO TIP:

The powdered stuff you've been shaking out of the green can is not Parmesan. Parmigiano-Reggiano, as dictated by the Italian government, comes only from cows from northern Italy and is aged a minimum of 12 months. The result is one of the world's finest cheeses, and this recipe specifies grated REAL PARMESAN CHEESE... don't cheat yourself!

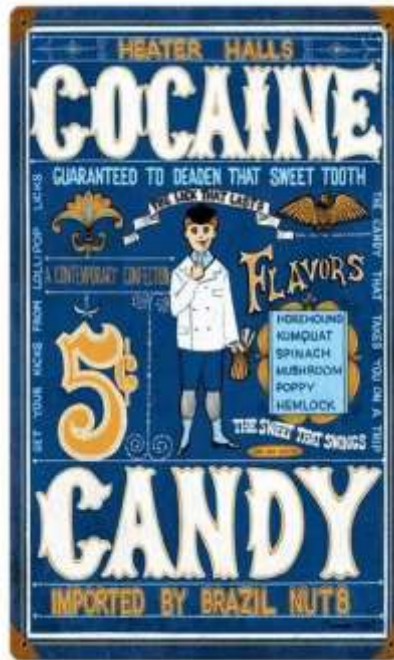
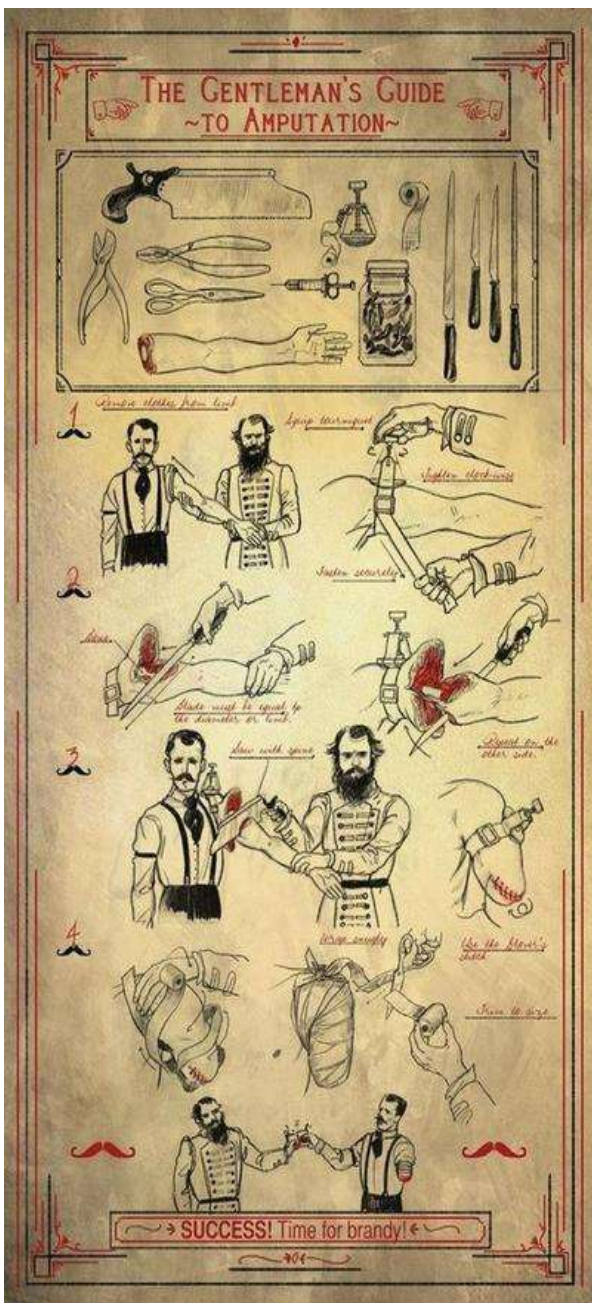
**Nutrition: 540 calories, 14g fat (6g saturated), 520mg sodium**  
**Original recipe by David Zinczenko and Matt Goulding, Mar 2019**



# Health Notes

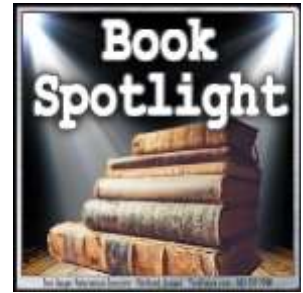
Our best Health advice? Don't do any of these...

Modern medicine has come a long way for those who can afford it, but we frequently forget that 'modern' medicine was here in 2019, 1959, 1909, 1809, 1609, 1009, 0009, and even earlier. The things we laugh at today were state-of-the-art yesterday. You of course know that Coca-Cola once contained cocaine, but we found an article [looking back at unusual medical history that brought some little-known newbies](#) to our attention. Enjoy learning about the suntan vending machines, bed-to-bed cigarette sales in hospitals, the cocaine candy with flavors of "Horehound, kumquat, spinach, mushroom, poppy, and hemlock", the baby tanning bed, and oh, so much more, including the "Gentlemen's Guide to Amputation" in which the final step is for doctor and amputee to go share a brandy after surgery!



# Book Spotlight

## “The End of Ice” by Dahr Jamail



### “The End of Ice”

by Dahr Jamail

#### **Publishers Comments**

After nearly a decade overseas as a war reporter, the acclaimed journalist Dahr Jamail returned to America to renew his passion for mountaineering, only to find that the slopes he had once climbed have been irrevocably changed by climate disruption. In response, Jamail embarks on a journey to the geographical front lines of this crisis — from Alaska to Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, via the Amazon rainforest — in order to discover the consequences to nature and to humans of the loss of ice.

In *The End of Ice*, we follow Jamail as he scales Denali, the highest peak in North America, dives in the warm crystal waters of the Pacific only to find ghostly coral reefs, and explores the tundra of St. Paul Island where he meets the last subsistence seal hunters of the Bering Sea and witnesses its melting glaciers. Accompanied by climate scientists and people whose families have fished, farmed, and lived in the areas he visits for centuries, Jamail begins to accept the fact that Earth, most likely, is in a hospice situation. Ironically, this allows him to renew his passion for the planet’s wild places, cherishing Earth in a way he has never been able to before.

Like no other book, *The End of Ice* offers a firsthand chronicle — including photographs throughout of Jamail on his journey across the world — of the catastrophic reality of our situation and the incalculable necessity of relishing this vulnerable, fragile planet while we still can.

#### **About the Author**

Dahr Jamail, a Truthout staff reporter, is the author of *Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches from an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq*. Jamail has reported from the Middle East over the last ten years, and he has won the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism. He lives in Washington State.

#### **Review**

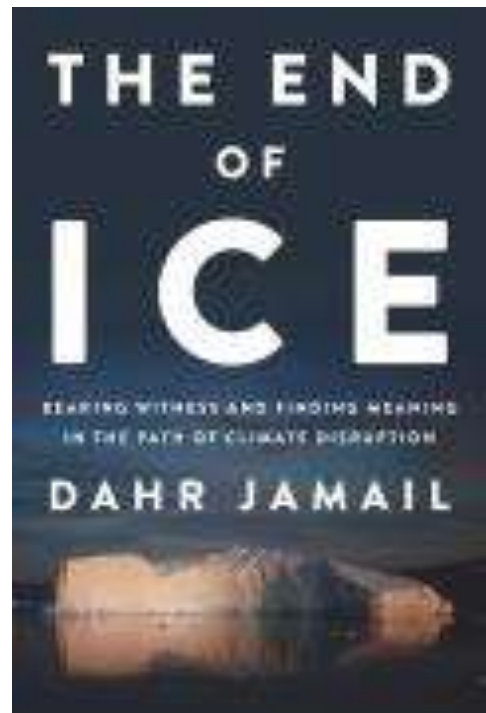
“In a sane world *The End of Ice* would be the end of lame excuses that climate change is too abstract to get worked up about. From the Arctic to the Amazon, from doomed Miami to the Great Barrier Reef, Dahr Jamail brings every frontier in our ongoing calamity into close focus. The losses are tangible. And so is the grief. This is more than a good book. It is a wise one.”

*William deBuys, author of A Great Aridness: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest and The Last Unicorn: A Search for One of Earth’s Rarest Creatures*

#### **Review**

“What a strange and compelling paradox this book offers: to fall in love with the Earth and all that we are losing, to let our hearts open to the deepest grief, and then trust that our grieving opens us to profound love. When what we love is lost, our grief honors the loss and cracks open our hearts to live fully in the present moment, which is joyous. Thank you, Dahr Jamail, for this gift.”

*Margaret Wheatley, author of Leadership and the New Science and Who Do We Choose to Be?*



# Humorousness

## Ironically perfect pictures

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but these... these speak for themselves. We've given you several to get started, but the [website that collected them has many, many more](#). Some take a few seconds to 'get', but we think you'll find a grin at the end of your search...



# 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 necessarily 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!



## The dumbing down of Italy... uh, America



Vapid popular media can enable the worst forms of populist politics, and that's more than an assumption... it's backed up with data. This story speaks directly to America's situation today but the role of our country is played by Italy, Donald Trump is played by Sylvio Berlusconi, PBS/NPR are portrayed by RAI, the characters of FOX News and Sinclair Broadcasting are combined into the character of Mediaset for dramatic clarity, and the browbeaten citizens of America are brilliantly portrayed by the browbeaten citizens of Italy. In the 1980s, unabashedly unsophisticated Mediaset spread across Italy, buying up local channels and replacing RAI with cartoons, sports, soap operas, movies and other light entertainment. By 1990, 49 out of 50 Italians could watch Mediaset, half the country having gained access in just five years. This allowed Italian economists to compare early-Mediaset towns with equivalent late-Mediaset towns, and thus calculate how a society's politics can change with low-quality information....

## You can be hacked by the SOUND of your typing



What if scammers could learn your password, not from a massive cyberattack or taking control of your device, but from listening in as you type? That's the startling premise of a recent study by researchers at Cambridge University and Sweden's Linköping University, who were able to glean passwords by deciphering the sound waves generated by fingers tapping on smartphone touch screens. According to the study, malicious actors can decode what a person is typing by accessing a smartphone's microphone. "We showed that the attack can successfully recover PIN codes, individual letters and whole words," the researchers wrote. "A passive, sound-based attack could be executed if a person installs an

app infected with such malware..."

## MOON TRIVIA to celebrate Apollo's 50th anniversary



No one was more excited than we were about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo mission to the Moon. We were glued (if one can be intermittently glued) to the real-time replay of the mission, teary-eyed throughout. But now Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins are safe at home and we're left with the afterglow. No problem! Let's keep the celebration going with the FUN of the moon from Messy Nussy Chic. Check out their Moon Trivia to learn how NASA taped over the original mission footage, find out who the only person buried on the moon is, learn about Luna's human poop problem, see the Customs report Apollo had to file on their return, and of course, much, much, more.

**STOP THE PRESSES!** We have a last-minute addition to our Moon Trivia... [this article from BBC, Apollo in 50 Numbers](#). How many cases of flatulence on the way to the Moon? Find out here!

## Lessons from three mis-matched Ghosts of History.



This is a story about what we've learned this month from the ghostly voices of History. In our Facebook ramblings we ran across three bits of rhetoric from three people who are about as radically divergent as anyone could imagine... W.E.B. DuBois, Erma Bombeck, and Richard Nixon. Speaking to different audiences, in different times, and with different motives, all three said things that were painfully resonant with America's situation today, at least to us. We 'memed' the words of Nixon and Bombeck (below), but the depth of DuBois couldn't be distilled. You should take the time to read [Another Open Letter to Woodrow Wilson](#) in it's entirety, but we've included one searing paragraph for you below.

### [Excerpt from "Another Open Letter to Woodrow Wilson", by W.E.B. DuBois, September 1913](#)

"The only time when the Negro problem is insoluble is when men insist on settling it wrong by asking absolutely contradictory things. You cannot make 10,000,000 people at one and the same time servile and dignified, docile and self-reliant, servants and independent leaders, segregated and yet part of the industrial organism, disfranchised and citizens of a democracy, ignorant and intelligent. This is impossible and the impossibility is not factitious; it is in the very nature of things."

"On the other hand, a determination on the part of intelligent and decent Americans to see that no man is denied a reasonable chance for life, liberty, and happiness simply because of the color of his skin is a simple, sane, and practical solution of the race problem in this land."

"Franklin Delano Roosevelt addressed a Nation ravaged by depression and gripped in fear. He could say in surveying the Nation's troubles: "They concern, thank God, only material things."

Our crisis today is the reverse.

We have found ourselves rich in goods, but ragged in spirit; reaching with magnificent precision for the moon, but falling into raucous discord on earth. We are caught in war, wanting peace. We are torn by division, wanting unity. We see around us empty lives, wanting fulfillment. We see tasks that need doing, waiting for hands to do them.

To a crisis of the spirit, we need an answer of the spirit. To find that answer, we need only look within ourselves.

When we listen to "the better angels of our nature," we find that they celebrate the simple things, the basic things—such as goodness, decency, love, kindness.

Greatness comes in simple trappings. The simple things are the ones most needed today if we are to surmount what divides us, and cement what unites us.

To lower our voices would be a simple thing.

In these difficult years, America has suffered from a fever of words; from inflated rhetoric that promises more than it can deliver; from angry rhetoric that fans discontents into hatreds; from bombastic rhetoric that postures instead of persuading.

We cannot learn from one another until we stop shouting at one another—until we speak quietly enough so that our words can be heard as well as our voices."

*-from Richard Nixon's First Inaugural Speech  
January 20, 1969*

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics."

-Erma Bombeck

# News To Make You Furious

The News that makes us ALL Furious...  
PROPAGANDA!



(Originally posted December, 2016)

With all the fake news *in* the news, an article about propaganda seems a timely fit for "News To Make You Furious". After all, what is there about a targeted pattern of lies and distortion focused on changing your behavior like you're a rat in a lab test *wouldn't* make you Furious? But propaganda is difficult to put into a box. It's like obscenity... it's impossible to define, but everyone knows it when they see it and for months we've been seeing it in everything. Rather than focus on just one aspect of such a huge issue we decided to bring you samplers from a full buffet of outrage, from what propaganda is to (most importantly) how to defend against

it. We even have a little bit about our own encounters with propaganda here at the shop! So join us now for a buffet of bile, a cornucopia of conniption, a deluge of disgust on the perennial perversion of propaganda, and take our word for it... *all* of it is true!



**Know your enemy-** Definitions and methods to spot propaganda

**Living under Propaganda States-** Examples of life behind the propaganda curtain.

**How Does It Work?** Sometimes it's just as blatant as it seems.

**Climate Denial-** The clumsy propaganda about Climate Change.

**"Dishonest" Media-** Most media *tries* to be honest... but not all

**FAUX News-** Today's gold standard of propaganda

**No Such Thing As Facts-** NOT EVERYTHING is true but SOME THINGS are.

**Facts don't just exist, they matter-** New facts can change *fact-based* positions

**Fake News-** Includes an interview with a Fake News writer

**Fake Enemies-** The creation one of today's biggest fake enemies.

Everyone does it... right? Yep. But it's not all the same.

US Propaganda- Guess what? We're propagandists too!

Tom Dwyer Propaganda- Our own dealings with propaganda

Fighting Back- Ways to beat the OmniDirectional Sludge Pump

### *So what did we learn?*

Since we can never know for sure what is or is not propaganda, we may have to settle for the idea that it might not matter. Propaganda can be used in service of "good" or "bad", the specific information in it may be accurate or not, the distortion of reality it creates may be useful or not... we may think of it as bad, but propaganda may be value-neutral in itself.

Truth is what differentiates propaganda from communication. If hearing the message leaves you with a less accurate, more distorted, and less useful view of the world than it was propaganda. If it leaves you with a more accurate and useful view, then it was communication. Most communication exists on a spectrum between these two extremes. In either case our obligation is the same... determine the truth through multiple sources then take intelligent action on the reality-based content. This may be one case where being Furious can be helpful... once you've determined whether you were being propagandized, you'll know the appropriate reaction to the people who were dehumanizing *you*!

### *Know your enemy*

The only way to defeat it is to know it's there, so we first have to define it. Let's start where everyone does today, with Wikipedia...

Propaganda is **the deliberate, systematic attempt to shape perceptions, manipulate cognitions, and direct behavior to achieve a response that furthers the desired intent of the propagandist.**" More comprehensive is the description by Richard Alan Nelson: "**Propaganda is neutrally defined as a systematic form of purposeful persuasion that attempts to influence the emotions, attitudes, opinions, and actions of specified target audiences for ideological, political or commercial purposes through the controlled transmission of one-sided messages (which may or may not be factual) via mass and direct media channels.**"

Wikipedia notes propaganda on the left, right, and middle, in religion, political, and corporate settings, in peacetime and wartime, in workplace adults and schoolyard children. It advances many theories of propaganda and particularly notes the difficulty of separating propaganda from real education. But one thing that was consistent across all theories was that while there was no definition of propaganda, there were ways to spot it...

...from [The Institute for Propaganda Analysis](#)

#### **FUN FACT!**

The term Propaganda originally derives from an administrative body of the Catholic Church created in 1622, called the Congregatio de Propaganda Fide (Congregation for Propagating the Faith), or informally simply Propaganda. Its activity was aimed at "propagating" the Catholic faith in non-Catholic countries...

From the 1790s, the term began being used also for propaganda in secular activities. The term began taking a pejorative connotation in the mid-19th century, when it was used in the political sphere.

**PROPAGANDA** – the use of a variety of communication techniques that create an emotional appeal to accept a particular belief or opinion, to adopt a certain behavior or to perform a particular action. There is some disagreement about whether all persuasive communication is propagandistic or whether the propaganda label can only be applied to dishonest messages.

**NAME CALLING** – links a person, or idea, to a negative symbol. Examples: commie, fascist, yuppie

**GLITTERING GENERALITIES** – use of virtue words; the opposite of name calling, i.e., links a person, or idea, to a positive symbol. Examples: democracy, patriotism, family

The next two are ways of making false connections:

**TRANSFER** – a device by which the propagandist links the authority or prestige of something well respected and revered, such as church or nation, to something he would have us accept. Example: a political activist closes her speech with a prayer

**TESTIMONIAL** – a public figure or a celebrity promotes or endorses a product, a policy, or a political candidate. Examples: an athlete appears on the Wheaties box; an actor speaks at a political rally

The following three constitute special appeals:

**PLAIN FOLKS** – attempt to convince the audience that a prominent person and his ideas are “of the people.” Examples: a prominent politician eats at McDonald’s; an actress is photographed shopping for groceries

**BANDWAGON** – makes the appeal that “everyone else is doing it, and so should you.” Examples: an ad states that “everyone is rushing down to their Ford dealer”

**FEAR** – plays on deep-seated fears; warns the audience that disaster will result if they do not follow a particular course of action. Example: an insurance company pamphlet includes pictures of houses destroyed floods, followed up by details about home-owners’ insurance.

The next two are types of logical fallacies:

**BAD LOGIC** – an illogical message is not necessarily propagandistic; it can be just a logical mistake; it is propaganda if logic is manipulated deliberately to promote a cause. Example: Senator X wants to regulate the power industry. All Communist governments regulate their power industries. Senator X is a Communist.

**UNWARRANTED EXTRAPOLATION** – making huge predictions about the future on the basis of a few small facts. Example: If the U.S. approves NAFTA, thousands of jobs and factories will move to Mexico.

[What is Propaganda?](#) by Ralph D. Casey, University of Minnesota, 1944, published online by the American Historical Association

Defining Propaganda	Enemy Propaganda	Democratic vs. Enemy Propaganda
War Propaganda	The Story of Propaganda	What Are the Tools of Propaganda?
Some Limitations of Propaganda	News and Propaganda	



## Defining Propaganda II      How to Size Up Propaganda

To the Leader      Suggestions for Further Reading



### [50 Powerful Examples Of Visual Propaganda And The Meanings Behind Them](#) by Caitlin Jordan on Canva.com, Oct 2015

Deceitful, manipulative, persuasive or informative? However you perceive it, propaganda has been used to change the way the world thinks and behaves for thousands of years.

### *Living in Propaganda States*

We may not always recognize propaganda, but it really exists and has been the conscious base of governments for hundreds of years. Here are a couple examples of life behind the propaganda lines.

### [PBS.ORG Investigative Assets- Propaganda In The Propaganda State](#)

When the Bolshevik party came to power in the October 1917 revolution it immediately began creating the world's first modern propaganda state. This is not at all surprising. Before 1917 many Bolsheviks lived the life of underground agitators. As underground men they devoted their days and nights to propaganda...

### [What was it like to live in the Soviet Union?](#) In Pravda.RU, Mar 2016

*(interviews with Russians who lived under the Soviets, conducted by Pravda and appearing in Pravda)*



A look at the US from inside a modern propaganda state, North Korea

Many people in Russia say these days that they miss the times of the Soviet Union, that life in the USSR was great, all food products were high quality products and so on and so forth. Interestingly, such remarks can most often be heard from young people, who were not even born in the USSR. Those who were born in the Soviet Union may have a different opinion...

### [How to Deal With the Lies of Donald Trump: Guidelines for the Media](#) by James Fallows in The Atlantic, Nov 2016

“...Being back in China in the U.S.-election aftermath naturally leads to thoughts about how societies function when there is no agreed-on version of “reality,” public knowledge, or news... The United States is seeing both a chronic and an acute new version of this public-information problem. The chronic version, recognized but nowhere close to

being solved, is the rise of separate fact-universes into which different segments of society silo themselves—occurring at the same time as the “normal” news media are struggling against economic and other pressures.”

### ***How Does It Work? At least parts are conscious and direct***

When people think about propaganda they sometimes imagine it coming from a sinister cabal in a back room pumping out lies. That’s not always the case, but sometimes it is. Here are several examples of our current propaganda state and how it works in government and the Corporatocracy.



**[The Powell Memo- Because every road starts somewhere](#)** by Charles Letherwood on TomDwyer.com, Feb 2012

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 1971 Powell Memo is a smoking-gun argument otherwise...

**[Noam Chomsky: This is the propaganda system that corporate media uses to dominate society](#)** by Andrew Smolski on CounterPunch, Apr 2016

**[Some Examples of Corporate Influence in the Media](#)** by Anup Shah in Global Issues, Dec 2004

The following are just a small set of examples of corporate influence in the media on issues that have been highlighted elsewhere on this web site. However, over time, more will be added. This web page has the following sub-sections:

Some general observations      Creating Fake Citizens on the Internet

Ridiculing and Discrediting Scientists on Health and Environmental Issues

Influence on Media Coverage of the Kyoto Conference      Chiquita’s Influence

McDonald’s Influence      Monsanto’s Influence      Disney’s Influence

General Electric’s Influence

Military Industrial Complex and Military Contractor’s Influence

**[FlackCheck.org’s Detecting Patterns of Deception](#)**

Welcome to FlackCheck.org’s Detecting Patterns of Deception, the beta version of a new page designed to help viewers spot and debunk slippery moves in politics to see patterns of deception in contemporary debates. On the page, we parse misleading political communication into six main categories.

[Misunderstanding the Process](#) identifies ways in which misleading assumptions about the nature and extent of executive or legislative power drive problematic promises, attacks and self-congratulatory communication. So, for example, the complexity of the legislative process makes it possible for bills and votes to be misconstrued.

[Misleading Use Of Language](#) features ways in which politicians exploit the ambiguities and connotations in words to prompt unjustified conclusions.

[Misleading Audio/Visual Cuing](#) illustrates how pictures and sound can be manipulated to elicit false inferences.

[Misleading By Not Telling The Whole Story](#) focuses attention on the process by which political sins of omission, including selective uses of evidence, deceive.

[False Logic](#) covers common errors in argument that lead audiences to faulty conclusions.

[Hypocritical Attack](#) examines statements that apply a different standard to one candidate than to another or imply a difference between candidates where none in fact exists.

## ***Climate Denial***

The existence and mechanisms of global warming have been known for over 100 years, but in the early years the scientific understanding was incomplete. Back then, there was much room for debate. Our understanding of the subject has grown since and there are still many parts we don't yet fully understand, but there are many parts we now do. The debate on these is over, and when Senators stand up and deride Climate Change using a snowball you know you're seeing golden, intentional, pure, and very clumsy propaganda. It's being employed for a purpose, and the news shows it's working...

[Priebus Confirms That Climate Denial Will Be The Official Policy Of Trump's Administration](#) by Joe Romm on ThinkProgress, Nov 2016

[Turns out that Breitbart article the House Science Committee tweeted out is a con job](#) by Walter Einkenkel on Daily KOS, Dec 2016



[News To Make You Furious- Global Warming Lies in Murdoch's Wall Street Journal](#) Tom Dwyer Automotive Newsletter- The Wall Street Journal op-ed "[In Defense of Carbon Dioxide](#)" was so brazen that it wasn't just an insult to our intelligence, but an insult to our stupidity. So we covered it in our News To Make You Furious column.

### ***"Dishonest" Media***

Donald Trump has become President in part by attacks on "dishonest media". Imagining a conspiracy to smear him may be wrong, but the Media is dishonest in many ways and sins through both commission and omission.

[Project Censored- The Top Censored Stories Of 2015-2016](#)

The presentation of the Top 25 stories of 2015-2016 extends the tradition originated by Professor Carl Jensen and his Sonoma State University students in 1976, while reflecting how the expansion of the Project to include affiliate faculty and students from campuses across North America has made the Project even more diverse and robust. During this year's cycle, Project Censored reviewed 235 Validated Independent News stories (VINs) representing the collective efforts of 221 college students and 33 professors from 18 college and university campuses that participate in our affiliate program.

[Corporate Media Is Just As Dangerous As Fake News Sites](#), Farron Cousins on Ring of Fire, Dec 2016

There is no question that fake news, conspiracy theory news outlets in the United States are causing very real harm. This whole Pizzagate nonsense story promoted by Breitbart proves that. Fake news in the United States almost had a death toll from the crazy gunman who went in that pizza shop and shot it up because he thought it was some sort of pedophilia ring. That's the damage that fake news can do in the United States. It is a very real threat and it's a threat we have to take seriously, and one that frankly needs to be investigated and taken to court. But there is another threat from the news industry. That is the threat that the corporate media poses to our health and safety...

### ***FAUX News***



YouTube link to [the classic documentary](#) outlining FOX's history

Citizens of the Soviet Union read Pravda, but they knew what they were getting. US citizens don't seem as perceptive, since FOX News is still described as a "news channel". As the inspiration for MSNBC and the destruction of intelligent debate and journalism, we thought it deserved special focus in any story about propaganda...

[Fourteen Propaganda Techniques Fox "News" Uses to Brainwash Americans](#) by Dr. Cynthia Boaz on Truthout, Jul 2011

[How Rupert Murdoch and Fox Created the Fake News Industry](#) by Juan Cole on TruthDig, Dec 2016

[Fox Pundits Try To Mainstream Neo-Nazi Racists By Pretending There's An 'Alt Left'](#) by News Hound Ellen on Crooks and Liars, Nov 2016

[How The F\\*ck Can Fox News Report On Trump With These Glaring Conflicts](#) by News Corpse on Daily KOS, Nov 2016

[Fox Nation vs. Reality: The Fox News Cult of Ignorance](#) Kindle Edition- In "Fox Nation vs. Reality" you will find a compilation of articles originally published on the media analysis web site News Corpse. They provide an eye-opening look into the lengths that committed propagandists will go in order to fabricate an alternative political reality. And remember that Fox Nation is not some remote outpost on the Internet Superhighway. It is an integral part of Fox News whose executives are wholly responsible for the stain it produces on journalism.

## ***No Such Thing As Facts***

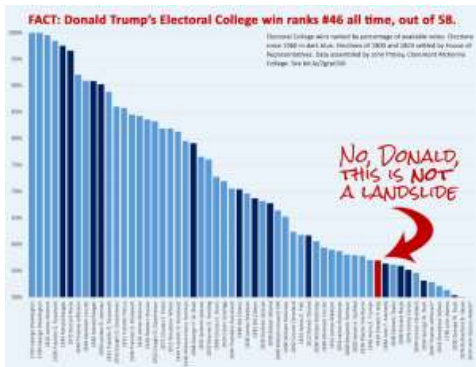
The phrase “reality-based community” first appeared in a October 17, 2004 New York Times article by Ron Suskind titled, “Faith, Certainty and the Presidency of George W. Bush.” It was apparently meant to be a derisive term, and was used by a member of the Bush administration (later identified as Karl Rove) to refer to the community of people who did not buy into the notion that Bush and his team were able to create their own reality. Unsurprisingly, the term was instantly embraced by its intended targets as a badge of honor who began to describe themselves with the phrase “a proud member of the reality-based community.” The full quote is...

*“The aide said that guys like me were “in what we call the **reality-based community,**” which he defined as people who “believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality.” ... “That’s not the way the world really works anymore,” he continued. “We’re an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you’re studying that reality—judiciously, as you will—we’ll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that’s how things will sort out. We’re history’s actors ... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.”* —Unnamed White House aide

[\*\*There Are No Such Things As Facts” Says Trump Surrogate On NPR\*\*](#) by ursulafaw on Daily KOS, Nov 2016

[\*\*Reporting On Nasty Demagogues, We Have No Idea What Works Anymore\*\*](#) by Steve M. on Crooks & Liars, Dec 2016

***But facts don’t just exist, they matter. Example...***



This is just one of the most trivial, easily disprovable facts from a heap we could point to. Donald Trump’s electoral college margin was 46/58, and he lost the popular vote by 2.5 million people as of the latest count. These are facts. [Yet he and his supporters claim a “landslide” victory at direct variance with these facts.](#) It’s not even that “there’s no evidence he’s wrong” it’s that there’s **PROVABLE FACT THAT HE’S WRONG**. It’s not a matter of debate; to maintain otherwise is to lie. Yet he is now using a false landslide to fake a mandate to institute policies that the

majority of the people don’t want.

[\*\*Donald Trump’s ‘Mandate’ Is Historically Terrible Both Popularly And Electorally\*\*](#) by Walter Einkenkel on Daily KOS, Nov 2016

## ***Fake News***

We all used to call it “lies”, but “Fake News” has a much better ring. (Which is propaganda in itself!) Fake News is a subset of propaganda, but it’s also bigger. Fake news can include pranks that are taken seriously and develop by themselves without any support from an organized propaganda campaign. These stories may later serve as the basis for an organized campaign. While Fake News is sometimes no more than rumor, sometimes it’s much more...

[Video: How Fake News Preys On the Uninformed](#) by Sydney Robinson on Ring of Fire, Dec 2016 Interview with Trump supporters

[We Tracked Down A Fake-News Creator In The Suburbs. Here's What We Learned](#) by Laura Sydell on NPR's All Tech Considered, Nov 2016

A lot of fake and misleading news stories were shared across social media during the election. One that got a lot of traffic had this headline: "FBI Agent Suspected In Hillary Email Leaks Found Dead In Apparent Murder-Suicide." The story is completely false, but it was shared on Facebook over half a million times. We wondered who was behind that story and why it was written. It appeared on a site that had the look and feel of a local newspaper. Denvergurdian.com even had the local weather. But it had only one news story: the fake one

[The Most Dangerous Thing About Fake News Sites Is Not What They Say, But How They Say It](#) by Adam Peck on Think Progress, Dec 2016

**Readers aren't waiting for stories to be proven right, they demand to be proven wrong.** In journalism, the credo imparted upon cub reporters is simple: "Trust, but verify." Sources are an important part of any story, but what they say should be subjected to close scrutiny and verified whenever possible. In other words, the impetus is on the reporter to provide hard evidence and authoritative confirmation of a story before publishing—an intentionally high bar for any journalist to clear. Fake news sites, which spin innuendo, rumor and conspiracy into digestible, shareable headlines, has inverted that obligation.

[Trump's National Security Advisor sent 16 fake news \(propaganda\) stories on social media](#) by Jen Hayden on DailyKOS, Dec 2016

[Flynn under fire for fake news](#)

A shooting at a D.C. pizza restaurant is stoking criticism of the conspiracy theories being spread by Donald Trump's pick for national security adviser.

[Off-the-Record Jake Tapper Stands Up to Dangerous 'Fake News': "Does Someone Have to Die Before You Take this Sh\\*t Seriously"](#) Sydney Robinson on Ring of Fire, Dec 2016

## ***Pizzagate***

One of the most stark examples of Fake News having Real Implications is the recent swamp of lies revolving around a child porn ring operating out of the basement of a DC pizza parlor.

[Chuck E. Sleaze-](#) A detailed conspiracy theory known as "Pizzagate" holds that a pedophile ring is operating out of a Clinton-linked pizzeria called Comet Ping Pong.

[How Pizzagate went from fake news to a real problem for a D.C. business](#) By Joshua Gillin on PolitiFact, Dec 2016

[Did Trump Adviser Stephen Bannon and Breitbart News Inspire Pizzeria Gunman?](#) By Juan Cole on TruthDig.com, Dec 2016

## ***Fake Enemies***

Hitler turned the Jews into a threat that motivated an entire empire of evil. Propagandists know that an enemy unifies a population; a threat makes them less deliberative in their decisions. The bad thing about enemies is that when they're defeated a new enemy has to be found. The good thing about FAKE enemies is that they can never be defeated, so they never need to be replaced.

**[Political correctness: how the right invented a phantom enemy](#)** by Moira Weigel in The Guardian, Nov 2016

Donald Trump claimed that Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton were willing to let ordinary Americans suffer because their first priority was political correctness. "They have put political correctness above common sense, above your safety, and above all else," Trump declared after a Muslim gunman killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando. "I refuse to be politically correct." What liberals might have seen as language changing to reflect an increasingly diverse society – in which citizens attempt to avoid giving needless offence to one another – Trump saw a conspiracy...

## **[Conservapedia](#)**

It's hard to tell if that sound you hear is George Orwell turning over in his grave or laughing his head off. A hyper-conservative group is fixing God's mistakes in the Bible by rewriting the whole thing to fit Conservative doctrine. And that's just the start. Run, do not walk, to [http://www.conservapedia.com/Main\\_Page](http://www.conservapedia.com/Main_Page), where you will encounter... Conservapedia. Andy Schafly, son of Phyllis, started Conservapedia to fight the liberal bias in places like Wikipedia and the rest of Western Civilization. The Bible Retranslation Project is just one of their activities. The whole thing is propaganda in the worst tradition of Pravda, but you'll get unending hours of jaw-dropping entertainment as you surf through the 33,784 pages in this Conservative view of the world...

## ***Everyone does it... right?***



Some toxic propaganda from a religious source

Well, sort of. If you go by the loosest definition, just speaking positively or making the best case for something, then yes, everybody does it. In the tightest definition, where the propagandist is intentionally manipulative and distortive, everyone still does it. There's no such thing as purity; propaganda is still found everywhere on the political, religious, and social spectrums. It's a

matter of perception; a matter of degree, intent, and severity. And when you factor those in everyone *still* does it, but not everyone does it in the same amount or the same way.

Here's a good example of non-political propaganda around the idea that 9/11 was an inside job. Whether it was or not, this widely-circulated article did little to prove it. The headline asks a question instead of making an assertion, and then goes to great lengths to paint the '[Europhysics](#)

[News](#)' article it centers around as a peer-reviewed journal article when it is definitely not. The debunk of the article goes into detail.

**[Is there Scientific Proof that 9/11 was an inside job?](#)** On Skeptical Science, Sep 2016

**[The European Scientific Journal Did NOT Conclude 9/11 Was A 'Controlled Demolition'](#)** Stephen Knight on the Godless Spellchecker, Sep 2016

Here's a good example of some prime propaganda targeted at Leftys. The Trans-Pacific Partnership may be dead, but there was a lot of mud slung back when it looked more viable. We wrote an article about the lies and distortion called "[Winning Dirty on TPP- Corporatists are pulling out a familiar, ugly playbook](#)". From our article...

"A PR firm called [270 Strategies](#), headed by two Obama campaign veterans, has just created a website in support of TPP called the "Progressive Coalition for American Jobs". The website touts "More jobs, protections for workers, and free and fair trade" as benefits of the TPP. That wasn't enough to convince Dave Johnson at Campaign for America's Future, so he called up the "Progressive Coalition" to ask [a few clarifying questions](#). He wanted to know: 1) Who is in the coalition? 2) Who is funding the campaign? and 3) Has anyone at 270 Strategies read the TPP agreement?

None of his repeated calls or messages resulted in a reply, but digging a little on his own he found a few answers. The Washington Post's Fact Checker had already given the Jobs claim "[4 Pinocchios](#)". No other members of the "coalition" were listed on the website or anywhere else. "Progressive" went down in flames when Dave found a letter from actual [Progressives](#) Raul Grijalva and Keith Ellison (leaders of the Congressional Progressive Caucus) expressing their doubts both about the substance of the deal and the emphasis on Fast Track authority. His last question is answered by the news each day... no one but the negotiators and the roughly 500 CEOs who had input on the deal have read it. Interestingly, when we went to the site ourselves the "[Get the Facts](#)" link was a dead end when we clicked it."

Another prime example of Lefty propaganda... there's a lot of pushback (for obvious reasons) from the fossil fuel industry on renewable energy sources, but that's no excuse for lying about it. There have been many stories (some more true than others) of people being dissuaded from solar, wind, front yard gardens, rain capture, or other activities that eco-conscious Progressives would care about. However, digging deeper, one frequently finds that the story isn't as cut-and-dried as expected. Here's one example, along with its debunk...

**[A man from Minnesota has been sentenced to six months in prison for installing a wind turbine in his own backyard.](#)** By Sean Adl-Tabatabai on YourNewsWire.com, Nov 2016

**[Tilting at Windmills- A story about a man purportedly arrested over his efforts to use wind power on his own property is inaccurate and misleading.](#)** By Kim LaCapria on Snopes.com, Nov 2016

Again, while everybody does it, not everybody does it the same way. We found several sources for debunking of all kinds from all directions, but there was a clear difference. While most of the Lefty sources were at least broadly concerned with factual information, most of the Righty "fact checkers" were little better than propaganda themselves. If [Snopes](#) or [PolitiFact](#) set the standard for centrist fact checkers, then [Media Matters](#) would be a left-leaning but still nominally objective source. We could find no equivalent to Media Matters on the Right. We aren't saying there isn't



one, but we couldn't find it and we would gladly examine any alternatives people would care to submit. Lest you think this is our own Lefty bias showing, it's not a new observation. Here's a chatroom conversation that describes the problem beautifully...

[Thread in Lavender Room](#), Apr 2016

### **Original Post**

Is there a conservative equivalent of Media Matters? (Rahzel, Apr 23, 10 10:25 Post #1 of 8 (1587 views))

Media Matters is a non-profit progressive organization whose sole purpose is to fact-check conservative media. They spend most of their time pointing out when Fox News and Republican Party members tell a falsehood or spread misinformation. Even though I'm a liberal, I realize that conservatives do not have a monopoly on lying and manipulating the media. There's THREE sides to every story: the Right's, the Left's and the facts.

That's why I want to know: **is there an organization out there whose sole purpose is to fact-check liberal media?** Is there a right-wing equivalent of Media Matters?

Lastly, conservatives, I'm doing you the respect of trying to obtain a balanced viewpoint over here. Please do me the respect of not responding to this post by saying, "duh, just go watch Fox News!!" You and I both know that that's not what I'm looking for here. Let's not get into that, please.

### **Followup Post**

*[In reply to readers who suggested [newsbusters.org](#) and [MRC](#)]*

Rahzel, Apr 23, 10 10:46 Post #7 of 8 (1563 views)

Thanks for posting this. This is close to what I'm interested in (and certainly worth reading), but the MRC's purpose is subtly different from that of Media Matters. **MRC highlights instances of liberal bias in the media, whereas Media Matters highlights instances of conservative misinformation in the media.**

**What I'm looking for is an organization that posts stuff like: "Nancy Pelosi said Statement X today. This is false because X contradicts Statement Y, and we know Y to be true."**

**Whereas, MRC seems to take the slightly different approach of: "MSNBC reported that Nancy Pelosi said Statement X today, but completely ignored Newt Gingrich saying just-as-important Statement Y today. This illustrates MSNBC's bias in favor of Pelosi."**

To make your own side-by-side the comparison of exactly *how* "everybody does it" please take a few minutes to surf to these sites; one a Lefty fact-checker, the other three the best the Right had to offer as an equivalent. And again, give us a better example of Righty fact-checkers and we'll use them instead! (Note: We found the TownHall Factchecker at the last minute, but they still don't hold up well against Media Matters.)

[Media Matters For America](#), or their fact-check project [Mythopedia](#)



VS

[Media Research Center](#), [NewsBusters](#), or [TownHall Fact Check](#)

*Is there a difference between “point of view” and “propaganda”?*

This is another yes/no answer. If you have many information sources and can compare between them, you at least have the possibility of being an informed information consumer. If you only have one point of view available, then there's no difference at all. Once you're thinking critically for yourself, it's vital to have a range of opinions and subjects to check each other against. Media consolidation has crippled our access locally and nationally to alternative views from Corporate

media owners; an issue that hit us very specifically in Portland with the loss of KPOJ. Even though it's harder, seeking out alternative viewpoints is still possible. Supporting progressive community outlets like KBOO and XRAY are ways we can stem the tide.

### [The KPOJ Debacle- Death comes to Progressive Talk in Portland](#)

When KPOJ died listeners called us to find out why. We fielded almost 150 calls about the loss, so we decided to put everything we knew (or suspected) about the closure into one article. From politics to backstabbing to cold hard cash, it's all right here.

### [It's Good To Be Back!](#)

When Carl Wolfson came on the air to fill the KPOJ void, we were there for him. Tom cut a new radio spot specifically to welcome him back, and it has a few thoughts on propaganda.

### [Truth Through Humor](#)

Does being limited to just one opinion REALLY cripple your view of the world? FOX is famous for putting its opinion stamp on news, and this humorous look at history from FOX's point of view shows you how different history can look through their set of glasses.

### [Media Consolidation – One stop shopping for ideas](#)

The opening of XRAY-FM is a small victory for the free flow of information, but why? Why should a small, community radio station matter at all? It's because the overwhelming trend in media since 1996 has been consolidation... six companies now control almost all the information we receive through all media. They've taken a vibrant, chaotic marketplace of ideas and forced it through a single spigot as a putrid slurry of corporate propaganda. Why, it's enough to make you Furious, if you check out these stories or even just the chart below on MEDIA CONSOLIDATION!

## ***US Propaganda***

Don't settle for inferior propaganda from foreign sources! You have a choice... BUY AMERICAN! We produce some of the finest propaganda in the world right here at home. People of goodwill may argue about whether we propagandize for good or bad, but no one can argue that we do it. And our efforts over the years have had mixed success...

[Relations Between US And UN Strained Over Afghanistan War Reports](#) by Sune Engel Rasmussen in The Guardian, Dec 2016

The US military in Afghanistan is increasingly trying to control public information about the war, resulting in strained relations with western organizations offering different versions of events to official military accounts. In a recent incident, the most senior US commander in Afghanistan, Gen John W Nicholson, considered banning or restricting the UN's access to a military base in Kabul, according to informed sources in both organizations. The dispute followed a UN report in late September claiming that a US drone had killed 15 civilians. Washington insists it only killed members of Islamic State...

[The CIA and the Press: When the Washington Post Ran the CIA's Propaganda Network](#) by Jeffrey St. Clair and Alexander Cockburn on CounterPunch, Nov 2016

[In a propaganda war against ISIS, the U.S. tried to play by the enemy's rules](#) by Greg Miller and Scott Higham in The Washington Post, May 2015



As fighters surged into Syria last summer, a video surfaced online with the grisly imagery and sneering tone of a propaganda release from the Islamic State. "Run, do not walk, to ISIS Land," read the opening line of a script that promised new arrivals would learn "useful new skills" such as "crucifying and executing Muslims." The words were juxtaposed with images of the terrorist group's atrocities: kneeling prisoners shot point-blank; severed heads positioned next to a propped-up corpse; limp bodies left hanging from crosses in public squares. The source of the video was revealed only in its closing frame: the U.S. Department of State.

## ***Tom Dwyer Propaganda***

Google "Tom Dwyer" and "Propaganda" and you'll come up with 737,000 results. We've been called out as a propaganda pump in the past, in jest and in seriousness, but there's a difference between propaganda and opinion. Here's a sampling of some of our stories and columns dealing with propaganda in a variety of venues...



[Am I just a shill for Saddam?](#) Tom's Tidbits, Tom Dwyer Newsletter, Mar 2012

I'm not afraid to take strong stances on political and social issues. Today's environment usually finds me in the camp of the Progressives, but does that make me a shill for Progressive positions? Do I mindlessly parrot propaganda, or do I choose logical positions based on the general welfare? Thanks to an article in this month's newsletter, that's more than just a rhetorical question...



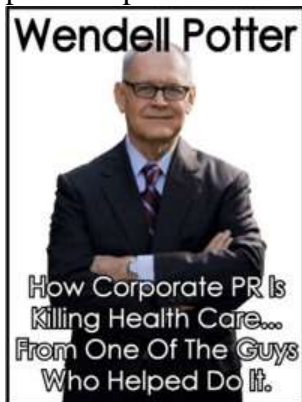
### [Winning Dirty on TPP- Corporatists pulling out a familiar, ugly playbook](#) Tom Dwyer Newsletter, Mar 2015

Richard Berman, lobbyist and political consultant, was secretly recorded during a speech to oil and gas industry executives in Colorado. He explained that the industry "...must be willing to exploit emotions like fear, greed and anger and turn them against the environmental groups". Then he summed up his philosophy in one cringeworthy sentence- "you can either win ugly or lose pretty". People have complained for years about propaganda techniques that give the illusion of grassroots support for policies that only benefit corporate interests. But it seems these Orwellian strategies may be perfectly acceptable if they're pushing the "right" policy. In the looming fight over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Corporatists are once again rolling out the same strategies that they've used for decades. With apologies to Mr. Berman... win or lose, it won't be pretty.



### [News To Make You Furious- Global Warming Lies in Murdoch's Wall Street Journal](#)

In September of 2001, "News To Make You Furious" took an unbiased look at the global warming debate in an article titled "[They're not wrong, they're lying.](#)" (If that doesn't sound unbiased, think again. It's entirely possible to come to the unbiased conclusion you're being lied to. Richard Nixon springs to mind.) But these industry-spawned lies have been a constant "rain" on our necks for years... is there anything new to make you Furious? Yes. The pestilent prevarication in the recent Wall Street Journal op-ed "[In Defense of Carbon Dioxide](#)" was so brazen that it wasn't just an insult to our intelligence, but an insult to our stupidity...



### [News To Make You Furious- Wendell Potter and health care](#)

This month's Furious is all about one book. [One book that can make you mad enough to last for years.](#) Have you ever heard the phrase "Government takeover of health care"? It comes to you from a gentleman named Wendell Potter, a retired PR executive for the health insurance industry. He, and people like him, spend their careers figuring out ways to drop people's insurance when they get sick, mislead them about what their insurance covers, and lie to them about the state of health insurance and the implications of reform. Wendell retired from the industry "...because (he) could no longer serve in good conscience as a spokesman for an industry whose routine practices amount to a death sentence for thousands of Americans every year", and now he's telling the behind-the-scenes story the insurance industry doesn't want you to know. If you haven't heard about Wendell Potter already, then settle in. You won't soon forget him.

### [Media Consolidation – One stop shopping for ideas](#)

The opening of XRAY-FM is a small victory for the free flow of information, but why? Why should a small, community radio station matter at all? It's because the overwhelming trend in media since 1996 has been consolidation... six companies now control almost all the information we receive through all media. They've taken a vibrant, chaotic marketplace of ideas and forced it

through a single spigot as a putrid slurry of corporate propaganda. Why, it's enough to make you Furious, if you check out these stories or even just the chart below on MEDIA CONSOLIDATION!

## ***Fighting Back***

To fight back against propaganda we must first acknowledge our own susceptibility to propaganda of all kinds. Propaganda may be most effective in low-information population but if you think "propaganda is something stupid people believe", you're wrong. We're all human, and propaganda is used to shape human opinion because it works on us all. This is just a sliver of the research on why...

[Researchers: Half of People Believe Fake Facts](#) Sci-News.com, Dec 2016

[The Dunning-Kruger Effect: Are the Stupid Too Stupid to Realize They're Stupid?](#) By Bob Seidensticker on Patheos.com, Feb 2015

[The Internet Isn't Making Us Dumber — It's Making Us More 'Meta-Ignorant'](#) By William Poundstone in NYMag "Science of Us", Jul 2016

Knowledge isn't always power. You can know everything about human biases and still fall prey to those biases.

[A Princeton Psychology Professor Told Me A Truth About Human Behavior That's Both Fascinating And Sad](#) by Shana Lebowitz, Business Insider, Nov 2016

Accepting that we'll never be perfectly immune to propaganda, we can still reduce our susceptibility. [As Justice Louis Brandeis said](#), "If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the process of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence." The best weapons are education, critical thinking, and conscious evaluation.

[How You Can Defeat Propaganda](#) by Guy Bergstrom on The Balance, Apr 2016

Since this is a website available around the world, it is appropriate to talk about how to combat propaganda that has the full weight and power of the state behind it — because there are still places on this earth where that's happening.



[How to Think Critically- Fighting Against Propaganda](#), Video by Stefan Molyneux

The more common public relations challenge is combating propaganda on a smaller scale, whether it's a political campaign, a corporate battle or a non-profit trying to generate awareness of an issue in the face of a government covering up the evidence.

It's hard to fight fire with fire, especially when you (a) can't use the same evil techniques, manipulations and lies as the other side and (b) are typically David in a fight against Goliath since propaganda is a tool of those in power and on top. Using Leaks to

Undermine Propaganda

Subverting propaganda

Create your own ways to communicate

Critical thinking is, well, critical to clarity on any subject. Assume what you're hearing is propaganda until you can check the facts and verify that you're hearing the FULL story. Even though they may be flawed, here is a selection of fact-checkers from across the political spectrum...

From the Center- [PolitiFact](#), [Snopes](#), [NPR](#), [Washington Post](#)

From the Left- [Media Matters For America](#), or their project [Mythopedia](#)

From the Right- [Media Research Center](#), [NewsBusters](#), or [TownHall](#)

### ***Speak out***

Propaganda withers and Propaganda is most needed by, and flourishes most under, an authoritarian government. It's closely related to the strategy of shutting down dissent and criticism. A recent blacklisting by some yahoo with a website is not just a form of propaganda but a form of thuggery. Much like the response to propaganda, the best response is open information and not letting lies stand.

[Professor Watchlist Is Seen as Threat to Academic Freedom](#) by Christopher Mele in The New York Times, Nov 2016

[I Will Not Shut Up. America Is Still Worth Fighting For](#) By Heather Cox Richardson on Moyers & Company, Nov 2016

### ***Restore Respectability to Journalism-***

Yes, they've always been biased in a variety of ways, but there's a reason the Press is the only business venture mentioned in the Constitution. A free and functional press, or at the very least an attempt at one, is a major bulwark against the spread of propaganda.

[Code of Ethics or Canons of Journalism \(1923\)](#)

[NY Times Standards and Ethics](#)

[Meet the Press- The hustlers, hucksters, hacks, and cowards who helped elect Donald Trump](#) by Rick Perlstein in The Washington Spectator, Dec 2016

[How to Deal With the Lies of Donald Trump: Guidelines for the Media](#) by James Fallows in The Atlantic, Nov 2016

Being back in China in the U.S.-election aftermath naturally leads to thoughts about how societies function when there is no agreed-on version of "reality," public knowledge, or news... The United States is seeing both a chronic and an acute new version of this public-information problem. The chronic version, recognized but nowhere close to being solved, is the rise of separate fact-universes

into which different segments of society silo themselves—occurring at the same time as the “normal” news media are struggling against economic and other pressures.