



“Your Car Matters”

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for August, 2020



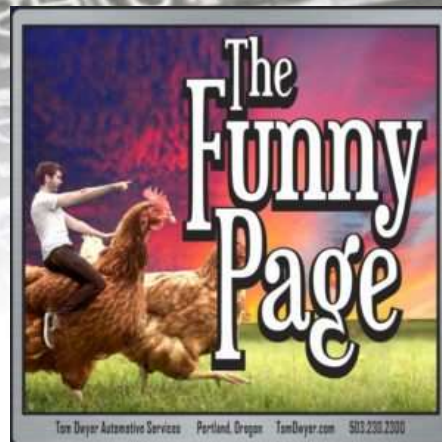
We do DEQ-2!

With the current lines at the DEQ stations, that can be a real relief!



To Mask or not to Mask

How the Mask debate is playing out here at our shop

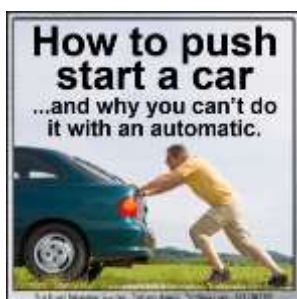


Knock, knock, who's there?

The Funny Page!

Toons, puzzles, memes and more

Our Popcorn Shorts



How to push start a car



How to turn your backyard into a certified wildlife habitat



Details that really would have mattered..



This ship is NOT sinking!

Our Monthly Columns

Tom's Tidbits- Welcome Republicans!

Shop Talk- Carwash Coupon Season

Drew's Kitchen- Crab Mac & Cheese

Health Notes- Battling Alzheimer's with light and sound

Book Spotlight- "It Was All A Lie" by Stuart Stephens,

PLUS: The Reading Habits Of Five Generations!

News To Make You Furious- Propaganda!



Tom's Tidbits

Welcome Republicans!



It's official now... Biden v. Trump. I think Bernie had a better diagnosis of the country's problems and a better prescription to fix them, and I think the Dems are missing a golden opportunity to reboot our country. I have major disagreements with Joe, a collaborator in dismantling the Middle Class for 40 years, and Kamala, an enthusiastic booster of a militarized police state. Neither offer the long-term fixes America and the World so desperately need. But the Dems picked Biden and Harris, and they'll get my vote because even fundamental disagreements are trivial compared to the malignancy that is today's Republican party.

It's a huge jump for Progressive Dems to support Biden. They (we) know that single payer healthcare, global warming, income inequality, and militarized police are critical needs the Democratic Party has been unable or unwilling to tackle. They also know the alternative is a Republican party that is actively opposed to all those priorities, has become divorced from the needs of non-rich Americans since the 70's, and increasingly divorced from consensual reality since the 80's. It's a huge and disappointing jump, but Progressives realize the stakes.



It's an even bigger jump for the Republicans, yet they are now fleeing Trumpistan in droves. For almost 4 years the Trump organization offered an escalating series of purity tests designed to consolidate 'real Trumpers' at the expense of the rest of America, dividing Republicans themselves into either useful idiots or dead weight. Rank and file Republicans were dubious in 2016 (after all, enough voted for him that he came close to a majority) but a few more dropped off the bandwagon as each new desecration hit the news. The useful Republican office holders literally put party over country, distilling and isolating the Trump toxin until the only ones who can't taste it are the ones who've already drunk the poison. It's not their granddads', or even their dads' party anymore, and more Republicans are realizing the stakes every day.

But no one should mistake Biden's support, from Progressives or Republicans, for supporting DNC policies. Biden's a run-of-the-mill back slapping pol with a fake smile and a fuzzy vision of America, but from most reports he also seems to be a generally decent person motivated by recognizable human feelings and limited by fundamental democratic norms. Same with Kamala. And the same with the Progressives and Republicans who are coming over. AOC doesn't back corporate health care and Mitt Romney doesn't want a Green New Deal, but Dems, Reps, and Progressives can and must make common cause in support of functional government and basic standard of humanity. Biden's tepid vision won't save us, but perhaps he has enough commonality to unite Americans without scaring anyone off, at least temporarily.



Functional government doesn't mean we'll all agree; it means that there are limits to the debate. The Republicans fleeing the Trump swamp are setting the rightward bounds of argument, and every one that crosses the line makes the line clearer. Each one leaves the Trumpets increasingly exposed and squirming. The stakes in this election aren't a presidency, or a tax cut, or

some jobs program, the stakes are nothing less than civilization itself. Trump's horrifying predictions of a Biden presidency are HAPPENING NOW UNDER TRUMP, here and around the world, as direct results of his cabal. A Trump vote will only amplify the horror, not end it. The choice is increasingly clear... Trump or America, and Americans are choosing.

Make a great day,



Digging Deeper...

[This Isn't a Convention—It's a Republican Funeral Pyre](#), Rick Wilson on Daily Beast, Aug 2020

['He's Destroyed Conservatism': The Republican Case Against Trump's GOP](#), Michael Grunwald on Politico, Aug 2020

[4 Republicans to speak on opening night of Democratic National Convention](#), Melissa Quinn on CBS News, Aug 2020

[Media Praise Biden's 'Centrist Coalition' for Steering Clear of 'Progressive Demands'](#), Ari Paul on Common Dreams, Aug 2020

[Today's GOP 'Is Donald Trump's Party'](#), Don Gonyea on NPR, Aug 2020

[Republican Voters Against Trump](#), website

[The Lincoln Project](#), website

...and for a real hoot, compare these...

[Democratic Platform 2020](#)

[Republican Platform 2020](#)



We do DEQ-2!

With the current lines at Oregon DEQ, this can be a real relief!

We do just about everything else for your vehicle, but did you know [we can do some of your emission testing through DEQ TOO](#)? DEQ TOO is a new program from Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that makes DEQ testing convenient, quick, and secure. Oregon requires a DEQ check as part of your bi-yearly registration. That's inconvenient at the best of times, but it's become a real problem since Covid shut down the DEQ Inspection Stations. Most

Stations re-opened in June but with a 3-month Covid backup added to their regular influx of drivers, lines are long. You can skip all that, though, with Oregon's DEQToo online inspection and certification program.



If you'd like us to do your DEQ TOO inspection, here's how it works...

- Vehicles must be **2005 or newer** (due to DEQ TOO vehicle software requirements)
- The vehicle **must be currently registered** in your name (DEQToo is only for registration *renewals*. You can't use it to register a vehicle for the first time). Your "check engine" light **cannot be on**. This will cause an immediate failure of the test.
- Schedule an **appointment** with us.
- The **test usually takes 5 minutes** or less. If your vehicle does not pass, there is no cost to you.
- You'll pay a **\$23 device-usage fee** here at the shop. This **does not apply to Oregon's fees** for your DEQ's Clean Air Certificate of Compliance or vehicle registration.
- We'll give you the paperwork you'll need to **complete your registration online** at deqtoo.org.

If you have any other questions, you can check the [DEQTOO website](#) or just ask your Service Advisor about it the next time you're here!

Digging Deeper...

[Some DEQ inspection stations reopen this week, grace period on expired tags extended through 'at least' October 1](#), Andrew Theen in The Oregonian, Jun 2020

[Long wait time for drivers as DEQ begins to reopen in Oregon](#), staff, FOX12 Oregon, Jun 2020

[Oregon DEQ Asks Drivers To Put Off Visits As It Reopens](#), Monica Samayoa on OPB, Jun 2020





To Mask or not to Mask

How the Mask debate is playing out here at our shop

As the entire world deals with Covid, we thought we'd tell you how the controversy over mask-wearing is playing out here at the shop. Here are all our covid-related comments from our Post Service Comment Cards over the last month...

Shannon S.- "So appreciate your teams' professionalism and addressing & following medically recommended Covid-19 precautions"

Cindy M.- "We are very glad you have services during Corona."

Deborah M.- "Thank you for following safe Covid-19 procedures such as having hand sanitizer, plexiglass, sanitizer vehicle and protecting customers and employees."

Joyce L.- "Thanks for your Covid 19 safety."

Larry R.- "I appreciated how everyone wore masks and appeared to be cautious about the pandemic."

James L.- "Very much appreciate your extra efforts on the Covid 19 situation."

Don M.- "Appreciate your Covid precautions!"

Missy D.- "Thanks for staying open and employing your great staff!"

Gene W.- "Handling of auto and experience during this pandemic is outstanding."

Nancy W.- "Thanks for making the effort to stay open... stay healthy!"

April S.- "Thank you for the careful sanitation. It is much appreciated."

Charlie C.- "Like your Covid 19 safety measure in front office."

Phil B.- "...service rep, techs, all were great & kept proper social distance."

Those are great comments, and thank you, but they aren't ALL the comments...

Heather C.- "I think requiring a mask for your employees at this point in covid season is a strain for them more than beneficial for others. Social distance with clients is easy enough. I ache for requirements to be made optional. The threat and #'s just don't support mandatory masks for your employees!"

David S.- "All staff MUST wear a MASK when within 6 feet of others. A face shield is not a substitute. Failing to do so is not only against the law, it increases your customers' risk of Covid-19 infection. Your desk associate was wearing only a face shield. When I pointed this out, he politely explained why he wasn't wearing a mask. Unacceptable! As long as this is allowed I would not recommend Tom Dwyer Automotive Services."

This is fairly representative of our in-shop conversations and our Comment Card responses... most people have been overwhelmingly positive, while a minority feel we are either doing too much or too little. Like virtually every other business around the world we are fighting Covid as best we can and having both successes and failures. We're gratified when people notice and appreciate our efforts, but the comments from Heather and David reflect sizeable minorities of our clients who all deserve a thoughtful response.

To Heather's point, we share her 'ache for requirements to be made optional' and she makes very valid points... our staff is painfully tired of sanitization and wearing masks, and the covid numbers here in Oregon aren't nearly as terrifying as they are in states like Florida. But a large part of the reason why Oregon isn't as bad as Florida right now is that we're still doing the things like masking and sanitizing. They are frustrating and may seem useless, but the best science available says they'll reduce (not eliminate, but reduce) the spread of the disease.

We all miss the freedoms we took for granted until they were gone; the freedoms to go to school, work, or shopping, to hug and kiss our loved ones... even the basic freedom to breathe! It's agonizing to watch all those opportunities slip away day by day, but these freedoms didn't disappear through some arbitrary government overreach. They disappeared as part of a science-based response to a deadly worldwide plague. We ALL want to go back, but the plague hasn't gone anywhere and we as a society can't pretend otherwise.

At Tom Dwyer Automotive Services your safety is our first priority. This isn't some marketing platitude; it has to be this way because caring for your vehicles means taking responsibility for the safety of you, your family, and everyone else on the road. Shortcuts and oversights can cost lives, so we take extra steps in our regular repair processes to protect against even the one-in-a-million failures. We always err on the side of your safety, and wearing masks is simply an extension of this idea.

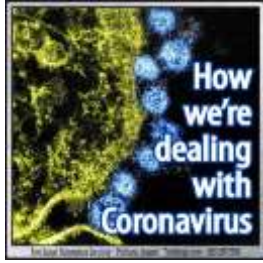
Yes, it's inconvenient, but you, your family, and everyone else around you will be safer (not safe, but *safer*) because we do it. Face coverings are currently required in Oregon for indoor public spaces so we're simply complying with state policy by requiring them. But even if Oregon and the CDC didn't mandate them, *we'd* still be wearing and requiring masks because scientists (not politicians) say it's the safest and most responsible way to treat the people we care about.

David's point is almost exactly the opposite of Heather's, as he feels we aren't going far enough by using face shields alone. We thought our Advisor's use of a face shield was an acceptable alternative to a mask, especially since he was behind a plexiglass shield himself. But, we hadn't actually researched the issue until David's comment made us look deeper.

We found conflicting information. Face shields aren't currently against Oregon law; as of 8/20 the Oregon.gov Coronavirus site said that "Masks, face shields, and face coverings are currently required statewide" and that "Face shields and cloth face coverings are effective for most non-medical uses." However, the CDC "...does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks." Other sources had opinions on face shield pros and cons, but the consensus seemed to be that face shields were a *good addition to masks*, but not a replacement for them. It seems the testing just isn't there yet to confirm the effectiveness of face shields alone either way.

The same reasoning we gave Heather applies to David... we will always err on the side of your safety. We've embraced the need for masks so we aren't trying to 'skate by' on the minimum. Face shields are definitely more comfortable than masks, but unless and until they are scientifically shown to be just as safe, we're sticking with a rigorous masking program.

Thanks to everyone who has commented on our Covid response so far, be it good, bad, or indifferent. We only know if we're successful in our services when our clients tell us, so PLEASE use your Post-Service Comment Cards (or email, or phone, or old-fashioned USPS mail, or an in-person visit!) to talk to us about whatever is on your mind. We can't always make the changes our clients want, but we'll always listen and always try to give a thoughtful, transparent, complete, and respectful response.



Our Covid response goes far beyond 'to mask or not to mask'. For a detailed list of everything we're doing to keep our clients and staff as safe as possible, please go to ["Tom Dwyer Coronavirus Response"](https://www.TomDwyer.com) on www.TomDwyer.com.

Digging Deeper...

[Oregon Coronavirus Response Website](#)

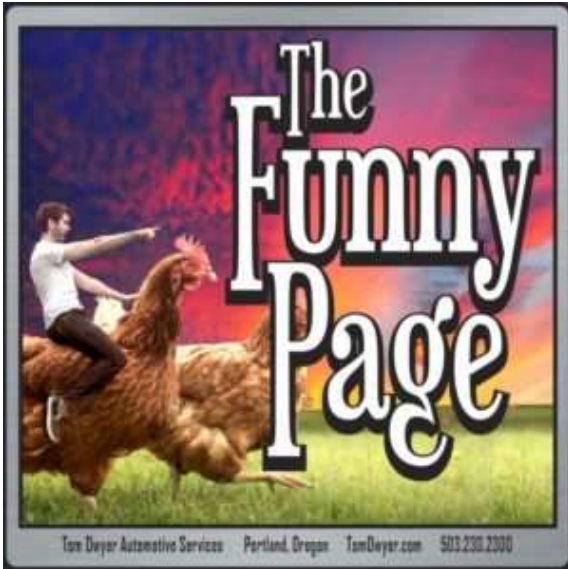
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Coronavirus Website](#)

[Are Face Shields Better Than Masks for Coronavirus Protection?](#) AARP website, July 2020

[Face shields not recommended as only facial covering](#), Cassie Mambro on WBRC6 news, Aug 2020

[Face Shield vs. Face Masks: What's the Best COVID-19 Protection for Kids?](#) Nicole Harris on Yahoo Sports, Aug 2020

[Considerations for Wearing Masks](#), CDC Coronavirus Website, Aug 2020



The Funny Page

Knock knock, who's there? The Funny Page!

Just like Covid, the Funny Page isn't going away, in fact it may even be getting stronger (which, hopefully, is a good thing in the case of the Funny Page! Dig in to our monthly contributions from Keith Tucker, Jen Rombach, the InterTubes, and even a couple in-house originals. Have fun!



"WHAT NOW?!!!"

© KEITH TUCKER
WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM

More or Less
A play-with-words puzzle!
by Jen Rombach

THEME:
OLD STORIES

THEME LETTERS (+/-)

THEME WORDS:

START LIST:

BANS	MAT
BEAT	STAIRS
CASTE	STROLL
COURSE	TWITCH
GERM	WOOS

CAPTION:

DIRECTIONS: Solve for the new **THEME WORDS** by either adding (+/-) each letter from the column of **THEME LETTERS** to a word from the **START LIST**.

- Answers will fit the **THEME** and go next to the letter used.
- THEME LETTERS** (+/-) may go anywhere in the word (beginning / middle / end) to form the new **THEME WORD**.
- Each **THEME LETTER** and each word from the **START LIST** will only be used once. * (multiples of a same letter within the **THEME LETTERS** each have their own word and only one place in the puzzle.)
- Anagram the boxed letters of the solved **THEME WORDS** to find the related caption that will match up the picture to the **THEME**more or less!

© design & illustration by Jen Rombach - all rights reserved - Jen Rombach on Instagram

Jen Rombach's "More Or Less" for August

"Choose your leaders with wisdom and forethought.

To be led by a coward is to be controlled by all that the coward fears.

To be led by a fool is to be led by the opportunists who control the fool.

To be led by a thief is to offer up your most precious treasures to be stolen.

To be led by a liar is to ask to be told lies.

To be led by a tyrant is to sell yourself and those you love into slavery."

-Octavia Butler, Parable of the Talents

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services - Portland, Oregon - TomDwyer.com - 503.230.2300

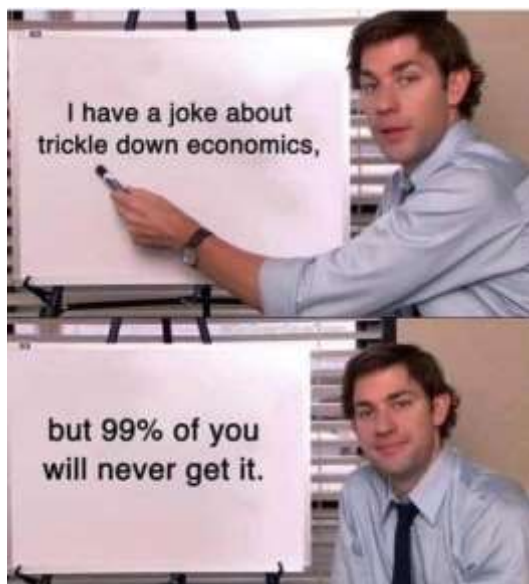
Feel the Bern.

Vote the Bide.

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services - Portland, Oregon - TomDwyer.com - 503.230.2300



Travel plans in 2020 be like:



Travel plans in 2020 be like:



Fact: It has been scientifically proven that children perform better scholastically when they are alive.



HELP ME, MAIL-IN BALLOT.
YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE.



~~SNOW~~
~~RAIN~~
~~HEAT~~
~~NIGHT~~
~~FASCISM.~~

Nothing stops the mail.

apwu.org/savepostoffice



"Personally, I worry that, with everyone wearing masks, readers won't be able to tell who in the cartoon is speaking."



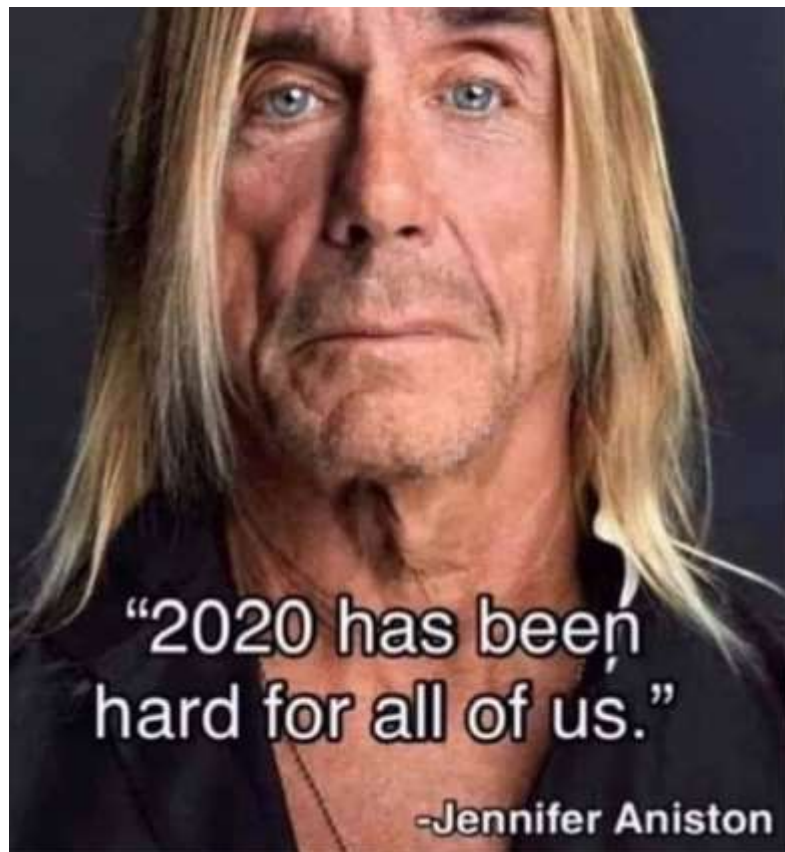
@Tommy Sogel

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · 1h
 The "suburban housewife" will be voting for me. They want safety & are thrilled that I ended the long running program where low income housing would invade their neighborhood. Biden would reinstall it, in a bigger form, with Corey Booker in charge!
 @foxandfriends @MariaBartromo

Joe Norris @GiuseppeNo... · 56s
 "Suburban housewife" is an antiquated stereotype. In 2020, the only American who sits around the house all day, watching TV, fussing with hair, putting on makeup and worrying about getting saggy boobs is you.



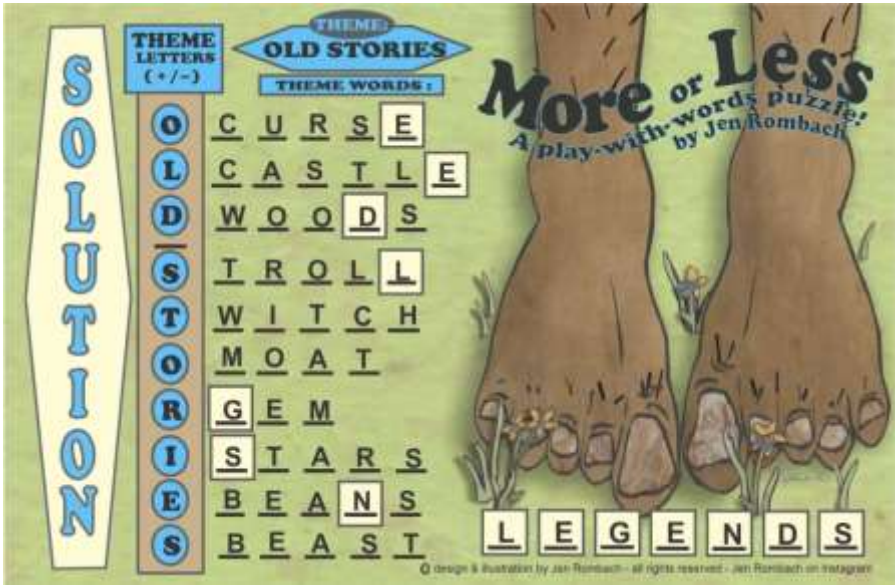
"THE BEST PEOPLE"



More-Or-

Less

Solution



Shop Talk

Carwash Coupon Season



Comment of the Month-

Client Carol B. wrote-

"We rely on our van in order to deliver our far produce. You make it possible- we couldn't ask for better service."

Thank you Carol! Everyone has their own goals for vehicle ownership, from reliable daily driver to weekend beater to business lifeline. You know about our marquis personal service, but are you familiar with our [Business Fleet service](#)? No matter what YOUR goals are, we can help with the best service you can ask for.

Carwash Coupon Season is back!



You've waited since last fall for this... May in Portland doesn't just mean the beautiful weather is beginning, it also means Free Car Wash Season at Tom Dwyer Automotive! The summer heat will soon turn our parking lot into a dust factory, so we offer free car washes to make up for it. Free Carwash Season runs until September 15. Sorry, but we only give out coupons for services exceeding \$100 and not for oil changes or other minor services. So why don't we just wash your car here? It's one of the most common questions we get, so we'll let Tom himself tell you why...

"Because we're so close to the river, we (and the city) closely monitor our discharges. If we washed more than 7 cars a week we'd have to install capture systems for every drop or risk damaging the environment. We offer free coupons for WashMan because they've already made the investment to do the cleaning right without environmental damage. Even just vacuuming cars presents problems. Although we used to vacuum, we stopped out of respect for our client's privacy. You wouldn't believe the things people leave in their cars, from fragile breakables to money to weapons. There are also liability and damage issues that outweigh the benefits of a clean carpet."

So that's the story. You can forget about washing your car for the summer, but only if you stop by to take advantage of our yearly blowout... FREE CARWASH SEASON!

Current Special Offers

30% Off Labor continues through August!



As the threat from Covid-19 continues, so too does our Covid Discount. It's an amazing offer we couldn't afford to make in normal times, but right now it will help stretch your money and keep our company healthy for the long term. Act now for your greatest savings, because as the economy (hopefully!) improves we'll slowly reduce the discount back to more sustainable levels.

Offer expires 8/31/20

\$200 minimum purchase required

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

Carwash Coupon Season is going on NOW THRU SEPTEMBER!



Covid has changed a lot of things, but one thing continues... CAR WASH COUPON SEASON at Tom Dwyer! We can't wash your cars or pave our lot ([here's why](#)), but we also can't having you drive home in a dirty vehicle during these dusty summer months. That's why, from May through September, we offer a FREE coupon for a WashMan carwash on every visit. Act now... September is coming faster than you think!

Offer expires 9/30/20

\$200 minimum purchase required

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

SPECIAL CNP MEMBERSHIP OFFER!

We're building a 100% Carbon Neutral Vehicle Fleet, so we want YOU to sign up right now! This isn't some cynical ploy to use Climate Change to benefit our company. WE DON'T MAKE ANY MONEY FROM THIS PROJECT; ALL YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE GOES TO BONNEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION TO PURCHASE YOUR CARBON OFFSETS. In fact, though we're very glad to do it, we lose money on each membership... that 10%-discount-on-Labor-Charges comes straight out of our pocket for the whole year of your membership! So come on, hurt us but help the planet... join our CNP TODAY!



Sippers (hybrids, electrics, etc)- Normally \$30- **NOW \$20**

Drinkers (most types of cars)- Normally \$50- **NOW \$40**

Guzzlers (SUVs, land yachts, etc)- Normally \$90- **NOW \$60**

We also have some 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

Crab Mac & Cheese



If mac and cheese is the ultimate comfort food, is CRAB mac and cheese the ultimate-ER comfort food?

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. elbow pasta
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 shallot, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups milk
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded white Cheddar
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella
- 1 lb. lump crab meat
- chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a large pot of boiling water, cook elbows according to package directions until al dente. Drain and return to pot.
2. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add shallot and garlic and cook until fragrant and softened, 3 minutes. Add flour and whisk until combined and golden, 1 minute. Add milk and season with salt and pepper. Simmer 2 minutes, until sauce is thickened and smooth.
3. Stir in half the white cheddar and mozzarella until melty, then remove from heat.
4. Add sauce and crab meat to pot with cooked elbows and stir until completely combined.
5. Sprinkle with remaining half of cheddar and parsley and bake until bubbly, 20 minutes.
6. Serve

Original recipe from Delish

Health Notes

Battling Alzheimer's with light and sound



President Trump infamously recommended putting light “inside the body” to fight Covid. Doctors were quick to point out that this was delusional, but research is showing light and sound can actually be useful against a very real terror... Alzheimer's disease. Ultrasound is being used to open the blood-brain barrier to allow medicines through, laser light is being used to spike immune response, light and sound are clearing plaques in animals, and doctors are still just getting started. Here's a few reports back from the front lines of health science...

[Historic breakthrough: WVU Rockefeller Neuroscience team first to use ultrasound to treat Alzheimer's](#), John Dahlia in WVNews, Oct 2018

[Light and sound therapy may boost brain function](#), Maria Cohut in Medical News Today, Mar 2019

[An Hour of Light and Sound a Day Might Keep Alzheimer's at Bay](#), Angus Chen in Scientific American, Mar 2019

[“Sound” Approach to Treating Alzheimer's Disease](#), Laccarino et al in American Academy of Audiology, Mar 2019

[Noninvasive brain wave treatment reduces Alzheimer's pathology, improves memory in mice](#), Martorell et al, National Institute on Aging, Jun 2019

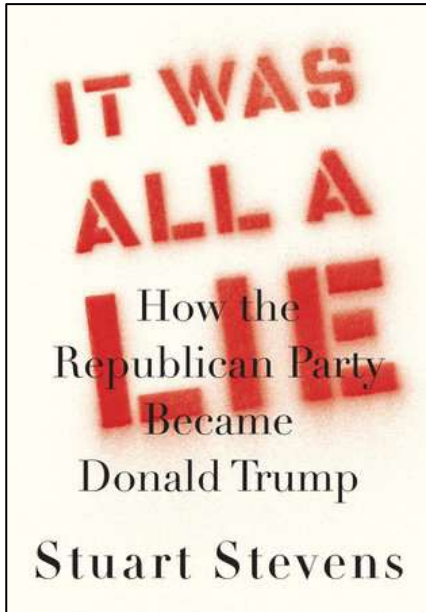
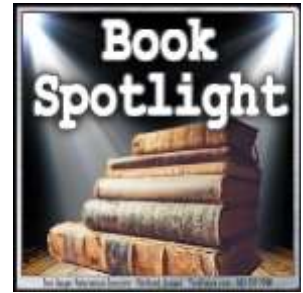
[Scientists 'Clear' Alzheimer's Plaque From Mice Using Only Light And Sound](#), Mike McRae on ScienceAlert, Mar 2019

[Spreading the Word on a Possible Alzheimer's Treatment](#), James O'Brien in Quanta Magazine, May 2020

[Sound Stimulation in Patients With Alzheimer's Disease](#), Clements-Cortes and Bartel in Annals of Long-Term Care, May 2015

Book Spotlight

“It Was All A Lie” by Stuart Stephens,
PLUS: The Reading Habits Of Five Generations!



[It Was All A Lie- How The Republican Party Became Donald Trump](#)

by Stuart Stevens

from the publisher- “Stuart Stevens spent decades electing Republicans at every level, from presidents to senators to local officials. He knows the GOP as intimately as anyone in America, and in this new book he offers a devastating portrait of a party that has lost its moral and political compass.

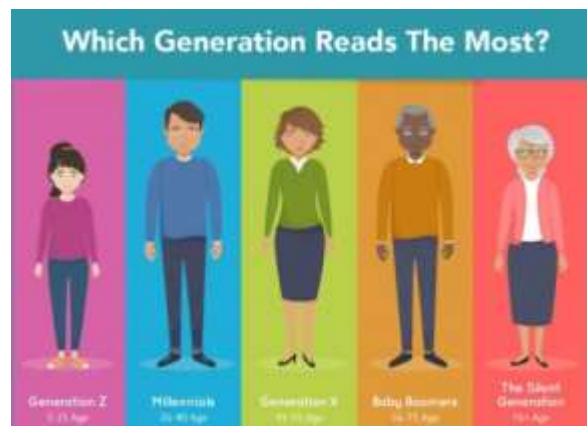
This is not a book about how Donald J. Trump hijacked the Republican Party and changed it into something else. Stevens shows how Trump is in fact the natural outcome of five decades of hypocrisy and self-delusion, dating all the way back to the civil rights legislation of the early 1960s. Stevens shows how racism has always lurked in the modern GOP's DNA, from Goldwater's opposition to desegregation to Ronald Reagan's welfare queens and states' rights rhetoric. He gives

an insider's account of the rank hypocrisy of the party's claims to embody "family values," and shows how the party's vaunted commitment to fiscal responsibility has been a charade since the 1980s. When a party stands for nothing, he argues, it is only natural that it will be taken over by the loudest and angriest voices in the room.

It Was All a Lie is not just an indictment of the Republican Party, but a candid and often lacerating mea culpa. Stevens is not asking for pity or forgiveness; he is simply telling us what he has seen firsthand. He helped to create the modern party that kneels before a morally bankrupt con man and now he wants nothing more than to see what it has become burned to the ground.

[The Reading Habits Of Five Generations!](#)

As we were busily researching WHAT to read, we ran across a fascinating infographic on WHO is reading. If you're a bibliophile the information won't be encouraging but it will be interesting. Here's the header, but they dig much deeper in the graphic.



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!



[How to push start a car... and why you can't do it with an automatic](#)



from [Jalopnik.com](#)- "If you've ever wondered how you can start a car without using the starter motor, allow me to demonstrate the art of the "push-start," also called the "bump-start" or "roll-start." It's a way to use the motion of a car to fire up its engine. Here's a look at how this joyful automotive pastime works, and why you can't push-start a vehicle with an automatic transmission..."

[Details that really would have mattered.](#)



from [TheImperfective.com](#)- "For some reason, symmetry drives our brains crazy. If things are out of line it tends to stop us in our tracks and annoy us to no end. The funniest thing of all is that these little annoyances that are done by either us or others can really get to us. Usually, the people who screw up the most are the ones who of course had one job and one job only. Whether it is drawing a straight line of keeping things symmetrical, these people know how to screw up, big time. This being the case, here are annoying finds found by annoyed people..."

[This ship is NOT sinking!](#)



The Navy's Floating Instrument Platform (FLIP) is 300' long. If it doesn't look that long in the picture that's because about 220' of it are under water... yet it's not sinking! One of the coolest things we've randomly run across. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography- "FLIP, is not a ship, but a 355-foot-long research platform that can be deployed for oceanographic research... Normally docked with Scripps's fleet in San Diego Bay, FLIP can be towed to out to sea in its horizontal position and then "flipped" 90 degrees so that 300 feet of its length are under water. This turns FLIP into a "spar buoy," a tall, thin, weighty structure designed to be uniquely stable and resistant to wave motion..."

[How to turn your backyard into a certified wildlife habitat](#)



from [The Optimist Daily](#)- "One third of insects are classified as endangered and this is in large part due to habitat loss. Fortunately, there are ways you can help support all types of wild animals using your very own front yard. Transforming your garden into a Certified Wildlife Habitat is a great goal for families looking to have a real impact on conservation. So how can you turn your yard into a wildlife habitat? These steps were created by the National Wildlife Federation and center around critical habitat components like food, water, and shelter..."

News To Make You Furious-

The News That Makes Us All Furious- PROPAGANDA



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 then 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 cast 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...

[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.



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

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: apolitical 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.

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)

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...

“Outside of Germany people often wonder at the palpable fraudulence of Nazi propaganda, the stupid incredible exaggerations, the ludicrous reticence concerning what is generally known. Who can be convinced by it? They ask. The answer is that it is not meant to convince but to impress. It addresses emotion and fantasy. Nazi propaganda seeks to create in our minds tenacious ideas and fantasies.”

-- Sebastian Haffner,
“Germany: Jekyll and Hyde”,
1940

[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.”



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

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

The famous political activist discusses corporate media, foreign policy and war.

[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
Military Industrial Complex and Military
Contractor's Influence
Disney's Influence
General Electric'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...

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.

FAUX News

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.**"*

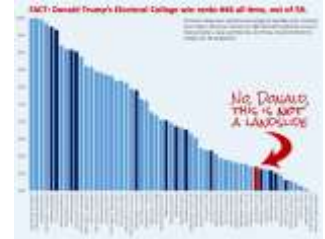
—Unnamed White House aide

[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...

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. Denvergaurdian.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...

[Popcorn Shorts- 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, 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?

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

Think of the press as a great keyboard on which the government can play.

Joseph Goebbels

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."

It is the right of the state to supervise the forming of public opinions.

Joseph Goebbels

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

"Faith moves mountains, but only knowledge moves them to the right place.

Joseph Goebbels

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.

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.

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."

[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.



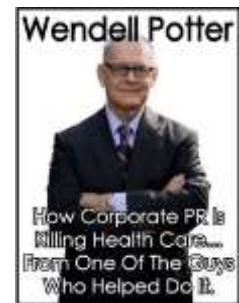
[News To Make You Furious- Global Warming Lies in Murdoch's Wall Street Journal](#)

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

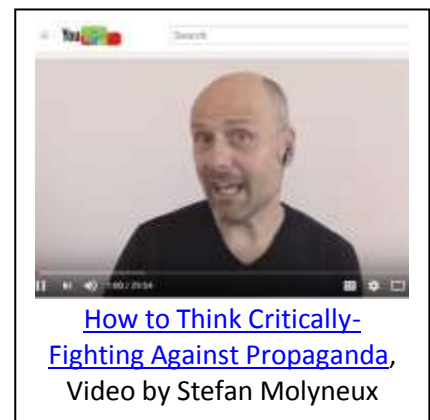
Since this is a website available around the world, it is appropriate to talk about how to combat propaganda that has the full weight and power of the state behind it -- because there are still places on this earth where that's happening.

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.

- 1) Using Leaks to Undermine Propaganda
- 2) Subverting propaganda
- 3) 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 fact-check project [Mythopedia](#)

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

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.