

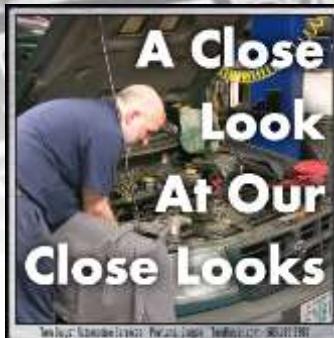
# "Your Car Matters"

Tom Dwyer Automotive Services Monthly Newsletter for June, 2018



## Oregon Ethics in Business

Virtue is its own reward, but it's still a huge honor to be noticed



## A Close Look at Auto Inspections

GOOD inspections are critical... here's how to avoid the bad ones



## How Fake Is YOUR News?

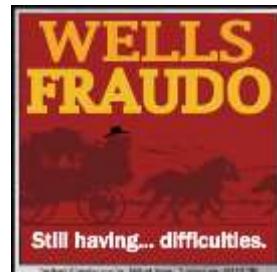
A look at the media credibility spectrum... all of it.



Inside the first Flat Earth convention



Score \$1200 from a Dish Network telemarketer



Wells Fraudo is still having... difficulties.



How Fake Video will warp our minds

## Our Monthly Columns

**Tom's Tidbits-** Ethics are annoying. Why bother?

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

**Drew's Kitchen-** Slow cooker chicken parmesan and pasta

**Shop Talk-** A FREE way to help independent community media

**Health Notes-** We're terribly sorry, but you just aren't worth curing.

**Book Spotlight-** "A Higher Loyalty" by James Comey... with our IN-HOUSE REVIEW!

**Humorousness-** Lifehacks guaranteed to fail

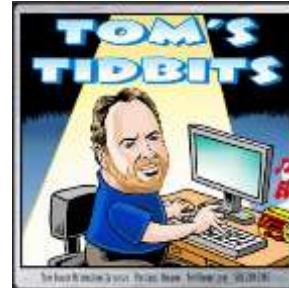
**News To Make You Furious-** Scott Pruitt- Poster Boy for Corruption

# Tom's Tidbits

## Ethics are annoying. Why bother?

*"If honor were profitable, everybody would be honorable."*

-Thomas More



Greetings,

I'm very proud and excited this month to announce that Tom Dwyer Automotive has been recognized with the Rotary Club's 2018 Oregon Ethics In Business Award. It's a true honor and validation of everything we do here at the shop, and there's [an article about it in this month's newsletter](#) that I really hope you read. But. I can't help but thinking how sad it is we're being recognized for something as fundamental as ethics. No one's recognized for standout achievements in breathing because if you don't breathe you don't achieve much at all. To me it's the same with ethics, and today's world is teaching an excruciating lesson in exactly how dangerous a society without ethics can be...

Ethics aren't some effete luxury, they're foundational to everything humans do. They're the unspoken rules of behavior we all assume from each other... that we'll speak the truth as we know it, and that we'll treat others with the fairness and respect we'd expect for ourselves. Virtually every interaction STARTS with these shared assumptions the other person won't kill us, hurt us, steal from us, or lie to us. We might quickly be proven wrong, but we MUST start there before going any deeper... could you imagine talking with a teacher while wondering if they were about to stab you or if they were telling the truth about little Johnny's grades? Because ethics are so interwoven into everything we do they don't easily fit into neat little buckets like "business", "politics", or "personal". Ethics are about how you deal with people wherever you find them.

We all realize the community value of ethical behavior, yet we also all know there are individual gains if we act unethically. Everyone succumbs to this temptation at times; there are few saints and as long as we're dealing with human beings we'll encounter human failures. It's less about "if" we'll have ethical lapses than how often, about what, and how hard we have to be pushed before we succumb. Not only that, but differing ethical codes mean two people might both think they're being ethical yet behave completely differently. People (or companies) are often described as "ethical" or "unethical", but that's not right... it's a spectrum, and the only accurate descriptors are "more" or "less" ethical.

Because they're *inter*-personal our internal ethics are subject to interpersonal pressure. Some behaviors may be universally condemned (or applauded) but others have gray areas where peers and leaders decide what behavior is demanded, what is tolerated, and what can be punished. People soon adjust their internal standards to match these group standards... sometimes upward, but most easily and often downward. This is why unethical behavior is a cancer that spreads... once one person decides to cut corners, the group ethical standard changes from "what can we achieve together" to "what can I do without getting caught". We need look no further than the [Milgram Experiments](#), the [Abu Ghraib abuses](#), or the [mostly-not-evil German people swept along with the Third Reich](#) to see how this works and how deep it can spiral. Being aware of group power doesn't insulate us, but being unaware almost guarantees we'll succumb.

In many groups it makes little sense to rely on *individual* integrity at all because, as I said, there are few saints. Unethical groups can corrode the strongest individuals so support for ethical behavior in large groups has to come from the group structure itself. As a business example, the commission-based compensation plans typical in the auto repair industry can be a major driver of unethical behavior. The standard of "if you don't sell, you don't eat" presents obvious ethical conflicts so we designed our structure to fight that. In our shop Technicians and Service Advisors work *together* to create your service recommendations. *Neither* is paid on commission, so *neither* is tempted to advise unnecessary work, cut corners, bill for work not done, or exaggerate bill times to pad a paycheck. Moreover, each person serves as a 'check' on the other to further ensure ethics and service quality.

Eliminating structural temptation like this is one of the most effective ways *any* group can promote individual ethics.

Of course, reputation and appearance are critical in ethics. A person or company's reputation is the sum of *other's* experiences... did most people find you truthful, or trustworthy, or fair in your dealings? Is it a "good bet" that you'll live up to the ethics you espouse? The appearance of impropriety can be just as deadly to a reputation as actual impropriety, especially in government. As one of the best examples, is it a good bet to think "your" issue can get a fair hearing from a Congressman taking massive unregulated contributions from lobbyists on the other side? Lobbying money doesn't *guarantee* corruption but it *appears* to. A Congressman might still act ethically, but to *expect* he will? It's not a good bet for any rational person.

In the public consciousness, ethics have morphed from essentials of "good" people and solid relationships to a quaint exercise in Emily Post etiquette for naïve do-gooders. They're seen as weakness instead of the strength they are. But again, Trump's sole redeeming value may be that he's showing what a world without ethics looks like and why ethical people can't allow it. Untethered to truth or consensual reality, contemptuous of the values our society is based on, bitter and vindictive in every observable act, demanding of ethics in others yet fleeing them himself, he's the poster child for why ethics are so necessary for all of us. Without ethics our personal lives can become shambles, our economic lives predatory jungles, our governments coercive plunderers, and our world can become an actual wasteland. Donald Trump is making the case just that plain, the choice just that stark.

As for me? I choose ethics. I choose to keep breathing.

Make a great day,



## Digging Deeper...

[A Most Mundane Evil](#), by Michael Jinkins on Louisville Seminary, Oct 2016

[Rex Tillerson Gives Commencement Address On 'Truth'](#), video from Rex Tillerson's commencement address at Virginia Military Institute, May 2018

[All The Trump's Men: From Doctors To Lawyers, They're Violating Ethics, Rules And Laws](#), by Rebecca Pilar, Daily Kos, May 2018

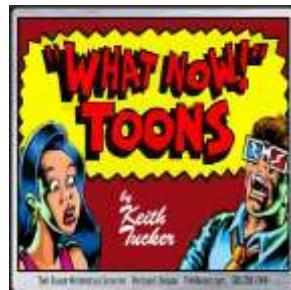
["A Higher Loyalty"](#) by James Comey, May 2018

[Gina Haspel Ran the CIA Site Where My Client Had Been Tortured. Her Testimony Changed My Opinion of Her](#), by Joseph Margulies in Time, May 2018

[Spiro Agnew's Lawyer: Donald Trump's Lies Are Fatally Wounding Our Democracy](#), by Martin London in Time, Dec 2017

# What NOW?!! Toons

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



**"WHAT NOW?!!"**

© KEITH TUCKER  
[WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM](http://WWW.WHATNOWTOONS.COM)

# Referral Reward Program

It's already time to vote for our NEXT Quarterly Winner!



## What Happened Last Month?

Are you just finding out about our Referral Reward Program? Please allow us to explain... It's our way of saying "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 call you and make a donation to the non-profit group of your choice. All selections are also entered into the running for Quarterly and Yearly awards as well. It couldn't be simpler! (Seriously, we've tried to make it as simple as possible, so if you can think of anything at all we can do to make it even simpler we want to hear from you!)

**We've made 23 donations for \$860 since our last count; a total of  
506 donations totaling \$22,395 since the program began!**

Here's who our clients chose to help in April and May...

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">Sisters of the Road</a> by Althea K.               | <a href="#">Boys and Girls aid society of Oregon</a> by<br>Amissa K.                           |
| <a href="#">Llewellyn School</a> by Joe C.                     | <a href="#">Dove Lewis Animal Hospital</a> by Tim C.   |
| <a href="#">Bernie Sanders</a> by Peter S.                     | <a href="#">SW Washington Humane Society</a> by George<br>D.                                   |
| <a href="#">Children's Cancer Association</a> by Kurt L.       | <a href="#">Belmont Goats</a> by Mario G.  |
| <a href="#">Returning Veterans Project</a> by Jeff B.          | <a href="#">RoseHaven</a> by Billie L.   |
| <a href="#">National Multiple Sclerosis Society</a> by Eric M. | <a href="#">Oregon Food Bank</a> by Alain M., and Eric B.                                      |
| <a href="#">Portland Boys &amp; Girls Club</a> by Susan S.     | <a href="#">Portland Animal Welfare Team</a> by Tawnya C., Briana S., Debra L., Steve B.       |
|  | <a href="#">Planned Parenthood of Col/Wil</a> by Andrew O., Danielle R., Paula C., and Abby C. |
|  | <a href="#">North by Northeast Community Health Center</a> by Melissa S.                       |

Don't let other Dwyer Clients have all the fun; we'd love to help YOU in making our community groups even stronger. Just refer a new client to Tom Dwyer Automotive and if they tell us you referred them (don't worry; we'll ask) then we'll call you to find out who YOU want to help!

## What's Coming Up Next?

**Vote for our next Quarterly Reward Winner!**

It seems only yesterday we gave a \$200 Quarterly Award to [The Dougy Center](#) and a \$500 Yearly Award to the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), but it's already time to vote for our next Quarterly award! We hope you'll participate... just pick a group from the list below and call us at 503-230-2300 email your choice to [Charles@TomDwyer.com](mailto:Charles@TomDwyer.com).

We have one caveat... groups like Oregon Food Bank and Planned Parenthood do vital work and our clients seem to give them at least one Reward every month. **HOWEVER**. These groups are very, very big. Each of our Quarterly Winners gets \$200 and each Yearly Winner gets \$500, and while these bigger groups can certainly use it (and several of the have won our Quarterly and Yearly awards in the past) that money could be a bigger boost to a smaller organization. Since we'd like to focus our giving where it means the most, **we've decided to make the following groups INELIGIBLE for Quarterly and Yearly awards**. We'll gladly give to any of them for individual referrals during the month, but **ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR QUARTERLY AND YEARLY AWARDS**, we're taking them off the list of 'eligibles'....

## **INELIGIBLE for Quarterly and Yearly awards:**

|                         |                    |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Oregon Food Bank        | American Red Cross | American Civil Liberties |
| Planned Parenthood      | Mercy Corps        | Union                    |
| Oregon Humane Society   | Salvation Army     | Sierra Club              |
| American Cancer Society | OPB Radio          | Special Olympics         |

These are all fantastic groups doing fantastic work, and we encourage you to donate to any or all of them every chance you get, but for the Referral Rewards we like to keep things among the littler guys.

## **Please vote for any ONE of these 28 groups to receive our Quarterly Award**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Multnomah County Animal Shelter</a>        | <a href="#">St. John the Baptist School</a>         |
| <a href="#">Indigo Rescue</a>                          | <a href="#">Outside In</a>                          |
| <a href="#">Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation</a>  | <a href="#">Help Holley fight Leukemia GoFundMe</a> |
| <a href="#">Raphael House</a>                          | <a href="#">Heifer.org</a>                          |
| <a href="#">Oregon Center for Christian Voices</a>     | <a href="#">Children's Cancer Association</a>       |
| <a href="#">BARK</a>                                   | <a href="#">Northstar Civic Foundation</a>          |
| <a href="#">Oregon Humane Society</a>                  | <a href="#">Transitions Project</a>                 |
| <a href="#">Make-A-Wish Foundation</a>                 | <a href="#">Operation Agua</a>                      |
| <a href="#">National Association on Mental Illness</a> | <a href="#">Boys &amp; Girls Aid</a>                |
| <a href="#">Esther's Pantry Food Bank</a>              | <a href="#">Refit Portland</a>                      |
| <a href="#">Bradley Angle House</a>                    | <a href="#">Columbia Riverkeeper</a>                |
| <a href="#">Multnomah County CASA</a>                  | <a href="#">DKMS- Delete Blood Cancer</a>           |
| <a href="#">United Way of the Willamette Valley</a>    | <a href="#">Human Solutions</a>                     |
| <a href="#">Animal Rescue and Care Fund</a>            | <a href="#">Skaters for Portland Skateparks</a>     |

Call us at 503-230-2300 email your choice to [Charles@TomDwyer.com](mailto:Charles@TomDwyer.com).

**Thank you for your participation!**

# Oregon Ethics In Business Award

Virtue is its own reward, but it's still a huge honor to be noticed!



We're in the Auto Repair industry, an industry lagging only slightly behind lawyers and politicians for public perception of its ethics. Knowing that, we've made ethics and integrity the core of our company. The result's been a strong and stable business for well over 30 years, providing top-quality service to clients who realize that *their* best interests are at the heart of everything we do. We sleep very well at night.

We're very proud and honored that this commitment to integrity will be getting wider notice on May 23 when Tom Dwyer Automotive Services will receive an Ethics In Business award from the Rotary Club of Portland! We'll tell you more about the The Rotary Club and the Oregon Ethics In Business program below, and why it means so much for us to be recognized.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Ethics in Business award comes from the [Rotary Club of Portland](#), one of the largest Rotary Clubs in the world and just the 15th chartered club out of more than 33,000 chapters around the globe. Members actively use their influence, professional skills, time and resources to make meaningful change in whatever community their chapter is located. One of the Rotarians core principles is "Service Above Self", supported by every member in every Rotary Club, which speaks to the individual standards they stand for. Rotary is heavily supportive of business ethics specifically, with one of their cornerstones being a "Four Way Test" to decide if a business choice is ethical...

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Does it build goodwill and friendships?

Is it beneficial to all concerned?

Rotary's [Oregon Ethics in Business Awards](#) began in 2003 to "honors organizations and individuals who have demonstrated ethical business practice in its broadest interpretation: in the workplace, the marketplace, the environment, and the community. The recipients of these awards have, by act and example, gone beyond the expected to achieve excellence in ethical business practices."

Awards are presented in Large Business, Small Business, and Non-Profit categories, so this year we'll be sharing the stage with Les Schwab Tires, Keen Footwear, and The Portland Clinic in the Large Business category, Lakeside Lumber and Fully office furniture in the Small Business category, and Portland Children's Museum, Shriners Hospitals, and Habitat For Humanity in the Non-Profit category. The award banquet will be held May 23 at the Sentinel Hotel in Portland, and proceeds go to support the Rotary Club's scholarship programs.

Past winners of the award include Oregon Humane Society, Raphael House, Dave's Killer Bread, DePaul Industries, A to Z Wineworks, Walsh Construction, Leupold & Stevens, and many more of Oregon's stand-out people and companies.



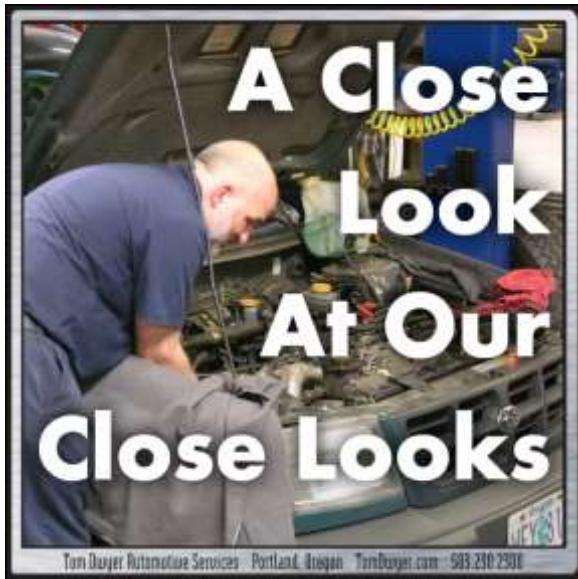
The whole Dwyer Team- From left, Kyle Speers, Perry Wright, James Magmer, Drew Pearson, Michael Schoenfeld, Dean Scruton, Chad Daley, David Coquet, Ken Bartz, Eric Hutchison, Tom Dwyer, Erich Pechin, Chris Waterbury, Andrew Mayer, Anthony Scolforo, Ted Brown, and Sean Gorrow. Charles Letherwood was snapping the picture.



The Dwyer Delegation for the Ethics Award banquet. From left, Kyle Speers, Marla Resnick, Dean Scruton, Charles Letherwood, Ken Bartz, Hayden Dwyer, Jo Dwyer, David Coquet, Chad Daley

# A Close Look at Auto Inspections

GOOD inspections are critical... here's how to avoid the bad ones



rely so heavily on it...

## Who Needs An Inspection?

Quality vehicle inspections are intended to identify safety and reliability issues and prevent many breakdowns. Inspections or diagnosis (there is a difference!) are certainly appropriate when there's a problem with your vehicle, but you shouldn't wait for a failure. Regular vehicle inspections help you stay on top of maintenance in real time rather than waiting for the next Mileage Interval or (even worse!) not having a maintenance plan at all. We recommend every vehicle be physically inspected after the first 24,000 miles or so, and on a continuing basis thereafter.

- For reasonably-well-maintained vehicles with less than about 30-45,000 miles, inspections are less important and may find few issues at all. If a vehicle has over 60,000 miles, hasn't been well maintained, or already has problems, it should be inspected more often and you can expect a longer list of repairs.
- Inspections can help decide if an expensive repair is 'worth it' or not. For example a \$5000 engine replacement on a 10-year-old car might make sense, but might not if it still needs thousands more in additional service or repairs to be roadworthy.
- You should always have a THOROUGH inspection done of any vehicle you're thinking about buying BEFORE YOU BUY IT!

Is a "free Multipoint Inspection" a deal? Should you trust a "Free Brake Inspection"? Is our own 90-Point Inspection worth your time? Is our Comprehensive Inspection worth the money? Every auto repair shop has a "multipoint inspection" of some type, but some are actually intended to find vehicle problems while others are little more than superficial sales tools for the shop. We think our structured and meticulous inspection process is critical in providing quality care for your vehicle. What makes the difference? Why aren't we "just trying to sell you something" too? Here are some tips on how to tell the good from the bad in any quality auto inspection, but also some insight to our own inspection process and why we

- An inspection lets you know about any potential problems if you're getting ready to sell or give a vehicle to friends or family.

## Can't I Just Go By Service Mileage Intervals?

Mileage-based Service Menus are packages of services "due" at major mileage intervals like 30-, 60-, and 90,000 miles. They're built around "average" drivers driving "average" vehicles in "average" conditions and don't consider the impact of your personal driving style or local conditions. They don't consider services done between mileage intervals, nor can they reliably predict things like brake or tire wear, fluid leaks, unusual wear, or other potential failures. They don't consider any other, possibly more important needs the vehicle may have that aren't on the list. In short, they don't consider the actual condition of you or your vehicle.

In our opinion, Service Menus are tools for Dealers to sell highly-profitable services without the hard work of actually evaluating vehicles. A shop can sell their expensive Service Package first and then make the dreaded "second call" to sell more (and possibly more important) work "noticed" once your vehicle "got up on the rack". Mileage Menu recommendations can be useful guides and we certainly consider them in our own vehicle evaluations, but they weren't designed

with you in mind. We think relying on them is a flawed way to care for your vehicle... at best.

## **Questions To Ask About A Vehicle Inspection**

To know the value of a vehicle inspection, you have to know what the shop is doing when they're "inspecting" your vehicle.

- **Who's doing the inspection?** There's no substitute for training and experience in anyone examining your car. Make sure your inspector is ASE-Certified; ASE-Master-Certified if possible.
- **How deep does the inspection go?**
  - Vehicles should be road-tested to expose driving issues that don't leave visual evidence.
  - Brake pads can be superficially examined with wheels in place, but the wheels need to be removed to be properly measured for service.
  - Vehicles should be "put up on the rack" to relieve pressure for proper suspension check.
  - Things like your timing belt can't be checked directly, so the shop should have complete records of when these inaccessible components were last addressed.
- **How long should an inspection take?** Quality inspections can't be done quickly or sitting in a shop's parking lot. Our inspections take time; between road-testing, physical inspection, history review, technical service and recall searches we need a vehicle at least two hours for a 90-point inspection and at least four hours for a Comprehensive Inspection (see below).
- **What happens with the results?** Not all the issues found in a vehicle inspection will be equally important, so don't settle for just a list of potential repairs. Make sure your results are explained with safety or breakdown issues highlighted. We fully explain every result of the inspection in plain language and prioritize our service recommendations by safety, breakdown prevention, and maintenance. You can schedule any needed work at the time of inspection or bring it back to us at a time that works better for you.

## **Why Not A Specialty Shop?**

A proper vehicle inspection should cover the entire vehicle equally. Auto shops that specialize in one type of service (like mufflers, brakes, tires, or convenience oil changes) have lots of incentive to find problems in their specialty but little incentive to consider the rest of the car. Besides, it makes sense to get your vehicle inspected at a shop that can fix everything they find.

## **Tom Dwyer Inspection Process**

Our inspection and repair process is designed to give you the accurate information you need to drive more

safely and confidently, and to get the most value from your vehicle maintenance dollars. We have three levels of inspection, each with a unique role in mechanical maintenance and upkeep...

### **• 90-point Inspection**

This is our first-level inspection; what other shops commonly call an "in-depth" or "multipoint" inspection. In ours, an ASE-Certified Technician does the most thorough inspection possible without invasive disassembly. Combined with regular Minor Interval Services and a Comprehensive Inspection every 12,000-18,000 miles, 90-Points are a great way to proactively stay on top of your vehicle's needs... or to get some "peace of mind" before a big road trip.

### **• Comprehensive Inspection (IFR)**

Also called an "Inspection-For-Repair" or IFR, this is a much deeper version of our 90-Point Inspection. The IFR is a 130-point physical examination and evaluation of every reasonably accessible system of your vehicle... we remove wheels to measure brake pads, pull a spark plug to measure wear, dry-park-test the steering and suspension, and much more. It also includes a vehicle road test, service history review, and Technical Service Bulletin and Active Recall search. Just ask a Service Advisor to show you one of our IFR forms and they'll gladly explain how deep and detailed it is!

- **We recommend an IFR to all our New Clients to establish a mechanical baseline for their vehicle**, and then again every year or so.
- **Plan at least half a day for an IFR; more if you expect service will be necessary.** Plan to leave your vehicle with us for 4 working hours (8a-noon or noon-5pm) for the inspection alone. If you anticipate service will be needed then plan to leave the vehicle with us for the day and get it to us as early as possible.
- **A Comprehensive Inspection is thorough, but it's NOT a diagnosis.** In some cases an IFR might discover an obvious problem with an obvious solution, but in other cases a more in-depth diagnostic exam may be needed.
- **A Comprehensive Inspection DOESN'T cover EVERY system.** Some parts like timing belts or head gaskets can't be accessed without major work. We can only go by mileage recommendations on these inaccessible components.
- **A Comprehensive Inspection is NOT a crystal ball.** We can give our best professional analysis of what's coming up for your vehicle, but we can't predict the future. Our IFR is not

a guarantee that something won't fail on your vehicle.

- **Post-service Checkout (40-point Inspection)**

Even many of our longest-term clients don't even know it, but here are just some of the more than 40 key points we check every time your vehicle is serviced:

- Engine oil and other vital fluid levels are checked (documented if abnormal) and topped off
- Under-hood inspection
- Check and replace any lights or signal bulbs (labor free, in most cases)
- Check and set tire pressures.
- We even make sure your clock is set right!

Having another set of eyes on your vehicle is just one more opportunity to reduce errors, and another way to ensure that every vehicle that leaves our shop is in its best possible mechanical condition.

- **Pre-Purchase Inspection**

We think it's absolutely essential to get a thorough inspection of any vehicle you intend to buy BEFORE you buy it... we've seen all too many

vehicles inspected AFTER purchase when unknown problems cost thousands of dollars. The \$100-\$200 you'll spend is cheap insurance against the unexpected or the undisclosed. We stopped doing Pre-Purchase inspections in most cases, but if you call our shop we'll gladly recommend a Pre-Purchase Inspector that we trust.

### **Only Get An Inspection You Can Trust**

Although there are some good inspection processes, far too many shops offer inconsistent once-overs more designed to benefit the Shop instead of the Client. Bad automotive inspections are more than just useless- they can be expensive if you buy a used vehicle already beyond repair, or even dangerous if there's false security about some critical system actually about to go bad. We've developed our industry-leading, multi-level inspection processes through over 30 years of use and refinement for one reason: No one can make intelligent decisions about vehicles without knowing their precise mechanical condition, and a sensible inspection program is the only way to get that information. We want to insure that your budget is directed precisely at your priorities letting you drive more safely and confidently, and get the most value from your vehicle maintenance dollars.

# How Fake Is YOUR News?

A look at the media credibility spectrum... all of it.



filter informational wheat from propaganda chaff...

It's been said "disappointment arises from expectation", and if you're expecting a definitive ruling on which news sources are biased you'll be disappointed. In fact, there is no such final expert arbiter to turn to, which is why a site called "[All Generalizations Are False](#)" tried to make a good stab at it. Author Vanessa Otero sorted dozens of news and opinion outlets according to fact/opinion balance as well as left/right bias. She has no real credentials to say her evaluation is "correct" and it's an [issue she engages with head-on](#)...

*"I'm a practicing patent attorney in the Denver, Colorado area, and I have a B.A. in English from UCLA and a J.D. from the University of Denver. I'm not a journalist by training, and I don't claim to be one. So why should you listen to me about the quality of news sources? You shouldn't. In fact, you shouldn't listen to anyone who tells you that you should think or believe a certain thing a certain way. But you've come to my site to find out what I have to say about the news anyway, so I'll lay out a few reasons why you could choose to value my assessments. Consider them and then determine for yourself whether this information is valuable to you."*

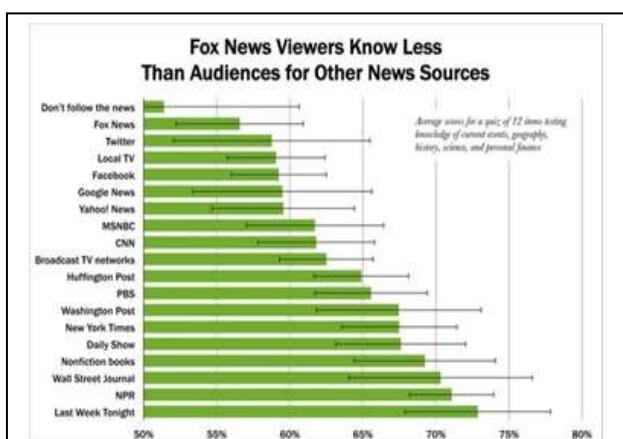
So readers are left to look at the material she produced and decide what value there may be. While there may be nothing groundbreaking in it, we found her approach a huge improvement over gut feelings or facile accusations.

FAKE NEWS! You're being hoodwinked by the entrenched Liberal Media! Look out! The Right Wing Echo Chamber is blasting out lies!

Everyone sees bias in news from "the other side", but are we right? And how easy is it to see the faults in our own sources?

People making top-level decisions have access to first-hand, real-time data and expert analysis (if they choose to use it), but out here in the cheap seats we have, at best, second-hand information and rumor to form our worldview. How credible are our go-to news sources? What about the ones from across the aisle? Are there any unbiased sources at all? What even makes a credible news source to begin with? Take a look at this media analysis and see if you agree with their conclusions. You might not agree with every ranking, (we certainly had quibbles of our own), but it's a wonderful tool to help

filter informational wheat from propaganda chaff...



Your news sources determine how you see the world, and it's not a small difference. While [this graph](#) is certainly good for FOX-bashing, the most interesting thing about it to us was that the viewers of "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" were the best-informed people surveyed.

## Methodology

So what makes this chart more than just a pretty presentation of Otero's gut feelings? She herself notes, in fact emphasizes many times throughout the site, the inevitable subjectivity in judging any news source. It may be impossible to be perfect, but it's not impossible to develop a rigorous and even-handed methodology applicable to any source. Otero makes her methodology transparent and thorough, and does a good job integrating feedback from the thousands who have nitpicked her process and result. There are too many details to go into here, so here's links to her methodology in detail...

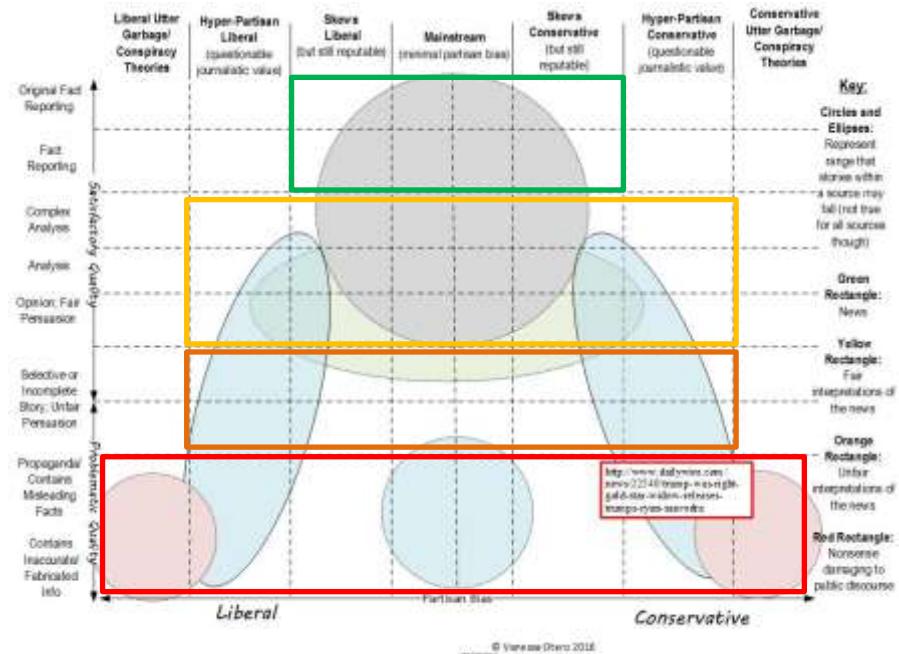
[The Chart, Version 1.0: Original Reasoning and Methodology](#)

[The Chart, Version 2.0: What Makes A News Source "Good?"](#)

[The Chart, Version 3.0: What, Exactly, Are We Reading?](#)

[The Chart, 3.1 Minor Updates Based on Constructive Feedback](#)

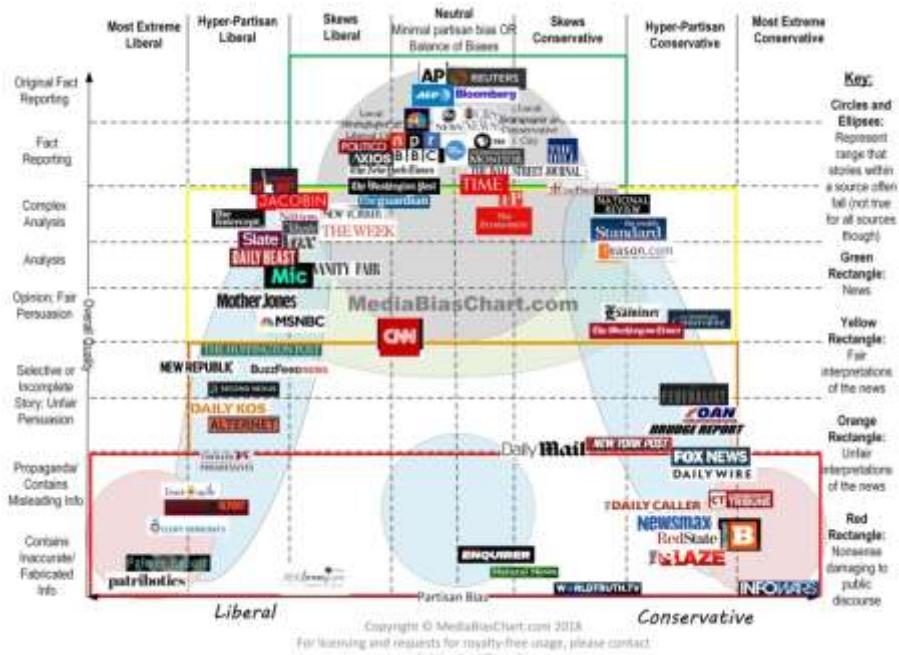
Otero's process produced this underlying chart of media types and credibility, independent of the sources to be plotted on it. She picked a ideological neutral point, with left/right bias ranging from fact to fantasy to each side. The vertical axes range from "just the facts" at the top to "just the anti-facts" at the bottom. The circles and ellipses indicate a range that stories within a source might fall, but it doesn't hold true for all sources.



## The Chart

This is "The Chart" v3.1, updated Feb 2018. In our opinion it was fairly accurate and valuable, though of course we had quibbles...

- Where is FOX News? Looked and looked but can't find it. FOX Daily Wire is there, but even we wouldn't paint the main network with the brush of Daily Wire. Seems a big oversight, but again, maybe we're just missing it.
- We hadn't heard of the "junk" lefty sites [Palmer Report](#) and [Patribotics](#). Perhaps it's our own lack of media awareness, and perhaps it's that [junk stories just don't get as much traction in LibWorld as they do in RightyLand](#) so these sites don't have the high profile of [NewsMax](#) or [Breitbart](#) (or InfoWars, but



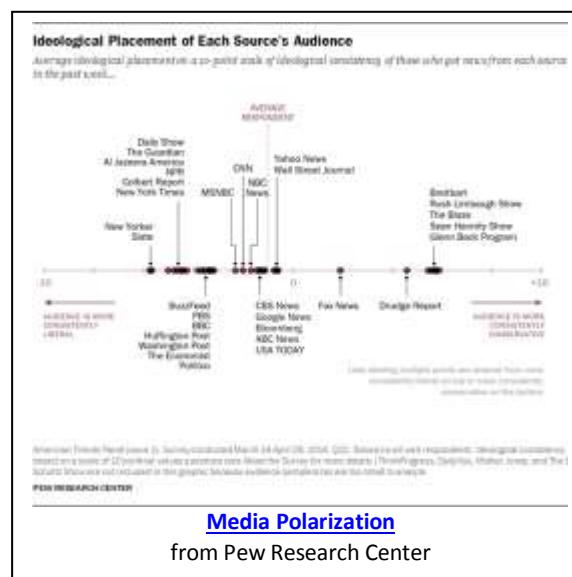
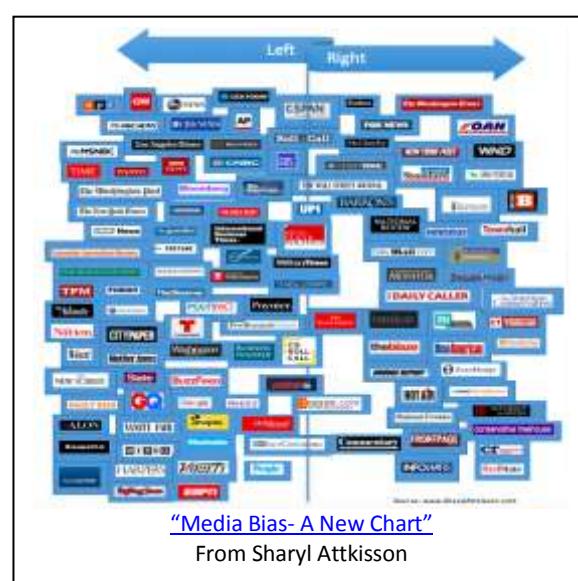
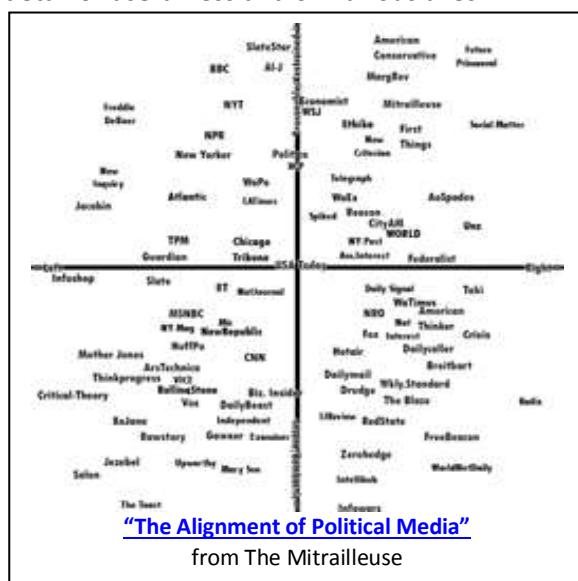
we'll get to them in a moment). But maybe that's a value of this chart... if we see something from these sites in the future, we'll know to take it with a grain of salt.

- The neutral media line is to the right of NPR, BBC, WaPo, NYTimes, and others that we would put as more neutral (certainly as a group). Maybe that's accurate, maybe it's a result of the fact that "reality has a liberal bias", and maybe it's our own bias showing. But again, that's the value of the chart... to get us to question our unquestioned assumptions.

So that's our take on "The Chart". What's yours? BTW, as we mentioned Otero is a patent attorney and did this chart as a non-paying exercise. **If you think The Chart has value and would like to support her ongoing work then you might consider [buying a poster or high-quality image](#), or even just [donating something to help in this high-quality media analysis](#).**

## Other Analyses

Perhaps the easiest way to show how good this chart is is to compare it with others, so we have a gallery to share with you. Most seem to be good-faith efforts to define news source bias with varying degrees of detail or usefulness and on various axes.



The big stand-out, though, is the chart prepared by Alex Jones over at [InfoWars](#). In every chart we looked at, no matter their source, no matter their other disagreements, InfoWars was ranked as the farthest-right, least-content source in existence. That obviously didn't sit well with the inimitable Mr. Jones, who created his own bias chart plotting "Freedom or Tyranny" vs "Independent or State-run". He came out as the freest, most independent news source in this evaluation, so we can all sleep better. Guess it goes to show that all of these charts are only as good as the intent behind them.



None of us has a complete view of the world; we have no choice but to see it from our own point-of-view based on the information available to us. The accuracy of our worldviews depends on the accuracy of that information. Understanding the bias and reputation of our news sources doesn't guarantee we won't be duped but it can help protect us. A varied information diet, from a variety of reputable sources across the spectrum, gives us an solid intellectual base to build on in any direction.

## Digging Deeper

[Keepin' It Real: Tips & Strategies for Evaluating Fake News](#), Loyola Marymount University, 2017

[AllSides.com](#) provides news stories in columns with takes from the "Center", "Left", and "Right" for comparison. Their [Media Bias Ratings](#) list has hundreds of news outlets and their ideological rankings

[Survey: NPR's listeners best-informed, Fox viewers worst-informed](#), by Andrew Beaujon on Poynter, May 2012

[Fake News Sharing In US Is A Rightwing Thing, Says Study](#), Alex Hern in The Guardian, Feb 2018

[The Computational Propaganda Project](#), Oxford University

[A Rigorous Scientific Look Into The 'Fox News Effect'](#), by William Poundstone on Quora (quoted in Forbes) Jul 2016

The Wall Street Journal's ["Blue Feed, Red Feed- See Liberal Facebook and Conservative Facebook, Side by Side"](#) presents streams of Liberal/Conservative posts on a variety of topics.

[Elevate Your News Evaluation- Spectrum of News Sources](#) by UCMerced Library

[The Alignment of Political Media](#), by Robert Mariani on Mitrailluse.net,

[Why do people think PBS has a liberal bias?](#) By Chris Joosse on Quora

[MediaBiasFactCheck.com](http://MediaBiasFactCheck.com) rates and lists hundreds of news and opinion sources

[What Do Conservatives Think Of The Media Bias Chart That Started Circulating In 2016?](#) Jon Davis on Quora

[Media Bias: A New Chart](#), by Sharyl Attkisson on SharylAttkisson.com, Apr 2017

[How Biased Is Your News Source? You Probably Won't Agree With This Chart](#) by Shawn Langlois on Marketwatch, Apr 2018

[The Smear: How Shady Political Operatives and Fake News Control What You See, What You Think, and How You Vote](#) by Sharyl Attkisson, June 2017

[Political Polarization & Media Habits- From Fox News To Facebook, How Liberals And Conservatives Keep Up With Politics, By Mitchell And Weisel](#), Pew Research Center, Oct 2014

[Alternate Reality: Viral Propaganda Chart Demonizes Independent Media: Chart Exemplifies Dying Dinosaur Media's Extreme Liberal Bias](#), InfoWars.com, Dec 2016

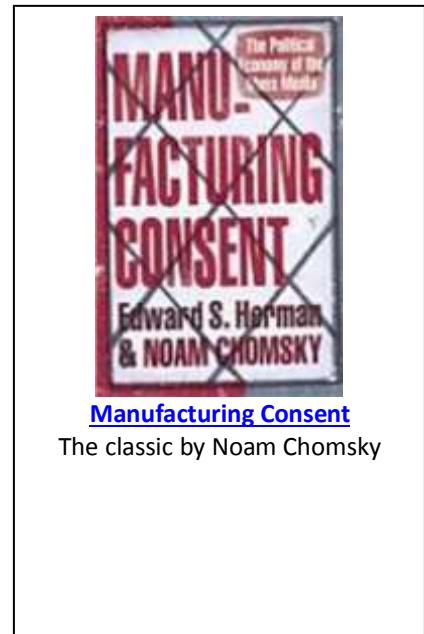


[PROPAGANDA](#)  
Our own deep dive into the news that makes us all Furious.



["The Smear"](#)

By Sharyl Attkisson



[Manufacturing Consent](#)  
The classic by Noam Chomsky

# Shop Talk

A FREE way to help independent community media



## Comment of the Month



We always ask First-Time clients how they heard about us and three responses came in just this month that we'd like to share with you... client Dan D. said he knew about us from "Friends, KBOO, KPOJ", Diane H. came to us "via some connection with KBOO Radio", and Jered S. said XRAY-FM had hooked us up. There seems to be a common thread.

We've been big supporters of community radio for many years because we think it's such a critical resource. Though it's too late to do anything for the late lamented KPOJ, both XRAY-FM and KBOO could use your help and it won't cost you a thing. Go to [Willamette Week's Best of Portland Poll](#) where you'll find both XRAY and KBOO up for [Best Radio Station in Portland](#). We support them both so we support them both and wouldn't presume to tell you which one to vote for, but this yearly recognition would be a big boost to either station. We support independent media voices that are still small and local enough to respond to their listeners, and we hope you will too! Voting ends 6/16.



## What are they building across the street?

[Sellwood Bridgehead](#), being built across the street from us at 8222 SE 6<sup>th</sup>, will be a 119 unit multi-family housing project with 49 underground parking spots. Everyone seems to ask about it when they come by the shop, so we'll bring you a couple shots each month as our newest Sellwood neighbor takes shape. This month, the structural work is nearing completion as the roof is being built.



View from the front of our shop at 6<sup>th</sup> and Tenino



"Back" view, near 6<sup>th</sup> and Umatilla

## Current Special Offers

Summer driving season is almost here, so our offers this month are designed to help your vehicle be a safe and reliable partner for summer adventure. We've extended our Inspection offers to let you catch any new issues before you hit the road, and our Auto Amnesty lets you handle that big repair you've been putting off. And get this... for this month only, you can COMBINE these offers!



If there's some major vehicle repair you've been putting off because of the expense, Auto Amnesty is for you. It applies to service recommendations in your vehicle file prior to 6/11/18. Pick any of those stale recommendations and we'll perform the service with 20% off Labor Charges.

*Offer expires 7/31/18*



### Get our 90-Point Inspection FREE

Our ASE-Certified Technicians check every system possible without taking your vehicle apart or using technical tools. Combined with regular Minor Interval Services and a yearly Comprehensive Inspection, 90-Points are a great way to proactively stay on top of your vehicle's needs.

*Offer expires 7/31/18*

—OR—

### Get our Comprehensive Inspection FREE

(with minimum purchase)

This is an even deeper version of the 90-Point Inspection, the 130-point physical examination and evaluation of all accessible systems of your vehicle we need to prioritize and recommend the services you need most. Mileage-based service menus can't provide proper care for a vehicle with more than about 24,000 miles, but between this industry-leading inspection and our in-depth vehicle history records we'll know exactly what's needed to keep your vehicle safe, breakdown free, and operating as it should. We also check for Technical Service Bulletin and Active Recalls to make sure we can offer the most tailored service possible.

*Comprehensive normally \$150; free with \$250 minimum purchase*

*Offer expires 7/31/18*



We have an excellent [article in our June newsletter about our different types of inspections](#) and how they can help keep your vehicle on the road safely and reliably. Take a look and see which one is right for you, or better yet CALL one of our Service Advisors and they'll be glad to guide you!



## 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

## Slow cooker chicken parmesan and pasta



The rain is gone and you'll be heading outside soon. This month Drew brings you a "set it and forget it" recipe; one that you can start before you go and will be there waiting when you return from your adventure...

### Slow cooker chicken parmesan and pasta

#### Ingredients:

- 2 24-oz jars of Ragu Chunky Tomato, Garlic, And Onion sauce (or equivalent)
- 1.5 lbs boneless skinless chicken breasts
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp oregano
- 1 lb penne pasta (cooked according to package directions)
- 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup parmesan cheese

#### Preparation:

- Add the chicken to a 6-quart or larger slow cooker. Sprinkle over the salt, pepper, and oregano. Pour over the tomato sauce.
- Cover and cook on HIGH for 4 hours or LOW for 6-8 hours, without opening the lid during the cooking time.
- When the slow cooker is done cooking, prepare the pasta on the stove top according to the package directions.
- While the pasta is cooking, remove the chicken onto a plate and cut into bite-size pieces. (The chicken will shred very easily, but I like to cut it up a bit so there aren't long strings of chicken. Add the chicken back to the sauce.
- Drain the pasta very well. Add pasta to the chicken and sauce in the slow cooker. Stir. Flatten the pasta out into an even layer. Sprinkle over the shredded mozzarella cheese and parmesan cheese. Cover for 15 more minutes, or until the cheese has melted.
- Serve and enjoy!

**Prep time 0:20, Cook time 6 hrs, Total time: 6:20, Serves 4**

**Original recipe by Sarah Olson on The Magical Slow Cooker**

# Health Notes

We're so sorry, but you just aren't worth curing



You remember Goldman Sachs... they're the multibillion dollar investment bank we taxpayers cured with a \$10 billion injection during the financial crisis they helped cause. That was a teachable moment, but they apparently didn't learn the lesson.

In a recent report to biotech investment clients, Goldman discussed the possibility that medical science may have gotten too successful for banking's good. Asked whether "curing patients is a sustainable business model", Goldman analysts came up with this horrifying answer...

*"The potential to deliver "one shot cures" is one of the most attractive aspects of gene therapy, genetically engineered cell therapy, and gene editing. However, such treatments offer a very different outlook with regard to recurring revenue versus chronic therapies... While this proposition carries tremendous value for patients and society, it could represent a challenge for genome medicine developers looking for sustained cash flow."*

It gets worse... they explain how one 90%-effective cure has lowered their \$12.5B revenue stream from chronic hepatitis patients to "just" \$4B. Who can live on that?

These articles will help you learn more, if you don't develop chronic, incurable nausea from doing it. CNBC was the first to report, arsTechnica probably has the best story, but Lee Camp has the best, most irritated take on the whole thing...

## [Is curing patients a sustainable business model?"](#)

### [Goldman Sachs analysts ask](#)

Analyst report notes that Gilead's hep C cure will make less than \$4 billion this year. By Beth Mole on arsTechnica, Apr, 2018

## [Wall Street Admits Curing Diseases Is Bad For Business,](#)

by Lee Camp on PopularResistance.org, Apr 2018

## [Goldman Sachs asks in biotech research report: 'Is curing patients a sustainable business model?'](#)

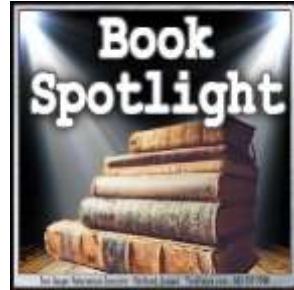
by Tae Kim on CNBC, Apr 2018



"Ain't no money in the cure, the money's in the medicine... that's how a drug dealer makes his money, on the comeback." [Click here to hear Chris Rock unload some more truth on you.](#)

# Book Spotlight

## ["A Higher Loyalty"](#) by James Comey With our IN-HOUSE REVIEW!



### **Our In-House Review**

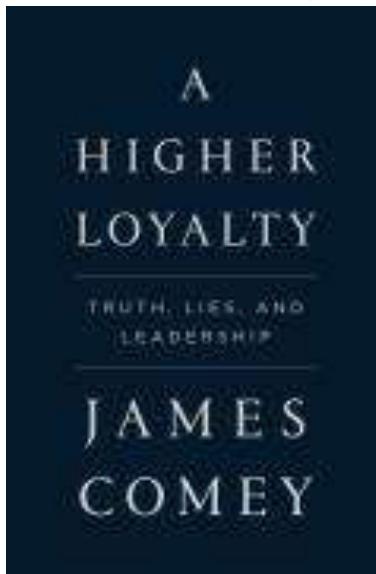
by Charles Letherwood, "Book Spotlight" Bureau Staff Writer

Sometimes it's nice to think there might still be ethical people left in the world. Not unflawed paragons of ethical perfection, but people who generally try their best to do the right thing. James Comey's "A Higher Loyalty" is a reassuring reminder that those people do exist, and it offers an educational look at how ethical people behave when the pressure's on.

I found Comey's book to be a surprising page-turner of his years in-and-out of government under three presidents. Despite an occasional whiff of comic-book hero, it's much less self-congratulatory than many political memoirs and I found it very valuable. For instance, I knew the outlines of the hospital showdown at Ashcroft's bedside during the Bush Administration, but Comey's concise explanation gave me a new understanding that was worth the read alone. I found all his stories valuable in this same way but there's little else new in any of them; by now you've heard them all (except an astounding story from Comey's childhood!) in the news. But the real value of this book isn't in the anecdotes or gossip.

The power of "A Higher Loyalty" lies in watching a flawed human being try to behave ethically in situations that almost exclude ethical behavior at all. Comey recounts wrestling with re-authorization of a spy program. The Bush Administration wanted it and thought it was saving lives, but it had been authorized on (at best) legally shaky ground. Does the loyalty of the DOJ and FBI lie with the law or the President? What ethical framework could lead someone to conclude that legal niceties are more important than American lives? And how strong does that framework have to be to say 'no' to an actual President of the United States saying 'yes'? Comey doesn't shy away from any of these questions in his telling.

Even deeper insights come from Comey's handling of the Clinton email investigation. His explanation of



these complex events was useful but again, his ethical agony was the most educational. His decision whether to "Disclose or Not Disclose" boils down to "I made a tough decision and damn the consequences". He could have stopped there, been self-congratulatory and right, yet explaining nothing. Too many political tell-alls would. Instead Comey digs deep into his reasoning and reviews the things he could have done instead. He doesn't line up a bunch of strawman bad options either... he emphasizes that another person in his position could have legitimately and ethically taken any of these options. He shows self-awareness, understanding of complex motivations, the realization he could be wrong, and the knowledge that his decision is not the only possibly ethical one. It's this human doubt, this grappling with grays instead of mindlessly jumping to facile blacks or whites, that's typical throughout the book and gives credence to the rest of Comey's ethical pretensions. It makes his book an explanation of difficult decisions instead of just a shallow justification of them, and turns it into something we can all learn from.

Whether in the Court of Public Opinion or an actual legal proceeding, deciding what to believe about the Trump debacle will largely come down to "who do you trust". If that seems like a ridiculous question given a President with over [3000 documented lies](#) so far in his Presidency it's not, because proving one person is a liar doesn't necessarily mean another person is telling the truth. Facts will be crucial but decisions won't be made on facts alone; motivation, interpretation, intent and more will come into play. At some point, all of us will have to decide who to believe based on past histories, reputations, and our flawed understanding of their thought processes. When it comes to a "he said, he said" battle between Trump and Comey, Comey's book gives reassurance that Comey-backers are on a solid foundation. In the bigger picture "A

Higher Loyalty" is the reassurance we all need that somewhere, sometime, we're still occasionally well-

served by the few ethical people who do indeed still exist.



**UPDATE 6/7**— As we were putting the final touches on this newsletter, news was breaking about a long-awaited report from the Justice Department's Inspector General on the handling of the Clinton email probe, a subject covered at length in Comey's book. It "...is expected to yield an unvarnished account of multiple missteps by former top officials at the department and FBI for their failure to follow long-standing protocols." The report will be officially released by the time we post the newsletter, but [here is a CNN report on the rumors as of 6/7.](#)

# Humorousness

Lifehacks guaranteed to fail



You know lifehacks... clever little ideas to solve annoying little problems you might not even know you had. Here's a caution though: not everything you find on the InterTubes is high-quality information. We ran across a [video with more than 50 lifehacks you'd never want to use yourself](#). Watch them with a friend, but you might want to recommend them to a frenemy.

#1 Tired Of Boiling Water Every Time You Make Pasta? Boil A Few Gallons At The Beginning Of The Week And Freeze It For Later



#3 Eggs Are Really Healthy And Should Be The Foundation Of Your Diet. Don't Like The Taste? Add Cacao, Butter, Flour And Bake For 30 Minutes



#4 Don't Throw Out Old Doll Heads. You Can Turn Them Into Handy Night Lights For Your Kids



#6 Batteries Dead In Your Smoke Alarm? Just Use Popcorn As A Smoke Alarm. When You Hear Crackling, Grab Your Popcorn And Get The Hell Out



#10 When Cutting Bagels In Half, Put Your Finger Through The Stabilization Hole To Keep It Steady



#14 Fill A Rubber Glove With Warm Water And Put It On Your Hand When You Feel Lonely



#15 Use This Hack With Deaf People



#21 Sink Full Of Dirty Dishes? Visitors Imminent? Put Some Clean Dishes In The Dishrack. Now It Looks Like You're Working On It



#42 Having Trouble Opening A Soda Bottle? Hold It Upside-Down Whilst You Open It. This Will Force All The Gases Away From The Neck Of The Bottle And Make It Much Easier To Open



#34 Don't Have A Flashlight On Your Phone? Take A Picture Of The Sun And Use The Photo To Find Your Way In The Dark



#50 When Painting The Outside Of Your House, Use A Fine Detail Brush. Larger Brushes Are Often Lower Quality And Use Far More Paint



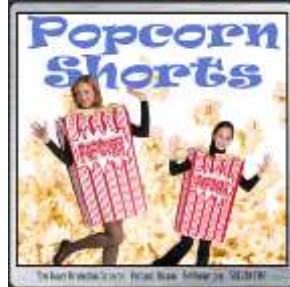
Best Life hack ever 😊



Though all the above hacks come from one source, we found one other with a [dedicated video](#) that's worth watching...

# Popcorn Shorts

Cool stuff that's too small for a big article



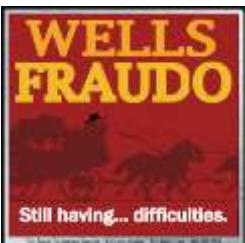
Just like it says, Popcorn Shorts is about the kind of things we think are really interesting, but don't really need a large article to explain them. From the sublime to the ridiculous, check in here for crunchy bits of info you'll love to munch. By the way, much (but not all) of our delicious Popcorn comes from articles we've posted on [our Facebook page](#). If you're on Facebook, please stop by and "Like" us and we'll keep a fairly-constant-but-not-frequent-enough-to-be-annoying stream of these coming to your virtual door!



## Inside the first Flat Earth convention

There's been no new discovery prompting a re-examination of Copernicanism, but people with a sense of humor discovered flat-earth crankology and started making tongue-in-cheek arguments in support. These arguments dripped through the InterTubes to create a tidal wave of uninformed experts that crested in Birmingham, England, at the first-ever Flat Earth convention. If you don't believe the Earth is flat then join us on a walk through Birmingham... it's only the first of many things you won't believe.

- [Inside Britain's first ever Flat Earth convention where conspiracy theorists discuss 'proof' our planet is shaped like a disc and that 'gravity doesn't exist'](#)
- [I watched an entire Flat Earth convention for my research- here's what I learned](#)
- [What it's like to attend a Flat-Earth convention](#)
- [Conspiracy theorist: You can't fall off flat Earth edge due to 'Pac-Man effect'](#)
- [Looking for Life on a Flat Earth: What a burgeoning movement says about science, solace, and how a theory becomes truth.](#)



## Wells Fraudo is still having... difficulties

Bloomberg News pointed out that Wells Fargo Bank is [having a hard time putting their ethical difficulties behind them](#). Wells Fraudo hasn't "gotten ahead of its problems" because they're features, not bugs. Judging from their decades-long string of convictions and settlements, their business plan is to commit crimes until they get caught, pay the fines as a cost of doing business, and pass the expense along to their shareholders. As the article says, "An ad campaign that says "trust us" isn't very convincing when scandals keep emerging."



## How Fake Video will warp our minds

Fake video isn't just coming, it's here. It's now possible to create video of any person speaking any words you care to put in their mouth, in their own voice. Fake video will put fake news on steroids, and it's not just the social implications we have to worry about. Fake video has [real, specific, neurological effects on our brain](#) that no fake media until now has touched...

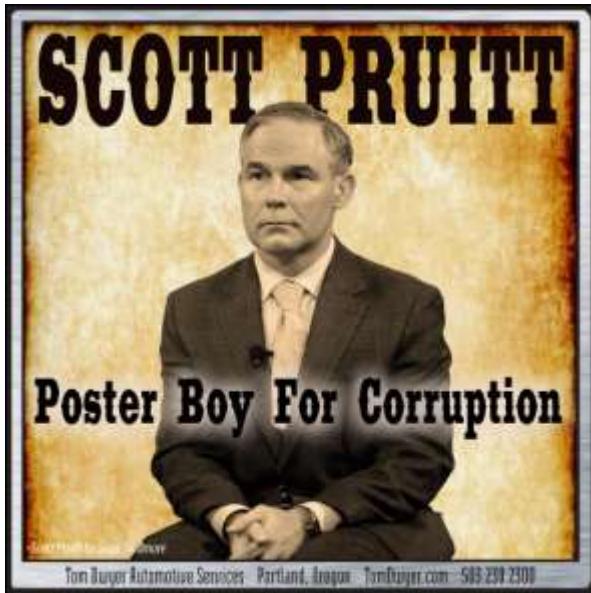


## Get up to \$1200 from Dish Network

Bet you've never WISHED you got a telemarketing call from Dish Network! But it's different now. 18,066 telephone numbers were phoned between May 11, 2010, and Aug. 1, 2011, and if you were one of them then you could get up to \$1200. Go to <https://kccsecure.com/dishclassaction-Lookup/Home/PhoneForm> to see if you're eligible.

# News To Make You Furious

Scott Pruitt- Poster Boy for Corruption



"News To Make You Furious" seems almost redundant these days. Our little monthly column of atrocity gets buried under the daily stream of illegalities, corruption, and humiliation spewing from the tufted vulgarian and his backup singers. Unfortunately, while our News is designed to illuminate, Trump's 24/7 cycle of news porn is just designed to obfuscate. This month we're striking a blow for clarity by ignoring the front man and looking beyond at one of those backup singers. His flamboyant corruption goes hand-in-hand with the

horrific policies he implements every day, yet he can continue to "deconstruct the administrative state" because he's screened by sleazy con men, porn stars, and senile New York mayors. That could mean virtually anyone in the Trump orbit but no, this month we're looking as closely as we can stand at Scott Pruitt, Head of the EPA and just one of the many Posterboys for Corruption that make us all Furious, every day...

Let's start by pointing out that we didn't decide to pick on Scott Pruitt because he's necessarily "the worst" of the Trumpets, but because he's pretty representative of the caliber of them all. We could have picked [Jeff Sessions](#), [Steven Mnuchin](#), [Betsy DeVos](#), [Ryan Zinke](#), [KellyAnne Conway](#), or virtually any of Trump's other lackeys and compiled just an atrocious list as Pruitt's, but Trump didn't pick any of them because they cared about their agencies or had experience, in fact quite the opposite. From among the dwindling number of people willing to have their names associated with his, Trump uniformly picked people who actively opposed their agency's missions and whose only qualification was eager pliability to the industries they regulated. Scott Pruitt is an ideal representative of the Trump Team; the 'poster boy', if you will. So let's take a good look at the poster...

## **Get to know Scott Pruitt**

The most in-depth, balanced reporting usually comes from NPR and it's no different here. We think the facts lead to a pretty dim view of Mr. Pruitt, but to get a fuller view than we'll give you check out this NPR report from a couple months ago...

[Trump Stories: Scott Pruitt](#), NPR, Apr 2018- 1 hour deep-dive audio

## **What was he like in Oklahoma?**

Scott Pruitt served in the Oklahoma State House for 8 years before becoming Attorney General of Oklahoma in 2010. One of his first acts was to [cancel Oklahoma's Environmental Protection Unit](#) but he didn't stop there. He went on to sue the EPA 14 times over his 6-year term.

### [Scott Pruitt's Web Of Fundraising And Lawsuits](#), EDF Action

*As Oklahoma Attorney General, Scott Pruitt has sued 14 times to block clean air and water safeguards from EPA, the agency he now leads. New research shows that in every suit except one, at least one of Pruitt's co-litigators contributed to Pruitt's campaign or a political action committee affiliated with Pruitt – directly, or via an employee or member. [Here are the 14 lawsuits...](#)*

[Donald Trump's EPA Pick Imperils Science—And Earth](#), by Eric Pooley in Time, Jan 2017

[Pruitt Dismantled Environmental Unit In Oklahoma](#), by Mike Soraghan in E&E News, Dec 2016

[The Environmental Scandal in Scott Pruitt's Backyard](#), by Malcolm Burnley on Politico, Dec 2017

### **Fine, that was Oklahoma. What's he been like at EPA?**

The EPA was founded in 1970 in the Nixon administration because even Nixon realized America needed clean air and water. You can read a [detailed history of the EPA here](#), but suffice it to say that for the next 46 years they've protected the nation's air, water, and natural resources with unsurprising opposition from the industries they were created to regulate. On the bright side, Pruitt's elevation to EPA head has all but silenced that opposition. On the dark side, it's because he's systematically disemboweled (or is happily disemboweling) every tool the EPA uses to regulate.

[Worried About A 'Public Relations Nightmare,' White House And Epa Aides Worked To Block Contaminated Water Study](#), by Josh Keefe in Newsweek, May 2018

[White House, EPA headed off chemical pollution study](#), by Annie Snider in Politico, May 2018

*"Scott Pruitt's EPA and the White House sought to block publication of a federal health study on a nationwide water-contamination crisis, after one Trump administration aide warned it would cause a "public relations nightmare," newly disclosed emails reveal... More than three months later, the draft study remains unpublished, and the HHS unit says it has no scheduled date to release it for public comment. Critics say the delay shows the Trump administration is placing politics ahead of an urgent public health concern — something they had feared would happen after agency leaders like Pruitt started placing industry advocates in charge of issues like chemical safety."*

[What EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Promised — And What He's Done](#), by Guillen and Holden on Politico, Nov 2017



This Tweet from the Congressman from Flint, Michigan, sums up why Pruitt so richly deserves his PosterBoy for Corruption title.

[Nearly A Dozen Reviews Underway Of Scott Pruitt's Decisions](#), by Gregory Wallace on CNN, May 10 2018- "Nearly a dozen"

[Trump Administration Seeks to Gut Water Pollution Safeguards, Putting Communities at Risk](#), by Mary Anne Hitt on Daily Kos, March 2018

### **That's just policy disagreement. I'm sure Pruitt has facts to back up his side!**

Nope. He doesn't even pretend that he's got facts on his side; he just ignores them when they're inconvenient.

[In An Internal Memo, The White House Considered Whether To Simply 'Ignore' Federal Climate Research](#), by Mooney and Eilperin in Washington Post, May 2018

[EPA And White House Blocked Release Of Pollution Study That Would Be A 'Public Relations Nightmare'](#) by Mark Sumner on Daily Kos, May 2018

[EPA Prepares To Ditch Clean Car Rules Over Objections Of Their Own Scientists](#), by Mark Sumner on Daily Kos, May 2018

[EPA Chief Signs Proposal Limiting Use of Science in Policymaking](#), by Biesecker and Borenstein on AP, Apr 2018

[Judge Orders EPA to Produce Science behind Pruitt's Warming Claims](#), by Scott Waldman in E&E News, Jun 2018, reprinted in Scientific American

### **Maybe he just doesn't believe Lefty 'science'. That doesn't make him corrupt!**

Obstinately not believing the results of science would make him stupid, but Scott Pruitt is not a stupid man. It's not that he's looked into science and disagrees on some rational basis, he's disingenuously professing not to believe as a justification to implement policies industry's paid him to implement. THAT makes him corrupt.

[Energy Firms in Secretive Alliance With Attorneys General](#), by Eric Lipton in NY Times, Dec 2014

*The letter to the Environmental Protection Agency from Attorney General Scott Pruitt of Oklahoma carried a blunt accusation: Federal regulators were grossly overestimating the amount of air pollution caused by energy companies drilling new natural gas wells in his state. But Mr. Pruitt left out one critical point. The three-page letter was written by lawyers for Devon Energy, one of Oklahoma's biggest oil and gas companies, and was delivered to him by Devon's chief of lobbying.*

[New Chief of EPA Region 9 Has Deep Ties to Industry](#), by Danielle Venton on KQED Science, May 2018

[OOPS! Scott Pruitt Accidentally Admits To Committing A Felony While Talking To Congress](#), by Farron Cousins on Ring of Fire, May 2018

### **Look, the government operates in the light of day. People can learn about these abuses and stop them.**

Nope. Not if they don't know about them, and Pruitt makes sure to stay quiet.

[EPA Bars Three Reporters From Covering Meeting; One Says She Was Shoved By A Guard,](#)  
by Paul Farhi in Washington Post, May 2018

## **You just don't like Scott Pruitt. That doesn't make him corrupt!**

'Not liking Scott Pruitt' is not a reason to call him corrupt. 'Corruption' is a reason to not like Scott Pruitt. And it's a reason shared by many governmental agencies...

[A Guide to the Sixteen Federal Investigations Faced by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt](#), on Medium, May 21 2018

There are now sixteen official open investigations on Pruitt's actions, even after only a year in office. The list below covers investigations in several different agencies, so some issues are repeated. This list was last updated May 21, 2018, and does not include investigations either opened or closed since then.

1. Inspector General (IG) investigation to explore the frequency, cost, and extent of Pruitt's travel
2. IG investigation into Pruitt's meeting with the National Mining Association
3. IG investigation into Pruitt's spending on a secure phone booth worth close to \$43,000
4. IG investigation into Pruitt's use of Safe Drinking Water Act hiring authority to hire a number of political staff for his personal office.
5. IG investigation over questionable spending on Pruitt's security detail, accruing expenses upward of \$3 million
6. IG investigation to audit compliance with Trump's "2-For-1" order
7. IG investigation into Pruitt's conduct in office
8. IG investigation into Pruitt's use of security detail on personal trips to Disneyland and the Rose Bowl
9. IG investigation into Pruitt's condo rental (Separate from #7)
10. IG investigation into Pruitt's use of multiple email accounts:
11. IG review of EPA political appointee Samantha Dravis' employment; whether she had reported for work or not while still receiving compensation.
12. House Oversight Committee investigation into Pruitt's first class flights and spending
13. White House internal investigation of Pruitt's behavior
14. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) investigation into Pruitt's soundproof phone booth
15. GAO investigation into Pruitt's involvement in a video with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.
16. GAO investigation into Pruitt's role in dissolving EPA's Science Advisory Board and appointing a number of industry scientists instead

Not all investigations of Pruitt are in-progress; some are complete...

- GAO ruled that Pruitt violated two laws with his \$43,000 phone booth

[Here's a Scorecard of the Scott Pruitt Investigations](#), by Jennifer Dlouhy on Bloomberg, Apr 25 2018- 10 investigations

[These 7 Exchanges Between EPA Chief Scott Pruitt And Senators May Hint At Future Investigations](#), by Tom DiChristopher on CNBC, May 17 2018

[EPA's Scott Pruitt, Subject Of Many Ethics Probes, Plays Defense Before Senate](#), by Colin Dwyer on NPR, May 2018

### **OK, but maybe those don't really sound all that bad...**

Agreed. A dry list of investigational subjects doesn't adequately convey the thickness of the slime cocoon enveloping Scott Pruitt. Here's a gallery of the appalling specifics behind just some of the investigations...

[Documents Detail Threats To EPA's Scott Pruitt](#), by Graham Kates on CBS News, May 8 2018

[Lobbyist Whose Wife Rented a Condo to Scott Pruitt Failed to Disclose E.P.A. Lobbying](#), by Eric Lipton in the New York Times, June 2018

[Scott Pruitt Had Aide Do Various Personal Tasks, Including Hunt For A Used Trump Hotel Mattress](#), by Eilperin, Dawsey, and Dennis in Washington Post, Jun 2018

[Senate Democrats Demand EPA IG Probe Whether Pruitt Got Improper Gift From Top Aide Who Scouted Apartments, Citing New Agency Emails](#), by Eilperin and Dennis in Washington Post, May 2018

[Emails Contradict Pruitt's Accounts Of Events Under Ethics Investigations](#), by Knickmeyer and Biesecker, AP, May 2018

[Scott Pruitt Enlisted An EPA Aide To Help His Wife Find A Job — With Chick-Fil-A](#), by Eilperin, Dennis, and Dawsey in Washington Post, Jun 2018

[EPA Memo Claims 'Lashing Out From Passengers' Prompted Pruitt's First-Class Flights](#), by Stephanie Ebbs on ABCNews, May 2018

### **C'mon, that's just one guy. What can he actually do?**

He can set an example for policy and ethics throughout the EPA. Unfortunately, he does.

[2 Top Pruitt Aides Leave EPA Amid Ethics Investigations](#), by AP on NBCNews, May 2018

### **This is all just partisan cherrypicking! Bet Republicans would disagree!**

Nope. Despite the evidence, Republicans AREN'T all ideologically blinded...

[Republican Senator Calls Pruitt 'as Swampy as You Get'](#), by Dlouhy and Parker on Bloomberg, June 2018

[Former Republican EPA Heads Slam Pruitt's Latest Moves](#), by Amy Harder on Axios, Apr 2018

[Pruitt Slammed As Unfit To Lead EPA By 2 GOP Senators; One Calls Him 'Chucklehead'](#), by Joseph Weber on FOX News, Apr 2018

## **If he's all that bad, why is he still there?**

Because he's ridiculously effective. The people who bought Pruitt's career are getting exactly what they paid for, and he'll stay there as long as he keeps bringing home the bacon for them.

[3 Environmental Regulations Scott Pruitt Has Been Dismantling Amid His Scandals](#), by Umair Irfan on Vox, Apr 2018

[Trump Is Breaking The Environment Beyond Repair](#), by Linda Bilmes in Boston Globe, Feb 2018

[Dem Investigations Into Scott Pruitt Have Officially Jumped The Shark \(Another Rant\)](#), by Jazz Shaw on Hot Air, Jun 2018