Fake news, real news and news literacy

Jennifer Napier-Pearce
The Salt Lake Tribune
What is journalism?

"Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information."

~ American Press Institute
What is fake news?

Made-up stories presented as fact for financial or political gain
7 TYPES OF MIS- AND DISINFORMATION

- **SATIRE OR PARODY**: No intention to cause harm but has potential to fool
- **MISLEADING CONTENT**: Misleading use of information to frame an issue or individual
- **IMPOSTER CONTENT**: When genuine sources are impersonated
- **FABRICATED CONTENT**: New content is 100% false, designed to deceive and do harm
- **FALSE CONNECTION**: When headlines, visuals or captions don’t support the content
- **FALSE CONTEXT**: When genuine content is shared with false contextual information
- **MANIPULATED CONTENT**: When genuine information or imagery is manipulated to deceive
Vows in the air: German couple married in tightrope wedding

Associated Press Saturday June 16, 2018

BERLIN — A couple in eastern Germany have gotten married in a swing dangling from a motorcycle atop a tightrope, 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground.

The German news agency dpa reported that a pastor standing in a cage atop a fire service ladder presided over the wedding of Nicole Backhaus and Jens Knorr in the town of Stassfurt on Saturday. The couple exchanged rings in the air but, for safety’s sake, walked millimeter by millimeter back on the ground to kiss.

More than 3,000 people watched the wedding in the sky, which took place during a local festival.

The tightrope was stretched between the town wall and a tower, and the motorbike was ridden by Falko Traber, a member of a family of artists.
Trump Tower opens in Pyongyang

PYONGYANG — A Trump Tower has opened in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, in what is being hailed as a breakthrough after a historic meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un.

It is the first Western hotel to open in the secretive country, which is often called the “Hermit Kingdom.”
BREAKING: Shop Smith To Be Canned Because He Can’t Control His Hate For Donald Trump

June 09, 2010

Last week, Fox News anchor Shepard Smith attacked President Donald Trump for his assertion that the news media frequently underreports on radical Islamic terror attacks. To support his point, Smith listed several terror attacks that were on the White House’s controversial list, saying Fox News covered them extensively.

"The president’s assertion is false," Smith argued. "The White House knows that it was false or could have known that it was false with a quick Google check, but either did not do so or decided not to tell the truth."

Smith also brought on Wall Street Journal associate editor John Bussey for an interview to help attack Trump.

"What they’re saying is not true...Again...Why bother?” he asked.

This is not the first time Trump has outraged Fox News viewers with his disrespect of the president. In July, he criticized former Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal for saying "all lives matter." After a presidential debate with Hillary Clinton, Smith suggested Trump was a “fascist.” In another segment, he compared
A woman went to check her corn — and was swallowed by a python

By Avi Selk  June 16 at 12:46 PM  Email the author

For the second time in barely more than a year, an Indonesian villager has been swallowed whole by a python.

Wa Tiba, 54, left her home on Muna island to visit her cornfield Thursday night, according to the Jakarta Post.

The field was about a half mile from her house, surrounded by cliffs, caves and a certain number of reticulated pythons, the longest snakes in the world.

The snakes normally feed on smaller mammals. Attacks on humans are supposed to be as rare as winning the lottery and being struck by lightning at the same time, as Amy B. Wang

Fact

last such

when a man’s

body was extracted from a 23-foot-long python, in an incident captured for a gruesome YouTube video.
Journalism is...

Communication that's verified

Tip  →  Verify  →  Write  →  Edit  →  Publish

- Email
- Phone
- Text
- Letter
- 3rd party

- Interviews
- Documents
- Observation
- Video
- Digital tools
- Multiple sources

- Question
- Ask about sources
- Double check
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   - OK, the story has been fact checked, written in a balanced way, edited, has a fair headline and a compelling image. Finally, the news story is ready to publish.
Communication governed by ethics
Tribune wins Pulitzer
Journalism is...

Communication that empowers citizens
1st Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
The freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

~ George Mason

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.

~ Thomas Jefferson

Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people, who have a right ... an indisputable, unalienable, indefeasible, divine right to that most dreaded and envied kind of knowledge, I mean, of the characters and conduct of their rulers.

~ John Adams

A popular Government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy, or perhaps both.

~ James Madison
TRUTH

TRUST
Stanford Study (2016)

Stanford researchers find students have trouble judging the credibility of information online

Education scholars say youth are duped by sponsored content and don't always recognize political bias of social messages.

November 22, 2016  By Brooke Donald

- Most did not suspect bias from an activist group
- Most could not tell real from fake news source
- Most could not tell the difference between ads and news stories
- Most accepted photos as real
"At present, we worry that democracy is threatened by the ease with which disinformation about civic issues is allowed to spread and flourish."

~ Stanford study, 2016
Many Americans Say Made-Up News Is a Critical Problem That Needs To Be Fixed

Politicians viewed as major creators of it, but journalists seen as the ones who should fix it

BY AMY MITCHELL, JEFFREY GOTTFRIED, SOPHIA FEDELI, GALEN STOCKING AND MASON WALKER

Americans see made-up news as a bigger problem than other key issues...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>% Who Say It's a Very Big Problem in the Country Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drug addiction</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordability of health care</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. political system</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gap between rich &amp; poor</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made-up news/info</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal immigration</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexism</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

... and most see it as detrimental to the country's democratic system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Made-up news and information has a big impact on...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans' confidence in government</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americans' confidence in each other</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political leaders' ability to get work done</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Many Americans say made-up news is a critical problem that needs to be fixed.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Journalists are not blamed most for creating made-up news and information, but Americans say the news media are most responsible for fixing it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of U.S. adults who say ___ create a lot of made-up news and information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political leaders/staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activist groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign actors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<th>% of U.S. adults who say ___ have the most responsibility in reducing the amount of made-up news and information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The news media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech companies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
</tr>
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“Many Americans Say Made-Up News Is a Critical Problem That Needs To Be Fixed”

Pew Research Center
"Perceived Accuracy and Bias in the News Media" (2018)
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“WERE IT LEFT TO ME TO DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT NEWSPAPERS, or NEWSPAPERS WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I SHOULD NOT HESITATE A MOMENT TO PREFER THE LATTER.”

- Thomas Jefferson
Utah’s independent voice.

sltrib.com
Fake news, real news and news literacy

Jennifer Napier-Pearce
The Salt Lake Tribune