



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE | Center for Political Communication

The Journalism Program

PRSA Public Relations Society of America Delaware Chapter



**Tom Hanks had this to say about
the residents of Canton, Ohio**

**Mexican drug lord 'El Chapo'
breaks out of prison for third time**

**Fort Wayne man dressed as clown
shot in head; condition critical**

**United States revokes Scientology's
tax-exempt status**



Fake =

Fairy tale?

An **approach** one doesn't like?

The **facts** one doesn't like?



New York Sun

Aug. 28, 1835

Man-bats
appeared
on Day 4
of six-part
hoax.



**A Shocking Sabbath Carnival of
Death.**

SAVAGE BRUTES AT LARGE.

**Awful Combats Between the
Beasts and Citizens.**

THE KILLED AND WOUNDED,

**Gen. Duryee's Magnificent
Police Tactics.**

BRAVERY AND PANIC

**How the Catastrophe was Brought
About—Affrighting Incidents.**

PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR.

**Gov. Dix Shoots the Bengal
Tiger in the Street.**

CONSTERNATION IN THE CITY.

New York Herald

Nov. 9, 1874

*“Alarmed citizens made
for the city’s piers in
hopes of escaping by
small boat or ferry.”*



Fake stories shared on Facebook in final 3 months of campaign:

Pro-Trump: 30 million

Pro-Clinton: 8 million

Stanford, January 2017

**Only 4 in 10 are sure they can spot a fake.
2 in 10 have shared fake stories.**

Pew Research Center



Our Panelists



Charles Lewis

Executive editor, Investigative
Reporting Workshop

Founder, Center for Public
Integrity



Chuck's true fact





Nichole Dobo

Staff writer &
social media editor

The Hechinger Report

Nichole's true fact





Leon Tucker

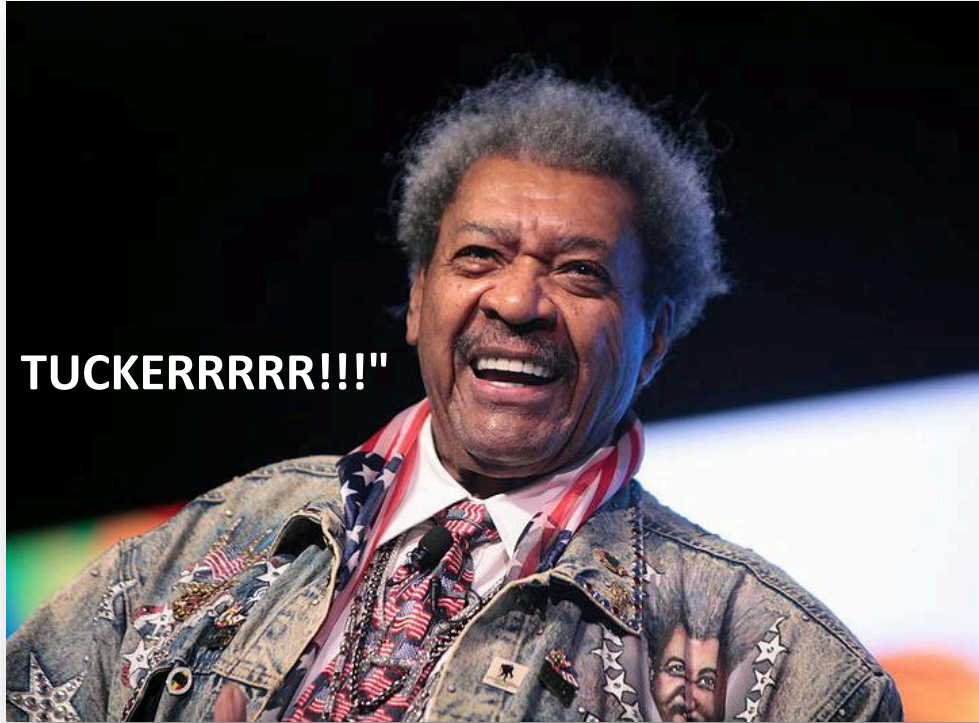
Director of communications

Delaware Department of Labor



Leon's true fact

"LEEEONNNN TUCKERRRR!!!"





Jason Levine

Editorial board editor

Sports editor

The News Journal



Jason's true fact





Nancy Karibjanian

Director

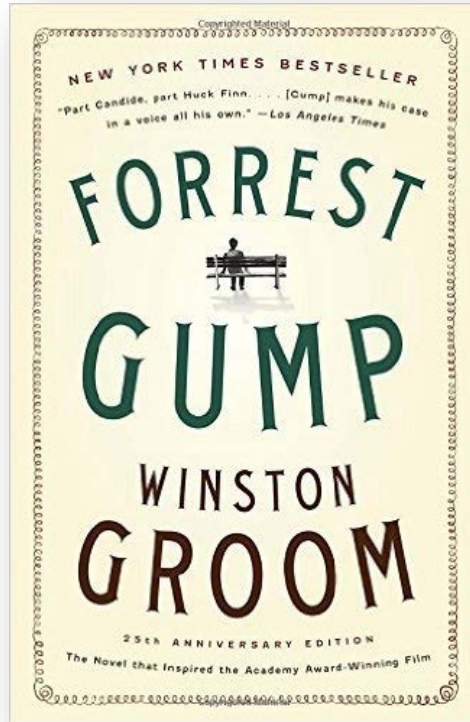
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Nancy's true fact

Her mother was born in jail.

(Her father was the sheriff of Atlantic County, N.J.)







March 23, 2017



THE NEW YORKER

SUBSCRIBE



"I'm sorry, Jeannie, your answer was correct, but Kevin shouted his incorrect answer over yours, so he gets the points."

Joe Dator, The New Yorker





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What makes news "fake"?

What makes a news story false?

- 1. It can't be verified**
A fake news article may or may not have links to its tracing its sources, if it does, those links may not lead to articles outside of the site's domain or may not contain information pertinent to the article topic.
- 2. Fake news appeals to emotion**
Fake news plays on your feelings - it makes you angry or happy or scared. This is to ensure you won't do anything so pesky as fact-checking.
- 3. Authors usually aren't experts**
Most authors aren't even journalists, but paid trolls.
- 4. It can't be found anywhere else**
If you look up the main idea of a fake news article, you might not find any other news outlet (real or not) reporting on the same.
- 5. Fake news comes from fake sites**
Did your article come from [obscure.com](#) or [the-metro.com](#)? [Bustnews.org/fake-news.com](#)? These and a host of other URLs are fake news sites.

Image courtesy of Indiana University East (CC-BY-NC 4.0)

Pause. Consider. Decide.

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

- CONSIDER THE SOURCE**
Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.
- READ BEYOND**
Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?
- CHECK THE AUTHOR**
Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?
- SUPPORTING SOURCES?**
Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.
- CHECK THE DATE**
Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.
- IS IT A JOKE?**
If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.
- CHECK YOUR BIASES**
Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.
- ASK THE EXPERTS**
Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

LIBRARY
Department of Library and Information Studies

Resources for Verifying and Fact Checking

- Alexa.com**
Alexa allows you to plug in a website and learn which other sites are referring users to it, and what Google keywords will lead you to that site. Can help you spot a group of news websites that are related in certain ways.
- Factcheck.org**
A nonprofit organization which aims to monitor the factual accuracy of what is said by major U.S. political players.
- Know Your Meme**
A website dedicated to documenting Internet phenomena such as viral videos and image macros.
- LinkedIn**
LinkedIn can be used to discover the credentials and areas of expertise of authors of news stories. However, use additional tools such as a general web search to verify what you find or to reveal competing claims.
- Pollfact**
The Pulitzer Prize-winning Pollfact researches the claims of politicians and checks their accuracy.
- Snopes**
A well established debunking site which provides citations to its sources.

Not sure that news story is real? Ask A Librarian!

Chat is offline

Sorry, Ask the Library Chat is offline. Chat is open when the Reference Desk is open, see [hours](#)

Submit your question by email

Lauren Wallis
University of
Delaware Library

http://guides.lib.udel.edu/fake_news





City of Wilmington, Delaware

2 hrs · 🌐

"I did not run for mayor to maintain the status quo. Our first obligation is to the health of the city – its financial health, its operational health and its spiritual health. I invite you to join me to do bold, permanent things." -Mike Purzycki - Mayor of the City of Wilmington



Mayor Purzycki's Cost-Saving Measures

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki delivers his first Budget Address

DELAWAREONLINE.COM | BY CHRISTINA JEDRA



Delawareonline

20 hrs · 🌐

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki says he is taking a multiyear approach to budgeting, cutting now to eliminate projected deficits in future years.



Purzycki proposes tax hike, staffing cuts in Wilmington

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki is proposing a property tax increase, a water/sewer rate hike and \$2.5 million in cuts.

DELAWAREONLINE.COM | BY CHRISTINA JEDRA

FAKE NEWS BLUES

A magnifying glass with a silver handle is positioned over a map of the United States. The map is filled with various newspaper clippings and text. The magnifying glass is focused on the text "Trust in an Alternative Facts World".

**Trust in an
Alternative
Facts World**