

An owl says “hoo” and you should too!



# Anybody can say anything . . .

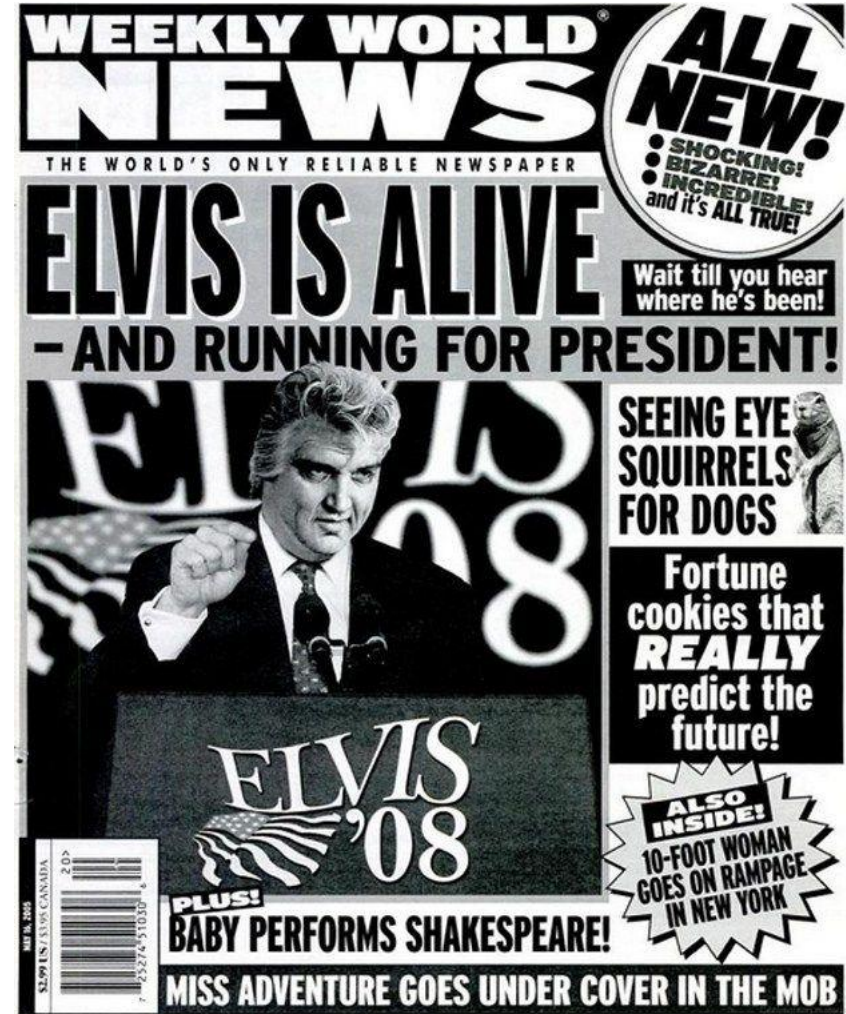
- Your neighbor
- Your crazy uncle
- A complete stranger
- A politician
- A group of people
- An organization
- . . . And some have bigger megaphones than others.
- How do you know if what they say is true?



For anything we hear  
or read, we need to  
consider the source.

“At the same time, the democratic quality of the Net has permitted the release of a mass of undifferentiated information, some of it authoritative, some speculative, some absurd.”

(David Aaronovitch, *Voodoo Histories*, 2010)



Do pay attention to the man behind the curtain

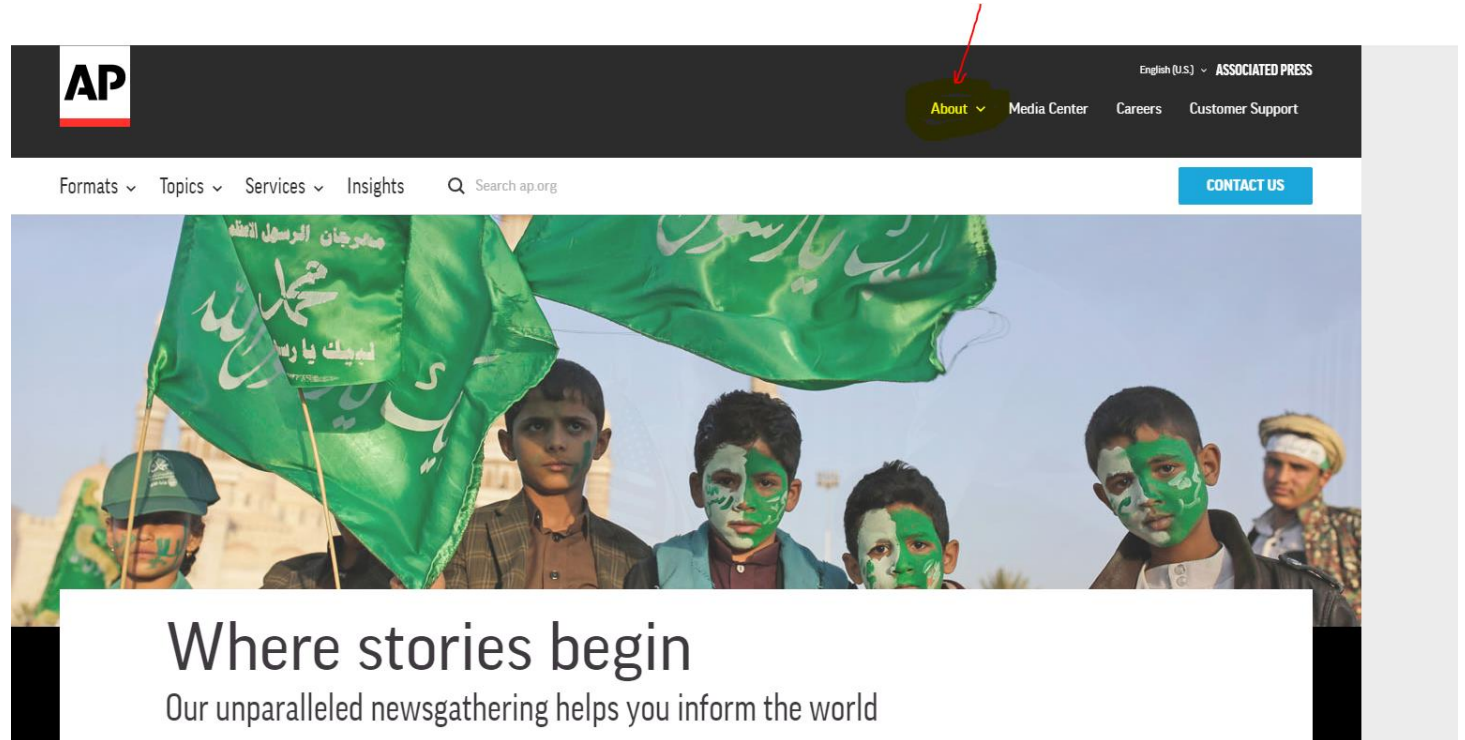






## Check “About Us”

- Is there detailed background information?
- Is there a mission statement or philosophy?
- Does it list staff?
- Is it clear who is responsible for the website?
- Who produces the content?
- Is there editorial oversight or peer review?
- Who funds the website or organization?



# Different missions = Different viewpoints

## Heritage Foundation



[Mission](#) [Impact](#) [Staff](#) [Careers](#) [Membership](#)

*Building an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish*

*The mission of The Heritage Foundation is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.*

## Socialist Party USA



**SOCIALIST PARTY USA**



[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [JOIN OR RENEW](#) [THE SOCIALIST](#) [NATIONAL OFFICE](#) [STATES & LOCALS](#) [More...](#)

### 2019-2021 PLATFORM

[download a pdf of the Platform and Principles](#)

The Socialist Party stands for the abolition of every form of domination and exploitation, whether based on social class, gender, race/ethnicity, age, education, sexual orientation, or other characteristics.

We are committed to the transformation of capitalism through the creation of a socialist society based on compassion, empathy, and respect as well as the development of new social structures. Socialism will establish a new social and economic order in which workers and community members will take responsibility for and control of their interpersonal relationships, their neighborhoods, the local government, and the production and distribution of all goods and services.

# Identify the author

- Is there an author name?  
(Fake news often lacks this or fake names are used.)
- What authority or qualifications does this person have?
- Does a search of the author bring up other work the author has done?
- What is their professional background?
- Is this a trusted author?
- On the right are examples from four webpages. Can you spot the fake author?



**DAN SPINELLI**

Dan Spinelli is a reporter in *Mother Jones'* DC bureau who covers national security. You can email him tips at [dspinelli@motherjones.com](mailto:dspinelli@motherjones.com) and follow him on Twitter at @danspinelli902.

Holmes Lybrand is a reporter for CNN, based in the Washington D.C. bureau.

He joins CNN from The Weekly Standard, where he served as the fact checker of the print magazine and wrote the fact-check column for

the website in partnership with Facebook's news team.

Lybrand is a graduate of the University of Texas.



**Peter Baker**

Peter Baker is the chief White House correspondent for The New York Times covering President Donald J. Trump.

Peter Baker is the chief White House correspondent for The New York Times covering President Donald J. Trump.

He previously covered the presidencies of Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton for The Times and The Washington Post. He is the author of three books and this spring will publish his fourth, "Obama: The Call of History," an illustrated history of the 44th president produced by The Times in collaboration with Callaway Arts & Entertainment and distributed by Abrams.

Home + Authors + Posts by Jimmy Rustling, CNN

## Jimmy Rustling, CNN



93 POSTS 0 COMMENTS

Born at an early age, Jimmy Rustling has found solace and comfort knowing that his humble actions have made this multiverse a better place for every man, woman and child ever known to exist. Dr. Jimmy Rustling has won many awards for excellence in writing including fourteen Peabody awards and a handful of Pulitzer Prizes. When Jimmies are not being Rustled the kind Dr. enjoys being an amazing husband to his beautiful, soulmate; Anastasia, a Russian mail order bride of almost 2 months. Dr. Rustling also spends 12-15 hours each day teaching their adopted 8-year-old Syrian refugee daughter how to read and write.



# Do parallel research

- Research the author, publication, or organization in other sources besides just their own website or publication
- What can you find out about their background?
- What are their qualifications?
- How do others analyze and interpret their work?

## Texe Marrs

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Texe W. Marrs** (born 1944) is an American writer and radio host, who runs two [fundamentalist Christian ministries](#), Power of Prophecy Ministries and Bible Home Church, both based in Austin, Texas. His teachings include [end times conspiracy theory](#)<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> with heavy elements of [antisemitism](#), [anti-Catholicism](#), [Illuminati and Freemasonry conspiracy theory](#).

He was previously an officer in the [United States Air Force](#) and a faculty member at the [University of Texas](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Find other articles

- Look for other reliable sources that have carried an article about the same thing
- Do the facts coincide?
- Are other articles unique or are they clones of the first one?

WORLD NEWS   NOVEMBER 17, 2019 / 11:27 AM / UPDATED 7 MINUTES AGO

### At Hong Kong university, a daring escape but fears of bloodshed

James Pomfret, Jessie Pang

5 MIN READ



HONG KONG (Reuters) - Dozens of Hong Kong protesters staged a dramatic escape from a university campus sealed off by police on Monday by shimmying down plastic hosing from a bridge and fleeing on waiting motorbikes as the police fired projectiles.

# Look for the original source

## Obama Signs Executive Order banning The Pledge Of Allegiance In Schools Nationwide

by American News 7 months ago



Well, President Obama may have just officially taking things too far. According to a recent report, he just signed **Executive Order 13738**, revoking the federal government's official recognition of the Pledge of Allegiance.



Federal Register

Vol. 81, No. 166

Friday, August 26, 2016

58807

## Presidential Documents

Title 3—

**Executive Order 13738** of August 23, 2016

The President

**Amendment to Executive Order 13673**

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 40 U.S.C. 121, and in order to promote economy and efficiency in procurement by contracting with responsible sources who comply with labor laws, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Amendment to Executive Order 13673.** Executive Order 13673 of July 31, 2014 (**Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces**), is amended as follows:

(1) in subsection 2(a)(iv)(A), by inserting, after the word “disclose,” the following: “to the entity designated by a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation under subsection 4(a)”;

(2) in subsection 2(a)(iv)(B), by striking “the information submitted by the subcontractor pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph” and replacing in lieu thereof the following: “the advice provided by the entity designated by a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation under subsection 4(a), or the information submitted to that entity”;

(3) in subsection 2(a)(v), by striking “to the contractor” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “to an entity designated by a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation under subsection 4(a)”;

# Who is the more reliable authority?

**Jenny McCarthy: Vaccines caused my son's autism**



**Scientists & physicians: Vaccines do not cause autism**

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/)

[National Institutes of Health](https://www.nih.gov/)

[World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/)

[Committee for Skeptical Inquiry](https://www.skepticinquiry.org/)

[Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com/)



# Credibility can be faked

## MAN CHARGED WITH FAKING CREDENTIALS

By **Lorraine Mirabella**  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

DECEMBER 2, 2009

**A** 51-year-old Westminster man has been charged with using fake credentials to get hired as a professional engineer by at least three firms in Maryland, the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation said Tuesday.

A Howard County grand jury returned a three-count indictment charging Lawrence D. Novakowski, 51, with one count of practicing without a license and two counts of counterfeiting a public seal, according to the State Board for Professional Engineers, a part of the labor department's division of occupational and professional licensing that investigated. Novakowski was released on his own recognizance and ordered not to work at any engineering firm.

The board's investigation found that Novakowski, **an electrician with no education or training in engineering**, was used as a troubleshooter in the field and **had testified as an expert witness in court cases** stemming from electrical fires. He was charged with practicing without a license between May and November but might have worked as a professional engineer for as long as five years.

The board found that Novakowski supplied employers with a **phony Johns Hopkins University transcript that he ordered over the Internet**, and **fake licensing documents** that contained an authentic Maryland state seal and an authentic professional engineer's license number. That number belonged to a person who was last licensed in 1998.

ADVEF

Remember: *Anybody* can say *anything*!



**CHECK  
IT OUT!**

Says who?





Jeff Rand

Adult Services Librarian

La Crosse Public Library

Created: 2019 December

Revised: 2021 January