sott.net

A website that has repeatedly promoted false claims and conspiracy theories on subjects ranging from the Sept. 11 terror attacks to vaccines.

Ownership and Financing

SOTT.net, which stands for Signs of the Times, is owned by Quantum Future Group, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Otto, North Carolina. According to the QFG website, the organization’s mission is “to increase the effectiveness and impact of the results of research in the varied scientific and socio-cultural fields that are geared toward seeking solutions to the fundamental sufferings and limitations of humanity.”

According to its most recent filing with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Quantum Future Group generated $162,443 in revenue in 2018, with $136,232 of it coming from contributions and grants.

Laura Knight-Jadczyk is named as the principal officer of Quantum Future Group on its IRS form. Her biography on SOTT.net says she is a “historian/mystic” who has written books such as “High Strangeness/High Dimensions and the Process of Alien Abduction” that are sold through QFG’s Red Pill Press. Her husband, Arkadiusz Jadczyk, is listed as the group’s president.

According to the site’s About page, SOTT.net “refuses commercial advertising and support, and achieves its objectives via its own resources and some reader donations. Any and all advertisements you see on our site are either our own fund raising products, or are unpaid publicity given to our research partners and friends.”

Content

SOTT.net describes itself on its About page as a “leading alternative news site providing independent journalism and unbiased analysis.” It also says the website is a “research project” that “includes analysis, collection and arrangement of daily news items that accurately reflect the dominant political, social and environmental ‘energies’ on the planet. This research further includes noting whether or not human beings, individually and/or collectively, can actually remember, from one day to the next, important events, and whether they are able to accurately read that information and make intelligent decisions about their future based on that knowledge.”

Most of SOTT.net’s content is republished by other news sources, which range from credible news organizations such as the BBC and the New York Times, to websites that NewsGuard has found to have repeatedly published false content, such as RT.com, Waking Times, and GreenMedInfo. The site publishes a small number of original news articles, which typically appear at the top of the homepage in a SOTT Focus section.

A section called Puppet Masters publishes articles on government, politics, and world events, often with a conspiratorial bent. Other sections include Health & Wellness, Science & Technology, and High Strangeness, which covers purported UFO sightings and extraterrestrial encounters.

The site also airs two audio shows, part of what is called the SOTT Radio Network. “Mind Matters” covers history, psychology and the supernatural. “ObjectiveHealth” promotes alternative medical treatments.

Credibility

The site’s 9/11 section regularly promotes false claims related to the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, including claims that Israel was responsible for the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people and destroyed the World Trade Center.

For example, a June 2019 article titled “9/11 was ‘mother of all false flag’ attacks,” first published by the Iranian government-controlled Press TV, quotes author Stephen Lendman as saying “9/11 is what I call the mother of all false flags, who is responsible? Oh, there is no question about it—the CIA, and very likely also Israel’s Mossad. They are the ones who were responsible for taking down the Twin Towers, for attacking
SOFT.net editor Joe Quinn defended the article in a January 2020 email to NewsGuard. “We saw no need to qualify or comment on the interviewee’s specific claim regarding CIA and Mossad involvement in 9/11, because he himself is an award-winning blogger with a large body of work substantiating this claim, much of it re-published on SOFT.net and thus familiar to our readers,” Quinn said. “Additionally, it is a matter of historical record that governments conduct ‘false-flag’ military operations, and thus the interviewee’s placing of 9/11 in historical context alone suffices to substantiate his claim.”

A May 2019 article, headlined “The ‘dancing Israelis’ suggest Israel had a role in bringing about 9/11,” stated that “9/11 was a gift to Israel and it is a gift that keeps on giving. America is at war in a number of Muslim countries and its troops blanket the Middle East, to include a base in Israel dedicated to the defense of that country. It is a result of the Global War on Terror and the GWOT started with 9/11. And just maybe it was a fire that was ignited by Israel.”

Conspiracy theories of Israel’s involvement date to 2001. The Anti-Defamation League said in a 2011 report that “these theories are still persuasive for anti-Semites who want to see a Jewish or Israeli involvement in 9/11 because of their belief that Jews are deceitful, ruthless, and willing to undertake any action, no matter how dire the consequences, to advance their power and influence.”

Quinn also defended this article, saying it was written by a former CIA analyst who “is particularly well-positioned to make substantiated claims on this matter. Together with two dozen other former officers of U.S. intelligence agencies, he co-founded Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS), which produces evidence-based ‘memos’ (effectively public reports) that typically make substantively different claims to officially-sanctioned sources.”

The article was credited to Phillip Giraldi, a former CIA officer who has repeatedly promoted claims that Israel was involved in the Sept. 11 attacks and who has questioned the truth of the Holocaust.

Other Sept. 11 conspiracies advanced by SOFT.net include a September 2019 article titled “University of Alaska study definitively concludes that fire could NOT have caused the World Trade Center Building 7 collapse on 9/11.” Republished from WakingTimes.com, the article reported on a study published by the Institute of Northern Engineering (INE) of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which analyzed the destruction of 7 World Trade Center, which also collapsed near the twin towers hours after planes crashed into the buildings.

The study was not peer-reviewed and was funded by Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth, a group that has promoted a theory that the collapse of 7 World Trade Center was the result of a controlled demolition. SOFT.net’s story said that the collapse was “caused not by fire but rather by the near-simultaneous failure of every column in the building.”

The study’s conclusions have been directly refuted by, among other investigations, the exhaustive 2008 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) World Trade Center probe, which determined that the building was “brought down primarily by uncontrolled fires” and did so in a “progressive collapse.”

Quinn said in a response, “NewsGuard’s opinions on the study’s findings aside, it cannot reasonably claim that the University of Alaska study’s findings are ‘unsustained’ just because its analysis and simulations reached a different conclusion as to what caused the collapse of World Trade Center Building 7 than the NIST investigation.”

SOFT.net has also republished articles promoting conspiracy theories surrounding Seth Rich, a Democratic National Committee staff member who was murdered in July 2016, in what Washington police have said was a botched robbery. For example, in an August 2019 article republished from ConsortiumNews.com, titled “The truth about Seth Rich’s murder haunts Washington’s courts,” the author said, “Many, including me, suspect that Rich played some role in the leaking of DNC emails to WikiLeaks. There is considerable circumstantial evidence that this may have been the case.”

There is no evidence that Rich leaked DNC emails to WikiLeaks. According to the April 2019 report from U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller, not only were Russian hackers the source for the DNC files, but Rich had died four days before WikiLeaks received the emails. Washington police have said that Rich was killed as the result of a botched robbery.
SOTT.net has also promoted false health claims, including about the 2020 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. For example, a January 2020 article, titled "Vitamin C protects against coronavirus," claims that high doses of vitamin C can stop or slow down the spread of the coronavirus.

Taking vitamin C is not an effective remedy for the Wuhan coronavirus, according to the World Health Organization. The World Health Organization and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have said there is no specific treatment recommended for the coronavirus strain responsible for the 2020 outbreak.

An October 2019 article republished from GreenMedInfo.com, titled "Alfred Nobel and the Vaccine Apocalypse," stated: "There is a fire raging in the brains of our children. Neurotoxins from vaccines are setting their brains on fire, causing the inflammation that is responsible for a spectrum of brain disorders, up to and including autism."

The CDC and many other health and science authorities, including the U.K. National Health Service and the World Health Organization, have repeatedly stated that there is no link between vaccines and autism, based on an abundance of scientific evidence.

SOTT.net removed the article after being contacted by NewsGuard, with Quinn saying in an email that "we do not agree with its suggestion that vaccination is inherently evil." However, he argued that "far from being unsubstantiated, the claim of a potential link between vaccines and autism is quite strong."

Another October 2019 article, first published by ChildrensHealthDefense.org, claimed that "HPV vaccines have been linked to over 100,000 reported adverse events globally, including disabling autoimmune conditions and deaths, but officials seem unconcerned."

Multiple large studies have found no link between the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and autoimmune diseases, including a February 2012 study, published in the Journal of Internal Medicine, that was authored by researchers at Kaiser Permanente in California and involved 189,000 women.

There is also no evidence that the HPV vaccine has caused deaths. The CDC has stated on its website: "Some deaths among people who received an HPV vaccine have been reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). This does not mean that the vaccine caused the death, only that the death occurred after the person got the vaccine." The CDC's review of deaths reported to VAERS found "the evidence did not suggest a causal link" between the deaths and the HPV vaccine.

Quinn defended the article. "A thorough review of all the issues surrounding this topic cannot reasonably lead to a conclusion that there is no substance to claims that HPV vaccines are linked to disabling autoimmune conditions and deaths," he said.

In addition to republishing news stories with false claims, SOTT.net republishes satirical stories without labeling them as such. For example, the November 2019 article "If elected, I will put AOC in charge of math" says Bernie," is reposted from the Babylon Bee, a satire website aimed at American Christian conservatives, without labeling it as satire. The story appears in a section titled "Don't Panic! Lighten Up!", although that section also features stories that are not satirical.

Quinn said, "I suppose we could add a note at the beginning of each article in this category along the lines of 'Warning: this story is not to be taken seriously,' but we assume that our readers are intelligent enough to know the difference between satire and regular news items, and that stories in a category clearly labelled 'don't panic lighten up' are not to be taken seriously."

Because SOTT.net frequently republishes articles and headlines that include false information, NewsGuard has determined the site repeatedly published false content, falls to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Quinn disputed NewsGuard's determination. "NewsGuard's criteria for
determining what constitutes ‘false information’ and failing to gather 
and present information responsibly are subjective,” he said. “Although 
this is to be expected in the sphere of media and public information, 
where there are always at least two sides to a story,” the editorial 
outlook we infer from NewsGuard’s line of questioning, and its 
icorrect characterization of the Sott.net content it has sampled as 
‘false and unsubstantiated,’ together suggest that NewsGuard has 
taken an unduly narrow or one-sided position and runs the risk of 
irresponsibly labelling valid news sources as ‘fake news.’”

The site does not articulate a corrections policy. According to a 
disclaimer included on the site’s Submissions page, the website does 
not consider itself responsible for claims made on its site by outside 
contributors. “Sott.net will not be held responsible or liable for any 
inaccurate or incorrect statements contained in articles published on 
Sott.net. Sott.net reserves the right to remove articles from the 
website,” the disclaimer says.

Quinn told NewsGuard that the site regularly corrects errors, and also 
said that the site regularly removes articles without false claims without 
publishing a correction, which does not meet NewsGuard’s standard 
for having effective corrections practices.

Quinn provided four examples of what he considered corrections to 
NewsGuard. Only one, a story published in 2012, was labeled as a 
correction. The other three were articles published in 2019 that were 
updated with new information after the original publication, but not 
corrected.

The About page on SOTT.net describes the site as a “leading alternative 
news site providing independent journalism and unbiased analysis.” 
Despite this description, articles on the site frequently include 
unlabeled opinion.

For example, a November 2019 article, republished from 
BigLeaguePolitics.com, stated, “While conservatives, libertarians and 
Trump supporters regularly get booted from Twitter for 
constitutionally-protected speech, Twitter actively harbors pedophiles 
and their enablers. Big Brother is not looking out for the sanctity of 
the children.”

An October 2019 story, republished from NaturalNews.com, referred to 
a campaign by the Kellogg’s breakfast cereal company to donate sales 
proceeds to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) as 
a “celebration of deranged LGBT cult members who cut their private 
parts off and take artificial hormones in vain attempts to switch 
genders. This mass mental illness, according to Kellogg’s, is something 
to be celebrated over breakfast with your children - and if you don’t 
agree, well, then you’re an unwoke bigot,” the article said.

SOTT.net’s original articles generally include writers’ opinions. For 
example, a September 2019 article by site founder Laura Knight- 
Jadczyk, titled “Greta Thunberg: False Prophet of the Children’s 
Crusade,” called the Swedish environmental activist “pathetic, 
psychologically and mentally challenged” and asserted that “she has 
been thoroughly brainwashed - as has a whole generation of children 
on this planet; but when was that ever not the case?”

Quinn disputed NewsGuard’s determination, “How does any site 
‘separate news articles from opinion,’ in fact?” Quinn said. “Much if not 
most content on all news sites – including their ‘news articles’ – is 
steepled in opinion. You see it reflected in editors’ choices of topics, 
editors’ choices of headlines and subheadlines, editors’ choices of 
phrasing and tone, editors’ choices of images, and editors’ choices 
about which facts to include and which sources to rely on.”

SOTT.net’s About section discloses that is owned by Quantum Future 
Group. Neither SOTT.net nor QFG’s website provide any information 
about major financial supporters to the nonprofit. Asked why these 
financial supporters are not identified on SOTT.net or on Quantum 
Future Group’s website, Quinn said, “Because they are private 
individuals and readers of SOTT.net and their donation is no different 
to any other in that it is made for the sole purpose of supporting the 
ongoing work of SOTT.net as defined, and regularly updated, by the 
Senior editors at SOTT.net.”

Because the website does not identify its major donors, NewsGuard 
determined that SOTT.net does not meet NewsGuard’s standard 
for disclosure of financing for a nonprofit.
According to SOTT.net’s About Page, the website was launched in March 2002.

Correction: A previous version of this Nutrition Label erroneously reported that SOTT.net editor Joe Quinn told NewsGuard that the website has, in rare instances, accepted donations greater than $5,000. Quinn said that the $5,000 figure referred to what he believed the IRS defines as a “major” contributor, not an amount that SOTT.net has accepted from a single donor. NewsGuard apologizes for the error.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Feb. 26, 2020.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

Sources

Ownership and Financing
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https://www.sott.net/page/3-Support-Sott-net
https://www.sott.net/user/1622-ark

Content
https://www.sott.net/category/16-Puppet-Masters
https://www.sott.net/category/7-Health-Wellness
https://www.sott.net/category/14-Science-Technology
https://www.sott.net/category/8-High-Strangeness
https://www.sott.net/page/1-About-Sott-net
https://www.sott.net/page/6-SOTT-Focus-by-Author
https://www.sott.net/article/424996-Volcanoes-Earthquakes-And-The-3600-Year-Comet-Cycle
https://www.sott.net/topic/19-SOTT-Radio-Network
RT story: https://www.sott.net/article/423453-Key-takeaway-from-Ukraine-peace-talks-in-Paris-is-that-Zelenskys-best-friend-is-Putin

Credibility
9/11 story #1:
https://www.sott.net/topic/222-9-11
https://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/design/a3524427887/4/
http://n5.uaf.edu/wtc7
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https://www.nist.gov/pcic/questions-and-answers-about-nist-wtc-7-investigation

9/11 story #2:
https://www.sott.net/article/415488-9-11-was-mother-of-all-false-flag-attacks