worldnewsdailyreport.com

A website that publishes hoaxes and made-up stories that are often widely shared and mistaken for news.

Ownership and Financing

WorldNewsDailyReport.com is owned and operated by Janick Murray-Hall and Olivier Legault of Montreal, who launched it in 2013. The duo previously also ran the French-language satirical site Le Journal de Mourréal—which mimicked Journal de Montréal, one of Quebec’s leading daily newspapers.

The site generates revenue from advertisements.

Content

WorldNewsDailyReport.com publishes made-up stories that mimic news content, with outrageous, often vulgar headlines. The site runs a disclaimer at the bottom of its homepage identifying its content as “satirical,” although the stories themselves do not carry disclaimers.

Articles often present shocking fake news involving sex, animals, and crime. Typical headlines have included “Woman sues Samsung for $1.8M after cell phone gets stuck inside her vagina,” and “Australian police officer brutally beaten and sexually assaulted by kangaroo.”

The stories are not dated and are often prominently displayed more than a year after they were first published. Most of the newer stories were published in a box at the bottom-right of the front page, titled “Trending Now.”

Images — without attribution or accurate captions — are pulled from the internet to supplement the false stories.

In an “FAQ” posted on the site, World News Daily Report answers the question, “Where do you find all this extremely well researched and credible information?” According to the site: “Our News Team counts members fluent in more than 12 languages. We thus have access to thousands of newspapers around the world and choose information we feel is of interest to the Christian, Muslim and Jewish Zionist community worldwide.”

Credibility

World News Daily Report publishes invented stories that mimic the appearance and tone of genuine news articles.

The site states in a disclaimer at the bottom of the homepage, “World News Daily Report assumes all responsibility for the satirical nature of its articles and for the fictional nature of their content. All characters appearing in the articles in this website – even those based on real people – are entirely fictional and any resemblance between them and any person, living, dead or undead, is purely a miracle.”

The site has published fake stories about significant news events, including the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in March 2020, the site published a made up story with the headline “Belgium Health Minister Puts Ban on Non-essential Sexual Activities of Persons 3 or Greater in Indoor Areas.” The fact-checking organization Lead Stories debunked the hoax, reporting that while Belgium’s health minister had announced that Belgium would be in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, the announcement said nothing about sexual activity.

A May 2018 article that appeared on the website’s homepage in 2020, titled “LOTTERY WINNER ARRESTED FOR DUMPING $200,000 OF MANURE ON EX-BOSS’ LAWN,” claimed to quote “Lieutenant Frank Meyers, a spokesman of the Clarendon Hills Police Department,” as well as the supposed lottery winner, named as “Brian Morris.” NewsGuard could find no evidence the quoted lieutenant existed. Fact-checking website Snopes reported in May 2018 that a picture in the article purporting to portray “Brian Morris” actually depicted a man arrested in 2014 on suspicion of driving under influence.

A December 2018 article, “TEXAS MAN ADMITS KIDNAPPING 79 PEOPLE TO ANALY PROBE THEM WHILE DISGUISED AS AN ALIEN,” was
illustrated with a picture of a press conference featuring "FBI spokesman Darrell Johnson." However, a reverse image search shows that the photograph was actually taken from the website of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, from a news report about the attacks of two U.S. Border Patrol agents.

World News Daily Report's stories have been shared millions of times on social media and other platforms and have been known to mislead people. For example, a February 2020 story, headlined "Plane That Disappeared in Bermuda Triangle In 1945 Lands In Florida, Crew Members Remember Nothing," was shared more than 58,000 times on social media, and prompted a user to comment, "That's rare ... 75 yrs."

The website's articles are also regularly shared or republished by sites that do not run such disclaimers. For example, in 2017, the website published an article headlined, "Morgue Employee Cremated While Taking A Nap," describing an incident said to have occurred in a morgue in Beaumont, Texas. In late 2017, a site posing as an ABC affiliate station, abcnews-u.s.com, published the identical story, changing the location to Macomb County, Michigan. After anxious residents called the county coroner and prosecutor's office, Macomb County had to issue a statement that its morgue does not handle cremations.

World News Daily Report has been named one of the "9 worst fake news sites" by Gizmodo, and regularly appears on Buzzfeed News' annual list of top 50 most widely shared false stories. Nine of Buzzfeed's top 50 stories were on the organization's 2018 list. The story about the lottery winner arrested for dumping manure on his former boss' lawn generated more than 2.3 million engagements on Facebook, according to Buzzfeed.

Because World News Daily Report exclusively publishes fabricated stories, which are often mistaken for real news, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Legault, a site co-owner, said in an interview with Radio Canada in 2017 that he does not believe the site deceives anyone who reads it. "We preach to converts," he said in French. "The majority of people who share it understand that it's a joke, and others share it because they want to believe it, not because they really believe in it."

World News Daily Report does not run corrections. The site does not publish opinionated content.

NewsGuard sent three inquiries through the website's contact form, inquiring about its editorial practices and standards, but did not receive a response.

Transparency

World News Daily Report does not disclose its owners or editors. Stories are not attributed to authors.

The site's Contact Us page allows users to comment via a submission form, but no email address or telephone number is provided.

Advertising is distinguished from the site's news content. Sponsored content is titled "From The Web" with a small disclaimer above trending news articles saying, "Sponsored Links From Taboola."

Three emails sent through the site's contact form asking about its lack of disclosure about its ownership, leadership, and content creators did not receive a response.

History

The site launched in November 2013, with the tagline "News You Can Trust." World News Daily Report's French-language counterpart, Journal de Moureau, was founded to parody the Quebecois tabloid, Journal de Montreal.

In May 2019, the Quebec Superior Court ruled that Journal de Moureau so closely resembled the Journal de Montreal that it was likely to cause confusion, and ordered Murray-Hall to turn over $23,500 in revenue from the site.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 23, 2020, to reflect that the site has published false stories about COVID-19. Earlier, this label was updated to reflect NewsGuard's determination that WorldNewsDailyReport.com does not fail to meet NewsGuard's standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly. The criteria has been adjusted accordingly.