A website providing conservative commentary that has published false information and misleading headlines, including about the 2020 coronavirus outbreak.

**Ownership and Financing**
DC Dirty Laundry is owned by Dean Garrison, a conservative blogger who appears to be based in Missouri. The site is connected to DC Clothesline, another conservative commentary site, according to the DC Dirty Laundry's About page, and the two sites share a lot of the same stories and writers. The site appears to be financed by advertising.

**Content**
On its About Us page, DC Dirty Laundry describes its mission, stating: "The truth can not die and the mainstream liberal media can not be allowed to write history according to their own flawed perception. WE BELIEVE IN GOD, FAMILY AND COUNTRY. IN THAT ORDER."

The site's content often criticizes Democrats and liberal causes. Typical stories have run under headlines including: "New York City Mayor Confirms What We Already Knew: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is an Idiot" and "Lock Her Up: Nancy Pelosi Earned Fortune on IPO Stock Through Illegal Insider Trading." Most of the content appears to be re-published from other sites, usually with some form of credit.

DC Dirty Laundry divides content into sections including Politics, Culture, 2nd Amendment, Christianity, Videos, and Store, which links to Keepandbear.com, a site that sells merchandise described as "conservative gifts and apparel."

**Credibility**
DC Dirty Laundry has repeatedly published false stories. For example, in February 2020, the site published a story headlined "New evidence: Coronavirus 'bioweapon' might have been a Chinese vaccine experiment gone wrong... genes contain 'pShuttle-5N' sequences, proving laboratory origin." According to the article, there is "strong scientific support for the theory that the coronavirus is an engineered bioweapon that escaped laboratory containment in China."

This is false. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus was engineered by scientists in a lab. The World Health Organization has stated that the virus likely originated in bats. According to an article published by three epidemiologists in the New England Journal of Medicine, "RNA sequences closely resemble those of viruses that silently circulate in bats, and epidemiologic information implicates a bat-origin virus infecting unidentified animal species sold in China's live-animal markets."

In January 2020, the site published an article titled "Eugenicist Bill Gates co-hosted a 'high-level pandemic exercise' back in October, just in time for the patented coronavirus he helped fund to be unleashed." The article, which first appeared on NaturalNews.com, implied that the Microsoft co-founder was somehow responsible for it. According to the story, "the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Pitbright Institute owns a patent on coronavirus for vaccine creation purposes. Was this whole outbreak engineered for the purpose of scaring the general public into accepting yet another government vaccine?"

The article provided no evidence to back its claim that the outbreak was "engineered." The Gates Foundation did participate in a simulated emergency preparedness exercise in October 2019, but according to FactCheck.org, the exercise involved a mock coronavirus with different features than the real coronavirus. Moreover, although the Gates Foundation has provided funding to the U.K.-based Pitbright Institute, the patent referenced by Natural News covers a different, weaker strain of coronavirus that affects chickens, not humans.

NewsGuard emailed site owner Dean Garrison seeking comment on the site's coverage of the COVID-19 virus but did not receive a response.
In January 2019, the site published a story headlined, “New York’s Gruesome, ‘To Term’ Abortion Bill Will Now Allow Actual Baby Parts To Be Sold On Black Market.” The story, which was re-published from a site called Freedom Outpost, claims that New York state’s Reproductive Health Act “has absolutely nothing to do with women’s rights, or their right to literally kill their babies, but everything to do with the black market sales of fetal and baby parts.” The article goes on to claim that adding these “baby parts” to the black market is the motivation for the “US Socialist Left’s desperate push to keep open borders.”

The story cites no evidence that “baby parts” resulting from abortions would be sold on a black market. DC Dirty Laundry and Freedom Outpost speculate that Democratic lawmakers support abortion rights laws — and oppose a wall along the southern border — for their personal benefit from criminal enterprises. However, neither site provides any evidence for this theory or, more specifically, for the theory that “baby parts” are sold on a black market.

The site has also published more prominent conspiracy theories that have been widely debunked. For example, in February 2019, the site re-published a story from the Washington Standard with the headline, “Clinton Body Count Grows: Was Whistleblower ‘Suicided’ Days After Exposing Clinton Associates ‘Sex Slave Farm’?” The article promoted a conspiracy theory that former President Bill Clinton and his wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, have orchestrated the deaths of several people deemed to be a threat to them. This conspiracy, which dates to the early 1990s, disregards credible reports from law enforcement and medical professionals who have ruled that the cause of death for many of the individuals was suicide.

Most of the content on the site appears to be re-published from other sites, including many that NewsGuard has found to be unreliable, including The Washington Standard, Natural News, and Conservative Firing Line.

Because the site frequently distorts information and cites unreliable sources, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not gather and present news responsibly.

Dirty Laundry has repeatedly published misleading headlines. For example, in February 2019, the site published a story under the headline, “Senator Elizabeth Warren Endorses Coup Against President Trump.” The article cites a quote from Warren (originally published in The Nevada Independent, a local news site) as evidence that she was calling for a coup. “If [Trump Administration officials] believe that Donald Trump cannot fulfill the obligations of his office, then they have a constitutional responsibility to invoke the 25th Amendment.” Warren did not speak of a coup.

A headline from February 2019, “Death Cult Democrats: Killing newborn babies the day they're born is 'good for the economy,'” suggests that Democrats said or promoted the idea that “killing newborn babies the day they're born is 'good for the economy.'” The headline appears to refer to comments that Chelsea Clinton made at a reproductive rights event in 2018, arguing that the landmark Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision, which established a woman’s right to an abortion, also allowed more women to pursue careers, instead of staying at home to take care of a family. Clinton did not suggest that “killing newborn babies the day they’re born” would be “good for the economy.” The DC Dirty Laundry story, which was re-published from Naturalnews.com, cites no evidence for the assertion that Clinton or Democrats in general have promoted this view.

Another headline from February 2019, “FAKE SCIENCE: Heat "records" heavily manipulated by dishonest climate change propagandists to try to push global warming lie,” implies that global warming is a lie. However, it is not true that record temperatures were “manipulated.” Rather, those historically high temperatures are accurate and indicate a pattern of global warming.

DC Dirty Laundry’s content is unabashedly opinionated, and, on its About page, the site discloses that it has a conservative point of view and mission. However, the site often uses false or misleading information to advance its claims.

For example, it has repeatedly published stories containing claims about the dangers of vaccines that have been widely disproven. In two stories from late 2018 and early 2019 — headlined “Yahoo News story accidentally admits most children infected with measles outbreak were already vaccinated” and “VACCINE CANNIBALISM: You would never drink a stranger’s blood to “boost” your immune system, so why let doctors inject it into your muscle tissue?” — the site promotes the
theory that the Measle, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine is ineffective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has unequivocally recommended that children get the vaccine to protect against those diseases. Both stories were re-published from Natural News, a site that NewsGuard found has repeatedly published false claims.

In other cases, the site has published stories that assert a link between vaccines and autism, a claim that has been widely debunked. In December 2018 and January 2019, respectively, the site published stories under the headlines “The CDC has lied about vaccines and autism for 14 years... Weston A Price Foundation sounds the alarm” and “TRIPLETs all become autistic within hours of vaccination... see shocking video that has the vaccine industry doubling down on lies and disinfo.” (The video contains an interview with two adults who say they have triplets with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which they attribute to a vaccination.) Both stories claim that vaccines “cause” or have a “strong association” with autism. The CDC has repeatedly stated that vaccines do not cause autism, and that no link between vaccines and autism exists.

Because DC Dirty Laundry has repeatedly published distorted and false information to advance an agenda, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

NewsGuard could not find any corrections on the site.

NewsGuard contacted site owner Dean Garrison by email to seek comment on DC Dirty Laundry’s editorial practices — including its sourcing practices, how it handles the difference between news and opinion, its approach to corrections, and its headlines. Garrison declined to comment.

Transparency

The site does not provide contact information or biographies for its content creators. DC Dirty Laundry identifies Garrison as its publisher, but not its owner, and provides a Contact Us page, which lists an email address for him. NewsGuard has therefore determined that the site discloses its leadership but not its ownership.

Advertising is distinguishable from editorial content.

NewsGuard contacted Garrison by email seeking comment on DC Dirty Laundry’s lack of disclosure about its ownership and content creators. He confirmed in an email that he owns the site, but otherwise declined to comment.

History

Garrison founded DC Dirty Laundry in July 2018, according to the site’s About page and Domain Big Data, a domain search engine.

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on March 9, 2020.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

Sources

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