

informationliberation.com

An anonymously owned conservative website that has published unsubstantiated claims about the COVID-19 pandemic and about the protests following the death of George Floyd.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Score: 39.5/100

Ownership and Financing

InformationLiberation.com does not provide information about its ownership.

Information Liberation's Twitter account lists Chris Menahan as its owner. Menahan writes most of the articles on the website. InformationLiberation.com provides no details about Menahan, who appears to have regularly contributed to several conservative websites, including DCDirtyLaundry.com and Breitbart.com. Menahan's articles on Information Liberation are regularly republished by InfoWars.com, a far-right website run by radio host Alex Jones, as well as conspiracy website Intellihub.com.

InformationLiberation.com generates revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

Content

Information Liberation publishes political news and analysis from a conservative, and sometimes libertarian perspective. The site publishes content on its homepage and in an Analysis section. Menahan appears to produce all of the content.

The site describes itself on its About page as "a news site dedicated to pursuing the truth wherever it leads, without apology and without care for being politically correct."

Stories generally consist of tweets, video clips from cable news networks, and excerpts from other news outlets, with a few sentences of the author's original commentary. InformationLiberation.com often reports on how mainstream media covers major stories.

Other typical stories have run under headlines such as "Jimmy Fallon Thanks Twitter Mob For Canceling Him Over Blackface," "As U.S. Economy Collapses, Senate



Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)



Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)



Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)



Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)



Avoids deceptive headlines (10)



Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)



Clearly labels advertising (7.5)



Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)



The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

Moves to Give Israel \$38 Billion,” and “The Most Disloyal Human God Ever Created’: Ann Coulter Slams Trump Over Sessions Backstab.”

Credibility

Information Liberation does not appear to conduct original reporting but relies on content from other media outlets, such as Fox News, RedState, The Associated Press, and CNN. Many articles include social media posts. Headlines generally reflect stories’ content and do not make false claims.

However, Information Liberation stories have often made unsubstantiated claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, an April 2020 Information Liberation story made the unproven claim that ventilators used to treat COVID-19 patients “appear to be killing people en masse.” A May 2020 story repeated the claim, saying “Hospitals for around a month now have shifted away from putting people on ventilators (because the data suggests they were inadvertently killing people en masse).”

The April 2020 article cited an Associated Press story, headlined “Some doctors moving away from ventilators for virus patients,” which reported on medical professionals’ concern about high death rates for COVID-19 patients who were placed on ventilators in places including New York City and China.

While the AP story quoted some experts who expressed concern that ventilators could worsen some patients’ lung injuries, it also quoted experts who said that the reason for the higher death rates of patients on ventilators is not clear. “It may have to do with what kind of shape the patients were in before they were infected. Or it could be related to how sick they had become by the time they were put on the machines, some experts said,” the AP article said. No scientific research or medical experts have concluded that the use of ventilators have directly caused COVID-19 patients’ deaths, contrary to the Information Liberation article’s claim that ventilators “appear to be killing people en masse.”

In early April 2020, Information Liberation published two articles heralding the end of the coronavirus pandemic and downplaying the effect that social distancing measures had on curbing the spread of the virus.

An April 9, 2020, story, “Crisis Averted: New York Hospitalizations Plunge,” described a daily downtrend in COVID-19 hospitalizations in New York and some other states as a sign that the coronavirus pandemic was “over.”

Information Liberation, in response to a quote from New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo that the statistics showed that social distancing measures were working, said, “If we’re being honest, the same would have probably happened without much effort. ... The virus is clearly not as deadly as the ‘experts’ thought.”

An April 10, 2020, story, “New York ICU Admissions Turn NEGATIVE For First Time,” reported that a one-day drop in admissions to New York’s intensive-care units also signified that the coronavirus pandemic was over. The story stated, “Stick a fork in the coronavirus crisis. The question now is how long we will have to wait for the politicians to admit they were wrong and lift their lockdowns.”

Although Information Liberation accurately cited the statistics, which in New York City covered a 24-hour period, the website’s claims that lockdown measures probably did not help stem the spread of COVID-19 are contradicted by health experts and published research.

In early April 2020, Deborah Birx, coordinator of the White House’s Coronavirus Task Force, said during a White House press briefing that the projected number of U.S. deaths from COVID-19 had dropped because of Americans’ behavioral changes. “That’s changing the rate of new cases, and that’s what will change the rate of mortality going forward,” she said.

A study published by the Georgia Institute of Technology in April 2020 found that social distancing measures had reduced COVID-19 transmission rates in Georgia by approximately 50 percent. “In the short term we find that social distancing may have already

prevented hundreds of deaths, as well as reduced hospital demand, and new case and death rates relative to baseline scenarios with no intervention,” it said.

An April 2020 story, “I Think This Is The Beginning of The End of The Pandemic': Doc Claims Chloroquine Is Highly Effective,” reported unsubstantiated claims about the effectiveness of the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as a treatment for COVID-19.

The article was based on a Fox News interview with a doctor, Stephen Smith, who said he had treated more than 70 patients with the drug and had positive results. According to the video and article which accompanied it, Smith reported that no patient who had undergone the hydroxychloroquine treatment required intubation. Smith said, “The chance of that occurring by chance, according to my sons Leon and Hunter who did some stats for me, are .000-something.”

International health authorities have not concluded that hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment for the COVID-19 virus.

Some early studies have suggested that it could be effective, such as a March 2020 study by French researchers who tested the drug on 20 people. However, another March 2020 study conducted in China found that the drug was not more effective for 15 COVID-19 patients than a regimen of bed rest, supplemental oxygen, and antiviral drugs for another group of patients.

In June 2020, United Kingdom researchers ended the use of hydroxychloroquine in a large trial that had involved approximately 11,000 patients. “We have concluded that there is no beneficial effect of hydroxychloroquine in patients hospitalised with COVID-19,” according to a statement by researchers Martin Landray and Peter Horby of the RECOVERY trial.

Also in June 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration revoked its emergency authorization for using hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine to treat

COVID-19, saying the drugs "are unlikely to be effective in treating COVID-19" and its known and potential benefits "no longer outweigh the known and potential risks for the authorized use."

Information Liberation has also published unsubstantiated claims related to nationwide protests that followed the May 26 death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died in police custody in Minneapolis.

A June 2020 story titled "Antifa 'Invades The Suburbs' in Yucaipa, CA... It Does Not End Well For Them," claimed that members of the antifa (anti-fascist) movement, a group of far-left militant activists that often confront white supremacists and neo-Nazis at demonstrations, were confronted by local residents in a California town near San Bernardino during the protests.

The website primarily based its claim on tweets that reposted a video shared by an unnamed user on YouTube. The video showed some men running away from a gas station after fighting with others, while the anonymous poster described the men as "antifa."

The website of a Yucaipa newspaper, NewsMirror.net, reported that although local protests took place in the town, and several people claimed in social media posts that looters were targeting the town's businesses, police officials said there were "no credible threats from outside groups."

Because InformationLiberation.com has repeatedly published misleading or unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined that it does not gather and present information responsibly.

InformationLiberation.com does not articulate a corrections policy. NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

InformationLiberation.com features an Analysis section, which includes labeled opinion articles. However, news articles that are not labeled as analysis, which appear on the homepage, regularly include opinionated

language, which is why NewsGuard has determined that InformationLiberation.com does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

For example, a May 2020 news article titled “Actress Frances Fisher Calls For A 'Race War' Against White People In Wake Of George Floyd's Death” said, “Fisher's threatening tweet was deleted as of Wednesday night, though it's not clear whether she deleted it herself or it was deleted by Twitter for violating their rules. I'd say odds are she deleted the tweet herself as Twitter generally allows leftists to call for violence without any issue.”

Another May 2020 story, “Trump Suggests Coronavirus Vaccine Will Be Voluntary,” stated, “As with much of what Trump ran on, he never followed through.”

An April 2020 story, “Trump: Data Suggests U.S. 'Passed The Peak' of Coronavirus Outbreak; NY Padding Death Toll,” reported, “As the full scale of the economic devastation becomes clear over the next few weeks and months there's no question politicians are going to be looking to portray themselves as saviors who shielded us from mass death as opposed to buffoons who downplayed the virus and encouraged its spread in the name of "fighting racism.”

Menahan responded to a NewsGuard email sent in June 2020 to a general address at the site, but did not answer NewsGuard's questions about the website's unsubstantiated claims, the lack of corrections, and unlabeled opinion. He wrote, “I'd be happy to correct all the errors in your reviews (sic) if you'll agree to issue a full correction on your reviews of my site and live up to the standards you apply to everyone else.”

Transparency

InformationLiberation.com does not disclose its ownership or identify its editorial leadership.

The website provides a generic email address on a Contact page for users.

All articles appear to be credited to Chris Menahan, but the site provides no information about him.

Menahan responded to a NewsGuard email sent to the website's general address in June 2020, but did not answer questions on the website's failure to disclose ownership or provide information about its leadership or content creators.

Advertising and sponsored content are distinguishable from editorial content.

History

According to the About page, the site was founded in 2005.

Editor's Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on June 18, 2020, and its rating has changed, to reflect NewsGuard's determination that InformationLiberation.com does not meet NewsGuard's standard for gathering and presenting information responsibly, but does meet NewsGuard's standard for avoiding deceptive headlines. The criteria checklist has been adjusted accordingly.

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Edited by: [Sarah Brandt](#), [Amy Westfeldt](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Transparency

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History

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