

shadolsonshow.com

The website of conservative radio show host Shad Olson that has promoted false and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.



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

Score: 12.5/100

Ownership and Financing

The site appears to be owned by Shad Olson, a South Dakota-based radio host and former TV broadcast journalist, although his ownership is not explicitly disclosed on the site. The site's domain name is registered to Olson.

The site does not appear to run advertisements.

Content

ShadOlsonShow.com publishes stories about U.S. and international news and politics from a conservative perspective. The site includes stories written by Olson as well as pages featuring his radio show, with brief written introductions to the audio segments.

ShadOlsonShow.com includes a statement at the bottom of every page describing the site's perspective. "Regardless of political party, religious faith, economic class or avocation, Americans of every description must realize they are and have been targeted for obsolescence," the statement reads. "Defeating the long standing antihuman plot to control mankind covertly through every means necessary can only be defeated by a popular return to personal awakening and excellence. It starts with you."

Stories appear in sections including World, U.S., Politics, Economy, Today's Show, and Radio.

Pages that feature Olson's radio show include an introduction describing the content as "Unique, enlightening and intelligent conservative talk radio with Emmy-winning investigative reporter, published author and broadcast veteran, Shad Olson."

-  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.](#)

Credibility

Articles on ShadOlsonShow.com have repeatedly promoted false information, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in an article dated January 2020 titled “COVID-19: BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA, SOLD TO WUHAN LAB, OPTIMIZED FOR PANDEMIC SPREAD,” Olson claimed that the COVID-19 virus was connected to research conducted years before the 2020 outbreak at the University of North Carolina. “Emerging evidence strongly suggests a research collaboration between a North Carolina scientist and two Wuhan, Chinese microbiologists is the smoking gun in the creation and release of the COVID-19 superbug,” Olson wrote. “A coronavirus synthesized in two laboratories on opposite sides of the world into a chimera viral monstrosity, optimized for infectious spread and with a lethality 20 times that of the common influenza.”

Olson’s claim relied on a study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* in 2015. The research found that bat coronaviruses were capable of directly infecting humans, but it did not involve the same strain of coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The study authors included researchers from UNC as well as the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. A March 2020 editor’s note appended to the original study addressed this conspiracy theory. “We are aware that this article is being used as the basis for unverified theories that the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19 was engineered,” the note said. “There is no evidence that this is true; scientists believe that an animal is the most likely source of the coronavirus.”

A February 2020 study in the journal *Emerging Microbes and Infections* found there is “no credible evidence” linking the coronavirus strain used in the UNC study to the COVID-19 virus. Moreover, scientific evidence has refuted the claim that the COVID-19 was manmade. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

In a February 2020 article, headlined “SUICIDE SPREADERS’: COVID-19 NOW AN OPEN SOURCE BIOWEAPON FOR INTENTIONAL SPREAD,” Olson wrote that “incontrovertible evidence proves the COVID-19 coronavirus [is] a manmade bioweapon originating at the BSL-4 lab in Wuhan,” without providing any of that evidence.

In an April 2020 article, titled “HIV DISCOVERER: COVID-19 IS A MAN-MADE VIRUS, ‘COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN CREATED IN A LAB,’” Olson quoted French scientist Luc Montagnier, who claimed the COVID-19 virus had been altered with material that resembled the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Montagnier, who won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2008 for discovering the human immunodeficiency virus, has made controversial statements in recent years about the dangers of vaccines.

ShadOlsonShow.com quoted an interview with Montagnier from French site PourquoiDocteur.fr, saying that “Indian researchers have already tried to publish the results of the analyses that showed that this coronavirus genome contained sequences of another virus, ... the HIV virus (AIDS virus), but they were forced to withdraw their findings as the pressure from the mainstream was too great.” Olson’s article went on to state: “Montagnier’s claims are confirmation of researched information published as a series of reports by investigative journalist Shad Olson.”

The research that Montagnier cited was published in January 2020 on the website BioRxiv.org, where users can submit scientific studies before they have been peer-reviewed and published. According to a February 2020 article on the fact-checking website HealthFeedback.org, the study’s claim of a link to HIV “was detected using extremely short protein sequences, a practice that often gives rise to false positive results.” The authors also failed to note that the same sequences are found in many other organisms, medical experts said.

There is also no evidence that the researchers withdrew the study because of “pressure from the mainstream,” as suggested by Montagnier. “This paper

has been withdrawn by its authors. They intend to revise it in response to comments received from the research community on their technical approach and their interpretation of the results,” the BioRxiv.org page said, after the study was withdrawn two days after it was first published.

ShadOlsonShow.com articles have also promoted unsubstantiated conspiracy theories beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. A January 2020 article, headlined “BREAKING!! UN Now Recruiting Shock Troops for ‘Disarmament and Reintegration,’ of American Citizens,” claimed that “the United Nations is openly recruiting paramilitary personnel for the house to house disarming and pacification of the American population.”

Olson’s only evidence for this claim was a job posting on the UN website for a “Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Officer” in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, based in New York. A UN spokesperson told fact-checking website LeadStories.com in a January 2020 article that the role was a managerial position working with the UN’s existing peacekeeping missions, which are mostly based in Africa.

“While the posting in New York where the UN is headquartered, the work takes place in some of the 14 UN Peacekeeping Missions,” the spokesperson told LeadStories.com. “The UN does not operate any Peacekeeping or Political missions in the United States. As reference, UN Peacekeeping or Political missions have to be authorized by members of the Security Council. The United States is a permanent member of the Council with a right to veto any resolution.”

Because ShadOlsonShow.com has frequently promoted false and unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site has repeatedly published false content, fails to gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

ShadOlsonShow.com does not post a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find any corrections.

Posts in the Radio section of ShadOlsonShow.com describe the show as “conservative talk radio.” However, while some articles on the site are labeled as opinion, stories that are labeled “Breaking News” regularly include opinion.

For example, in a February 2020 “Breaking News” article about the results of the 2020 Iowa Democratic presidential caucuses, Olson said that “Iowa may very well stand as a tombstone to any further pretense about a party thoroughly willing to ignore, subvert, disenfranchise and manipulate its voting base for the whim and will of party insiders and ‘fixers’ who couldn’t find their way to a free election process with KY Jelly and a proctological scope.”

A December 2019 “Breaking News” article about a CNN poll on the U.S. economy said, “The House Democrats’ Impeachment Farce are obviously fake, but America’s confidence in the current economy and the policies of the Trump Administration could not be more real.”

Because ShadOlsonShow.com often labels opinionated articles as “Breaking News,” NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Olson did not respond to two emails and a phone call from NewsGuard seeking comment on the site’s history of publishing false claims, its approach to corrections, and its lack of separation between news and opinion.

Transparency

Although the website bears Shad Olson’s name, it does not explicitly identify him as its owner or the person in charge of its content.

Articles are generally credited to Olson and include his biographical information below stories. A general email address and phone number is provided at the bottom of every page.

NewsGuard did not find any advertisements on the site during its June 2020 review.

Olson did not respond to two emails and a phone call from NewsGuard seeking comment on the site's disclosures regarding ownership and editorial leaders.

History

Olson previously worked as a radio journalist for KOTA and later KNBN-TV, both of which are located in Rapid City, South Dakota. In 2010, he was suspended and later resigned from KOTA after giving a speech at a local Tea Party event. The station's news director told the Rapid City Journal that the speech was "an ethical lapse." Olson then launched his own radio show and also worked as a political consultant.

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

Sources

Ownership and Financing

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shad-olson-866367124/>

<https://www.facebook.com/quixote.beowulf>

<https://www.whois.com/whois/shadolsonshow.com>

<https://archive.vn/2qQQs>

<https://www.truthpr.com/shad-olson/>

2006 award mentioned:

https://rapidcityjournal.com/business/business-world/article_a2cdecf6-199d-5080-bd24-66f76d90e4c0.html

Content

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/category/world/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/category/u-s/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/category/economy/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/category/todays-show/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/06/10/the-shad-olson-show-june-10-2020/>

Credibility

Manmade example #1:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200309100023/http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/02/22/covid-19-born-in-north-carolina-sold-to-wuhan-lab-optimized-for-pandemic-spread/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.3985#change-history>

<https://www.newsobserver.com/article241996426.html>

Feb. 2020

study:<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2012-7>

March 2020 study:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0820-9>

Manmade example #2:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200624193153/http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/02/24/suicide-spreaders-covid-19-now-an-open-source-bioweapon-for-intentional-spread/>

Montagnier example:

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<https://healthfeedback.org/claimreview/no-hiv-insertions-were-not-identified-in-the-2019-coronavirus-contrary-to-claims-based-on-questionable-bioinformatics-study/>

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<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/03/08/setup-when-covid-19-explodes-in-u-s-deep-state-will-push-to-remove-trump-from-office/>

UN example:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200625181037/http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/01/01/breaking-un-now-recruiting-shock-troops-for-disarmament-and-reintegration-of-american-citizens/>

<https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2020/01/fake-news-new-york-un-office-does-not-recruit-paramilitary-troops-for-disarmament-and-reintegration-of-us-civilians.html>

Seattle Antifa poster:

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2019/05/01/seattle-antifa-circulates-flyer-threatening-violence-for-dating-whites-making-white-babies/>

<https://www.snopes.com/news/2017/03/30/antifa-white-posters-seattle/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2019/07/24/source-spygate-coup-included-multiple-plots-to-assassinate-president-donald-trump/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/01/28/wuhan-virus-globalists-launch-predicted-black-swan-to-kill-trumps-golden-goose/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/01/20/maximum-risk-impeachment-gun-grab-martial-law-wth-will-happen-in-virginia/>

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2019/07/20/child-adrenochrome-globalist-cabals-immortality-drug-of-choice/>

News/opinion #1:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200625174314/http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/02/04/coverup-sanders-wins-easily-biden-distant-4th-as-democrat-spin-implodes-in-iowa/>

News/opinion #2:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200625175847/http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2019/12/22/cnn-panic-poll-76-of-americans-say-economy-good-to-very-good-despite-impeachment/>

Transparency

Example of bio in news story:

<http://www.shadolsonshow.com/2020/04/27/israel-latest-to-ban-chinese-covid-test-kits-after-10000-prove-faulty-131-false-positives/>

History

https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/kota-anchorman-who-was-suspended-over-tea-party-speech-resigns/article_869cf1e2-5d4c-11df-9ded-001cc4c03286.html

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