

echelledejacob.blogspot.com

A right-wing blog that frequently advances conspiracy theories and false claims, including about vaccines and COVID-19.



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

Ownership and Financing

EchelleDeJacob.blogspot.com does not disclose its ownership. The site was created by a blogger who uses the pseudonym “Paul.” It is hosted on the blogging platform Blogger, which allows its users to remain anonymous.

The site does not carry advertising.

Content

L’Echelle de Jacob, which means “Jacob’s Ladder” in French, launched in 2011 as a blog about Christianity and spirituality. It now mainly republishes articles from other outlets, often promoting conspiracy theories and unsubstantiated claims related to health and politics. Many articles are republished from right-wing and far-right French websites, including Fdesouche, TV Libertés, and Egalite et Réconciliation.

The site often publishes articles claiming that vaccines are dangerous. It also posts content from supporters of the fringe movement QAnon, who claim that U.S. President Donald Trump is fighting a group of powerful global elites who engage in international child sex trafficking.

Typical headlines have included “Thousands of anti-mask protesters across Europe” (“Des milliers de manifestants antimasques à travers l’Europe”); “California faces another catastrophic fire season” (“Californie confrontée à une nouvelle saison d’incendies catastrophiques”); and “How to delay vaccinations: How to defend your rights” (“Comment surseoir à la vaccination : comment défendre ses droits.”)

The homepage features a quote from American novelist Mark Twain: “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.”

Score: 7.5/100

- ✗ 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.](#)

L'Echelle de Jacob, which does not appear to produce its own articles, republishes content from other sources, including websites that NewsGuard has found to be unreliable, such as AnguilleSousRoche.com and SOTT.net. The site itself frequently publishes false and misleading content, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, an August 2020 article headlined “Before you get tested...” (“Avant de vous faire tester...”) featured a YouTube video in which a French-Canadian YouTuber claimed that taking a COVID-19 nasal swab test can damage the blood-brain barrier and cause an inflammation of the brain. “This inflammation allows bacteria and other toxins to enter your brain and infect brain tissue,” the YouTuber said. “Each swab is therefore extremely dangerous for your blood-brain barrier and your health, or even your life.” (“Cette inflammation permet aux bactéries et aux autres toxines d’entrer dans votre cerveau et d’infecter les tissus cérébraux... Chaque écouvillonnage est donc extrêmement dangereux pour votre barrière hémato-encéphalique et votre santé, voir votre vie.”)

It is impossible for a nasal swab to damage the blood-brain barrier, a layer of cells that protects the central nervous system, medical experts say. The nasal swab used for COVID-19 testing is inserted through the nostril of the patient and collects a sample of secretions from the nasopharynx, an area between the nose and the throat. Multiple health experts told 20 Minutes fact-checkers and The Associated Press that this area is separated from the blood brain barrier by layers of muscle, fascia, and bone, and cannot be accessed with a swab.

In September 2019, the site published an article titled “Tetanus: vaccination is absolutely useless!” (“Tétanos : la vaccination ne sert strictement à rien !”), which originally appeared on the website of the French anti-vaccine organization Ligue Nationale Pour la Liberté des Vaccinations (National League for Liberty in Vaccination). The article claimed, without evidence, that the vaccine used to protect against tetanus does not actually work. “This vaccine is absolutely useless, it is

the result of a monumental mistake, it does not protect us,” the author wrote. “I think there are no possible vaccinations against bacteria, regardless of the bacteria, when local conditions are met. The disease will break out regardless of the patient's immune status.” (“Cette vaccination ne sert strictement à rien, elle est le résultat d'une monumentale erreur, elle ne nous protège pas... Je pense qu'il n'y a pas de vaccinations possibles contre une bactérie, quelle que soit la bactérie, lorsque les conditions locales sont réunies. La maladie éclate quel que soit le statut immunitaire du malade.”)

The article also claimed that “the decrease in the number of tetanus cases is mainly due to surgery and the use of antibiotics.” (“La baisse du nombre de tétanos est due essentiellement à la chirurgie et à l'emploi des antibiotiques.”)

These claims are false. Tetanus is a disease of the central nervous system, caused by a bacterial toxin. According to Vaccination-Info-Service.fr, a website overseen by public health agency Sante Publique France, the tetanus vaccine is close to 100 percent effective in preventing the disease. Moreover, contrary to the article's claim, experts throughout the world have credited the tetanus vaccine for dramatically reducing cases of the disease. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reports on its website that tetanus cases are rare in Europe today, mostly afflicting “unvaccinated or partly vaccinated risk groups.”

In August 2020, L'Echelle de Jacob published the translation of an article written by U.S. investment advisor Catherine Austin Fitts, which was originally published on her website, Solari.com. In the article, Austin Fitts claimed that vaccines contain “neurologically damaging metals,” citing as evidence a 2017 study published in the International Journal of Vaccine and Vaccinations.

However, this study has been widely discredited. For example, according to the European Medicines Agency, which evaluates pharmaceutical drugs and vaccines in the European Union, the study contained “methodological flaws and unsubstantiated assertions.”

According to the agency, “the presence of minuscule trace amounts of certain inorganic particles in vaccines is not unexpected and the manufacturing process for all parenteral preparations is designed to ensure that any such traces are kept within safe limits.”

A toxicology study published in 2016 by the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety concluded that trace levels of metals in vaccines “reflect the environmental reality and should not be considered a health risk” (“est le reflet de la réalité environnementale et ne doit pas être considérée comme un risque sanitaire”).

L'Echelle de Jacob has also promoted the false claim that the U.S.-based furniture retailer Wayfair was being used for child trafficking. In July 2020, the site shared a YouTube video, in which Léonard Sojli, an influential QAnon YouTuber, said that children were being sold on Wayfair’s website.

“If you go on this website, there are some products that are overpriced. In fact, they’re not products, they’re children,” Sojli said. “That means, these products are very expensive and, strangely, they bear the names of missing human beings, human beings, missing children. This is how the network sells children. This is one of the ways.” (“Si vous allez sur ce site, il y a certains produits qui sont excessivement chers. En fait, ce ne sont pas des produits, ce sont des enfants. C’est-à-dire, ces produits-là, ils coutent hyper cher et bizarrement ils ont des noms d’humains portés disparus, d’humain, d’enfants portés disparus. C’est comme ça que le réseau vend des enfants. C’est une des manières.”)

There is no evidence that Wayfair is involved in child sex trafficking. The company has firmly denied the claim, which has been circulating on social media and conspiracy-oriented websites after first gaining prominence on the Reddit platform.

According to a July 2020 article by the U.S. nonprofit Polaris Project, which runs the National Human Trafficking Hotline, hundreds of people have called the hotline about the Wayfair claims. “A barrage of

conspiracy-related reports from people with no direct knowledge of trafficking situations can overwhelm services meant for victims,” Polaris Project wrote.

Because L’Echelle de Jacob frequently advances debunked conspiracy theories and erroneous health claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and fails to avoid deceptive headlines.

L’Echelle de Jacob does not state a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

L’Echelle de Jacob does not have an About page and the site says nothing about its agenda or ideological orientation. Yet, content routinely advances right-wing talking points.

For example, in July 2020, the site published the translation of an article from the English-language site Alt-Market.com, which stated that “conservatives are the primary producers within American culture. If we leave the leftists to their own devices there is a chance they will simply implode in on themselves and eat each other because they have no idea how to fill the production voids...” This article was not labelled as opinion.

In July 2020, the site republished an unlabelled article from right-wing French magazine Valeurs Actuelles, which criticized pro-environmental measures introduced by mayors from the Europe Ecology – The Greens party (EELV). "A sanctioning environmentalism has no future, especially if it conceals a progressive ideology favorable to the dissolution of the West within a multi-ethnic group that will only lead to social instability," the article stated. ("L'écologie punitive n'a pas d'avenir, d'autant plus si elle dissimule une idéologie progressiste favorable à la dissolution de l'occident dans un magma multi-ethnique qui n'aboutira qu'à l'instabilité sociale.")

Because L’Echelle de Jacob’s does not distinguish news from opinion, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and

opinion responsibly.

L'Echelle de Jacob does not provide any contact information, and NewsGuard was unable to contact the site to seek comment about the articles cited above, the site's handling of opinion, and its lack of corrections.

Transparency

L'Echelle de Jacob does not disclose information about its owner or editorial leadership. As noted, the site does not give readers a way to contact the site.

Articles are generally attributed to "Paul." However, the site does not provide his full name or any other information about who produces its content.

NewsGuard was unable to contact the website to seek comment about its lack of information regarding ownership, leadership, and content creators.

The site does not run advertising.

History

L'Echelle de Jacob began publishing in 2011.

Written by: [Sophia Tewa](#)

Edited by: [Eric Effron](#), [Sophia Tewa](#), [Yves Clarisse](#)

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

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Credibility

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