

NewsGuard

nytimes.com

The website of a New York-based news organization with a network of journalists worldwide whose coverage exerts significant influence on national and international news and on public debate.

 87.5 / 100

Generally Credible: This website mostly adheres to basic standards of credibility and transparency.

- ✓ Does not repeatedly publish false or egregiously misleading content 22 points
- ✓ Gathers and presents information responsibly 18
- ✓ Has effective practices for correcting 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

Ownership and Financing

The New York Times Company is publicly owned with a shareholder structure that places power in the hands of the Sulzberger family, descendants of patriarch Adolph S. Ochs, who moved from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and bought the struggling paper in 1896. Following financial travail in the wake of the 2008 world financial crisis, Carlos Slim Helú, Mexico's wealthiest individual, loaned the company \$250 million and later became its single largest shareholder. With the industry-wide decline in advertising and print circulation revenues, the company increasingly relies on revenue from a highly successful drive, launched in 2011, to get online readers to buy subscriptions.

A spokesperson for the Times told NewsGuard In January 2024 that it had approximately 10 million paid subscribers for its digital and print products. Of these, one-third subscribe to either an all-access bundle, or to one of multiple products, including a cooking app, according to a spokesman. In addition, the company receives revenue from its NYTLicensing Service, which licenses content to other news organizations and brands; film and television production deals; affiliate referrals to Wirecutter, its product review site purchased in 2016; commercial printing; the leasing of floors in its New York City corporate headquarters; retail commerce; live events; and its student subscription sponsorship program.

Joseph Kahn, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who was previously the second-ranking editor, serves as executive editor, the top editorial position. In 2022, he succeeded Dean Baquet, also a Pulitzer winner. A.G. Sulzberger, a former reporter, succeeded his father, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., as publisher in 2018, becoming the sixth generation of the family to head the paper.

The newspaper no longer publicly discloses the size of the staff overseen by Kahn, which it had confirmed to NewsGuard to be 1,700 as recently as 2022, when he took over. In August 2023, spokesman Jordan Cohen said the paper has “approximately 5,800 full-time equivalent employees, which includes more than 2,600 involved in our journalism operation.”

Content

The Times offers a comprehensive daily examination of news, politics, culture, business, science, and sports. The site features large staff-produced sections labeled World, U.S., Politics, N.Y., Business, Opinion, Tech, Science, Health, Sports, Arts, Books, Style, Food, Travel, Magazine, T Magazine, Real Estate, and Video. Newsletters and podcasts are also part of the daily mix.

The website now incorporates The Athletic, an online sports news outlet that the Times bought for \$550 million in 2022. The Athletic had more than one million paid subscribers, according to The Washington Post, and the deal led to the Times disbanding its own sports department in June 2023. It now relies on The Athletic for sports coverage. The Athletic operates separately from The Times’s newsroom and sports section.” In June 2023, The Times reported layoffs of 20, or four percent, at The Athletic.

While the newspaper produces local coverage of the New York metropolitan area, that coverage generally has declined over the years as the paper expanded the national and international scale of its reporting and of its readership.

The Times’ reporting and photography often drive news coverage by other major news outlets. High-profile coverage includes disclosing on Nov. 30, 2023, that there were reports within Israel’s military that Hamas could be planning an attack on Israel more than a year before the Oct. 7, 2023, operation that killed more than 1,300 people. The Times report was cited worldwide, including by Le Monde, CNN, Sky News, CBS, PBS, and Al Jazeera, among others.

Earlier examples of agenda-setting coverage have included 2022 reporting on Ukrainian deaths in the town of Bucha and the Russian unit responsible for the killings; reporting in 2017 on powerful and wealthy sexual predators, including allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein; 2017 articles about interactions between then President Donald Trump and former FBI Director James Comey that helped prompt the opening of an investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller; and in 2016 about Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she served as Secretary of State.

Times stories routinely have real-world impact in business, politics, entertainment, education, and beyond. For example, in August 2023, Ken Parcel, the president of the influential Chicago-based National Association of Realtors, resigned two days after the newspaper disclosed complaints from women about his behavior. Parcel denied any wrongdoing.

A November 2022 series, "A Risky Wager" detailed "how colleges and sports betting companies 'Caesarized' campus life" as companies aggressively convert traditional casino customers, fantasy sports aficionados, and players of online games into digital gamblers. The Times' account of aggressive lobbying to legalize sports betting in 31 states, and a weak regulatory system, resulted in state officials in New York, Kansas, Massachusetts, and elsewhere announcing they would revisit sports-betting arrangements.

Aggressive reporting on the indictments of former U.S. President Donald Trump and on his third presidential campaign mirror past coverage of Trump, which included an investigation in October 2018 based on more than a year of reporting on the Trump family's real estate empire. Subsequently, New York City and New York state officials announced they would examine the alleged tax evasion and fraudulent schemes disclosed in the story. The reporting was the catalyst for both an ongoing state civil case against him for business fraud and the criminal indictment handed down by a Manhattan grand jury for allegedly falsifying business records in paying hush money to a porn star.

In the Sunday edition, The Times publishes one of the few remaining newspaper magazines, marked by long, often highly opinionated features (which on The Times website are not labeled as opinion), columns, photos, and puzzles. The magazine's ambitions are typified by a 10,000-word July 2022 article, "The Battle Over Gender Therapy," which generated controversy, mostly from the gay rights and trans-gender groups and activists, as it disclosed how "More teenagers than ever are seeking transitions, but the medical community that treats them is deeply divided about why — and what to do to help them."

In August 2019, the magazine was devoted to a special report called "The 1619 Project," a print and multi-part audio series of essays to mark the 400th anniversary of the first slaves arriving in America. It made the case, which remains a source of dispute with some historians, that the desire to retain slaves was "one of the primary reasons" colonists declared their independence from the British Empire. The paper later conceded in an editor's note that this central assertion was overblown. The paper partnered with the non-profit Pulitzer Center to make the magazine and a Pulitzer curriculum guide available to schools nationwide. For example, Chicago Public Schools made 200 to 400 copies of The Times project available to its 150 high schools, according to an announcement by the district.

The paper has expanded its digital operations aggressively with innovative graphics and photography, mobile apps, and well-staffed podcasts such as "The Daily." In 2019, The Times, in partnership with FX and Hulu, premiered "The Weekly" which a year later became a reformatted streaming version, "The New York Times Presents."

Credibility

The Times' staff publishes stories with original reporting by conducting firsthand interviews, referencing primary sources, and verifying stories broken by other outlets. The Times has some 30 international bureaus, and, according to a company spokesman, the Times reported from more than 160 countries in 2023. The bureaus and overall overseas coverage run counter to the cost-cutting trend

in the newspaper industry, as many newspapers have closed their international bureaus and cut reporting worldwide.

Because of the paper's scale and influence, its work is scrutinized intensely, and its errors also gain widespread notice. The paper has been involved in high-profile editorial scandals, including significant fabrications by former reporter Jayson Blair, which led to the 2003 departure of the paper's executive and managing editors as well as an extensive review of the paper's editorial practices. The Times published a report with its findings, which created standards and Public Editor positions at the paper.

The site includes separate email addresses and phone numbers for those seeking corrections on news stories and editorials. It runs corrections daily, with a senior editor and a news assistant assigned exclusively to corrections, according to a company spokesman. They work with more than 30 editors in separate subject areas whose jobs include the monitoring of possible corrections, said the spokesman.

For example, in June 2023, a few days after an Alabama men's basketball player sued the paper for defamation, the Times acknowledged it was wrong to report that the player was at the scene of a fatal shooting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The Times originally stood by its reporting, but subsequently added an editor's note on top of the original online story, acknowledging that it had misidentified freshman Kai Spears as a person at the scene. The lawsuit had prompted further reporting, the note said, "which determined that the other person at the scene was not Spears but Cooper Lee, a student manager for the team. The Times regrets the error in the initial report."

On Oct. 17, 2023, The Times and other media outlets published news of an explosion at a hospital in Gaza City during the early stages of the Israel-Hamas war that cited claims by Hamas, which had been designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and other Western governments, that an Israeli airstrike

was the cause and that hundreds had been killed. Israel soon denied responsibility for the blast, and cited an errant rocket launched by the Palestinian faction group Islamic Jihad, which in turn denied the accusation. American and other international officials, as well as subsequent forensic analyses by media organizations, concluded that evidence suggested that the rocket came from Palestinian fighter positions.

In an Oct. 23, 2023, Editor's Note, The Times said that its early coverage of the blast, "and the prominence it received in a headline, news alert and social media channels, relied too heavily on claims by Hamas, and did not make clear that those claims could not immediately be verified. The report left readers with an incorrect impression about what was known and how credible the account was." On the same day, the Times published a 20-minute audio interview of Executive Editor Joe Kahn by Times reporter Lulu-Garcia Navarro on the shortcomings of the coverage.

In December 2020, The Times published a two-month internal investigation concluding that "Caliphate," an award-winning 12-part, 2018 documentary podcast was deeply flawed and "did not meet the standards for Times journalism." The newspaper concluded that it "gave too much credence to the false or exaggerated accounts of one of its main subjects, Shehroze Chaudhry, a resident of Canada who claimed to have taken part in Islamic State executions." The series not only rose at the time to be No. 1 on Apple's list of most downloaded podcasts, but it later won an Overseas Press Club prize and a Peabody Award.

In an interview with the paper, then-Executive Editor Dean Baquet conceded significant flaws in both the reporting and in managerial oversight of the series. "It was a big, ambitious piece of journalism," he said. "And I did not provide that kind of scrutiny, nor did my top deputies with deep experience in examining investigative reporting." The paper's article quoted Ann Marie Lipinski, former editor in chief of The Chicago Tribune who runs the Nieman Foundation for

Journalism at Harvard, as stating that narrative journalism can be perilous.

“That’s a certain kind of storytelling that is much valued and does have this built-in entertainment quality. But you can never sacrifice the reporting to that.”

The newspapers’ editorial page reports to the newspaper’s publisher, not to executive editor Kahn, who oversees news coverage. That divide, typical at many large newspapers, can be lost on critics.

The paper’s editorials have consistently endorsed Democratic candidates in presidential elections and have not backed a Republican since Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. Although the newspaper does not disclose any ideological agenda on the site, editorials are generally liberal on social, cultural, and economic issues, including raising the minimum wage. Its coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a source of heated controversy, nearly always seen by one side as favoring the other.

Despite a mission statement and tagline of “Without Fear or Favor,” issued by Adolph S. Ochs in 1896 and invoked in “A Note From Our New Publisher” by Ochs descendant A.G. Sulzberger in 2018, The Times’ news coverage is often seen as biased by conservatives. Baquet, the then-executive editor, discussed the accusations of liberal bias publicly. “I would be lying if I did not say that a newsroom that is largely built in Manhattan does not have liberal leanings in the lifestyles and attitudes of its employees,” he said at a 2018 “Future of News” event held by the Financial Times. “That would be nuts if I said that. What I will say is that we have in our culture, and in our institution, a set of safeguards in editing that force us, that allow us, to kind of achieve that balance despite that.”

In a separate magazine interview, then-Managing Editor Joseph Kahn, who would later succeed Baquet, said the paper “has made it really clear that we consider it crucial to our future that we not become an opposition-news organization. We do not see ourselves, and we do not wish to be seen, as partisan media. That means that the news and opinion divide, and things like social media guidelines

and some of our traditional restrictions on political activity by employees, may feel cumbersome to some people at this point in our evolution.”

Nonetheless, an impression of partisanship lingers, especially among conservatives. There may be no better example than when the magazine’s “The 1619 Project,” which was not labeled as opinion, sought, as it told readers, “to reframe the country’s history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are.” The view was derided by prominent historians, including Gordon Wood, professor emeritus at Brown University, and James McPherson, professor emeritus at Princeton University, initially in interviews with the World Socialist Web Site and, later, in a request for corrections sent to the magazine and joined by three other academics.

Said Wood, “The idea that the Revolution occurred as a means of protecting slavery—I just don’t think there is much evidence for it, and in fact the contrary is more true to what happened. The Revolution unleashed antislavery sentiments that led to the first abolition movements in the history of the world.”

Nikole Hannah-Jones, then a magazine staff writer specializing in racial injustice, said “The 1619 Project” “decenters whiteness” and chided “old, white male historians” who criticized her, The Wall Street Journal reported. Hannah-Jones, the author of the project’s opening essay, tweeted about the Pulitzer Prize-winning McPherson: “Who considers him preeminent? I don’t.” A “Times Insider” feature about the magazine reported: “Almost every contributor in the magazine and special section — writers, photographers and artists — is black, a nonnegotiable aspect of the project that helps underscore its thesis, Ms. Hannah-Jones said.”

On Dec. 20, 2019, the website published letters from the five academics and a response by magazine editor Jake Silverstein, who defended the magazine’s

reporting and said that no corrections were warranted.

However, on March 11, 2020, Silverstein backtracked and wrote a clarification to a key passage in Hannah-Jones' opening essay. He wrote, "We recognize that our original language could be read to suggest that protecting slavery was a primary motivation for all of the colonists. The passage has been changed to make clear that this was a primary motivation for some of the colonists. A note has been appended to the story as well."

The original line stated that "one of the primary reasons the colonists decided to declare their independence from Britain was because they wanted to protect the institution of slavery." It was changed to "one of the primary reasons some of the colonists decided to declare their independence from Britain was because they wanted to protect the institution of slavery." The appended note on the essay read, "A passage has been adjusted to make clear that a desire to protect slavery was among the motivations of some of the colonists who fought the Revolutionary War, not among the motivations of all of them."

Some critics were not mollified, and found the clarification and change to be insufficient. For example, Jonathan Butcher, a Heritage Foundation education policy analyst, wrote that the thrust of the project is still flawed, namely that "American history began with slavery." He noted the ongoing use of the project's curricular materials by school systems, such as Chicago's, and urged concerned parents and education to "alert school district leaders about the correction and emphasize that many scholars have already said the curriculum is not appropriate for students."

Four years after its publication, the story remained a source of national dispute, especially after it premiered as a Hulu documentary series in January 2023, which was a collaboration among the newspaper, Hannah-Jones, and Oprah Winfrey. A February 2023 story in the left-leaning New Yorker, titled "Hulu's Fascinating and Incomplete '1619 Project,'" stated that "Nikole Hannah-Jones's documentary

series offers a damning portrait of American racism, but its emphasis on the past at times obscures the complexity of the present.” In the days following its unveiling, the unbridled derision of conservatives was epitomized by a Daily Mail story titled “Woke Disney is slammed for The 1619 Project on Hulu by viewers who have boycotted the service.”

The title of a New York Post assessment was “To vilify our founders, Hulu’s ‘1619’ ignores what actually sparked the American Revolution.” David Henderson, a research fellow with Stanford University’s Hoover Institution, and Phillip Magness, director of research at the American Institute for Economic Research and author of “The 1619 Project: A Critique,” co-wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed that damned the series with faint praise by stating, “Hulu’s series ‘The 1619 Project’ blames economic inequality between blacks and whites on ‘racial capitalism.’ But almost every example presented is the result of government policies that, in purpose or effect, discriminated against African-Americans. ‘The 1619 Project’ makes an unintentional case for capitalism.” In January 2024, the Hulu series won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series.

In June 2020, James Bennet, the editorial page editor, resigned three days after he said he had not read, prior to publication, an op-ed by Sen. Tom Cotton, a Republican from Arkansas, headlined “Send in the Troops.” The column argued for military intervention in cities where protests were marked by looting and violence over alleged police brutality, following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, and spurred many Times journalists to express outrage, including a letter signed by several hundred staff members. Both Bennet and Publisher A.G. Sulzberger, to whom the editorial page editor reports, originally defended the column. In the wake of the internal protest, the paper said it was a mistake to publish the article, and Sulzberger later wrote to staff, “Last week we saw a significant breakdown in our editing process, not the first we’ve

experienced in recent years.” James Dao, the deputy editorial page editor, was reassigned to the newsroom.

In December 2023, Bennet wrote a 17,000-word account in *The Economist* of the controversy in which he described what he deemed the newspaper’s “illiberal” culture, marked by journalists “more concerned with group rights than individual rights, which they regard as a bulwark for the privileges of white men.” Additionally, they “have seen the principle of free speech used to protect right-wing outfits,” and thus “do not believe readers can be trusted with potentially dangerous ideas or facts.” Bennet argued that the term “objectivity” is for them a term “code for ignoring the poor and weak and cosyng up to power, as journalists often have done.”

Bennet noted that the newsroom “had added more cultural critics, and, as Baquet noted, they were free to opine about politics. Departments across the Times newsroom had also begun appointing their own ‘columnists,’ without stipulating any rules that might distinguish them from columnists in Opinion. It became a running joke. Every few months, some poor editor in the newsroom or Opinion would be tasked with writing up guidelines that would distinguish the newsroom’s opinion journalists from those of Opinion, and every time they would ultimately throw up their hands.”

In response to Bennet’s criticism, Sulzberger issued a statement that did not address Bennet’s assessment on Times culture, but said, “I could not disagree more strongly with the false narrative he has constructed about The Times. Our commitment to independence is evident in our report every day.”

Coverage of the Trump administration reinforced views that the paper is biased. Conservative media, and President Trump himself, pointed to passages in “*Merchants of Truth*,” a book about the press by Jill Abramson, the paper’s first female executive editor, who was fired in 2014. “Though Baquet said publicly he didn’t want The Times to be the opposition party, his news pages were

unmistakably anti-Trump,” wrote Abramson, whose firing led to the promotion of Baquet. “Some headlines contained raw opinion, as did some of the stories that were labeled as news analysis.” Conservative media cited these assertions as proof of The Times’ bias, with Trump himself tweeting, “Ms. Abramson is 100% correct. Horrible and totally dishonest reporting on almost everything they write.” Abramson responded that the Fox News Channel, in particular, had taken her remarks out of context, and tweeted back at Trump, “Anyone who reads my book, Merchants of Truth, will find I revere @nytimes and praise its tough coverage of you.”

During the Trump presidency, Baquet said, “I don’t think we’ve ever had somebody who in my time as a journalist so openly lies, and that was a word that we struggled to actually utter.” The paper initially used the word “lie” twice in stories and once in a headline on Sept. 16, 2016, according to a subsequent column by its Public Editor (a newsroom position eliminated in 2017). The references were to then-presidential candidate Trump’s decision to no longer cast doubt on whether President Obama was born in the U.S., with the headline stating, “Trump Gives Up a Lie but Refuses to Repent.”

Use of the word “lie” inspires arguments over whether it is appropriate, given a belief that use of the word presumes knowledge of a speaker’s intent. However, NewsGuard found that opinion columnists often referred to President Trump’s statements as lies (more than 40 times by Charles Blow.) However, the news section also uses the word regularly. For example, a January 2024 story was headlined, “On Jan. 6 Anniversary, Trump Repeats Lie That 2020 Election Was Stolen,” while an August 2023 headline stated, “Trump Election Charges Set Up Clash of Lies Versus Free Speech.”

Despite Trump’s regular claims of systemic falsehoods by The Times and other mainstream media, he has regularly been wrong when making specific claims of error. For example, when the paper reported in 2019 on President Trump’s discussions with then-acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker, the President

alleged that The Times had not contacted the White House for comment. White House correspondent Maggie Haberman said that the allegation was “a lie” in an appearance on CNN. She also tweeted that she had sent the White House emails that went unanswered. “We went through a detailed list of what we were planning on reporting,” she said on CNN. “They chose not to engage.

Trump’s four criminal indictments, and his 2023 decision to again seek the presidency, prompted extensive coverage of Trump, and frequent references to his claims as falsehoods, which it continues to routinely call “lies.” An August 2023 story following his federal indictment for allegedly conspiring to overturn the 2020 election, headlined “Fact-Checking the Breadth of Trump’s Election Lies” stated, “The former president faces multiple charges related to his lies about the 2020 election. Here’s a look at some of his most repeated falsehoods.”

A subsequent August 2023 story, “Fact-Checking the Breadth of Trump’s Election Lies,” quickly summarized its general take: “The former president faces multiple charges related to his lies about the 2020 election. Here’s a look at some of his most repeated falsehoods.”

Indeed, derision of Trump courses through basic news stories. For example, a Jan. 6, 2024 story reads like an editorial: “Trump Signals an Election Year Full of Falsehoods on Jan. 6 and Democracy.” This story declared, “Mr. Trump and his campaign are engaged in an audacious and baseless attempt to paint Mr. Biden as the true menace to the nation’s foundational underpinnings. Mr. Trump’s strategy aims to upend a world in which he has publicly called for suspending the Constitution, vowed to turn political opponents into legal targets and suggested that the nation’s top military general should be executed.”

The paper’s mixing of news and opinion without signaling it is doing so goes far beyond its Trump coverage, often without providing what its frequent use of “Analysis” and “Commentary” do in apprising readers of more opinionated content.

In an August 2023 story in the news section titled “Emulating Trump, Ramaswamy Shows a Penchant for Dispensing with the Facts,” an unlabeled news story opened, “In his breakout performance in the Republican primary race, Vivek Ramaswamy has harnessed his populist bravado while frequently and unapologetically contorting the truth for political gain, much in the same way that former President Donald J. Trump has mastered. Mr. Ramaswamy’s pattern of falsehoods has been the subject of intensifying scrutiny by the news media and, more recently, his GOP opponents, who clashed with him often during the party’s first debate last Wednesday.” Again, this story was not labeled analysis.

Another August 2023 news story, on the first Republican presidential debate, assumed a cynical tactical motive by one candidate as it opened, “Ron DeSantis wanted to dodge a debate question about a six-week federal abortion ban. So the Florida governor pulled out a personal story, one that had recently become part of his pitch to voters on the need for greater regulation of abortion rights.”

A June 2023 news story, on the Supreme Court overturning affirmative action in higher education, made a grandiose claim about the possible impact on society and the court: “It also reflected President Donald J. Trump’s outsize imprint on the court after his appointment of three justices, renewing questions about whether the court’s approach, which on Thursday upended more than 40 years of precedent, threatens the stability of the law and the court’s legitimacy.”

An August 2023 story, “Clarence Thomas’s \$267,230 R.V. and the Friend Who Financed It” followed stories in ProPublica about allegedly lax public financial disclosures by Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice Samuel Alito Jr. The subheadline of the story was acerbic: “The vehicle is a key part of the justice’s just-folks persona. It’s also a luxury motor coach that was funded by someone else’s money.”

In addition, opinion is often found in newsletters and articles whose labels, such as “Political Memo,” are likely not to be understood by the average reader as

marking a difference with a typical news story, or to confer an editorial license, as do labels such as "Analysis" or "Commentary," or if the story was placed in the op-ed section.

For example, a June 2023 "The Morning" newsletter on Trump's election campaign stated, "Perhaps most important, Trump himself looks miserable. Even as Republican voters have largely rallied behind him, and even as he remains the front-runner to secure the Republican nomination despite his cascading legal problems, he appears to be wrestling with the reality that his freedom is in jeopardy."

A January 2024 "Political Memo," on Trump's overwhelming victory in the Iowa caucus, was titled "After Iowa, Trump Is Back to Command the National Psyche. He Never Actually Left," ran at the top both the website and the print edition, with typography and layout not suggesting any difference from the straight news stories surrounding it. "There was a time, not so long ago, when those wearied and horrified by the presidency of Donald J. Trump could almost convince themselves that the man was gone..." the article stated. "His screeds on Truth Social did not land with the force of their tweeted predecessors. Even as a declared presidential candidate for the past 14 months, Mr. Trump often ceded the campaign trail to his rivals (who mostly fought one another, instead of him), skipping debates and appearing only episodically at public engagements that were not matters of the courts."

A January 2024, "Climate Forward" newsletter, headlined "Davos puts Climate on the Back Burner" stated: "The Davos program changes from year to year, but the agita that animates this gathering is always the same: The issues at the top of the agenda are a) the ones that powerful people are most afraid of, and b) the ones they think they can make money from. Last year it was cryptocurrency and the war in Ukraine. This year it is A.I. and the possibility of another Trump presidency. Climate change has largely been relegated to the back burner."

And an October 2022 culture issue of the Magazine included an unlabeled article by two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Wesley Morris on “American Culture Is Trash Culture--It’s not just that trash is what Americans want from movies; it’s who we are. So where did it go?” Morris wrote, “The gutter is where our popular culture began, and the gaminess lurking there is our truest guise. ... Donald Trump is trash’s Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, this life-size, seemingly contained thing that a freak accident of slime and ghosts turns into a menacing 10-story engorgement.”

The blending of news and opinion is also reflected in a turn to more impressionistic journalism through beat reporters often taking part in live group blogs and more free-wheeling podcasts, during breaking news events, such as presidential debates, the State of the Union address, and Trump’s arraignments, and offering their personal takes on what is transpiring.

Because the Times often presents unlabeled opinion as news, NewsGuard has determined that the newspaper does not meet the standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

In response to NewsGuard’s questions about the articles cited above, company spokesperson Naseem Amini did not address any specifics and said in a January 2024 email: "Our news report brings together firsthand accounts, insights and necessary context that, paired with reporters' deep expertise in the field, helps readers understand the bigger picture around complex news topics. Our opinion journalism serves readers in an entirely different way, offering a wide range of explicit perspectives on relevant issues."

The Times has won 133 Pulitzer Prizes, which are journalism’s highest honor, more than any news publisher. (The Washington Post is second with 73.) In 2023, The Times won for both Mona Chalabi’s “9 Ways to Judge Jeff Bezos’ Wealth,” and for staff reporting of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, notably an eight-month effort into

uncovering Ukrainian deaths in the town of Bucha and the Russian unit responsible for the killings.

In 2022, the paper was awarded three Pulitzers. Contributing critic at large Salamishah Tillet won the criticism prize for her entry of seven columns, including a May 20, 2021, one titled “It’s My Job to Watch. With George Floyd’s Death, I Had to Look Away.” The judges called Tillet’s columns “learned and stylish writing about Black stories in art and popular culture—work that successfully bridges academic and nonacademic critical discourse.” The Times’ two other 2022 Pulitzers were won by the staff in national reporting, “For an ambitious project that quantified a disturbing pattern of fatal traffic stops by police, illustrating how hundreds of deaths could have been avoided and how officers typically avoided punishment,” and in international reporting, “For courageous and relentless reporting that exposed the vast civilian toll of U.S.-led airstrikes, challenging official accounts of American military engagements in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.”

Transparency

The New York Times website discloses ownership through a link to its corporate site, added in December 2019 to the bottom of the home page.

The site publishes information about most reporters, allowing readers to click on their names to find biographical and contact information. A Contact Us page gives information on contacting different areas of the newsroom, as well as the editorial and op-ed pages, although it does not list specific editors in those areas.

The corporate site’s extensive background on the company includes biographies of editorial personnel and its board of directors, as well as a mission statement that states a core belief “that great journalism has the power to make each reader’s life richer and more fulfilling, and all of society stronger and more just.”

In 2017, The Times eliminated the position of Public Editor, a role intended to address reader concerns and editorial practices. Then-publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. said the move reflected changes in social media and the internet that combine “to collectively serve as a modern watchdog, more vigilant and forceful than one person could ever be. Our responsibility is to empower all of those watchdogs, and to listen to them, rather than to channel their voice through a single office.”

Concurrently, The Times established its Reader Center, an editorial team aimed at engaging readers, increasing the paper’s transparency, and maintaining loyal subscribers. The section solicits comments and ideas from readers, and it regularly publishes feedback to controversial stories or explanations of the reporting process. One series, titled “Understanding The Times,” seeks to explain the news organization’s basic journalistic practices, such as its use of anonymous sources or corrections policy.

Advertising on the site is distinguished from editorial content.

History

Founded in 1851, The New York Times grew significantly throughout the 20th century and looked beyond local coverage to become one of the nation’s most significant media institutions. The news organization has been involved in high-profile Supreme Court cases involving freedom of the press and freedom of speech. It won a major case concerning libel law in 1964 and another concerning prior restraint in 1971 over its publication of the Pentagon Papers, a secret government history of the Vietnam War.

Its range has been broad. In 1970 it exposed how gamblers, drug dealers, and small businesses made “illicit payments of millions of dollars a year to the policemen of New York” (a key source, a loner and bohemian police officer named Frank Serpico, inspired the Hollywood film “Serpico,” starring Al Pacino). Reporter Sydney Schanberg’s accounts of the fall of Cambodia won a 1972

Pulitzer and inspired “The Killing Fields,” which won three Academy Awards. (Schanberg was portrayed by Sam Waterston.) A daily special section, “A Nation Challenged,” captured the national mood and fear in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. A 2005 series on secret domestic eavesdropping by the government predated by eight years disclosures of secret surveillance programs of the National Security Agency leaked by Edward Snowden, a former NSA contractor. Its reporting throughout 2017 and 2018 contributed significantly to a shift in cultural attitudes on sexual harassment and assault.

The Times history includes serious missteps, perhaps the most notable being the 1931 Pulitzer Prize-winning reporting from the Stalin-era Soviet Union by Walter Duranty, a celebrated foreign correspondent. His work has been thoroughly discredited for accepting Soviet propaganda and underplaying Stalin’s brutality, including the collectivization of agriculture that led to famine and to the deaths of millions of people in the Ukraine. The paper thoroughly acknowledged the reporting as flawed, but the Pulitzer board has declined to revoke the 1932 award.

In November 2023, Jazmine Hughes, a Magazine staff writer who had won a National Magazine Award for profiles produced for the paper, resigned “after she violated the newsroom’s policies by signing a [public] letter that voiced support for Palestinians and protested Israel’s siege in Gaza.” according to a story in the paper. The magazine’s editor said she had previously violated the same policy by signing another public letter, protesting Times coverage of transgender issues.

In February 2021, the newspaper disclosed the departure of two journalists who had generated internal controversy for past behavior, and in one case prompted newsroom criticism of management.

Donald G. McNeil Jr., a prominent science and health reporter, left shortly after the Daily Beast reported he used the N-word during a 2019 Times-sponsored trip to Peru with high school students in which he served as an expert guide. McNeil said both to management and his own statement to colleagues “that he had used

the slur in a discussion with a student about the suspension of a classmate who had used the term,” according to The Times story on his departure. He also said of his use of the term: “It is deeply offensive and hurtful. The fact that I even thought I could defend it itself showed extraordinarily bad judgment. For that I apologize.”

More than 150 staffers sent a letter to Times management, displeased that an internal investigation had resulted in a note to staff from Dean Baquet that said McNeil deserved “another chance.” The staff letter to Baquet and other top management maintained that despite the organization’s “seeming commitment to diversity and inclusion,” it was continuing to give a critical beat (covering the pandemic) “to someone who chose to use language that is offensive and unacceptable by any newsroom’s standards.” Management, including Baquet, then indicated agreement with those employees in a second note to staff, and McNeil departed. In his second statement, Baquet wrote, “We do not tolerate racist language regardless of intent.”

Editor’s Note: This Nutrition Label was updated on Feb, 1, 2024, to reflect that NYTimes.com no longer meets NewsGuard standards for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly. The criteria checklist was adjusted accordingly. It was previously updated on May 10, 2022, June 11, 2021, Feb. 9, 2021, Dec. 18, 2020, and March 16, 2020.

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