

lecture 6

“JOURNALISTS & MISTAKES”



The Critical Current
Summer Enrichment 2016

NEWS of

the **WEEK**



THERESA MAY
 Home Secretary (2010-present)
 POSITION ON BREXIT
 Eurosceptic but supported Remain

“ Brexit means Brexit.... No attempts to remain inside the EU, no attempts to rejoin it through the back door, and no second referendum. ”



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THE SYRACUSE HERALD.

5
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THE 35th ANNIVERSARY

SYRACUSE, N. Y., MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 13, 1912.—SIXTEEN PAGES

ON SUNDAY EVENINGS IN
 SYRACUSE AT 10 O'CLOCK P. M.

TITANIC'S PASSENGERS ALL RESCUED

Giant New Liner Limping in Toward Halifax, Badly Damaged

**DEFALCATION AT
 NEW BERLIN BANK
 EXCEEDS \$300,000**

**Examination of Books Shows
 Big Increase in Assets'
 Savings.**

CASHER IS IMPROVING

**Defaulter's Health Not so Bad as
 Reported — Depositor Cashier
 at Door of Bank—Assets
 Come Promptly to Surface
 and Estimated Liability.**

Syracuse, April 13.—The announcement by the directors of the New Berlin Bank, that the defalcation of the cashier, which was reported to have exceeded \$300,000, is not so serious as it at first appeared, and that the assets of the bank are sufficient to meet the liabilities, has caused a great deal of interest here.

The cashier, who is reported to be improving, is said to have been at the door of the bank when the directors met to discuss the matter. It is also reported that the assets of the bank are being estimated and that the liability is being estimated.

**HOW TITANIC'S 1,300 PASSENGERS WERE RESCUED
 AFTER LINER SMASHED BOWS ON HUGE ICEBERG**



**U. S. WARNING TO
 MEXICO HINT THAT
 INVASION IS NEAR**

**State Department's Forceful
 Note Brings Relations to
 Lowest Point**

Syracuse, April 13.—The State Department today issued a forceful note to Mexico, hinting that an invasion of the United States is near. The note is the most serious one yet issued by the State Department in the history of the United States-Mexico relations.

The note is a direct result of the recent events in Mexico, and is said to be the most forceful one yet issued by the State Department. It is also said to be the most serious one yet issued by the State Department in the history of the United States-Mexico relations.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
 SHIP CRASHES INTO
 ICEBERG AT NIGHT,**

**S. O. S. Wireless Signal of Distress
 Brings Many Other Liners in Great
 Race to Scene of Disaster.**

**STEAMERS CARPATHIA AND VIRGINIA
 FIRST THERE—TAKE ON PASSENGERS**

**New York Office of White Star Line Receives Wireless
 Telling of Successful Transfer at Sea — Titanic
 Limping Toward Halifax, Kept Afloat by Water-
 tight Compartments—1,300 Leave Stricken Titanic
 in Small Boats.**

London, N. Y., April 13.—The White Star Line today received a wireless message from the Titanic, which was the first of its kind. The message was received at the New York office of the White Star Line, and it was said to be the most important one yet received by the White Star Line.

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ALL SAFELY TRANSFERRED
 The passengers of the Titanic were taken off in great numbers and all were safely transferred to the other ships. The Titanic was kept afloat by its water-tight compartments, and it was said to be the most important one yet received by the White Star Line.

**TWO OCEAN GREYHOUNDS REACH TITANIC
 TAKE PASSENGERS ABOARD FROM SMALL BOATS**

New York, April 13.—Two President Franklin D. Roosevelt Greyhound Motor Company motor cars arrived at 11 P. M. today, bringing with them a wireless message from Captain Parkes of the Titanic. The message was received at the New York office of the White Star Line, and it was said to be the most important one yet received by the White Star Line.

Objective: Understand how journalists work and make decisions, and why they make mistakes.

Journalists are not perfect. Mistakes can be made.

- **There is a need for corrections that address the range of errors journalists make.**
- **The nature and fast-paced world of journalism can lead to error.**
- **Do news organizations correct most of their mistakes?**
- **How can journalists and readers learn from mistakes?**

SOME INFORMATION ADAPTED FROM THE SOURCE: <http://www.poynter.org/2010/why-journalists-make-mistakes-what-we-can-do-about-them/104195/>

Types of mistakes

- **Mis-spelled names, errors in age identification, qualifications, etc...v. missing the story completely.**
- **When small mistakes are made, usually there is an editor's note the following day and the correction is made (there are mechanisms in place for these minor mistakes).**
- **When big mistakes are made, there are very few instances or systems in place to set the record straight. They usually run a follow-up article that redefines the story without formally saying that they're "correcting" anything.**

Woman uploads 12 million pictures of her trip to Europe on Facebook

TAGS: Arielle Stevens | Facebook account | Eurotrip 2012 | Europe



◀ Arielle Stevens had clicked these pictures during a six-day vacation to Paris and Madrid.

Can you beat this? A Facebook user has uploaded more than 12 million pictures of her tour to Europe. Arielle Stevens had clicked these pictures during a six-day vacation to Paris and Madrid.

She has named the online album Eurotrip 2012!!! It was reportedly assembled from more than 15 terabytes of data. The photo gallery documents major landmarks, drinks, food, building, plants, people and hotels, to name a few.

"It took me a while to get my vacation pics organized, but I've finally gotten them all uploaded and added a caption for each one," Stevens has been quoted as saying.

"Everything is now available to see, from the 400,000 shots of the Madrid skyline taken at dusk from the roof of our hostel to the 120,000 of the row of cute Vespa scooters parked on the sidewalk next door - even the 1.2 million from the night we arrived and went out to dinner with a group of Americans we met," she said.

-With agency inputs



HONG KONG



AROUND
WORLD

GIANT HORNETS KILL 42 PEOPLE IN CHINA

LIVE
CNN

RIGHT NOW

CHICAGO

71°

DETROIT

66°

HOUSTON

77°

RS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION IN MIRIAM CAREY'S HC

3:46 AM PT

Obama bin Laden is dead, but the 'war on terror' continues

• CONTINUED FROM A1

by people seeking democracy and human rights – notions anathema to bin Laden, who once said democracy was akin to idolatry as it placed man's desires above God's.

The arm of al-Qaeda that now poses the biggest threat is its affiliate in Yemen, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), say US officials. Other al-Qaeda-linked groups have grown in ambition and lethality.

"As a matter of leadership of terrorist operations, bin Laden has really not been the main story for some time," said Paul Pillar, a former senior US intelligence official.

"The instigation of most operations has been at the periphery not the centre – and by twynghere I'm in-

tion that bin Laden died an honourable death in battle.

"Bin Laden's death is a significant victory for the United States. But it is more symbolic than concrete," said Fawaz Gerges, an al-Qaeda expert at the London School of Economics.

"The world had already moved beyond bin Laden and al-Qaeda. Operationally al-Qaeda's command and control had been crippled and their top leaders had either been arrested or killed.

"More importantly, al-Qaeda has lost the struggle for hearts and minds in the Arab world and elsewhere and has had trouble attracting follower and skilled recruits."

Thomas Hegghammer, a specialist on militancy at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, si

Oops, let me clarify...

- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A28209-2004Jul4.html> - The Lexington Herald-Leader wrote in 2004, “It has come to our attention that the Herald Leader neglected to cover the Civil Rights Movement. We regret the omission.”
- <http://io9.gizmodo.com/the-greatest-newspaper-correction-ever-written-49-year-1491590487> - The New York Times (in 1969) retracts or corrects saying that space flight is impossible (1920 editorial)

Examples

- <http://www.adweek.com/socialtimes/the-facebook-and-google-security-threat-that-wasnt/318081?red=af> - Blogger Scott O'Neill removes (instead of correcting) and rewrites a post about his mistake - saying that there was a privacy breach through Facebook (when in reality, it was user error)
- Is unpublishing a piece a solution?

Why mistakes are made

- “Traditionally, news organizations have confirmed information and then published it. But these days, many in the Fifth Estate and even some in the Fourth Estate view journalism as a process that involves publishing information and confirming it along the way.”
- “There’s this new culture whereby it’s totally fine to put half-baked lead up there. Certainly if you’re going to do it, it’s appropriate to flay it as unconfirmed and unverified.” - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/linkset/2009/02/25/LI2009022502075.html>

More Examples:

- [60 Minutes Benghazi Report](#) - October, 2013-
“60 Minutes” aired a report that called into question the official version of what happened when the U.S. Diplomatic Compound was attacked in Benghazi, Libya

Find more examples & funny ones too here:

<http://www.poynter.org/2013/the-best-and-worst-media-errors-and-corrections-in-2013/233613/>

More Examples:

- Boston Marathon - New York Post - Front page - “BAG MEN” cover (April 2013)

Tsarnaev brothers (Tamerlan died and Dzhokar is sentenced to death) - THESE GUYS WERE NOT THEM.

<http://www.poynter.org/2013/the-best-and-worst-media-errors-and-corrections-in-2013/233613/>



More Examples:

[The Worst of Journalism 2014](#)

[The Decade's biggest Journalism Blunders](#)

[Quora Poll - What are some of the biggest journalism blunders from your country?](#)

The 4th estate v. The 5th estate

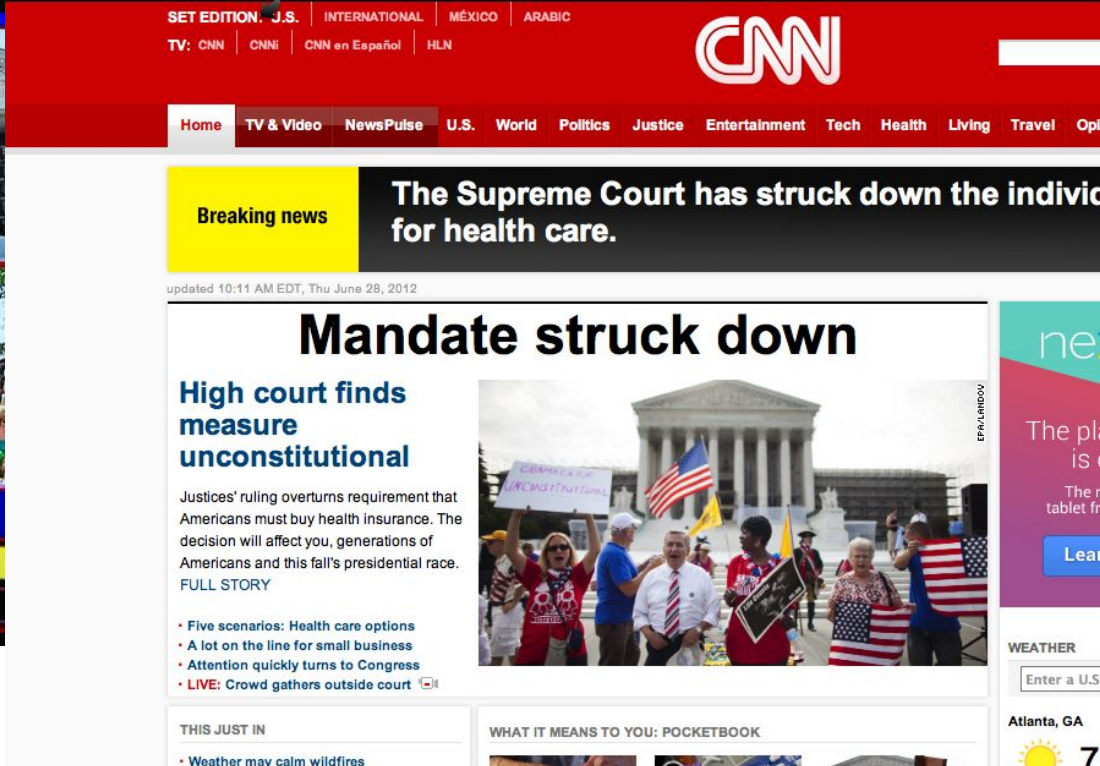
- **4th estate - traditional news media, print journalism**
- **5th estate - outlier viewpoints in society - bloggers, journalists/non-mainstream media outlets**
- **Is it the 5th estate's job to correct the 4th estate's mistakes?**
- **Due to the digital revolution and the structural changes in the news media (5th estate) - the accelerated pace can prevent us from seeing the deeper meaning of stories and cause us to miss the point of them entirely.**
- **"Honestly, when you're turning stories around that hastily without doing the background work, you don't have time to think clearly about them. I see this in myself when I'm writing something frantically on deadline. My thought process isn't as deep and substantive." - Katheryn Schulz**

We made a mistake. So what?

- Human error can transform our perceptions of the world and of ourselves.
- “Regret the Error: How media mistakes pollute the press and imperil free speech” by Craig Silverman
- <http://niemanreports.org/articles/confessing-errors-in-a-digital-age/> - Fewer than 2% of the factual errors identified by news sources are corrected.
- Media credibility! Public trust in the news media is important for DEMOCRACY!
- Inspire trust by acknowledging mistakes.



BRIAN WILLIAMS – NBC Nightly News Host – In February 2015, Williams was suspended for six months from the broadcast for misrepresenting his experience in the **2003 invasion of Iraq**.



<http://www.poynter.org/2012/the-best-and-worst-media-errors-and-corrections-of-2012/197279/>

MARATHON
BING



THIS JUST IN! WE HAVE
BREAKING NEWS RETRACTING
THE **BREAKING NEWS** THAT
CORRECTED THE PREVIOUS
BREAKING NEWS...

NEWS

Excerpts from KATHERYN SHULZ's book "Being Wrong"

- **"We're always quick to note that we're human and humans are fallible, but we don't embrace the act of correction as a way to deal with our inherent fallibility," said Regret the Error's Silverman. "There needs to be a change in the way we approach mistakes -- less about shame and more about learning from our errors."**
- **Often, we learn more from being wrong than from being right. The errors we make in the stories we tell as journalists, then, become an important part of the story of our lives.**
- **"To err is to wander, and wandering is the way we discover the world; and, lost in thought, it is also the way we discover ourselves," Schulz writes in her book. "Being right might be gratifying, but in the end it is static, a mere statement. Being wrong is hard and humbling, and sometimes even dangerous, but in the end it is a journey, and a story."**

FYI-Mistakes are NOT the same as the intentional misrepresentation of information.

- It is important to realize the mistakes are NOT intentional; that's why they are called mistakes.
- When information is intentionally changed, skewed, or reported as fact (when it is false or inaccurate), that goes **AGAINST** the ethics of journalism (*aka state-run media sources in many countries around the world do this as well as biased news agencies in our own country and many countries around the world may do this*).

BLOG POST

- **Why is it important for consumers of news media to be given accurate information that does not have mistakes? Why does it matter so much?**
- **Why are mistakes valuable? How are they both positive and negative? What do we gain and what do we lose?**
- **Whose responsibility is it to find, understand, and or correct the mistakes that are made in journalism?**
- **As a student journalists, what actions should you take to ensure that you don't make mistakes? If you do make mistakes, should you reveal and admit you made those mistakes? Or should you hide those mistakes? Explain your reasoning.**