
From: Tom Phillips <tom.phillips@buzzfeed.com>
To: Luke Lewis <luke.lewis@buzzfeed.com>
CC: Alan White <alan.white@buzzfeed.com>; Rossalyn Warren <rossalyn.warren@buzzfeed.com>; UKnews <uknews@buzzfeed.com>
Sent: 12/1/2014 6:17:25 AM
Subject: Re: Send me ur FAKES

Yeah, it's about establishing a pattern of dubiousness, you only need a few definitive fakes plus a load of dodgy-sounding ones. In many cases, I remember from back in the day, CEN would file on stories from tabloids that in their countries were widely known to be Sunday Sport/National Enquirer type outlets – you can establish that by talking to journalists from those countries, etc.

(HOWEVER for the purposes of this hiveminding I would like things that have actually been debunked, not just that we consider dubious.)

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:12 AM, Luke Lewis wrote:

You might not have to. Could interview verification experts, someone like Craig Silverman, and get to the point where there was enough of a question mark over the stories.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:08 AM, Alan White wrote:

Alright well let's me and Roz work on it in the background then.

I suppose what we have to do is make contact with local reporters in those areas who are somewhere near those remote locations where this outrageous stuff allegedly happens. Even then, I just don't quite see how were going to reach the point where we can go "This is definitely fake".

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:05 AM, Luke Lewis wrote:

It's fascinating.

I think a feature on it would go down a storm.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:04 AM, Rossalyn Warren wrote:

i still feel like we can plant a story so CEN pick it up, and write about 1. how they pick it up. 2. how all other sites pick it up.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Luke Lewis wrote:

Start chipping away at it now?

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Alan White wrote:

It would be great but it would take a really, really long time.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:01 AM, Luke Lewis wrote:

I still love Alan's idea of an investigation into CEN. Inside the viral bullshit factory.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 11:00 AM, Alan White wrote:

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 10:59 AM, Rossalyn Warren wrote:

99% of CEN stories.

off the top of my head:

woman sat in KFC for a week after being dumped <http://time.com/3531520/woman-spends-week-in-kfc-after-getting-dumped/>

total bollocks.

man divorces woman after seeing her face <http://nymag.com/thecut/2014/11/saudi-man-divorces-wife-after-he-sees-her-face.html>

total bollocks.

these kind of stories never have a source to the local news story it has apparently come from. ever.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 10:58 AM, Alan White wrote:

Woman paying for trip round china with sex.

Every other CEN story ever.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 10:57 AM, Luke Lewis wrote:

Woman crying in KFC for days cos she'd been dumped.

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 10:54 AM, Alan White wrote:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 10:53 AM, Tom Phillips wrote:

[REDACTED] so please tell me all of the news stories you can think of from 2014 that the internet thought were true but actually weren't true.

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