
From: Alan White <alan.white@buzzfeed.com>
To: Robert Colvile <robert.colvile@buzzfeed.com>
CC: Tom Phillips <tom.phillips@buzzfeed.com>; Luke Lewis <luke.lewis@buzzfeed.com>; Craig Silverman <craig.silverman@buzzfeed.com>
Sent: 4/27/2015 9:15:10 AM
Subject: Re: The King of Bullshit News

Hey,

Yeah, I'm really keen to work on this from tomorrow, the story of a man who had his life ruined by a fake viral news story would be powerful. Will need a trip to the village, somehow finding a snapper, Anna's help probably (or maybe this guy?)...

In short awesome story but will take a bit of time so you'll be missing me from election coverage: I'd go next weekend but I have family things to deal with, so it will need to be a weekday trip I think. Luke can you and I talk through tomorrow?

On 27 Apr 2015, at 13:42, Robert Colvile wrote:

Great, thanks.

On 27 April 2015 at 12:40, Tom Phillips wrote:

I really need to focus on ~new formats~ this week but can do some prep work this afternoon – will see if I can find this PCC ruling, etc.

On Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 12:38 PM, Luke Lewis wrote:

Whose story is this, then?

Whoever writes it should talk to Anna.

On Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 12:37 PM, Robert Colvile wrote:

That's a great shout.

On 27 April 2015 at 12:36, Tom Phillips wrote:

We could also maybe see if Anna Neyman is up for a cheeky bit of freelance work? Could be handy to have a native Polish speaker...

On Mon, Apr 27, 2015 at 12:32 PM, Robert Colvile wrote:

Wondering whether it might be worth our while, if Alan has a day free, to visit the Polish village? Seems like this guy might be able to put us in touch.

Will also ask Miriam if she has/knows anyone in Hungary - I know we tried re finding the Crisans but worth putting in another heave.

On 26 April 2015 at 08:52, Luke Lewis wrote:

Definitely follow up with this Polish guy. The next stage of this investigation is to show how people's lives were actually affected by these fabricated stories.

On 26 Apr 2015 7:34 am, "Alan White" wrote:

Great, off tomorrow but I'll reach out to Sunday times guy on Tuesday, think we should also do this guy below.

On 26 Apr 2015, at 03:46, Craig Silverman wrote:

I also heard from a reputable journalist who did a very brief stint there and then got out due to what he saw. Says he has more to tell me. I'll get any info to you early next week.

On Sat, Apr 25, 2015 at 5:12 PM, Alan White wrote:

Here's that new story you were after.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tomasz Oryński
Date: 25 April 2015 21:43:00 CEST
To: alan.white@buzzfeed.com, craig.silverman@buzzfeed.com, tom.phillips@buzzfeed.com
Subject: Re: The King of Bullshit News

Dear sirs,

I am writing to you on the matter of Central European News agency. I am a freelance Polish journalist and I happened to be involved with the story published by Daily Mail and British clone of Huffington Post in which the unfortunate accident with a Santa's sledge that happened in Poland was portrayed as a drink-driving incident. CEN achieved their aim by putting words into the mouth of two witnesses and inventing third one.

I happened to speak with one of those witnessed and ms Martyna Sokołowska from a local internet portal in the area

spoke with other one. They both deny ever speaking the words. We both failed to find the third witness, that was supposed to be yet another local person, but nobody ever heard about her, and this is really small village.

The story run by CEN had a huge impact on the life of one of the witnesses, as when the story broke in British media, he was accused by the local community of lying and smearing the victims in order to make money on his story. He was even about to be sued, he was hounded by the whole community (it is a really small place) and he was even thinking about taking his life... The brief account of that story can be read here: <http://gazetae.com/artykuly/butterfly-effect>

I agreed to represent him in Press Complain Commision, as he does not speak any English, and I won, Daily Mail and HuffPost were forced to publish clarification. As you can guess, it's simply pyrric victory.

Therefore I would like to offer that if you even will be sued by CEN, I am happy to testify as a witness, and I can put you in touch with mr Mołodyński, who was a victim of the CEN actions, and with ms Sokołowska, who was following the story locally.

I am glad to see that you are taking them head on, and I am supporting you in every way.

Keep up that good job!

Tomasz Oryński

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