

Last November, within a few hours of each other, some of the biggest news websites in the world published the attention-grabbing story of an attractive Argentinian teacher who had been having sex with her 16-year-old student. A video of their tryst had made its way to a porn website, turning an already tabloid-ready tale into an irresistible blend of titillation and internet depravity.

Comment [1]: Accepted suggestion

Britain's *Daily Mirror* and *Metro*, the *New York Daily News* and others paired the story with an image of the woman posing poolside in her bikini. "Teacher suspended after sex session with teen pupil ends up on hardcore porn website," read the *Mirror's* headline. The *Daily Mail* – the most successful English-language newspaper website in the world – even claimed that there would be a criminal investigation, and that this wasn't the first time that the teacher in question had had sexual relations with a student.

Between them, the articles published by X major garnered more than XXX views / were shared more than XXX times on social media. [****]

There was just one problem: it wasn't true.

A full two weeks before the English-language media picked up the story, it had already been debunked by a local paper in Argentina, *Nuevo Diario*. As BuzzFeed News reported at the time (<http://www.buzzfeed.com/tvanhatehis/the-lucita-sandoval-sex-tape>), the video didn't show an underage boy. The woman in the video was a teacher, but she wasn't from Santiago del Estero. And she probably wasn't called Lucita Sandoval (the *Nuevo Diario* decided to keep the names of those really involved private, out of respect for their privacy). Some of the sites updated their articles, but some (<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/teacher-suspended-after-sex-session-4559316>) remain inaccurate to this day. [****]

So how did the unfortunate leaking of a private sex tape become a lurid tale of forbidden love between teacher and student? And how did it make the leap from WhatsApp messages and South American news sites to the global media? The answer is tucked away in the photo credit at bottom right-hand corner of the photo of the woman in her bikini: "CEN". [****]

Central European News and its sister agency Europics are a small and – outside certain sections of the media – largely unknown news agencies based in Vienna, Austria. In recent years, CEN has become familiar to news editors as a persistent source of outrageous stories of dubious origin that often depict people in India, China and other non-Western countries as ignorant, barbaric, sex-crazed and just plain weird.

Comment [2]: Accepted suggestion

CEN has, for example, demonstrated a strange and unrelenting proclivity for stories about men's penises being chopped off. Some are seemingly true; others appear to be false, or at least highly questionable, due to the lack of any confirming details. In at least one case, the same image of a supposed victim was used to illustrate two entirely different stories.

Comment [3]: Accepted suggestion

To be clear: BuzzFeed News has in the past bought pictures and copy from CEN, and has written about stories that have originated with the agency. There is a list of these posts at the bottom of this article. But for several months, it has been the policy of this organisation that any stories originating from the agency should be treated with extreme suspicion. This article is, in part, an effort to explain why.

The questionable nature of CEN's content is something of an open secret among online news and picture desk editors. *New York Times* technology columnist Farhad Manjoo recently indicated his familiarity with its handiwork:

Comment [4]: Accepted suggestion



Chris King
@chriskking

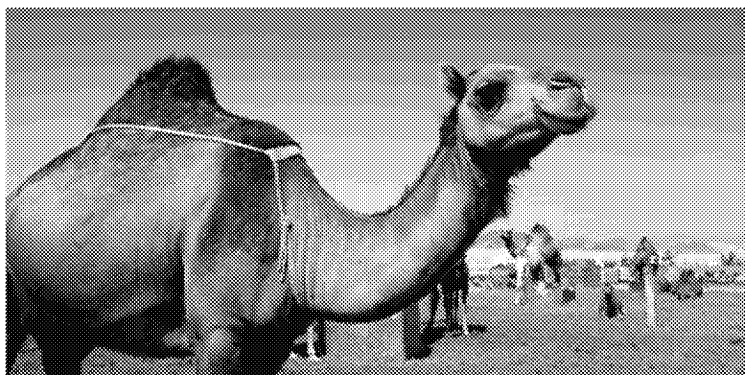


Follow

Central European News at it again:
huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/03/09/cam...



HuffPost UK



Divorce For Saudi Wife Who 'Loved A Camel More Than Her Husband'

A Saudi Arabian man has divorced his wife after an awkward trip to the country's capital of Riyadh. The unnamed couple were visiting the wife's family home when things began to fall apart. Reports...

[Have emailed him for more info; will update if he gets back to me. We should also work to get some of the picture desk quotes in here to build this section out]

New York Times technology columnist Farhad Manjoo also took note of a CEN story [that had made its way into The New York Post](#):



Farhad Manjoo
@fmanjoo



Following

"Central European News reports" = "who cares where we heard it"

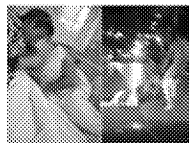
nypost.com/2015/01/13/wif...



New York Post

Wife chops off cheating husband's penis, twice

Heil hath no fury like a woman scorned. A jealous wife in China chopped off her cheating husband's penis as he slept, then snuck into his hospital room after he...



[View on web](#)

Majoo said in an email that the attribution of such an outrageous story to a small, unknown agency struck him as questionable behavior stuck out to him.

Comment [5]: _Accepted suggestion_

"I see this happen often in tabloids like the Post or Daily Mail or Yahoo or other news sites -- references to foreign news services (often in the developing world) whose credibility we have no way of assessing," he said. "It's just sort of an obvious signifier of the publication thinking that the story is too good to check, that it doesn't really matter if it's true because it's so strange."

CEN's stories and images appeal to news organisations precisely because they fall into the category of "too good to check" - oddball human interest stories that promise a spike of traffic and social media buzz. But the frequency with which we and others found problems with its stories led BuzzFeed to reach out to Emergent, a site that tracks and confirms or debunks online rumors, in order to look more closely at the agency, its stories, and its role in the online news ecosystem.

Comment [6]: _Accepted suggestion_

What we found was a pattern of behaviour that included a mixture of false stories, unrelated or Photoshopped images, highly suspicious quotes and sources, and/or the insertion of fake details into otherwise accurate stories.

There were also many CEN stories that appeared to be real, and which the agency had picked up from local media and rewritten. But even in these cases the originating reports that CEN relied upon might lack key verifying details. One of the most common red flags we identified was that CEN consistently managed to obtain quotes from officials and witnesses that no members of the local media had spoken with or been able to locate. Notably, these officials and witnesses -- whether a farmer from a tiny Chinese village, a policeman from India, or an anonymous "wildlife expert" from parts unknown -- always speak in perfect quotes, using the unique idioms of the British tabloids.

The Man From CEN

In a 2013 op-ed for the UK media trade journal Press Gazette (<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/content/age-limitless-news-who-can-tell-what-new>), a man called Michael Leidig proudly described the kind of traffic CEN can drive to large websites:

"Most of our regular content is also for the tabloid market. Not the celebrity stuff, but the quirky bizarre news designed to get people talking – today they call it viral news.

"Our content is often frequently in the Most Read section on the Mail Online."

Leidig is the founder and owner of CEN. He is also runs a charity called Journalists Without Borders, which claims to provide money to the needy sources featured in CEN's stories: it solicits donations on CEN's site via PayPal, which it says it redirects to people featured in the articles who may be in need of medical care or financial support.

Leidig's lengthy and frequently updated Wikipedia page describes someone who cares about accountability and the importance of crediting original sources:

"Leidig is also a campaigner for greater support for journalism which he describes as the 'coalface of democracy'. He has campaigned in favour of more responsibility from search engines like Google to give credit to original source material and also for [payment for originators of news](#), arguing that if the journalists all go out of business nobody will provide the content worth having."

The sole link in the above passage goes to a story on the Austrian Times — a website owned by Leidig.

Many of the key edits and contributions to Leidig's Wikipedia page are by a user called "Bylinebandit," who is also a major contributor to the page for the Austrian Times. Bylinebandit also [created the page for Allan Hall](#), a journalist with whom Leidig co-authored a [book](#). The subject of that book is an [Austrian woman who was kidnapped at a young age](#). Bylinebandit has made repeated edits to her page. Bylinebandit also happens to be the username for a [Twitter account](#) belonging to Michael Leidig.

Leidig started his career in the British regional press, before moving to Austria in 1993. It was there that he and two colleagues founded Central European News, which began with a focus on sourcing newsworthy items from Eastern Europe and rewriting them for the London market.

In that Press Gazette op-ed, Leidig painted a picture of a young agency that was earning good revenue and employing "full-time paid correspondents across Europe". "Having English-speaking staff on the ground in Europe was almost a licence to print money," he wrote. His clients apparently included the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Radio Netherlands, as well as major British newspapers. CEN also produced TV footage for clients. A single story such as that of Dr Heinrich Gross, an Austrian doctor who conducted experiments on children for the Nazis [LINK], could, wrote Leidig, "be sold a dozen times in various media formats".

Comment [7]: _Accepted suggestion_

Comment [8]: _Accepted suggestion_

But then the bottom fell out of the business. Leidig wrote that CEN's income "fell by 80 per cent" after 9/11, and it seemingly never recovered. A steady gig he had with the Telegraph that paid him £500 a month plus fees for the articles he produced was ended by the paper. According to Leidig, it told him "there was no longer value in original content, and that was because of the competition from the internet".

So Leidig decided to play the online game as he saw it. He launched websites such as the Austrian Times and Croatian Times. He cast his net far afield to China and India and Latin America, scouring for images and posts on social networks that he could weave a story around in order to hit up old clients with a new kind of content he knew they couldn't resist.

Going Viral

In August, a story swept across the Internet, racking up social shares and articles on all manner of news sites [NAME THEM]. The premise was simple and irresistible. A Russian man on a fishing trip was attacked by a bear. As it mauled him, the man's cellphone played a ringtone that startled the bear and caused it to run off.

That life-saving ringtone? The song "Baby" by Justin Bieber.

"Even bears can't stand Justin Bieber's music," reported *The New York Post*. "Finally proof that Justin Bieber IS unbearable," chortled the *Daily Mail*. The bear vs Bieber story even made it into Seth Myers' monologue for his late-night show on NBC.

The original story about the bear attack, which was published in Russia's *Komsomolskaya Pravda* [LINK IF POSS OR IMAGE IF NOT], said nothing about a Bieber ringtone. It reported that the man's phone had a setting that caused it to speak the current time. That's what scared off the bear.

Five days later, however, Leidig's *Austrian Times* published the story, with a photo of the fisherman (properly credited to *Komsomolskaya Pravda*) and the new detail about Justin Bieber. That same day, CEN sold the story and images to the *Daily Mail*, whose story credits the images taken from *Pravda* to Leidig's agency.

At the time, one of the authors of this article investigated the veracity of the Bieber claim and attempted to speak with Leidig. A woman who answered the phone at the *Austrian Times* [AT CEN OR AUSTRIAN TIMES?] said he was on vacation in Romania. When asked how the agency would investigate such a story, she said: "A lot of stories are found on the wire or in local media but also from local interviews on the ground, or we speak to the reporters who wrote them; we speak to police to get things confirmed."

Comment [9]: _Accepted suggestion_

Comment [10]: _Accepted suggestion_

She promised to check with the company's freelance agent in Russia and follow up. From that point, the *Austrian Times*/CEN/EuroPics stopped providing information or responding to emails. Leidig never responded to a detailed email with questions about the story, or to any of BuzzFeed News' subsequent attempts to contact him.

Comment [11]: _Accepted suggestion_

Then there was a story claiming that an attractive Chinese woman was offering to spend a night with men in exchange for them helping her travel around the country. The *New York Daily News* and *The Daily Telegraph* credited images of the woman to EuroPics, CEN's sister agency. The reality, as reported by *Shanghai Daily*, was that it was a hoax to promote a dating app called Youjia, which the paper said had been banned as a result.

Or how about the Chinese man who got a tapeworm from eating too much sashimi? The story originated on the Chinese news site *hk.on.cc*, before CEN/EuroPics distributed the images far and wide. But soon after they made the rounds, the debunking site *Snopes* investigated the story. It found that the X-ray photos of the alleged victim were "similar to those included in a 2014 case report published by the *British Medical Journal* that dealt with a man who contracted a rare case of disseminated cysticercosis through the consumption of uncooked pork (with no mention of raw fish)". BuzzFeed News was one of many sites that covered the claim and images when they first appeared. Our post was updated after the *Snopes* article appeared.

Indeed, though it began as an agency focused on Eastern Europe, CEN increasingly sells stories that are sourced from Chinese social networks, online bulletin boards, and news websites. One such story was published in Leidig's *Croatian Times* on November 17: "No Kidding - Baby Goat Has Two Heads." It featured this image, credited to EuroPics, of a baby goat supposedly born with two heads in China:

Comment [12]: _Accepted suggestion_



Comment [13]: _Accepted suggestion_

In fact, the photo originated with the Xinhua News Agency in China five days earlier. At the request of BuzzFeed News Dr. Neal Krawetz, the creator of FotoForensics photo analysis platform, which is used by law enforcement and others to examine digital images, analysed the image.

"The goat picture that we investigated appears to be a either a digital composite or a series of selective enhancements," he concluded.

Dr Krawetz found that the two men, the hand in the bottom left and the two goat heads each show up as "distinct regions under a variety of analysis methods". That means that it's possible they've been put together, or enhanced, to create the image.

"It is not uncommon to see photos from China that have been significantly altered," he said, [pointing to this collection](#) by Vice of photos of Chinese officials that have clearly been Photoshopped. "Even if there is a two-headed goat in China, it does not mean that these are undoctored pictures of the goat."

But along with the questionable nature of the image, there is an even bigger problem with the story that accompanied it on Leidig's site. The [original](#) Xinhua story about the goat contains very little text or information. [A follow up article](#) from the [next day](#) credited to the same agency and reporter offers more detail, but is still very thin on quotes. Yet the Croatian Times story quotes farmer and goat owner Xu Jinkui at length. It also lists his age as 43; [Xinhua says he is closer to 60](#).

Here's a quote attributed to Jinkui:

"It is currently 30cm tall and 40cm long and doesn't seem to show anything obvious in terms of behaviour problems as a result of its disability, although anyone that comes here can see straight away that it's a mutant. I have had a lot of visitors, and some pretty big cash offers as people realise it's probably going to live longer, but I'm not interested in selling it. Maybe later, but for now it's fun to have around."

A Xinhua journalist who claims to have seen the goat in person didn't get the farmer to talk. But a news agency based in Vienna somehow did, despite the story taking place in a remote rural community a six-hour train ride from Beijing.

The nature of the quote fits a pattern. CEN somehow manages to get incredible lines from sources that no one else could track down or persuade to talk, including the local media. And perhaps uniquely in journalism, it is so humble about these exclusive quotes that it is perfectly happy to let its customers put their own reporters' names on them.

In February 2015, for example, the Daily Mail [reported](#) that a 25-year-old thief in "the south American city [sic] of Paraguay" had "conned his way into the homes of dozens of elderly women by dressing in nappies and sucking a lollipop". The story was also in the [Star](#) and in the [Mirror](#), which credit the accompanying pictures of a grown man wearing a nappy to CEN.

All three also carried quotes from a local, Lara Orta Ornelas, 59, who said: "I am surprised that the police have only just now arrested him. He has been doing this for years and I know the police have had complaints before but it's incredible that they never realised the baby is actually a fully grown man."

A Spanish-language [report](#) from four days earlier says that the thief pretended to be mentally ill, but no more. Ms Ornelas's quotes only appear when the story makes its way to the English-speaking media - they don't appear to be in any of the Spanish-language reports. [BUT WAS COPY FROM CEN TOO? CAN WE PROVE? SAME FOR ALL OF THESE]

Many quotes accompanying stories with which CEN is involved also come from anonymous "officials", and include phrases that one would expect to hear from someone who grew up in the UK.

For example, the Bieber/bear story included this quote from an anonymous "wildlife expert" who was presented without any affiliation or location:

Sometimes a sharp shock can stop an angry bear in its tracks and that ringtone would be a very unexpected sound for a bear.

As with the goat farmer, CEN often quotes named people who speak in perfect paragraphs and use Anglicised phrases. For instance, in January this year a [number](#) of news [websites](#) ran a story about an underwear thief who, according to the Mirror "was forced to walk around a block of flats in Singapore with bras and undies hanging from his neck after residents laid a trap following a spate of kinky thefts". [AGAIN, WAS THIS A CEN STORY?]

Our investigations led us to [this Chinese-language](#) news post with watermarks from [this](#) Weibo account. The post is from a girl named "Yeeyee" (from Singapore). In her brief account she writes that on 1 November at around 2am she found a man in her house stealing her undergarments. She then "caught him" and wanted to "shame him". There also appears to be a [video](#) of the incident.

Conspicuous by its absence from any of the original sources was a quote that appeared in the English press from a "police spokesman", who said "We don't condone vigilante activity but in this case it seems to have turned out OK." Also missing were quotes from a "local man" Teo Goh, who [apparently](#) said: "We realised he was targeting windows where he knew women lived. He came at around midnight and as soon as he was in the room we grabbed him, forced him to wear the girl's lingerie and then frog-marched him from door to door making him confess what he had done and to promise he would never do it again." How did CEN acquire them?

There's also this quote from a story CEN sold [AGAIN CAN WE PROVE?] that claimed a wife discovered her husband cheating with her twin sister and then left them naked in a parking lot. It comes from a witness identified as You Meng, but reads like it's being spoken by someone interviewed on a London street:

It was so funny. Loads of people were grabbing their phones and I did as well. He was banging his fist on the window and shouting at her, and she just wasn't playing ball.

That story is also suspect because, while the story was covered by the Chinese-language media, none of the earlier online posts included the names of the man and his wife or their ages, or any quotes from a witness. Yet somehow CEN managed to get names, ages and a quote from the scene, in spite of the distance and language barriers.

The Sausage Machine

Nowhere are the quotes more perfect or the details sharper than when it comes to one of CEN's signature issues: castration. Over the past XXXX MONTHS, CEN has sold and/or published seven stories that involve a man either being forcibly castrated, or chopping off his own penis.

Take for example the story of an aunt who castrated her young nephew when he interrupted her. That story was reported in Chinese media, and comes with detailed photos of the boy and his parents.

But the CEN version includes two quotes that we couldn't find elsewhere. There was this from a "hospital spokesman":

Unfortunately, the knife was quite blunt and the cut wasn't clean so although we reattached the boy's penis, it wasn't ideal and he had to have further treatment.

And from a "police spokesman":

The aunt was arrested and admitted attacking the boy because she was angry that he had interrupted her on the toilet.

Another unnamed police spokesman appeared in a CEN story about an Indian man who allegedly had his penis chopped off by a crowd after he was caught trying to rape a girl. That [story](#) came with many related photos that we were able to find online (including one of the man's severed penis). But BuzzFeed News could find this quote only on CEN:

People cannot take the law into your own hands.
As deplorable as these crimes are, law and order has to be maintained, and not lynch justice.
We ask those men who carried out this attack to hand themselves in before we find them.

The same was true for this quote from local man Aamir Dhawan:

No one went to help the man because they could see his penis on the ground and knew this was punishment for a sex crime.
We have had a lot of intolerable offences against women in this country recently, with girls being raped, hung, and molested, and it's time it stopped.
This sends out a very strong message to anyone like that - if you do it you will be punished.

In January CEN hit the mother lode of foreign castration stories. Pictures surfaced on a since-deleted Chinese Weibo account and then [spread to other Chinese sites](#) that described a man whose penis was chopped off twice in the span of a few hours. The [version CEN sold to the Daily Mail](#) has, at the time of writing been shared more than 40,000 times.

First, it was claimed, the man's wife caught him cheating and she castrated him. Then, she found him at the hospital and undid the work doctors had done to reattach his member.

The [earliest version](#) we could find of the story in Chinese included a quote from the mistress saying that it was fine if he was now infertile, as he already had five children. But once again, the version sold by CEN went further. In addition to that quote, it also offered a veritable monologue from an anonymous hospital spokesman:

The first we were aware of what happened was when someone came into the reception area to say a naked man was beating up a woman outside the hospital.
Staff rushed out to see what was happening and found the patient with blood streaming down his legs hitting the woman.
He was stopped and the woman was taken in for treatment, and then we discovered she had chopped his penis off again.
The man had lost a lot of blood and was taken in for emergency surgery.

He is now in a stable condition but is extremely emotionally distraught.

A final story element of note came in an October report from CEN that a Macedonian man chopped off his penis and threw it in the trash after his girlfriend told him it was inadequate.

The story was published on CEN's sister site the [Austrian Times](#) and was [apparently sold to the Daily Mirror that same day](#), October 23. The Austrian Times story and Mirror stories both used a photo of a man lying on a gurney with a bloody crotch, with the Mirror specifically saying it showed the victim.

Almost [exactly a year earlier](#) the Mirror ran another CEN story about a castration — and used the very same image of the man with the bloody crotch.

In that story, which also credited the image to CEN, the man being shown was described as a 26 year-old Chinese man named Yang Hu who allegedly chopped off his own penis due to frustration with his nonexistent love life. That story also included the remarkable claim that Hu biked to the local hospital to try to get treatment, only to be told to go back home and get his penis so they could try and reattach it.

The presentation of the old castration photo as new was revealed in 2014 by [Metro Sweden's Viral Examiner column](#), which looks into suspect online stories. Its report found that the Macedonian castration story likely originated with a local TV report that consisted of reenactments and stock footage, and that also used the old image. Either CEN didn't recognise that it was a photo they had previously distributed, or they knowingly sold and published an old image as new.

Earlier that year, [Viral Examiner](#) [found](#) another fake story, which had appeared in the [Metro](#), [Mirror](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Daily Star](#), [Jezebel](#) and more. A woman had apparently caused a car crash in Vienna by sunbathing with her bottom half hanging out of her window. But the photo [dated back to at least 2011](#), and no such incident had been recorded by the city's police. CEN seemed to have picked up the picture after a reader [foiled](#) an Austrian newspaper with it.

Recycling images without any kind of disclosure isn't exactly new behaviour for CEN or its Austrian Times website. Two months after the Macedonian castration story, the Austrian Times [reported](#) that an Austrian ski resort, Saalbach-Hinterglemm, had covered its hills in snow that had been set aside and stored at the end of last season. The story's main image showed a mass of snow. That picture is at least four years old, and was [first published in a story about the same topic](#), by OE24.at.

BuzzFeed News and Emergent have now studied more than 20 CEN stories in as great a depth as we can. We have found stories that appear to be partly or completely fabricated. We have found stories that carry quotes and details that cannot be confirmed elsewhere. And we have found that the agency has been a point of redistribution for hoaxes, and for stories that are supported by nothing more than a single post on a foreign social network.

A Viral News Charity?

But the problems with CEN's output go deeper than just its journalism. In 2010, Michael Leidig and Austrian charity worker (and taxi driver) Hannes Urban announced they had collaborated to found a new charity, Journalism Without Borders.

It aims to provide a way for people to donate money to sources who are featured in CEN's reporting. For example, on the agency's site [there is a story about a Indian girl who was born with multiple legs](#). JWB solicits donations to help her and her family with medial and other costs. When it launched in 2010, JWB [received coverage from The Guardian](#).

The creation of JWB was also written up on Leidig's Austrian Times in two separate articles. One story focused on Urban, Leidig's partner, and how he became the founder of an Austrian charity that helps children in South Africa. That article is almost completely plagiarised from a 2002 Associated Press story about Urban. One of the few paragraphs not copied from the AP story is a quote from Leidig.

The other story about the charity mentions Leidig's inspiration for starting the effort. In 2002, he was commissioned by The Sunday Telegraph to write about a Romanian woman named Ana Crisan, who had been declared disabled at birth and was taken away from her mother [LINK]. Crisan's mother was then told that her daughter had died. Leidig wrote about their reunion for the paper. As he recounted in 2010, (http://www.austriantimes.at/news/General_News/2010-03-09/21410/Media_Insider_Journalism_Without_Borders) the Telegraph's readers offered to send money to help the family, which was incredibly poor. Leidig eventually drove there with the cash himself, yet was apparently struck by how cumbersome a process it had been to get them the money - and by the fact that none of the dozens of other media outlets who had covered the story had offered assistance.

Comment [14]: _Accepted suggestion_

Comment [15]: _Accepted suggestion_

"As to Ana Crisan and her mother," the Austrian Times story from 2010 reports, "Leidig admits he does not know what happened after he visited them with money from Telegraph readers." Yet on JWB's website, there is a form that invites people to donate money to Crisan's mother. How can Leidig be passing money to a woman whom an article published on his own website, and quite possibly written by him, admits he has lost touch with?

Conclusion

"There has never been a better time to be a journalist, if it's your hobby," wrote Michael Leidig in Press Gazette. "If you hope to make a living out of it, then I can't remember it being worse."
CEN certainly appears to have found a solution for that conundrum. But the fact that it has made a profitable business out of exaggeration, embellishment and perhaps even outright fabrication isn't something we can blame on Leidig. It's the way the sausage machine works: news organisations - including BuzzFeed News - bought what Leidig had to sell, because they knew that their readers would lap up these lurid tales of faraway people and places.

Comment [16]: _Accepted suggestion_

But the result has been to further dilute the journalistic standards which media organisations of all kinds profess to hold dear - and to further dilute the public's trust in what it's reading.

"With hundreds of thousands of new items a day, who can tell what is new anymore?" Leidig wrote in Press Gazette.

Or, for that matter, what is real.

Note: BuzzFeed News has, as mentioned in this piece, previously used images from CEN, or followed up reports that originated with the agency. It is now our policy not to do so.

The following is a list of all those stories, as far as we are able to determine:

[LET'S JUST PUT THE HEADLINES AS LINKS, IN STANDARD BUZZFEED FORMAT]

- [Chinese man who supposedly set fire to his college when he tried to impress his girlfriend with fireworks](#)
- [The sashimi tapeworm story](#)
- [This story about a swastika in a German pavement](#)
- [This story about a frozen waterfall in China](#)

[MUST BE MORE, SURELY?]

- A list of those stories we have been unable to verify [JUST CEN OR ALL?] has been added to Emergent [LINK] and we will update them if fresh information comes in. For more information on BuzzFeed News' sourcing policy, see our Editorial Standards and Ethics Guide (<http://www.buzzfeed.com/shan/the-buzzfeed-editorial-standards-and-ethics-guide>) [THINK ELAN GALE JUST CONFUSES THE ISSUE...]
-