

## Journalism History final paper

Sensational Journalism continues to play a factor in glamourizing valuable news content in order for a publication or media site to get more viewers to click on their articles. This unethical practice of journalism goes back to eighteen eight seven, because fake news is more accessible to citizens, click - bate content with the purpose of getting more viewers should be flagged and taken down by said media sites in order for ethical journalism practices to continue to be reliable.

Yellow journalism dates back to eighteen ninety where two newspapers were in competition with one another over attracting viewers to their stories. Yellow journalism here is a misconception of the news, people who they had claimed to have interviewed as sources and the pictures or cartoons in the sections of the newspaper. This new approaches to attracting viewers changed journalism for the worst basically giving newspaper agencies the okay to not present the legitimate facts, to not do any research of the news they would be putting out to the public, spread rumors and misleading information” The media creates stories in a way that will draw emotion from readers and force a certain way of thinking upon them. In order to beat out competition with other newspapers, journalists are forced to sell their stories using sensationalist headlines and misleading articles. For journalism and the associated newspapers that present little or no legitimate well researched news while instead using eye catching headlines for increased sales.” (Sharma S. 1) stated Sharma from Apex University. This way of journalism has and is continuing to be popularized by media sites who want their viewers to have a certain opinion on a situation. When in reality newspapers are supposed to be unbiased and allow their readers to form their own voice, thoughts and opinions on the information that they were given and for them to take a side in what they believe in. Many newspaper sites are truly only in it for the clicks and money that comes along with these unethical practices of presenting the news to

the public. To give you an idea in eighteen thirty five Sir John Herschel who was a British astronomer had discovered life on the moon. His discovery led to a reporting sensation not only in New York, but around the world as well. Richard Adams Locke who was *The Sun* news editor and the author made sure that every story that he was putting out about the new discoveries on the moon made him and the newspaper company money. No matter how many times the story was separated into different paper days or if this story had gathered any new relevant information, *The Sun* made it available anyway, so that they could make money off sensationalized information. “Locke made sure that if his readers wanted specifics on the wonders of the moon, they would have to buy the next day’s paper and the next. Only after six papers had been purchased did the eager public obtain the full story of the moon’s lakes with beaches of brilliant white sand, forest of trees with tresses of yellow flowers, and animals that included horned bears, bluish colored unicorns, bipedal beavers who built huts and had acquired the use of fire, and four-foot-tall humanoid bats. These latter beings, who were observed to have acquired speech, Herschel labeled vespertilio-homo or man bat. They were considered to be innocent and happy creatures, notwithstanding some of their amusements would but ill comport with our terrestrial notions of decorum.” (McQueen S.13) Locke’s moon series in just one week sold twenty thousand copies. This construed story about the moon led to a significant amount of New York’s believing in the story and eventual the world as Great Britain, Italy, German and France also published stories. When and how does the line get drawn between authentically credited news and news that is misconstrued and is only in it for the money. We as people have to be able to identify when stories are just click bait, not doing research and not finding credible sources. We have to start fact checking ourselves and checking links that get hyperlinked in articles, search names mentioned in the story and if there is a location mentioned in the story you

should look that up as well to even see if it is real. Not only do we have the right to do, so, but it is also important because you don't want to be the person to be continuing the misinformation spread. "As in the case with fake news today, in order to be successful, Locke didn't have to get it right, he merely needed to get it just right enough to fool sufficient numbers of people.

Sufficient number will depend upon the goal of each fake news creator, but other elements of fake news have recurred through the ages." (McQueen S. 15)..." But the concoction of alternative facts is hardly rare, and the equivalent of today's poisonous, bite size texts and tweets can be found in most periods of history, going back to the ancients." (Darnton R. 15) As citizens who want to make sure that the news they are consuming is ethical correct, fact checking is something that can lessen the spread of misinformation getting out to more people.

Consequently, Nellie Bly is a female journalist pioneer who is well known for acting insane in order to be admitted into asylum for women at the Blackwell's Island in New York along with continues reporting on her world trip. She worked as a journalist for the New York World which later became a famously known publication for conducting the practice of yellow journalism. Bly was in the Blackwell's Island institution for ten days and when she was released she wrote a ground breaking two week story that she described as the first of its kind that was a sensational expose. For Bly to get admitted to this institution she had to lie and say she had mental problems, she also lied about her name and went by Nellie Brown while in the institution. When Nellie Bly was trying to get a job with the New York World the man at the front desk stated "Remind me of your name, use the name Nellie brown will ask for her when the time comes. If you can do this, you might just have yourself a job." (Lane P. 1) By a superior enticing her to lie to be considered for the possibility to being offered a job position reflects upon how desperate and eager she was to being welcomed into the newsroom. If you compare her time in Pennsylvania she was never

asked to lie or do stunt journalism to fulfill a story requirement. I think that this shows change that she made, so that she could get a job in the newsroom along with keeping that job. "who cares about what the presentation is what matters is the facts and I got the facts and what is equally important is that I got people to care with the made house story I invented a whole new type of reporting we called it stunt journalism." (Bly N.1) Nellie Bly played hundreds of roles to receive the full story while also immersing herself into the situation. Although she is most famous for her role as Nellie Brown and being an insane person, she also played other characters in order to get her story like Helen Wolcott who got arrested for larceny her goal was to show the treatment of woman prisoners, Norah Simpson went to free clinic in perfect health, Alice Bostwick tried to uncover all baby waste in the city. "My mission was always the same to show life as it really was unvarnished and true. I could not have exposed those truths if I knocked on the doors and said I'm Nellie Bly a reporter for the New York World, could you please tell me how you swindle the poor." (Bly N.1) Yellow Journalism, stunt journalism, fake news and tabloids are always that news media's lie and deceive their audience into thinking their story has truth. Their story may certainly have truth however, when comparing this type of deception to the Nellie Bly story she was lying to many people, so that she could get into these places then get out of them then write. I feel there was no empathy in forming a professional relationship with the sources she was trying to get for her stories. As a journalist we are told to tell the truth and to form professional connects with the sources you meet along the way, so that if after your interview you have more questions you have unanswered you could text or call them, and they would respond. If you needed help on another story in the future and you recalled a source mentioning they knew someone in the health field and the story you are writing for the week has to do with health you could easily text them and ask if they could possibly connect you to that

person. What you are not supposed to do as a journalist is lie in your story or misconstrued with what someone has said. This most times leads to that source losing trust in your reporting because you were willing to lie for the story to seem more interesting to viewers instead of writing the about someone's story that they were telling you about. This is how Nellie Bly reported to me because she never formed any real connect that she could go back to if she needed to in the future. "If you have to lie a little bit to get to a great truth, I feel it's justified." (Bly N 1.)

We as citizens and future journalist have to remember the importance of fact checking when we are reading articles that have click bate titles. These news articles tend to glamourize what actually happen in a situation or story in order to deceive its viewers into a Hollywood film that they can not get enough of. Things to remember when reading a story is who are the sources? Are their any links to fact check the information they are tell their readers? And lastly is their any location mentioned in their story? This can also be an important factor because you can easily in today's world google anything, so if a location doesn't pop up nine times out of ten this information is probably wrong which can lead to unravel other misleading information in a sensationalized news story.

Sources:

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