

NEWS & VIEWS

FACT CHECKING: the effort that too few put in

This year more than ever, fake news stories have been leaking their way into the media. The internet contributes to this issue a great deal, but it wouldn't be nearly as much of a problem if journalists did their fact checking work.



Many of the false news stories that made their way into the media this year were ripped from satirical news sites which post fake news for entertainment purposes, while others come about from poor fact checking and mixed up information.

Such was the case mid January when CBS, Time Business Insider, and The Daily Mail posted stories of Beijing, China, where the smog is so bad that rather than fight the pollution, they have resorted to showing a sunrise from a digital billboard, posting the picture that was received from Getty images.

The reason it was there was that it was actually from a clip from a promotional video, and not at all from the purpose the news had advertised,.

This isn't an isolated incident; in fact, it happens dozens of times a year, and social media sites blow up in outrage for problems that don't truly exist.

It works in much a similar way as how rumors spread in high school. An event happens, witnesses spread their versions, and from their information gets mixed up or someone maliciously spreads false information to instigate actions. The same principles as high school scandals occur in news on a professional scale.

The part that's more of an atrocity than the spread of lies and rumors is that the public eats it up, sheep moving with the herd rather than investigating and observing facts to base their opinions. Before we have a chance to catch on, many blatant lies are accepted as facts.

These mass misunderstandings could lead to war if done with a wrong subject over the wrong information, much like what almost occurred over the Mohammed movie that was released over Youtube that infuriated Muslims worldwide.

Until the public takes a stand and performs their own fact checking, and bless those who already do, the media has no hope of providing the truth to their audiences constantly because they'll be far too unmotivated to put forth the effort to fact check and perform true journalism.

Far too many people in this day and age of technology believe that they are a journalists because they have a smartphone or computer. We need professionals, real professionals.

~ Jeremy Gares

America's Past: paying respect in the present



IN MEMORY OF 9\11

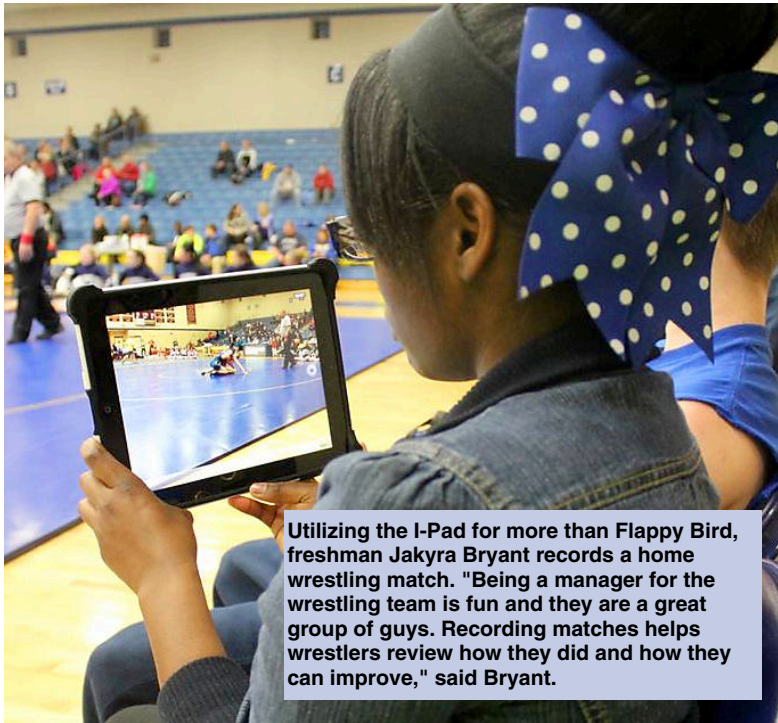
In honor of victims, friends and families, and the United States of America, students gather around the flag pole on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 for a moment of silence and reflection. Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) cadets lowered the flag early that morning.



MLK DAY REFLECTION

With a set of photos about Martin Luther King, para educators Teresa Dorethy and Pam Hrudka show one of the books about Martin Luther King in the IMC. "His achievements and missions empowered us with the freedom to be friends and no one could stop us," agreed Dorethy and Hrudka.

Electronic devices: their values



Utilizing the I-Pad for more than Flappy Bird, freshman Jakyra Bryant records a home wrestling match. "Being a manager for the wrestling team is fun and they are a great group of guys. Recording matches helps wrestlers review how they did and how they can improve," said Bryant.

Chromebooks coming to classrooms near U



Nakya Hall

In preview mode, sophomores Ayana McBunnette and Tamara Ortiz listen to Media Specialist Mrs. Kim Foley-Sharp as she relates some of the outstanding features of the Chromebook that will be in students' and teachers' hands in the fall in language arts classes. Eventually Chromebooks will be district-wide at the high school level.

Flappy Bird: frustration flies high

What people said while playing Flappy Bird

"Oh My God!"
"So Close! So Close!"
"UGHH! I was so close to getting my high score!"
"I'm ready to throw this thing across the room!"

April Taylor: "Flappy Bird gets people really anxious and excited for dying in the game. it makes people keep trying to score higher."

Troy Rains: "when I first played Flappy Bird, it seemed cool; but after a while it became annoying and frustrating. So I deleted it and never played it again. Worst game ever."

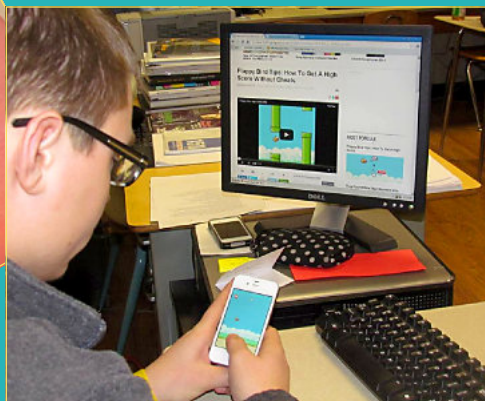
Morgan Smith: Flappy Bird is so addicting; once you start you just cant stop. i get so mad and just want to throw my phone when I die. My high score is 18 and I don't understand how people can get 50's and 60's on that game."

Kris Hashaway: "He is a stupid bird that doesn't know how to fly. He's drunk and confused and needs to go home."

Nate Goettsch: "This is the most frustrating game I've ever played. Makes me want to throw my phone across the room, but it's a good way to pass time."

Jeannette Shuker: "I seriously hate this game so much, but it's so addicting!"

Creator: Dong Nguyen
Originated: May 24, 2013
Purpose: To make you laugh



Aimee Plesche

With hints on the computer to beat Flappy Bird, senior Mitchell Kelley gives them a try.